

# HIGH DESERT NEWS

June 2026



## Hot Topics from the National Annual Meeting!!

In Mid-May - Scouters from around the country met in Dallas, TX for a week of meetings, presentations, fellowship and fun. The full slideshows will (eventually) be posted at this [link](#) (the 2025 NAM Presentations are still posted as of now) but here are a few highlights. Some were only general announcements of upcoming changes and there will be more information coming in the next few months. Stay tuned!!!

- Pie-in-the-Face is now officially allowed - Detailed Specifics listed here: <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/pie-in-the-face-safe-checklist/>
- Guidance permitting laser tag and “low-power water guns” will be release soon **(YOU CAN'T DO IT YET!)**
- Beginning in Sept 2026 - all units due for renewal will renew to Feb 2028. Fees will be prorated. Individual memberships will transition in 2027 to Feb 2028 date. We will be returning to the unit renewal of all members vs the individual family renewals. Unit leaders should watch for updates from their local council, as additional guidance and implementation details may vary by council during the transition period.
- The current 60 day grace period for renewal will end Dec 31, 2026. Members renewing in Nov 2026 will get a 30 day grace period. Members due to renew in December 2026 must renew by December 31 to avoid being dropped
- Discounted registration for children of Active Duty, Guard and Reserve Families (more on page 4)

# Important Info

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## Website:

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

## Newsletter Signup:

Go to our website (above) - and click “join our email list” in the upper right corner to ensure you get this newsletter directly each month!

## Social Media:

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the latest news and updates!



## Adventure Guide:

Check out this great new resource with info about all the fun you can have in our council! [LINK HERE](#)

## Roundtable - Council Wide

1st Thursday of every month starting at 7:00pm

[Info here](#) - Each session starts with general info and then breaks into separate “rooms” to discuss Pack/Troop/Crew/Commissioner/Special Interest Topics

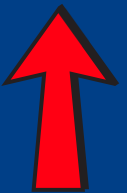


**Zoom Meeting ID:** 851 4615 1346

**Passcode:** EJPQv5

(Meeting Code is good for next 3 years)

Scan or Click to  
enter Meeting



**ABQ Metro Area Hybrid Roundtable for June is at**

Prince of Peace Catholic Church - 12500 Carmel Ave NE, ABQ

**El Paso/Las Cruces Area Hybrid Roundtable**

South Area Council Office

7601 Lockheed Dr - El Paso

**Questions: contact Ruben Berumen [r.b.berumen@gmail.com](mailto:r.b.berumen@gmail.com) or  
Kym Maldonado [kym\\_maldonado@hotmail.com](mailto:kym_maldonado@hotmail.com)**

# Upcoming Events

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

Date	Event	Location
June 5th	Eagle Scout Recognition Banquets	ABQ and El Paso
June 4-6	Cub Scout Day Camp - Four Corners	Hesperus, CO
June 7-13	Brownsea-22	Gorham Scout Ranch
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	NRA Range Safety Officer	ABQ Office
June 18-20	Cub Scout Day Camp - ABQ	ABQ, NM
June 19 <sup>th</sup>	Office and Scout Shop Closed	Council-wide
June 21-24	Webelos Week in the Woods	Gorham Scout Ranch
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	CPR/AED/FA Class	ABQ Office
June 27-28	WFA Class	ABQ Office
June 27-28	ATV Weekend	Gorham Scout Ranch
July 3rd	Office and Scout Shop Closed	Council-wide
Jul 5 <sup>th</sup>	Scout Day at the Chihuahuas	El Paso, TX
July 8th	Popcorn Kickoff	Online
July 11-12	ATV Weekend	Gorham Scout Ranch
July 11-12	High Desert Council Fun Shoot Weekend	Gorham Scout Ranch
July 17 <sup>th</sup>	COPE Weekend	Gorham Scout Ranch
July 17-18	Cub Scout Fishing Derby	El Paso, TX

<u><a href="#">2</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Important Info</a></u>	<u><a href="#">9</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Advancement</a></u>
<u><a href="#">3</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Calendar</a></u>	<u><a href="#">11</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Events</a></u>
<u><a href="#">4</a></u>	<u><a href="#">In the News</a></u>	<u><a href="#">15</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Long Term Planning</a></u>
<u><a href="#">6</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Day Camp Info</a></u>	<u><a href="#">17</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Scout Shop Info</a></u>
<u><a href="#">7</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Training Trail</a></u>	<u><a href="#">19</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Popcorn Planning</a></u>

# In the News

Scouting  America.

