



Welcome to the (last!) High Desert Council North Area September 2025 Roundtable



Please ensure your Zoom name includes your Unit #





September 11th, 2025

High Desert Council NORTH Roundtable

Agenda

- Announcements – Kathy Ferdig
 - Welcome – Dale Balmer
- Opening Ceremony – William Campin
 - Scouting “Fun Fact” – Terry Brown
- Safety Moment - Everett Heinonen
 - Unit Buzz Initiative – Fred Youberg
 - STEAM Update – Mark Dietrich
- Training Update – Dale Balmer for Joe Balestri
- Four Corners/San Juan County Update – Beth Bregar
 - Recognition Update – Brian Tolson
 - Activities Update – Randy Reed
 - Advancement Update – Lois Caipen
 - Commissioner Update – Dale Balmer
- District Executive Update - Mary Mazza-Andersen
- BREAKOUT SESSIONS: Pack (Kathy Ferdig), Troop (Jessie Brown), Crew (Cynthia Howard), Commissioners (Dale Balmer/Jim Libbin)





Welcome

Dale Balmer







9-11 Memorial

- Names on the 9/11 Memorial are arranged by "meaningful adjacencies"—a combination of their location at the time of death and personal relationships with other victims, such as friends and family members, rather than alphabetically or by company. For example, co-workers who died in the same office or best friends who were in different locations that day are often listed side-by-side to reflect their connections.
- <https://www.911memorial.org/connect/blog/meaning-behind-arrangement-911-memorial-names>
- A hero is someone who runs up the stairs when everyone else is running down the stairs.





Opening Ceremony

Life Scout William Campin
Troop 714







Scouting “Fun Fact”

Terry Brown





Scouting Fun Fact #25

Did You Know?

Real American Scouting Trivia



The Cub Scout sign (the index and middle fingers extended in a V shape) symbolizes the ears of an **alert wolf**. It replaced the Indian “how” sign, which looked too much like the Nazi salute.

Cub Scouting: Two fingers: In Cub Scouting, we still use the two-finger sign and salute. That hasn't changed.

Why: The two raised fingers stand for the **Scout Oath and the Scout Law**. The fingers look like the sharp ears of the wolf, ready to listen to Akela.



How: Hold your right arm straight up, with your index and middle finger separated, like a peace sign.

Who: Cub Scouts and Cub Scout leaders

When: Give the Cub Scout sign each time you say the Scout Oath and Scout Law. It's also handy when you want to quiet a room quickly.

Also-Cub Scout salute: Two fingers together held above the brow.

Note: Lions also use the two-finger Cub Scout sign and salute.





Safety Moment

Everett Heinonen





Why we use a Safety Moment



September 2025 Safety Minute





Guidance

- Safety moments are a crucial component of Scouting America's Culture of Safety
 - They underscore our commitment to identifying, preventing, or mitigating hazards and risks in all Scouting activities
- We should initiate meetings and events with a brief pause to discuss potential dangers and how to avert them, focusing the group's attention on safety protocols





Different forms

- **Scouting Safely Resources**

- Utilize the extensive library of ready-to-use safety moments on [Scouting Safely](#), covering a myriad of topics
- These are regularly updated and expanded by Scouting America volunteers and professional staff

- **On-the-Spot Safety Moments:**

- Scouts and Scouters can create ad-hoc safety moments tailored to specific situations or activities
- These “just in time” reminders can precede an activity, providing concise information or notifying participants of safety essentials like fire extinguisher locations and exits





Different forms

- **Localized Safety Moments:**
 - Develop safety moments at the local level for units, districts, councils, or camps
 - These can align with local procedures or conditions, offering reminders during pre-activity assessments
 - Camp leaders may plan a series of Safety Moments for each day, reinforcing important safety topics during camper orientation
- **External Resources Caution:**
 - While other organizations and companies may share safety moments online, exercise caution
 - Ensure that these align with Scouting values and adhere to Scouting America safety guidelines





What defines a good moment?

