

HIGH DESERT NEWS

October 2025



Prepared. For Life.®



IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT SUMMER CAMP AT GORHAM SCOUT RANCH IN 2026 AND 2027

The Council's Executive Board has determined that High Desert Council will not be offering a summer camp program for Troops at Gorham Scout Ranch in 2026. Gorham will remain open for all other activities and events, and summer camp will return there in 2027.

Gorham will remain in full operation as a camp facility through 2026 and into 2027 for all other camping, training, Order of the Arrow, Camporee/Klondike, Wood Badge, unit programming, and other activities throughout the year, focused on programs which are volunteer-run. The Camp Ranger at Gorham is being retained to continue to safeguard and maintain Council property.

And we are inviting all HDC troops to join us for a homecoming week to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the naming of Camp Frank Rand. Details will be out in 2026, but please plan on spending your 2027 summer camp in a revitalized Gorham Scout Ranch!

Looking for High Desert Council Swag?

**Special Limited Time offer! Orders
Close on 10/31!! TShirts, Sweathshirts
and more!!! Order now! Click image to
right to visit our trading post!!**



Important Info

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](#)

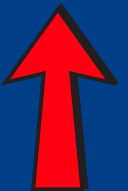
Roundtable - Council Wide

1st Thursday of every month starting t 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



Scan or Click to
enter Meeting



Zoom Meeting ID: 851 4615 1346

Passcode: EJPQv5

(Meeting Code is good for next 3 years)

FMI: Dale Balmer, dbalmer8@comcast.net

If you missed Roundtable - you can check out the slides here!

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



Upcoming Events

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

Date	Event	Location
Oct 11 th	Pinewood Derby Build Days	El Paso, TX
Oct 16 th	2025 Eagle Golf Tournament	El Paso, TX
Oct 17-19	OA Fall Conclave - Yah-Tah-Hey-Si-Kess Lodge	Gorham Scout Ranch
Oct 18 th	JOTA Mesilla Valley Radio Club Picnic*	Las Cruces, NM
Oct 19 th	Scouting Day at NM United	ABQ Metro Area
Oct 25 th	Western Tech MBU	El Paso, TX
Nov 1 st	STEM MBU at UNM	ABQ, NM
Nov 1 st	McKittrick Miler	El Paso Area
Nov 8 th	Scout Night at the Miners - UTEP Game	El Paso, TX
Nov 8 th	Cub Scout Archery Day	ABQ, NM
Nov 8th/11 th	Veterans Day Parade In Your Community	All
Nov 11 th	Council Offices Closed - Veterans Day	All
Nov 14 th	NRA Basic Shotgun Training	ABQ, NM
Nov 15 th	Camp Tyler Francis Service Day	Sunland Park, NM
Nov 22 nd	Pinewood Derby Build Days	El Paso, NM
Nov 22nd	IOLS/BALOO South	CTF-Sunland Park
Nov 27-28 th	Office and Scout Shops Closed	All
Nov 29 th	Scout Night at NMSU	Las Cruces, NM

Items marked with an asterik are events coordinated/run by an organization other than the High Desert Council but may be of interest to our members

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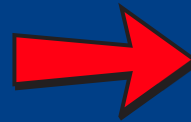
Unit Buzz!

The Unit Buzz is a monthly compilation of unit activities throughout the High Desert Council. Unit leaders are encouraged to use the form below to submit a picture and a short description of their unit in action.

Appropriate submissions include:

- Courts of Honor
- Service projects
- Campouts, hikes
- Other unit level, special activities that deserve recognition

Unit Leaders - Scan/Click here for the submission form!



Check out our Facebook Page and the Resources page of our website for the monthly compilations!



In the News

NEW MERIT BADGES

Scouting is stepping boldly into the digital age with the release of its two newest merit badges – Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity – now available for Scouts to begin earning!

These new merit badges reinforce Scouting's mission to prepare youth with the knowledge and skills they need for the future.



Scouts will need to work with merit badge counselors for these new merit badges. All MBCs must be officially registered with High Desert Council and have completed the online MBC training. Contact the High Desert Council offices if you are interested in becoming a MBC for either of these new badges.

For all the details on these new merit badges - visit <https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/all/>

SCOUTS IN THE NEWS!

Not only did Gabriella Montoya make the news on local news station KOAT - her story was picked up by People Magazine's website! Way to go!!



<https://www.koat.com/article/valencia-county-teen-first-woman-eagle-scout/67785419>

<https://people.com/teen-17-becomes-1st-woman-reach-eagle-scout-status-in-new-mexico-county-advice-for-other-girls-11813514>

Membership

REMINDERS

- Recruitment is not just a once or twice a year happening!
- Youth are the best Recruitment Tool you have!
- Invite a friend to your Unit's Fun Activity – we know you do something amazing every month!
- Share how amazing Scouting is! Share your stories!!

WHAT MATTERS MOST FOR RECRUITMENT!