## MILITARY FAMILY FEE WAIVER

Scouting America is committed to expanding access to Scouting for military-connected youth.

### OVERVIEW

Scouting America is waiving the **\$85 national youth registration fee** for eligible military families through a verification and code process during online registration.

- Youth members only
- New and renewing online registrations
- Funded nationally through philanthropic efforts

### ELIGIBILITY

Youth in families with current service in:

- **Active Duty**
- **Reserve**
- **National Guard**

### FEE COVERAGE

- **\$85 National Registration Fee — Waived**  
Reduced to \$0 after verification and code application.  
Applies only to the national fee.

### HOW IT WORKS

1. National fee reduced to \$0
2. Select **“Get Military Discount Code”**
3. Complete verification process
4. Receive code
5. Enter code at checkout
6. **National fee reduced to \$0**

### ADDITIONAL COSTS

Local council, unit, optional add-on (e.g., *Scout Life* magazine), and processing fees may still apply.



### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### WHO QUALIFIES?

Eligible youth in Active Duty, Reserve, or National Guard families.

#### WHY DOES THE \$85 FEE APPEAR?

The national fee appears at checkout and is removed after the verification code is applied.

#### WHAT FEES DOES THE WAIVER COVER?

The waiver applies only to the national youth registration fee. Other local, unit, optional, and processing fees may still apply.

#### IS THIS AVAILABLE FOR ALL REGISTRATIONS?

No—this waiver is available for online registrations only.



Effective June 1, 2026

# In the News



## Commemorative Patches

To honor and recognize America's 250th Anniversary - the High Desert Council announces that it has approved the creation of three Special Council Shoulder Patches (CSP) to commemorate this historic event. Show your patriotism on this 250th year of America by ordering yours today as they will only be available on a pre-order basis for short time so that you can display them on your Uniform for the rest of this year.

These CSP's can be purchased separately for \$8.00 each (Red background, blue background or gray background) or as a set of three for (\$21.00) Patches can be shipped for a nominal fee or picked up at either of the council offices when they arrive. Place your order before June 6th!!

**[CLICK HERE TO PLACE YOUR ORDER](#)**

# Cub Scout Day Camp!



**CUB SCOUT DAY CAMP**

- JUNE 3-5 LOS ALAMOS, NM
- JUNE 4-6 HESPERUS, CO
- JUNE 18-20 - ABQ METRO
- REGISTER AS A UNIT - NO INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATIONS PLEASE
- VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED TO HELP MAKE THIS A GREAT EVENT! - REACH OUT TO CONTACTS BELOW IF YOU ARE WILLING TO HELP!

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER FOR ABQ, SANTA FE OR COLORADO CAMPS! →



**Scouting America**  
High Desert Council

**CUB SCOUT DAY CAMP**  
**DINO DAYS**

Activities:

- Swimming
- Archery
- BB Guns
- Den Activities
- Games
- Crafts
- And Much More!



**REGISTRATION OPEN NOW**  
JUNE 22 TO 26, 2026  
MARY ANN DODSON CAMP



## REGISTRATION STILL OPEN FOR ABQ METRO AND SOUTH AREA

- To Register ABQ Metro area camp - visit <https://scoutingevent.com/573-113206>
- To Register for South Area Day Camp - visit <https://scoutingevent.com/573-102833>

## ANY QUESTIONS OR TO VOLUNTEER - CONTACT:

- Hesperus, CO Area - Daniel Hosfield - [Dhosfield13@gmail.com](mailto:Dhosfield13@gmail.com)
- ABQ Metro Area - Heather Plouse - [purple.gemini.fairy@gmail.com](mailto:purple.gemini.fairy@gmail.com)
- El Paso/Las Cruces Area - Stacy Tarango - [sltarango@hotmail.com](mailto:sltarango@hotmail.com)

# Training Trail

## NRA Range Safety Officer Course June 13, 2026

LOCATION: Albuquerque, NM

For all Troop and Crew shoots, an NRA instructor AND a NRA RSO is required. If Troops and Crews have an RSO, the organizations will only be required to find an NRA instructor current in the firearm intended to shoot.

There will be no firearms or ammunition in the class beyond those which the instructor will provide for demonstration.

[Registration Link](#)



**NRA Range Safety Officer Course  
June 13, 2026**

- ATTENDEES MUST BE 21 YEARS OLD
- CLASSROOM TRAINING
- 8:00 AM- 5:00 PM
- ALL BSA/VENTURING UNITS MUST HAVE A CERTIFIED RSO PRESENT AT ALL RATA ACTIVITIES

**THE MINIMUM CLASS SIZE IS 4 AND MAXIMUM IS 8.**

**CONTACT: MIKE CUTTER,  
MICHAEL.CUTTER@MSN.COM,  
435-730-2837**

Scouting  America  
High Desert Council



# Training Trail

## FIRST AID/CPR/AED TRAINING

LEARN HOW TO SAVE LIVES

26 June 2026  
5:30 PM - 9:00 PM

5841 Office Blvd NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87109

### Important Info:

- ✓ Learn Response Techniques for Breathing, Cardiac and other Emergencies across all Age Groups
- ✓ Online Component Must Be Completed Before Class
- ✓ Provides the FA/CPR/AED Certification that is required for Wilderness First Aid

QUESTIONS: Contact Mike Cutter at [Michael.cutter@msn.com](mailto:Michael.cutter@msn.com)



## First Aid/CPR/AED Training June 26, 2026

LOCATION: Albuquerque Service Center

A hands-on course 5:30-9:00 pm. The course includes an online component, which must be completed in advance. Participants should bring the completion certificate to class, where a final test will be administered.



## Wilderness First Aid June 27-28, 2026

LOCATION: Albuquerque Service Center

This 16-hour course covers first aid assessment and treatment in remote environments where advanced medical care is not immediately accessible. Participants learn to assess, treat, and manage emergencies within their training scope. IF you are not current in CPR/AED/First Aid certification - you must also register separately for that class (linked above)

Open to participants 14 years or older or registered Venturers. This two-day course requires attendance on both days.

# Advancement

## Summer Planning for Units, Scouts & Families

### Cub Scouts:

School is out and it is time for summer fun with your old and new Cub friends! Go do it! You are probably going to Cub Scout Day Camp in June. It will be great! Or maybe your pack has another plan. That will be great too! Then see what your leaders have planned for July and August. Your leaders have training to help everyone do activities safely. The Guide to Safe Scouting is a wonderful reference. Take photos and get it to our Unit Buzz to share your great ideas with other Packs!

### Troops, Crews and Ships:

You probably already have plans for something special this summer. Remember to work together to bring it to fruition. You have learned how to plan, prepare, and perform. Have a great summer! It could be a fairly small outing or an awesome trip! Some of you will attend the National Jamboree in July. There are a lot of options at Jambo, so check the schedule and see what you want to be sure to catch. Take Photos of your adventures and share them with Unit Buzz!

## Advancement Questions?

- For information on how to contact an Advancement Committee Member for your area - Click [HERE](#) for more information. You will find a list of all our committee members and their contact information!

# Advancement

## Scouts BSA Advancement Demystified Webinars:

Each month - there is a free webinar addressing different elements of Scouts BSA Advancement. The recordings are posted shortly after so even if you can't make it the night it initially airs - you can still get all the great information. Visit <https://www.scouting.org/program-updates/upcoming-webinars-scouts-bsa-advancement-demystified-series/> for more information

- February 4 – Working Advancement into Troop Meetings - Recording now Posted
- Thursday, March 5 – Using Scoutbook Plus for Advancement - Recording now Posted
- Wednesday, April 22 – Special Needs – Accommodations, Modifications, RBAE and More - Recording now Posted
- Wednesday, May 5 – Merit Badge Counseling – Moving from Good to Great - Recording coming soon

Thank you to our Merit Badge Counselors - we appreciate how you bring new worlds to our Scouts. You open their eyes to new Career and Hobby ideas they may have never heard of before.

Scout Book +: This link is a wonderful little training on how MBCs can use Scout Book +. It is remarkably up to date and covers a lot of questions that MBCs have.