- **Conciseness:** Limited to about one page and readable in 2 minutes or less
- **Focus:** Addresses a single topic or a specific aspect of a larger subject
- **Audience Relevance:** Tailored to the educational level of the audience
- **Delivery:** Crafted for Scouts to present to fellow Scouts, with some topics suitable for adult-to-adult communication
- **Structure:** Includes an opening statement, core information, a brief wrap-up, and at least one follow-up resource
- **Non-Specificity:** Avoids references to or about specific individuals
- **Compliance:** Conforms to Scouting America policies, practices, guidelines, and standards; excludes activities prohibited by Scouting America





Resources

- <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/>





Unit Buzz Initiative

Fred Youberg





Unit Buzz

August 2025

FMI and Unit Buzz Submission form available at:

<https://www.scoutingamericahighdesertcouncil.org/the-unit-buzz>





Troop 538 Durango-The first backpack trip for some of our newly arrived scouts was a success! There were lots of challenges along the way but these guys did this 8-mile up Cascade Creek north of Durango. They stayed 2 nights and worked on skills.





STEAM Update

Mark Dietrich

Mark Dietrich

dietrichbsa@gmail.com

(505) 681-8850





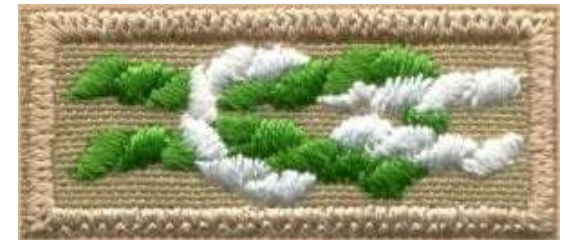
STEAM Notes

- A Council STEAM committee has been formed, and held their first meeting
- The initial focus will be developing a STEAM program for Cub Scouts, hopefully by the end of the school year
- They're looking at creating SuperNova criteria/awards for each type unit (Pack, Troop, Crew)
- They're also considering adding STEAM for Lions and Tigers
- Any questions, please contact Mark, dietchbsa@gmail.com





High Desert Training Reports



Joe Balestri





As we move forward as a merged council with new processes, a segment from Wood Badge comes to mind regarding CHANGE:

- Resist It
- Accept It
- Lead It

I challenge each of us to Lead the Change happening in our council.





High Desert Training Statistics

Council Wide Training Statistics + .1% since August



North Service Area Statistics -.9%

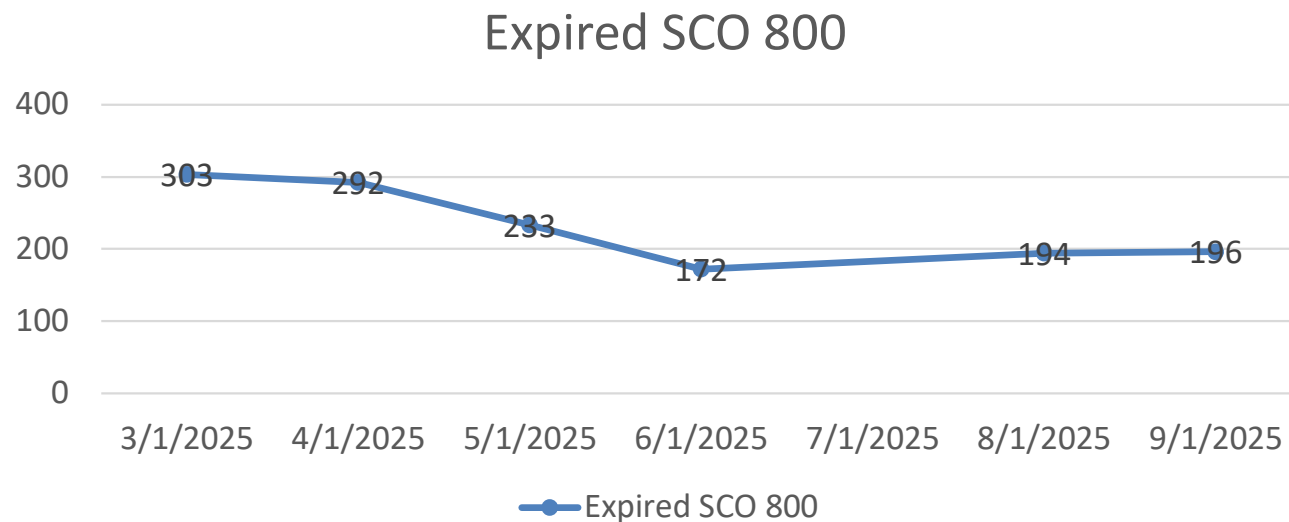
South Service Area Statistics +1.8%





Hazardous Weather

- Hazardous Weather SCO 800
 - Required every two years
 - If not current will show direct contact leaders as “Untrained”