- Fun + Friends – Kids come for activities but stay for the friendships.
- Family Inclusion – Parents want to participate or at least feel welcome.
- Visible Outcomes – Photos, badges, skills, confidence – things parents can see.
- Accessibility – Gear provided or borrowed; events not too far; costs reasonable.
- Short-term commitment to start – Avoid overwhelming new families.

Training Trail

Range and Target Activities Upcoming Trainings - ABQ Area

NRA Basic Shotgun Course
November 14-15, 2025



NRA Range Safety Officer Course
December 6, 2025



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



CAMP MASTER TRAINING



OCTOBER 25 ● **9-12**

9624 PLAZA CIR, EL PASO, TX 79927
REGISTER NOW



IOLS/BALOO

November 22-23rd

Camp Tyler Francis

4200 Girl Scout Ln
Sunland Park, NM 88063

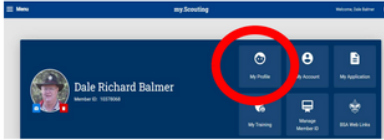
Registration opening soon



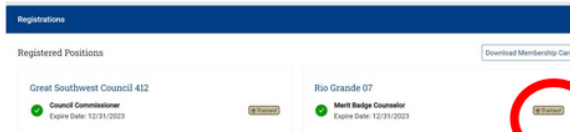
Advancement

How to check if you're trained as a Merit Badge Counselor

- Log into your my.scouting.org account
- Click on the My Profile button:



- Scroll down to see list of positions and training status for each position:



Can we get 100% Trained Merit Badge Counselors by 31 December?
As of 10-1-2025:
365 Total, **62 Untrained**,
303 Trained =
83% Trained

The quickest training is online

via my.scouting.org (24 + 10 = 34 mins)

- Click on My Training, and then "Scouts BSA" box.
- If you see "Select your position" then you click "Merit Badge Counselor (34 minutes)"
 - If not, hit the word Catalog and type "Merit Badge Counselor"
- The classes noted on the next slide are the total required to be a TRAINED Merit Badge Counselor

These are the required courses for Merit Badge Counselors!

- "MBC - Before the first meeting" (3 courses, 24 mins)
 - SCO_472: Aims & Methods of Scouts BSA (8:30)
 - SCO_474: Introduction to Merit Badges (8:00)
 - SCO_486: What is a Merit Badge Counselor (7:00)
- "MBC - Position Trained." (1 course, 10 mins)
 - SCO_471: Advancement (10:00)

Please help us hit 100% before December 31st
Locaipen@aol.com 505-306-7694

Thank You!

Awards Central

Point of contact: Brian Tolson

email: briantolson99@yahoo.com or text to : 505-967-6139

2025 Scouter Awards Timeline

Our Volunteers are the lifeblood of our council! Without them - we wouldn't be able to function. If you know of a Scouter who has gone above and beyond to make the Scouting Program great - please take the time to nominate them for an award!

- A full timeline document is posted [HERE](#) on Council's website.
-
- More information about these and other awards can be found at Scouting America's Awards Central home page [HERE](#)

Nominations due to Council Office by January 5, 2026:

The High Desert Council Annual Business Meeting and Awards ceremony will be held on April 11, 2026 at the Inn of the Mountain Gods, in Mescalero NM!

Awards Central

Congressional Award



Sponsored by the US Congress

- Recognizes all youth ages 14-24 years old (Scouting membership not required)

Visit website to register for the award

<https://www.congressionalaward.org/scouts/>

- There is a one time \$35 fee to register

- Track Service and activities and log them online

- Adult unit leader/advisor/parent/coach (or mixture) verifies/validates performance and logs

- Program book at this link provides greater details:

https://www.congressionalaward.org/wp-content/uploads/Program-Book_2023.pdf

BADGES

BADGES CAN BE APPLIED TO THE PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT CATEGORY.

LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP CAN BE COUNTED TOWARD THE PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT CATEGORY OF THE AWARD.



EARN THE AWARD WITH SCOUTING

Register for the Award

Submit and Earn your Award



SCOUTING, EAGLE PROJECTS, SILVER & GOLD AWARD

SERVICE PROJECTS CAN BE APPLIED TO ANY 1 AWARD AREA.

CAMPS AND TRIPS

TRIPS CAN BE APPLIED TO THE EXPEDITION AREA OF THE AWARD.

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

North Service Area

Scout Night at NM United - October 19th, 2025

LOCATION - Albuquerque, NM

Join us for a night of high-energy fun as New Mexico United takes the field!

All Scouts in uniform will be recognized during the game, and special activities may include pre-game or halftime field access, a shoutout on the scoreboard, and post-game meet and greet with the players.

There is also an opportunity for scouts to join the players on field to help be a ball manager 14 years and older for this job.



