

HIGH DESERT NEWS

May 2025



Prepared. For Life.®

Dear Scouting Friends,

Thank you to everyone who attended our calendar planning meeting this past Saturday! Your input and collaboration are incredibly valuable as we work together to build a fun and meaningful year of Scouting.

Important Notes:

All calendar events are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, please refer to the official calendar on our website. We also recommend joining the monthly Roundtables in the North and South service areas! Check out page 3 of this newsletter for details on how to participate.

We are finalizing a few details on events and will start posting these events within the next week or so! Be on the lookout and share with your units!

We are always looking for volunteers to help lead, support, and run these events. Your time and talents help ensure their success and make a big difference in the experience for our Scouts. If you have any follow-up questions or would like to help with an upcoming event, don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for all you do for Scouting!

<u>2</u>		<u>Calendar</u>	<u>11</u>		<u>Advancement Alley</u>
<u>3</u>		<u>Important Info</u>	<u>12</u>		<u>Popcorn</u>
<u>4</u>		<u>Camp Corner</u>	<u>13</u>		<u>Awards</u>
<u>6</u>		<u>In the News</u>	<u>14</u>		<u>Events</u>
<u>7</u>		<u>Training Trail</u>	<u>18</u>		<u>Long Term Planning</u>
			<u>19</u>		<u>Chair's Soapbox</u>

(Click underlined text to jump to that page)

If you have a submission to this newsletter - please send it to
highdesertcouncilnewsletter@gmail.com no later than the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Upcoming Events

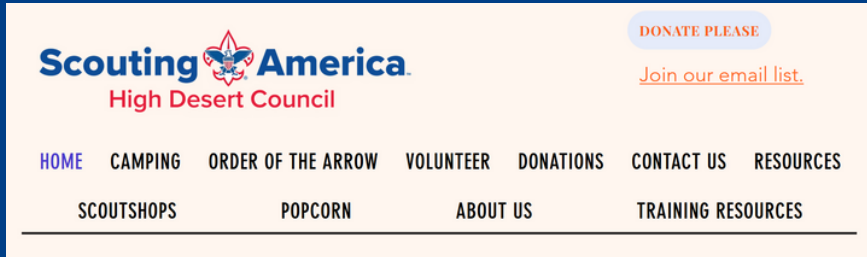
Check <https://scoutingevent.com/573> for up-to-date Info

Date	Event	Location
May 16-18	Yah-Tah-Hey-Si-Kess Spring Conclave	Gorham Scout Ranch
May 17 th	Cub Scout Rangemaster Training	Camp Tyler Francis
May 17 th	Cub Scout Rangemaster Training	North Service Center
May 24 th	Memorial Day Flag Placement	Ft. Bliss National Cemetery
May 24 th	Memorial Day Flag Placement	Santa Fe National Cemetery
May 26 th	Offices Closed - Memorial Day	North and South Service Area
May 31 st	Memorial Day Flag Retrieval	Ft. Bliss National Cemetery
May 31 st	Western Tech Merit Badge University	El Paso, TX (Diana Campus)
June 5-7	Cub Scout Day Camp	Hesperus, CO
June 6 -7	Wilderness First Aid	Las Cruces, NM
June 7-8	ILOS/BALOO	ABQ Metro Area
June 8-14	Brownsea - North	Gorham Scout Ranch
June 9-14	National Youth Leadership Training	Gorham Scout Ranch
June 11-13	Cub Scout Day Camp	Los Alamos, NM
June 13-14	Bushed Bear CDR Service Day	Camp Dale Resler (Cloudcroft, NM)
June 17-26	Scouts at Cumbres Toltec Railroad	Rio Arriba, NM
June 19-21	Cub Scout Day Camp	ABQ Metro Area
June 21 & 28 th	Cub Scout Fishing Derby	El Paso, TX
June 22 nd	2026 Jamboree Info Meeting	ONLINE

Important Info

New Website:

<https://www.scoutingamericahighdesertcouncil.org/>



New Email Distribution System:

Go to our website - and click "join our email list" in the upper right corner and select the mailing list you would like to be on!

New Event Management System



We are no longer using Tentaroo - We are using Black Pug (aka ScoutingEvent) - all event registrations will be done on this new website. <https://scoutingevent.com/573> You will need to create a new login/account.