IOLS/BALOO

- IOLS in Four Corners
 - Rescheduled Oct 3-5
 - Registration on council website
 - <https://scoutingevent.com/573-104062>





Upcoming Training

- 9/27/25: NRA Rifle Basic Course (ABQ),
<https://scoutingevent.com/573-102084>
 - Need four people to hold the course, currently only one person is registered!
- 10/3 – 10/4/25: IOLS (Aztec NM),
<https://scoutingevent.com/573-104062>
- 11/14 – 11/15/25: Basic Shotgun Course (ABQ),
<https://scoutingevent.com/573-102633>
 - Currently no registrations, need four to hold the course!
- 12/6/25: Range Safety Officer Training (TBD),
<https://scoutingevent.com/573-102633>
- Check council website calendar at scoutingamericahighdesertcouncil.org for other training courses





Training Contact Update

- New Email for Training Chair
 - council.412.training@gmail.com – should appear as “Council 412 Training” in inbox
- Unified point of contact for council training
- You can still reach out to Joe at jbalestri55@gmail.com, but training emails are coming from the new email address.





San Juan County Scouting

Beth Bregar





The San Juan County Area Round Table for Pack and Troop Leaders



We'll be meeting on the 3rd Saturday of September (20th) from 10 am to Noon. It is our goal to make this a supplemental training that will add to your knowledge base to help you provide a quality program for your youth.

September Topics:

Cubs & Scouts:

TOPIC: Fundraising guidelines, fundraising ideas, Popcorn sales

- **DATE:** September 20, 2025
- **TIME:** 10:00 am to Noon
- **LOCATION:** Tyckson Scout Hut, located at 1911 N. Dustin Ave. in Brookside Park.

Please share this outstanding opportunity with all your Leaders and Parents!

Ideas on topics you may want to cover, email johnnadowning@yahoo.com or ehbregar@gmail.com

Roundtable is an opportunity: To meet other Scouters from our area **FACE TO FACE!** To have current information presented where you can ask a question. To learn “the Tricks of the Trade” from experienced Scouters. To meet and greet new and experienced Scouters you have not seen for a while.

As experienced Scouters we understand the importance of meeting others and sharing information, ideas, the latest news from national, our council, and our area. Please join us.





INTRODUCTION TO LEADERSHIP SKILLS (IOLS)-NORTH

Aztec LDS Stake Center – Pioneer Park

Friday 10-03-2025 5:00 PM MT to

Saturday 10-04-2025 6:00 PM MT

Register at <https://scoutingevent.com/573-104062>

or contact Beth Bregar, ehbregar@gmail.com

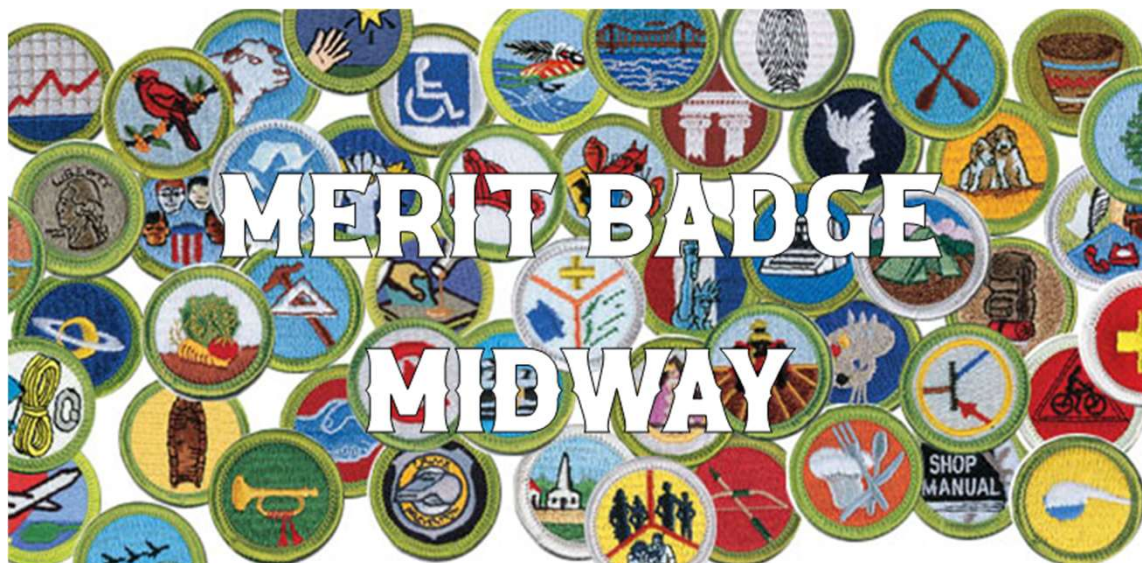
Registration deadline is 9/27/25, 5pm – no extensions!