Tickets must be purchased through NM UNITED by 10/16. For more info and link to purchase - visit

<https://scoutingevent.com/573-102924#>

Cub Scout Archery Day - November 8th

LOCATION - Albuquerque, NM

Wolf, Bear, Webelos and Arrow of Lights Scouts in the ABQ Metro area - come participate in an Archery Range day with the High Desert Council on Saturday November 8th! This is your chance to earn the Archery Adventure Pin!

The cost will be \$10 per scout. These two hour sessions will start with a safety lesson and then we will move outside to the range to complete the shooting requirements for completing the adventure.



For More Information - visit
[https://](https://scoutingevent.com/573-105950)

scoutingevent.com/573-105950

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

South Service Area



Pinewood Derby Build Day

LOCATION: El Paso, TX

No Registration Needed

Attention all racers far and wide! Come build your pinewood derby cars with us! We will have the tools you need to get your motors running!

Bushed Bear Camp Dale Resler Service Day October 18th, 2025

LOCATION: Cloudcroft NM

When: 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*****

Scouts are not allowed to use power tools

No overnight camping

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED BUT YOU MUST REGISTER
MEDICAL FORMS A AND B REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE

Contact Sue Jacintho, Order of the Arrow Lodge Advisor
at suejuja@msn.com or 575-635-9654 for more
information.



Events

(Click graphic for more information)

South Service Area (Con't)



wt
Western Tech

MERIT BADGE UNIVERSITY

October 25th
8:00am- 4:00pm

AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE
CITIZENSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY
COMMUNICATION
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY
ELECTRICITY
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
FIRST AID
HOME REPAIRS
HORSEMANSHIP
METALWORK
PERSONAL MANAGEMENT
TRUCK TRANSPORTATION
WELDING


**Scouting
America**
High Desert Council

 **REGISTER NOW**

SEATS ARE LIMITED



WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE
9624 PLAZA CIR
EL PASO, TEXAS 79927

Sarah Davis Sarah.Davis@scouting.org
Judith Jaurrieta jjtwkjj@gmail.com

#ADVENTUREON!

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

South Service Area (Con't)

McKittrick Miler November 1, 2025

LOCATION: Salt Flat, TX

Come Hike with us! Start at Frijole Campground for some fun educational activities and then head out to enjoy the fall colors!! There are several trails that you can choose from! Bring your family and get outside!

Registration is now open! <https://scoutingevent.com/573-100706#>



Scout Night at the Miners - November 8th

LOCATION: El Paso, TX

Calling all scouts and families! Mark your calendars for an exciting evening at the UTEP Miners football game.

Time: Game starts at 2 PM, Gates open 1 PM

REGISTER AS A UNIT! - <https://scoutingevent.com/573-103545#>

Tickets will be available for pick up at our office starting two weeks prior to the game. Our office hours are 10 AM to 2 PM, Monday through Friday.

Come out and support the UTEP Miners while enjoying a fun-filled night with your fellow scouts. We look forward to seeing you there!



Long Term Planning!



Camp Dale Resler

BSA Klondike

Jan 17th | 8 AM | \$15 Per Person

Spend the weekend competing in our Klondike Derby for BSA youth! Camping is optional! Register will open SOON!

1077 Columbine BLVD
Cloudcroft NM 88317

For more information contact
Sue Jacintho @
suejuja@msn.com



Scouting America

Cub Klondike

February 28th 2026

Registration open Soon! Register as a unit!

Where: White Sands National Park

High Desert Council-First Year!



Long Term Planning!

ALBUQUERQUE METRO AREA 2026 SCOUTING FOR FOOD

FEBRUARY 7TH 2026 &
FEBRUARY 14TH 2026

LOCATION INFO AND SIGN UP FOR
TIME SLOTS COMING IN EARLY
JANUARY!

QUESTIONS:

ABQMETROSFF@GMAIL.COM



- **What:** National Jamboree is not just a 'big summer camp.' It is "the adventure of a lifetime," with amazing hands-on activity and adventure.
- **Where:** Summit Bechtel Reserve, West Virginia
- **When:** July 22-31, 2026, leaving around July 19 for a fun pre-trip.
- **Who:** The High Desert Council will send as many 20-participant contingents of Male or Female as possible, but we have to be at those even 20 people for each contingent.
- Adults are also encouraged to volunteer for the Jamboree Service Team (<https://jamboree.scouting.org/staff/>)
- For More information - visit <https://scoutingevent.com/573-89330>

Long Term Planning!



POLAND 2027

World Scout
26th 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>

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE U.S. CONTINGENT

09/10/2025	Registration for participants and IST opens. <i>No payment is required at this time.</i>
11/01/2025	Our contingent size is finalized and submitted to the Jamboree Planning Team.
12/01/2025	The Jamboree Planning Team notifies each country of its official contingent size allocation.
Early 01/2026	Participants and IST make their first Jamboree deposit.
02/01/2026	US contingent send our full payment to the Jamboree Planning Team

If you have any questions, email - Bill McKinney at USAPoland2027@gmail.com