Roundtable - North

2nd Thursday of every month [Zoom Link here](#)

Roundtable - South

1st Wednesday of every month [Info here](#)

If you missed Roundtable for the North Service Area - you can check out the slides here!

<https://www.scoutingamericahighdesertcouncil.org/resources>



Camp Corner



North Service Area Cub Scout Day Camp (Click for info)

- Hesperus, CO, June 5-7, Old Fort Lewis
- Los Alamos, June 11-13, Los Alamos Sportsmen's Club
- Metro, June 19-21, Asbury United Methodist Church
- **\$95 per Scout**

South Service Area Cub Scout Day Camp (Click for info)

- July 7 - July 11th
- YWCA Camp- 4400 Boy Scout Lane, El Paso, TX 79922
- **\$150 per Scout**



We need VOLUNTEERS! Please consider being part of the fun and making this day camp unforgettable for our Scouts.

Camp Corner



Make Philmont Your Summer Vacation Destination

This is Luke Arnold, your local Philmont Ambassador. Scouters and their family can have an experience like no other at Philmont Scout Ranch this coming summer. Not only is Philmont Training Center the best place to learn from national experts, but it is also the best family vacation destination ever. Forget the long lines and expensive prices at all those highly commercial places. PTC's family-friendly and budget-accommodating experiences will delight everyone. This is also Philmont Training Center's 75th anniversary, and the celebration will go on all summer.

At the training center, you can improve your skills and knowledge as you learn from national experts and your fellow Scouters. You'll gain insights to help your scouts get the most possible from the program. This year's lineup of conferences includes sessions on "Making Scouting Incredibly Fun", "Advancement Issues and Solutions", "Opening Doors: Women, Mentors, and Allies" and dozens more that you can find at philmontscoutranch.org/ptc.

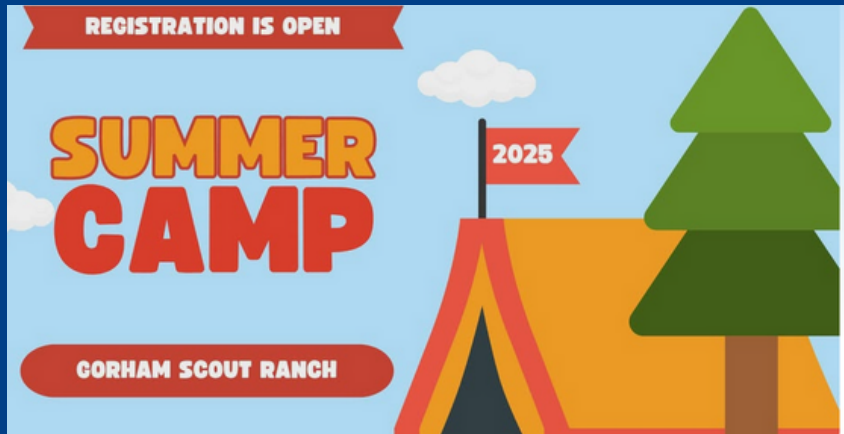
The best thing about Philmont conferences is that you can bring your entire family to enjoy fun and exciting activities for everyone, from your toddlers to teenagers. Even your spouse will be pampered during their own Silverado program that includes day hikes, art lessons, and museum visits. There is a day-care for your infant future scouts, so it will truly be a vacation for your spouse. All meals are included in your accommodations, so no cooking or cleaning up either!

During the week of June 29 to July 5, events to celebrate PTC's 75th year include special entertainment, behind-the-scenes tours, and the World-Famous Cimarron 4th of July Parade and Rodeo. All PTC guests this week will receive a commemorative gift, too. If you want to enjoy the great Southwest but skip class, Philmont's Family Adventure Camp lets you do just that. You and yours can pick from full and half-week options that match your interests from a Mini-Bear Adventure for younger children to Adventure Seekers for those who want to climb, fish, and shoot. There are even one and two-day options if you are just driving through northeastern New Mexico on your way elsewhere. All these activities are also available to singles and couples without kids.

Any way you look at it, Philmont offers the best of Scouting to everyone, living up to its promise of "delivering wilderness and learning adventures that last a lifetime". If you want to learn more, contact me, Luke, at laarnold@hotmail.com.

Camp Corner

Gorham Scout Ranch Summer Camp



Scouts BSA - Week 1 - June 6-15

Web/AOL Adventures - June 29 - July 3

Scouts BSA - Week 2 - June 22 - 28

Scouts BSA - Week 3 - July 6-12

In the News



(Click image for info on how to purchase)

Looking to build your patch collection? Here's a great one and your purchase will help support the National Youth Leadership Training program at Gorham Scout Ranch this summer!

\$10 - Pick up at South Service Center in El Paso

\$12 - Shipped to your address

Training Trail

Are YOU Fully Trained? Is Your UNIT Fully Trained? Check you my.scouting and finish up any trainings today!

 BSA Adult Leader Training Guide Every registered adult must complete Youth Protection Training (YPT) every two years, regardless of their position.	
 Cub Scout Leaders	
Cubmaster / Assistant Cubmaster • Youth Protection Training (YPT) • Cubmaster-Specific Training (online) • BALOO (for overnight Cub camping—at least one leader present must be BALOO-trained) • Hazardous Weather Training	Den Leaders (ALL) • YPT • Den Leader-Specific Training (online) • BALOO (one leader present must have) • Hazardous Weather Training
Pack Committee Chair / Member • YPT • Pack Committee Chair/Member Specific Training (online) • Hazardous Weather	
 Scouts BSA Leaders	
Scoutmaster / Assistant Scoutmaster • YPT • Scoutmaster-Specific Training • Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) (required to be considered fully trained) • Hazardous Weather Training	Troop Committee Chair / Committee Member • YPT • Troop Committee (online & In-person) • Hazardous Weather
 Chartered Organization Representative (COR) • YPT • COR Training (Online)	 Merit Badge Counselor (MBC) • YPT • Merit Badge Counselor Training (online)
 Additional / Specialty Roles (Recommended)	
• Camp-master (In-Person) • First Aid/CPR • Wilderness First Aid	Commissioners (Unit, District, etc.) • YPT • Commissioner Basic Training • College of Commissioner Science (optional, ongoing)
 Advanced and Supplemental Training	
Wood Badge • Advanced leadership training for all adult leaders in any program (Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, etc.) • Focuses on leadership, team development, and personal growth	• Safe Swim Defense / Safety Afloat (required for aquatic activities) • Climb On Safely (required for climbing/rappelling events) • Trek Safely / Drive Safely (For high-adventure or travel activities)

Training Trail

Cub Scout

Rangemaster Training

LOCATION - CAMP TYLER FRANCIS

Volunteers are needed to help run Council Range and Target Activity events for our Cub Scouts. Cub Scouts are ONLY allowed to do Archery, BB Guns and Slingshots at Council/District level events - not unit level events - but we need volunteers to make those events happen! Participants must be at least 18 years of age to attend, and a registered adult with current youth protection training.



University of Scouting/ Leader Specific Training

LOCATION - EL PASO As a part of our Merit Badge University on 5/31/25 - we will have Scoutmaster/Troop committee/MBC training/Campmaster Program training/ How to run an ILST and Den Chief Training for youth available



Training Trail

council.412.training@gmail.com



BALOO/IOLS

Both Courses will be offered at this event - choose the training that you need!

Volunteers needed to help staff ABQ

Class - reach out to Joe at email address above if you are willing to help
- Looking at early Fall for a class in Four Corners area

ILOS is required training for Scoutmasters, Venturing Advisors and their assistants and all direct contact leaders registered in Scouts BSA Troops and Crew, in order to be considered "fully trained".

BALOO is a leader training for all Cub Scout Leaders and parents that want to be ready for outdoor activities. At least one adult on a pack or Webelos/AOL Den overnight must have completed BALOO training. It is recommended to have multiple trained leaders to ensure campouts do not have to be cancelled if someone is unexpectedly unavailable.

Wilderness First Aid



LOCATION - LAS CRUCES This 16-hour course meets BSA's high-adventure requirements and is essential for adult leaders and older youth attending Philmont, Northern Tier, or other remote Scouting adventures.

You must take the online portion prior to coming for the in person portion!

Who Should Attend: Adult leaders, older Scouts (14+), Venturers, or those preparing for high-adventure or backcountry experiences.

(Click image for more info)

[**Registration form click here**](#)

Training Trail



LOCATION - GORHAM SCOUT RANCH Wood Badge training was begun by Baden Powell in 1919 as a way to ensure that the leaders of Scout troops were properly trained. Since then, Wood Badge has been held worldwide, providing advanced leadership training to thousands of Scout leaders.

Wood Badge builds upon the best traditions and experiences of the Boy Scouts of America and also draws from a wide range of courses within and beyond the bounds of Scouting to present the latest in leadership theory and team development.

Course will take place over two weekends - you must attend both weekends:

August 22-24, 2025 AND September 6 -7, 2025

If you are coming from the El Paso/Las Cruces area - the first 11 "Paid in Full" Scouters to register can catch a ride to Gorham Scout Ranch. Contact Delbert Humberson, Course Director at 915-345-9637 for more information

Advancement Alley

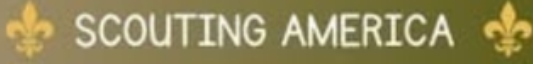


MUB
MERIT BADGE UNIVERSITY

Come one, come all! Join us once again
for another exciting merit badge line up!

MAY 31, 2025
8 am to 4 pm
WESTERN TECH - DIANA CAMPUS
9451 DIANA DR., EL PASO, TX 79924

USE QR CODE TO REGISTER



SCOUTING AMERICA

- Communications
- Crime Prevention
- Digital Technology
- Emergency Preparedness
- Environmental Science
- Fingerprinting
- First Aid
- Game Design
- Movie making
- Moviemaking Worksheet
- Personal Management
- Programming
- Public Speaking
- Radio
- Railroading
- Soil and Water Conservation
- Weather



LOCATION - EL PASO Registration is now open!
Volunteers and Merit Badge Counselors needed to help with
this great event! Reach out to the South Area Office if you
are willing to help out!

POPCORN UPDATE



Upcoming Trainings and Info Sessions:

North Service Area:

- Roundtable - May 8th and June 12th
- ZOOM Training - July 15th 6:30 PM
- Kickoff - August 2nd (details to come)

South Service Area:

- Roundtable - May 7th and June 4th
- ZOOM Training - July 15th 6:30 PM
- Kickoff - August 9th (details to come)



**2025 Storefront
Online
Claiming Dates**
July 22nd-24th

Units who send a representative to all training sessions will be entered in a drawing for some great prizes!

2024 Heros and Helpers Donations!



Because of the generosity shown during last year's popcorn sales - we were able to donate over \$7,800 worth of popcorn to the United States Border Patrol Station in Las Cruces, the Children, Youth and Families Department offices in southern New Mexico, the Albuquerque Police Department and the Rio Rancho Fire Department

ALL COMMUNICATION WILL GO THROUGH THE "HIGH DESERT COUNCIL POPCORN KERNELS" CHANNEL ON THE BAND APP



SCAN HERE TO JOIN



Awards Central

Recognition Program of the Month



James M. Stewart Good Citizenship Award

- Offered to a youth Scout or adult Scouter who has exemplified the characteristics necessary to live the life of a good citizen
- For More Info go to <https://jimmy.org/scouts-bsa/>

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

North Service Area



Yah-Tah-Hey-Si-Kess Lodge Spring Conclave May 16-18

LOCATION - GORHAM SCOUT RANCH Check in will be at 7pm On Fri March 16, Ordeal Candidates should try to arrive and be checked in by 8pm. The event will end on Sunday May 18 at 10am.

Memorial Day Flag Honors at Santa Fe National Cemetery



Flag Placement:
Saturday May 24th, 2025
7:00 AM MT to 12:00 PM MT

Click underlined text for details

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

North Service Area (con't)

Scouting Opportunity with the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad

RIDE BEHIND A 100-YEAR-OLD STEAM ENGINE ON A TRAIN
FROM CHAMA TO CUMBRES PASS



YOUR TROOP CAN DO THIS

BY SIGNING UP FOR:

The Cumbres Section Town – Trails Building Service Project
June 18 through June 25, 2025

Mission: Help develop a National Historic Landmark on one of the few remaining narrow-gauge railroads in the nation by building trails to National Park Service standards and work on a marked section of trail with your troop.