- Why should I take this training? Scouting's outdoor program is a critical part of how the Scouts BSA program develops young leaders. While camping or participating in other outdoor events, your Scouts will challenge themselves to learn skills they've never tried before or maybe didn't think they could do. In doing so, your Scouts will work together as a team to overcome adversity when things don't go as planned; this is truly the magic of Scouting that no other program does as well.
- To safely offer Scouting's outdoor program, however, you need a certain set of skills and knowledge – and that's why you're required to take Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (also known as "IOLS") Training. You'll learn how to build a fire, use an axe, cook outdoors, use a map and compass, responsibly care for the outdoors, and much more. Even if you weren't a Scout as a kid, you'll come out of this course looking and acting like a seasoned camper. This course, combined with Safeguarding Youth training (or YPT), Hazardous Weather, and the Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster-Specific Training course, will make you an "fully trained" Scouts BSA leader.
- Prerequisites: you must be currently registered in a Scouting unit and must be current in Safeguarding Youth Training and Hazardous Weather training.
- Deadline to register is end of day, September 27th, 2025. Sorry, no late registration will be accepted.

There will be no alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or caffeinated drinks allowed on the property per our agreement with the LDS Church





- San Juan Mountains District Merit Badge Midway is Saturday, October 25th in Durango, CO.
- The event will go from 8:30am-3:30pm. More information and the registration link will be out by no later than October 1st.
- Please complete this second survey ASAP to help us get the plan confirmed. We need responses no later than September 19th.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ACSno1l9d1Y2_SgFnnThqKH MttgO29V57_0E7aEAzzU/edit?usp=drivesdk





Recognition Program of the Month (September 2025)

Brian Tolson

Assistant Council Commissioner

Phone: 505-967-6139

Email: briantolson99@yahoo.com





50-Miler Award





50-Miler Award

- Recognizes youth and adults who:
 - Complete 50 consecutive mile trek (afoot or afloat)
 - Complete 10 hours of conservation service on trek
 - If can't get in full 10 hours the remaining hours completed shortly after near home-town
 - Spend a minimum of 5 consecutive days on trail
 - Do not use any motors/power of any kind
- More details and nomination form can be found at:
<https://www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central/50-miler/>





50-Miler Award



- How to obtain the award
 - Visit website on previous slide
 - Download the application form at the more info link
 - Unit Leader fills it out and sends to either Council Office
 - Council verifies requirements are met and puts in unit's file
 - Unit leader (or designee) updates Scoutbook with who earned the award
 - Print purchase order and purchase at local Scout Shop
- Patch can not be worn on uniform...only backpack, patch blanket, patch vest, etc.





50-Miler Award



Congratulations to Troop 57
in Santa Fe with 10 members who just
earned this award





Catholic Emblem Course



- The local Catholic Committee on Scouting is hosting two opportunities to earn the Ad Altare Dei Roman Catholic Religious Emblem.
- The Emblem is for Scouts 12 to 18 years of age who are interested in growing in the spiritual experience of their church and individual relationship with God.
- Course kickoff will be during the annual Catholic Scout retreat on September 20, 2025. Details provided upon show of interest.
- Course meetings occur Sunday afternoons twice a month until middle of May 2026.
- a course is offered in Albuquerque and in Santa Fe.
- Interested Scouts outside of Albuquerque please contact Brian Tolson for additional virtual attendance arrangements.





Venturing Summit Rank



- Congratulations to Annika Zenger of Crew 616 who earned the Venturing Summit Rank in August 2025 !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!





2025 Awards Timeline

- Nominations to Council Office by January 5, 2026:
 - Silver Beaver
 - Venturing Leadership Award
 - District Award of Merit
 - Council Duty to God
 - Scouting Service Awards (Vale La Pena; Asian American Spirit of Scouting, Whitney M. Young, Jr.)
- