

HIGH DESERT NEWS

September 2026



The High Desert Council Executive Board held a special meeting on July 15 to receive and discuss the final report of the Outdoor Success Task Force (OSTF), and to vote on resolutions arising from the recommendations of that task Force. The OSTF was charged with gathering information and creating a set of recommendations to help the Council develop, improve, and deliver outdoor program that supports membership growth by attracting, recruiting, and retaining youth and families. The OSTF's full report is contained in a extensive file at the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/62jfbefac4jgm0em1g25t/AEoMBIJOQV2JcHbKylbN8z0?rlkey=wl4lp0pd0objb5dhkz8wiljv97&st=n6uk55fu&dl=0>. It is well worth the time to read and absorb.

After a lengthy discussion, the Board adopted three resolutions based upon the OSTF's work. Here are those three resolutions:

- that the Council fully embrace a third-party partnership model to expand program variety, geographic reach, and flexibility while reducing liability and capital expenses;
- that the Council form a task force to determine the process and cost of the Council winding down ownership of our four camp properties; and,
- that the Council impanel a working group to look into finding a place to park any of our four properties with a neutral third-party and if so, how to do so.

Taken together, those resolutions establish a new way of carrying out our mission of preparing young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. Outdoor programming is a key method of Scouting, following Baden-Powell's direction that "We are not a club or a Sunday school class, but a school of the woods." The outside world is one giant classroom, and Scouts' adventures there are a textbook filled with life-long lessons. It is those adventures that matter, not the details of where they take place; ownership does not guarantee quality.

In a period of strained resources and membership challenges, High Desert has faced increased financial pressures from being solely responsible for the operation, upkeep, and development of camp properties. The Board's actions on the 15th are intended to retain the best of outdoor learning through partnerships that support great outdoor programming while reducing financial burdens on the Council and its members.

Those resolutions form the starting point of a process. I expect it will take the next 12 to 18 months to implement the policy directions in those resolutions, and to take specific actions regarding each of the four properties. I intend to continue our being transparent as we move forward and, as always, greatly appreciate all that our dedicated volunteers and hard-working professional staff do to make Scouting great where in High Desert.

– Chris Sandberg, Council Executive Board Chair

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!



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 August is at
St. Marks Episcopal Church - 431 Richmond Pl 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 or
Kym Maldonado kym_maldonado@hotmail.com**

Upcoming Events

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

Date	Event	Location
Sept 6 th	Scout Night At ABQ Isotopes	ABQ, NM
Sept 7 th	Offices Closed	Council Wide
Sept 11-13	OA Section Leadership Conf/Planning	Peralta, NM
Sept 19 th	Life to Eagle Class	Online/ABQ Office
Sept 19 th	2026 Sporting Clays Fundraiser	Bosque, NM
Sept 19 th	Catholic Conferral Mass/Retreat*	ABQ, NM
Sept 25-27	2026 Fall Camporee - Kirtland AFB	ABQ, NM
Sept 25-27	OA Fall Induction Weekend	Gorham Scout Ranch
Oct 3 rd	BALOO Training	Camp Tyler Francis
Oct 10 th	Western Tech MBU/Univ. of Scouting	El Paso, TX
Oct 10 th	Cub Scout Leader Training	El Paso, TX
Oct 16-18	CPR/AED/WFA Course	ABQ, NM
Oct 24 th	Cuboree	Las Cruces, NM
Oct 24 th	Massing of the Colors	El Paso, TX
Nov 7 th	Health MBU	ABQ, NM
Nov 9 th	2026 Eagle Golf Tournament	El Paso, TX
Nov 21 st	Scout Night at NMSU	Las Cruces, NM

*not a High Desert Council Sponsored Event

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In the News

The View from the Top

We have TWO blog posts for you this month!!!



“Partnerships” - Chris Sandberg

[Click here to read](#)

“Communication Musings” -

Fred Youberg

[Click here to read](#)

Scouting America Tech Hub Webinar Update



The recording for last month’s webinar regarding the new Scoutconnect Platform has now been posted. If you were not able to attend the webinar - check out the recording for all the information on this great new system! Visit <https://techhub.scouting.org/webinars/> to watch it!



In the News

Volunteers Needed!

We need a Health Officer and Short Term Camp Administrator for the Camporee in September. Without these volunteers - we cannot have the camporee! If you are willing to help with either role - please reach out ASAP to Sarah Davis (Sarah.Davis@scouting.org) or Angela Sparks (sparkstrib2003@yahoo.com).

Short-Term Camp Administrator

Credentials/qualifications:

- Must be a registered Scouter.
- Must be at least 21 years old.
- Must hold a current National Camping School Short-Term Camp Administrator certification, or an appropriate resident/long-term camp director certification from National Camping School. **(THERE IS AN ONLINE CLASS IN SEPT - YOU CAN GET CERTIFIED/RECERTIFIED BEFORE THE EVENT IF YOU ARE NOT CURRENTLY CERTIFIED!! - <https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/camping/short-term-camp/>)**

What they do:

The STCA is essentially the person who makes sure the event is actually being operated according to NCAP.

They:

- Review the event and NCAP requirements during planning.
- Make sure required paperwork and approvals are completed.
- Inspect/walk the property before the event.
- Verify facilities are safe and suitable.
- Verify health, safety, and sanitation provisions are in place.
- Make sure the activities being offered comply with NCAP and the Guide to Safe Scouting.
- Complete the applicable NCAP assessment/declaration paperwork.

They do not necessarily have to stay at camp the entire event. The national guidance says the STCA must be present for setup/opening, with the exact council implementation determining the rest.

(Continued on Next Page)



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Camp Health Officer

We are within 10 minutes of EMS so we just need someone with the following certifications:

- Standard First Aid, and
- CPR/AED, with the 2026 standard clarifying that standard CPR/AED from an appropriate nationally recognized provider can meet the requirement, including adult and pediatric coverage.

The Health Officer must also:

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Be on property and on call whenever staff/participants are present.
- Complete the Camp Health Officer Training Course. Online course

The Health Officer is responsible for the health and medical side of the camp, including:

- Being available for illness/injury concerns.
- Providing or coordinating appropriate first aid.
- Maintaining required health/first-aid documentation.
- Knowing how to activate EMS when necessary.
- Monitoring health and sanitation concerns.
- Working within their actual scope of training/licensure.
- Looking over forms A and B for the camp and maintaining records

Training Trail

BALOO TRAINING OCT 3-4, 2026

LOCATION: Camp Tyler Francis

BALOO (Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation) is the required outdoor training for Cub Scout Packs that wish to conduct overnight camping. This hands-on course equips leaders with the knowledge and skills needed to safely plan, organize, and lead Pack camping experiences. All units must have at least one BALOO Trained leader on every campout.

Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) is a hands-on training course designed to give Scouts BSA leaders the practical outdoor skills needed to confidently lead Scouts in the outdoors. The course focuses on learning by doing, giving leaders the opportunity to experience the skills they can then teach and use with their Scouts.

All participants should come prepared to spend time outdoors and participate in hands-on activities throughout the training.



CPR/AED/Wilderness First Aid Oct 16-18, 2026

LOCATION: Albuquerque Area

More Information Coming Soon -
CPR/AED on Friday night and WFA on
Sat / Sunday. Must be current in
CPR/AED to take WFA. Open to
Leaders or Youth age 14 and up.

Training Trail

TROOP LEADER TRAINING OCTOBER 10, 2026

LOCATION: El Paso, TX

This training provides Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters with the knowledge and tools needed to effectively lead a Scouts BSA Troop. Topics include troop operations, advancement, youth leadership, the patrol method, and delivering a quality Scouting program.



SAVE THE DATE! **TROOP LEADER**
SPECIFIC TRAINING
LEAD * TRAIN * INSPIRE

**TRAINING FOR SCOUTMASTERS,
ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTERS,
AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CHAIRS.**

THIS TRAINING WILL HELP YOU:

- Strengthen your leadership skills
- Understand your role and responsibilities
- Support your Scouts and your unit
- Build a strong, successful program

Save the Date!
OCTOBER 10, 2026

**BETTER LEADERS.
STRONGER UNITS.**

LOCATION: WESTERN TECH ON PLAZA
9624 Plaza Cir
El Paso, TX 79927

**REGISTRATION
OPENING SOON!**

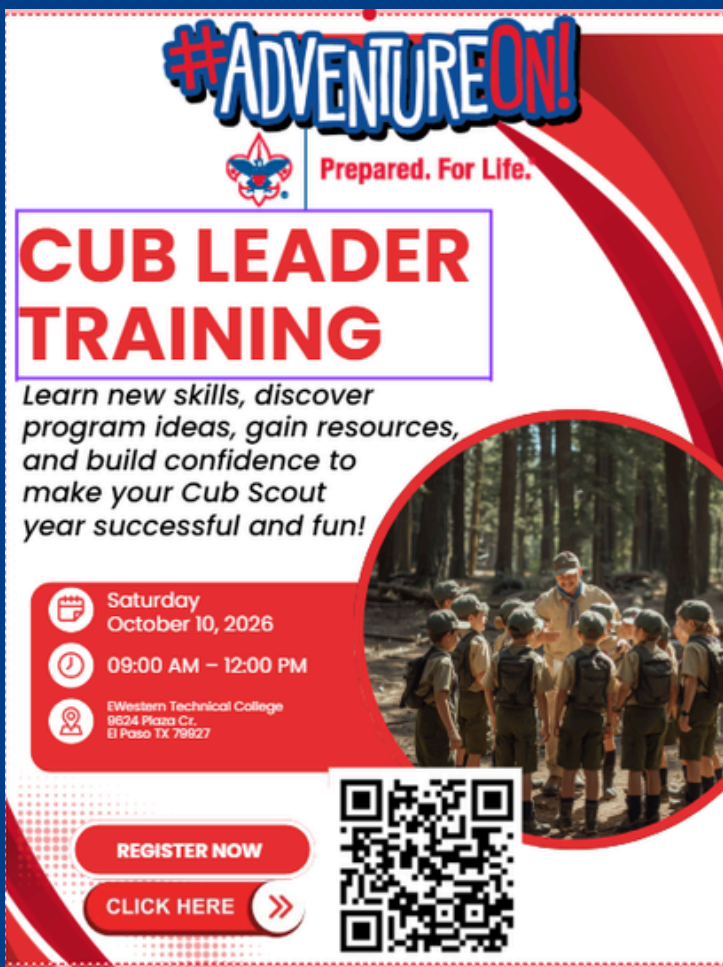
Thank you for leading the adventure!

SCOUTING AMERICA
PREPARED. FOR LIFE.

CUB LEADER TRAINING OCTOBER 10, 2026

LOCATION: El Paso, TX

Join us for Cub Leader Training Day and get ready for an exciting day of learning, ideas, and hands-on fun! Whether you are brand new or a seasoned leader, this training will help you build confidence, gain resources, and bring even more adventure to your pack program. Come connect with other leaders and leave inspired for the Scouting year ahead
Who: Cubmasters/ Assistant Cubmasters, COR training, Den Leaders and Committee members!!



#ADVENTUREON!
Prepared. For Life.

CUB LEADER TRAINING

Learn new skills, discover program ideas, gain resources, and build confidence to make your Cub Scout year successful and fun!

**Saturday
October 10, 2026**

09:00 AM – 12:00 PM

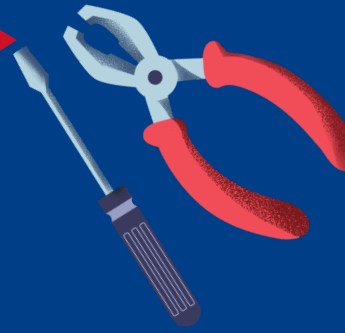
Western Technical College
9624 Plaza Cir.
El Paso TX 79927

REGISTER NOW

CLICK HERE >>

QR Code

Advancement



September 2026 Advancement



What do you do with these new kids you have recruited? Jump into the fun and begin their Rank Advancement. Follow your handbooks. If you still aren't sure what to do it's good to hook up with an experienced leader and/or your Unit Commissioner.

The handbook information is online if that's your preference. I like it when a Scout can look in their own book to research and to document their progress. Maybe your youth do better with a screen. We all learn differently, so offer some different opportunities.

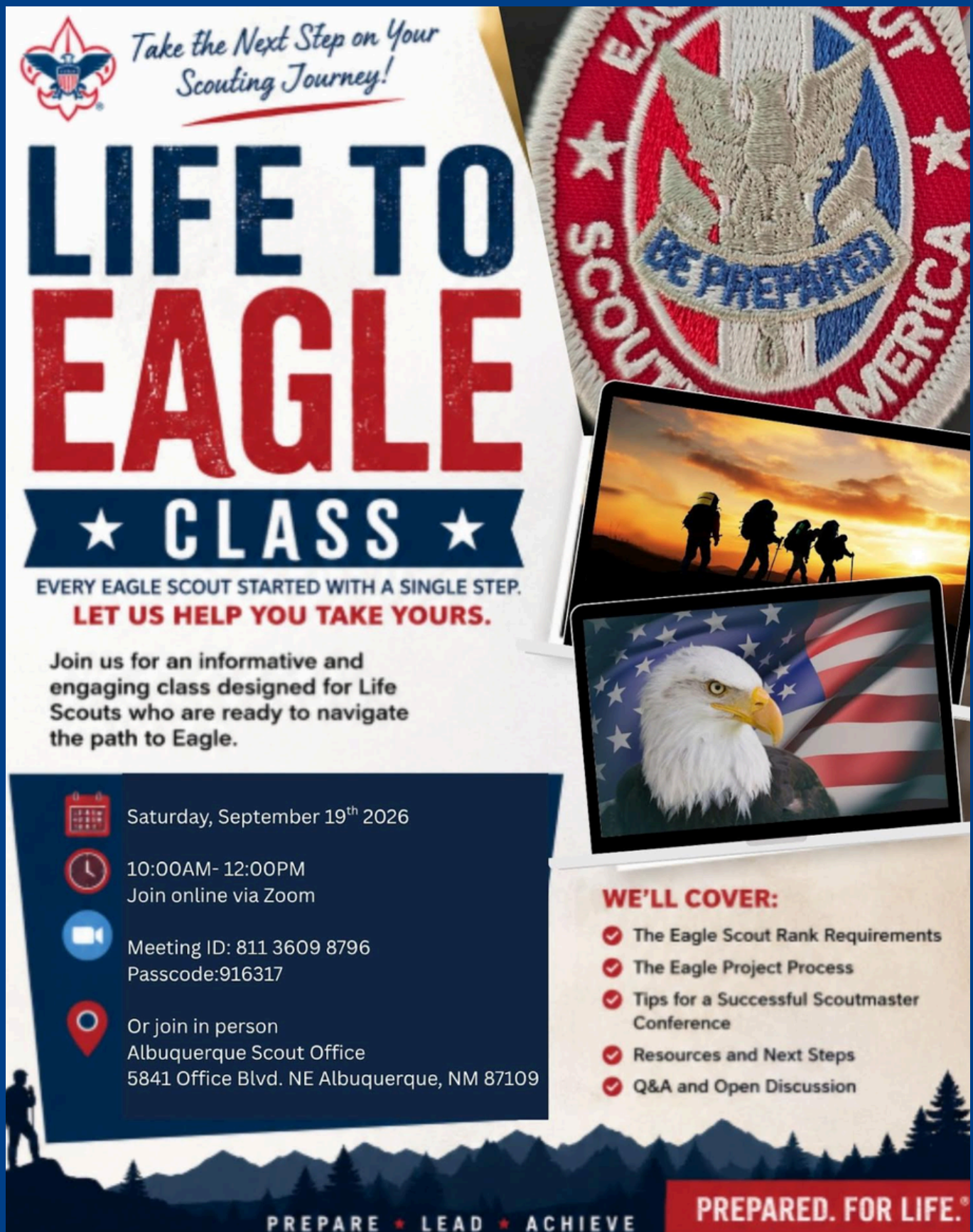
Offer the parents small jobs to let them know that you value their presence. Make everyone welcome. Use that cheerful New Member Coordinator!



Advancement Questions?

Reach out to Lois Caipen via email at Locaipen@aol.com
(put Scouts in the Subject line)

Advancement



 *Take the Next Step on Your Scouting Journey!*

LIFE TO EAGLE

★ CLASS ★

EVERY EAGLE SCOUT STARTED WITH A SINGLE STEP.
LET US HELP YOU TAKE YOURS.

Join us for an informative and engaging class designed for Life Scouts who are ready to navigate the path to Eagle.

 Saturday, September 19th 2026

 10:00AM- 12:00PM
Join online via Zoom

 Meeting ID: 811 3609 8796
Passcode: 916317

 Or join in person
Albuquerque Scout Office
5841 Office Blvd. NE Albuquerque, NM 87109

WE'LL COVER:

- ✓ The Eagle Scout Rank Requirements
- ✓ The Eagle Project Process
- ✓ Tips for a Successful Scoutmaster Conference
- ✓ Resources and Next Steps
- ✓ Q&A and Open Discussion

PREPARE • LEAD • ACHIEVE

PREPARED. FOR LIFE.®

(click graphic for registration information!)

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

Scout Day at the Isotopes



SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2026

Buy Tickets here - [TICKET LINK](#)

Scout Night at Isotopes Baseball Sept 6, 2026

Location: Albuquerque

Join fellow Scouts, families, and friends for Scouting America Day at RGCU Field at Isotopes Park!

Take advantage of exclusive group pricing with \$18.32 Reserved Level tickets (a tremendous savings off the game day price) and enjoy an exciting day of Albuquerque Isotopes baseball while celebrating Scouting America.

Sporting Clays Tournament Sept 19, 2026

Location: Bosque, NM

HIGH DESERT SPORTING CLAYS TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY • SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

BOSQUE, NM • 38 PAIZALAS DR, 87006

Mark your calendar for the 9th Annual Sporting Clays Tournament, a premier shooting sports event and one of the biggest fundraisers of the year for Scouting in our area. Every shot fired, every raffle ticket bought, and every sponsorship given helps support the Scouts right here in our community – so come for the competition, and know you're making a real difference while you do it

For more information - visit <https://givebutter.com/2026-sporting-clays-fyegut>

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

Conferral Mass and Retreat

SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Conferral Mass will recognize scouts from Scouting America, Girl Scouts, and American Heritage Girls who earned a religious emblem or award in the previous year.

Retreat will be held following Mass with activities designed to jump start each scout's endeavors in working toward Catholic scouting emblems and awards..

RISEN SAVIOR CATHOLIC CHURCH
7701 WYOMING BLVD NE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87109

REGISTRATION: 8:30 AM
MASS: 9:00 AM
RETREAT: AFTER MASS - 3:00 PM



WWW.CATHOLICSCOUTSNM.ORG

(click graphic for registration information!
Not a High Desert Council Sponsored Event)

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

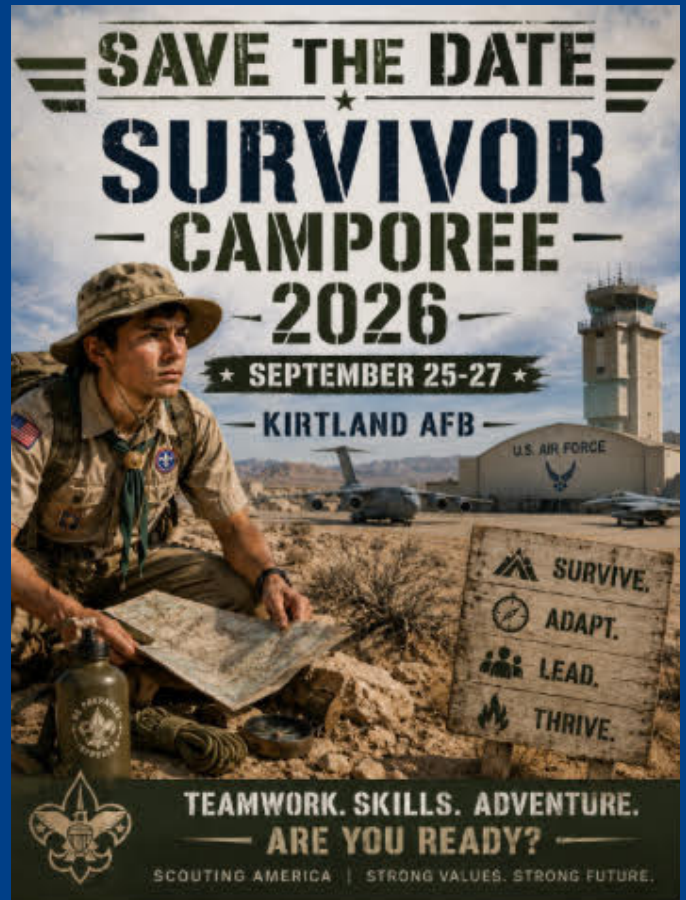
Fall Camporee Sept 25-27

Location: Albuquerque

Join Scouts from across the council for a weekend of camping, competition, and outdoor adventure! This year's Survival theme features hands-on challenges, patrol competitions, wilderness skills, and fellowship.

Scouts will have the opportunity to complete portions of the Wilderness Survival Merit Badge while putting their skills to the test.

Come prepared to compete, camp, and have fun!



We are asking for each unit to send at least one volunteer to help!
Please send an email to sparkstribes2003@yahoo.com



Western Tech MBU Oct 10, 2026

Location: El Paso, TX

Merit Badge University: Scouts can choose from a variety of merit badges, including Welding, Communication, Public Speaking, and more

Long Term Planning!

Cub-o-ree Oct 23-25, 2026

Location: Las Cruces, NM

Get ready for Cuboree – a weekend packed with adventure, outdoor fun, games, activities, and unforgettable memories for Cub Scouts and their families! Scouts will explore, learn, and have a blast while building friendships and Scouting spirit. Don't miss one of the most exciting Cub Scout events of the year! Registration Info Coming soon!



SAVE the DATE!

CUBOREE
ADVENTURE • FUN • MEMORIES

Get ready for a weekend packed with adventure, outdoor fun, games, activities, and unforgettable memories for Cub Scouts and their families!

Scouts will explore, learn, and have a blast while building friendships and Scouting spirit.

SAVE THE DATE!
OCTOBER 23-25, 2026
LOCATION: COMING SOON!

DON'T MISS
ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING CUB SCOUT EVENTS OF THE YEAR!

GAMES
ACTIVITIES
OUTDOOR FUN
FRIENDSHIPS

Scouting America
MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!
Adventure is Calling!

Long Term Planning!

**SAVE THE
DATE!**



Health MBU

**NOV 7TH, 2026
9 AM - 4PM**

**PRESBYTERIAN HEALTHCARE ADVANCED LEARNING LAB
9521 SAN MATEO BLVD NE, ABQ**



Popcorn Info



AUGUST		
	AUGUST 13	Trail's End Unit Onboarding Completed in Leader Portal
	AUGUST 17	Storefront Auto Assignment (VIP Only)
	AUGUST 19	Storefront Manual Adjustment / Claiming Opens
	AUGUST 26	Release Excess Storefronts — be kind, do it early & often!
	AUGUST 16 – 28	First Product Order Window Opens Aug 16 – Submit by Aug 28, 7:00 PM

Join our BAND App for important announcements and the latest popcorn updates throughout the season:

Invitation Link: <https://band.us/n/abaeA7r8O910V>

Check out our resource pack for lots of great information!

[Click here to Download Packet](#)

For more information - visit our [Mission Popcorn Website](#)