**For More Information - Contact Mary Mazza-Anderson at
mary.mazza-andersen@scouting.org**



Save the Date

Eagle Banquet

August 2, 2025

Recognition for Eagle Classes of 2024 & 2025

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!!!!

South Service Area

Memorial Day Flag Honors at Ft. Bliss National Cemetery



Flag Placement:

Saturday 05-24-2025

7:00 AM MT to 12:00 PM MT

Flag Retrieval:

Saturday 05-31-2025

8:00 AM MT to 10:00 AM MT

Click underlined text for details on events



Bushed Bear Camp Dale Resler Service Day

- Where: Camp Dale Resler, 1077 Columbine Blvd. Cloudcroft NM
- When: Saturday June 14th 2025 Check in at 8 AM. Projects will be over at 4 PM
- What: Clean up Service Project at Camp Dale Resler- all Troop level youth and adults are invited to attend to help . Please bring shovels, rakes, brooms, gloves, shears, and Scout 10 essentials.
- *****WEAR OLD CLOTHES THAT CAN GET RUINED*****
- Contact Sue Jacintho, Order of the Arrow Lodge Advisor at suejuja@msn.com or 575-635-9654 for more information.

South Service Area (con't)



(Click image for more information)

Long Term Planning!



Are you interested in going to the National Jamboree in 2026? Fill out the form linked below to get more info! (don't worry -it's not a firm committment at this point!)

[Interest Form](#)

There will be a ZOOM informational meeting on June 22, 2025 from 2-3 pm Click [Here](#) for more info on the meeting

Philmont Trek 2026



Philmont Scout Ranch is one of four high adventure bases!

JUNE
8-20



Book Now - Space is Limited to 5 youth and 3 adults!
\$1725 per person - Let us know by 4/20/25 if interested

Email

MWScout007@gmail.com

The Chair's Soapbox

- Chris Sandberg, High Desert Council Board Chair

This is another report generated by the discussions at “The Thrive Summit” in Las Vegas that I attended as part of your Council Key 3 in mid-March, 2025.

The two Scouters who were Summit presenters from the corporate world– Brad Tilden of Alaska Airlines and Jon Bridges of Chick-fil-A–shared their experiences in working for successful businesses that face continuous challenges in keeping strong positions in competitive markets. They both noted similarities to Scouting America’s history and current challenges: loss of a customer focus during growth, not seeing signs of decline and increasing risk, and attempting “quick fixes” that fail to address core issues.

They urged an increased commitment to Customer Focus. Jon presented a progression needed for success:

Employee Satisfaction → Customer Satisfaction → Customer Loyalty → Growth

Translated for us as Scouters:

- Employees are our volunteer and professional Scouters, all of whom need to be satisfied in their roles and performing at a high level.
- Customers are the youth in Scouting and their associated adults, all of whom must have positive experiences in the program and see value in continuing.
- Loyalty is retention in units that are providing engaging program and personal development.
- Growth is the expansion of youth membership and adult volunteers.

For our dedicated volunteers, job satisfaction can be advanced by making their positions rewarding, ensuring that our processes make their work easier, and giving them solid training and on-the-job coaching.

For our young customers, we need quality control to ensure that all units provide program that emphasis fun, learning, challenges, and recognition. For our adult customers, we need to have clear communication about the Council, their unit, and their opportunities and responsibilities as part of the Scouting family.

For both those groups, our Training Committee and our Commissioner corps are keys to success, backed up by our Program Committee and professional staff.

When we have engaging and consistent program being delivered at every Pack, Troop, Crew, Ship, and Post, all of our customers will want to remain in Scouting. When youth are happy and parents see growth in their children, we will extend the tenure of our youngsters in Scouting and deepen the lifetime benefits they are accruing. Retention is the essential companion activity to recruiting: it is much easier to keep a customer than to get a new one!

Finally, when we have satisfied youth and parents, they will help us spread the word about how every child has a place in High Desert Scouting. We will then see growth from retention and from improved outreach and recruiting to new families. That will be the truest measure of the Council’s success.

- Chris Sandberg, High Desert Council Board Chair