<https://help.scoutbook.scouting.org/knowledge-base/scoutbook-plus-merit-badge-counselor-guide/#unit-guide-to-working-with-merit-badge-counselors-in-scoutbook-plus>

# Events

(Click graphic for more information)



**June 5th 2026**  
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

**REGISTER NOW!**

**Eagle Scout Recognition Banquet**  
Join us in recognizing our Council's Eagle Scout recipients from 2025 and the first quarter of 2026

- **North Location:** Sheraton Hotel Albuquerque Airport (2910 Yale Blvd. S.E.)  
<https://donations.scouting.org/council/412/event/797>
- **South Location:** El Paso Community College (Building A, 9050 Viscount Blvd)  
<https://donations.scouting.org/council/412/event/805>

Welcome and the Keynote Address will be Video - linked!  
**Registration now open!**  
**Questions: Contact Skip Brown at [rbrown3@comcast.com](mailto:rbrown3@comcast.com)**

**Scouting America**  
High Desert Council

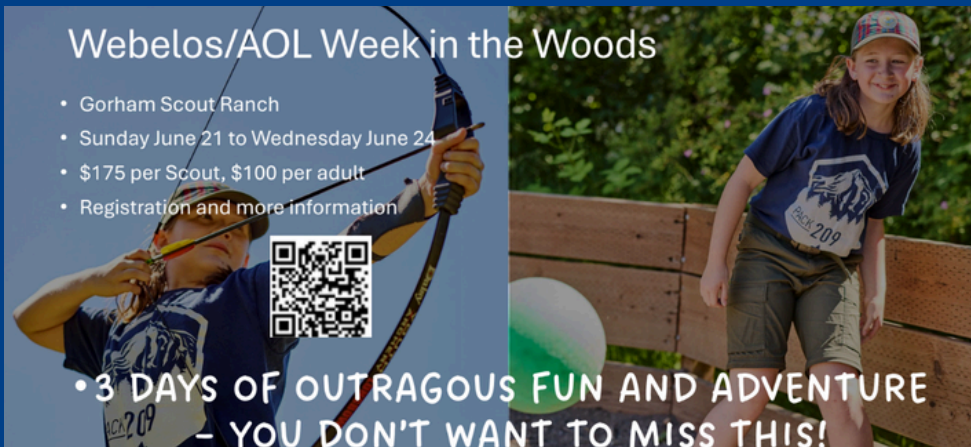
## Eagle Banquet June 5th, 2026

LOCATION: ABQ and El Paso

Join us for a wonderful luncheon celebrating all the Eagle Scouts from the past year! We will have two simultaneous events - one in ABQ and one in El Paso. Registration for each event is separate click the appropriate link below for more details


[ABQ Registration Link](#)

[El Paso Registration Link](#)



**Webelos/AOL Week in the Woods**

- Gorham Scout Ranch
- Sunday June 21 to Wednesday June 24
- \$175 per Scout, \$100 per adult
- Registration and more information



**• 3 DAYS OF OUTRAGOUS FUN AND ADVENTURE  
- YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!**

## Webelos/AOL Week in the Woods June 21-24

LOCATION: Gorham Scout Ranch

This special camp to help make sure each Webelos and Arrow of Light Scout is prepared to join a troop in the coming months. Confidence they have all the skills necessary when they cross the bridge is key to any successful crossover.

[Registration Now Open](#)

# Events

(Click graphic for more information)

## ATV Adventure Weekends

June 27/28  
or  
July 11/12

**Dirt and  
horsepower —  
what's not to love?**



**ATV Adventure Weekend**  
June 27/28  
or  
July 11/12

Gorham Scout Ranch

Limited to 6 Youth 14 and  
older each weekend  
\$50 per participant

Bring your troop to camp  
with a great program for  
your older scouts

[Link](#) for more information  
and registration



## High Desert Council Fun Shoot at Gorham

- July 11 Gorham Scout Ranch
- Register as a unit or individually and join the Council Range and Target Activity team to shoot rifle, shotgun, and archery for \$30.
- Register for a group and you will cycle through each activity, spending approximately 45 minutes at each range to gain exposure and have safe fun.
- More information at this [LINK](#) or scan the QR code.



## **C.O.P.E. at Camp**

Gorham Scout Ranch

July 17-19



COPE builds  
Leadership through:

- Teamwork,
- Trust,
- Self confidence,
- Communication,
- Problem-solving,
- and
- Decision-making.

Bring your troop for a weekend of  
adventure they won't soon forget! \$30  
per Participant

[Link](#) for more information and  
registration



# Events

(Click graphic for more information)



## Scout Day at Chihuahuas Baseball July 5th

LOCATION: El Paso, TX

Join us for an unforgettable evening of baseball and scouting at the Chihuahuas' Scout Day on July 5<sup>th</sup>. Register as a unit to sit together - Wear your Uniform and bring your banner or flag for pre-game parade

Visit <https://scoutingevent.com/573-116349> for info on how to purchase tickets

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**SCOUT FISHING DERBY WEEKEND**  
**TRAIN. CAST. CATCH. HAVE FUN!**

TRAINING CLASS	FISHING DAY
<p>CLARDY FOX LIBRARY EL PASO, TX</p>	<p>ASCARATE PARK EL PASO, TX</p>
<p>FRIDAY <b>07-17-2026</b></p>	<p>SATURDAY <b>07-18-2026</b></p>
<p>3:00 PM MT to 5:30 PM MT</p>	<p>9:00 AM MT to 12:00 PM MT</p>
<p>Kick things off by learning fishing basics, safety tips, and skills to help you succeed on derby day!</p>	<p>Put your new skills to the test and enjoy a morning of fishing, fun, and fellowship with fellow Scouts!</p>

**\$6 COST: \$6 PER PARTICIPANT**  
INCLUDES AN **EXCLUSIVE EVENT PATCH!** **PATCH INCLUDED!**

LEARN NEW SKILLS | ENJOY THE OUTDOORS | MAKE MEMORIES

**MORE DETAILS & REGISTRATION INFO COMING SOON!**

## Scout Fishing Derby July 17-18

LOCATION: El Paso, TX

Get ready to cast your lines and reel in some fun—our Scout Fishing Derby Weekend is coming up! This two-day adventure is filled with learning, outdoor fun, and friendly competition. Must Attend Both Days

Registration Info Coming Soon

# Events

(Click graphic for more information)



Operation Arrow is looking for youth and adult members to serve in various roles – most critical is the OA Service Corps, providing support to complement Jamboree program staff and other critical operations.

Serving as Jamboree staff is also the cheapest way to experience the Jamboree.

Check out the pricing options:  
Full Session: \$650 / \$1060 (over 30)  
Half Sessions: \$400 / \$700 (over 30)  
(does not include travel expenses)

For more information, visit <https://oa-scouting.org/program/events/jamboree>

As you are planning your unit's summertime activities - put this on your calendar!! Locations planned around the council and all are welcome to participate! This will be a great "Bring a Friend" event to showcase how much fun they could be having in Scouts! More details to come!

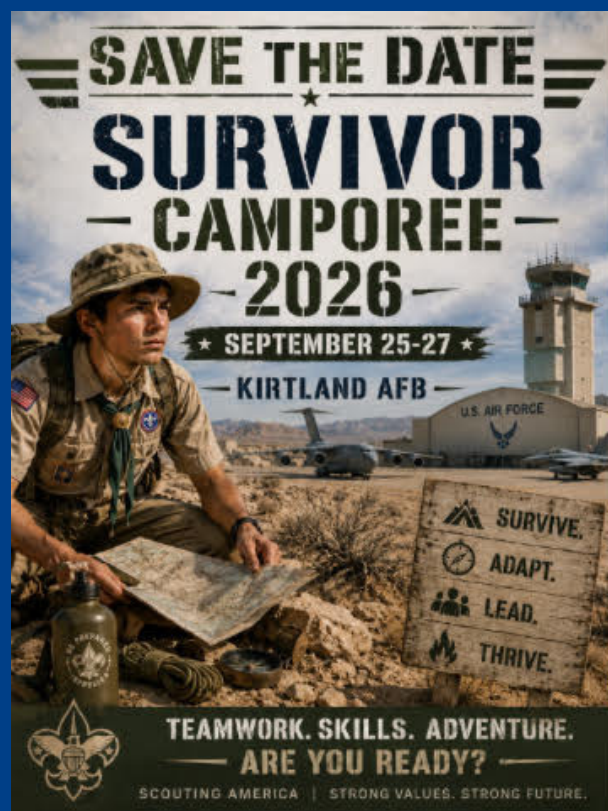
A promotional graphic for "Popsicles In the Park" featuring a large red popsicle illustration. The text includes "Scouting America High Desert Council", "Presents:", "JULY 25TH 2026", "Wow!", "enjoy every moment.", "GOOD TIMES", "FREE!", "Locations will be councilwide!", "Save the Date!", "TBD", and "join scouting at Beascout.org".

# Long Term Planning!



- When: August 28-30 AND Sept 12-13 (MUST ATTEND BOTH WEEKENDS)
- Where: Gorham Scout Ranch
- Staff and Participants Needed
- Registration is open - <https://scoutingevent.com/573-108087>
- For more info - reach out to Luke Arnold, 505-999-9733 [laarnold@hotmail.com](mailto:laarnold@hotmail.com)

## Fall Camporee Sept 25-27



# Long Term Planning!



## POLAND 2027

World Scout  
26<sup>th</sup> Jamboree  
Scout Mondial



- The World Scout Jamboree is held every four years around the world. The next Jamboree will be held in Gdansk, Poland in the summer of 2027 and will have approximately 45,000 Scouts and leaders from over 140 countries in attendance. Participants must be between age 14-17 at the start of the Jamboree on July 30, 2027. Anyone older than that can apply to be a unit leader or on staff. Anyone younger than that will have to wait for the 2031 Jamboree in Denmark. Here are two key websites:
- The World Scout Jamboree website: <https://www.jamboree2027.org>
- The US Contingent website: <https://wsj2027.us>

# Scout Shop Info

## SCOUT *May* SHOP NEWSWIRE

YOUR DIRECT LINE TO THE LATEST ARRIVALS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### STEP INSIDE YOUR LOCAL SCOUT SHOP

and you can feel the spark of adventure. Whether you're planning a celebration or your next campout, our experts will help you gear up for whatever's next.



**SAVE \$10**  
ON ANY PURCHASE \$50+

USE CODE:  
**SSNEWSWIRE5**

Valid 5/1/26 - 5/31/26 online or in-store. Offer excludes gift cards and shipping fees. One per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers.

## CURRENT & UPCOMING

*Events!*

### GIFT IDEAS FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Celebrate the moms and mentors who help make Scouting possible with thoughtful gifts from your local Scout Shop—apparel, accessories, keepsakes, and everyday favorites she can enjoy on the trail and beyond.



### PERFORMANCE UNIFORM SHORTS AND SHIRT

Back by popular demand, our lightweight, moisture-wicking uniform is ideal for all your summer adventures. Visit your local Scout Shop and gear up for camp with the performance uniform—available while supplies last!

### MAY IS CUB SCOUT ADVANCEMENT MONTH

Scout Shops are stocked with everything you need to recognize Cub Scout achievements, including pins, loops, badges, and insignia. Stop in and let our knowledgeable staff help you prepare for your upcoming advancement ceremonies.

# Scout Shop Info

**IN-STORE  
MONTHLY  
OFFERS** STOP IN  
& SAVE!



**THORLO**

**25% OFF\***  
**THORLO SOCKS**  
**WHEN YOU BUY 2+**

May 3 – June 27



**GSI  
OUTDOORS**

**25% OFF\***  
**GSI OUTDOORS**

May 15 – May 26



**Sawyer**

**20% OFF\***  
**SAWYER**

May 15 – May 25

\* Offers valid while supplies last.

## NEW ARRIVALS THE RIGHT GEAR FOR EVERY ADVENTURE



**250TH ANNIVERSARY  
BOXED KNIFE**

SKU: 665292

A meaningful  
collectible for Scouts.



**AMERICANA TEES  
COLLECTION**

SKU: 665632, 665638, 665644

Three new patriotic Scouting  
tees inspired by America's  
250th anniversary.



**SCOUTING AMERICA  
TIE-DYE STRING BAG**

SKU: 665757

Made for grab-and-go  
convenience during  
everyday Scouting activities.

**STAY CONNECTED**  
DON'T MISS A THING



Follow us  
**@ScoutShopBSA**  
for the latest  
arrivals, upcoming  
events, and  
seasonal highlights!

**Outdoor**  
**TIP OF  
THE MONTH**

Scouting is more fun when you stay hydrated.  
Warmer temps sneak up fast, so pack more  
water than you think you'll need and take breaks  
in the shade. If you're going on a hike, start early!

# Popcorn Info



**HIGH DESERT COUNCIL**

# MISSION POPCORN

LAUNCHING LEADERS. BUILDING TOMORROW.

## ★ IMPORTANT MISSION DATES ★

### JULY



**JULY 8**

#### COUNCIL WIDE KICKOFF – ZOOM

Mission briefing begins! Join us online as we launch the 2026 popcorn season.

### AUGUST



**AUGUST 3**

#### STOREFRONT AUTO ASSIGNMENT

Automatic storefront assignments will be released.



**AUGUST 7**

#### MANUAL STOREFRONT SELECTION

Choose and customize your storefront opportunities.



**AUGUST 21**

#### FIRST ORDER DUE

Submit your first popcorn order and prepare for launch.









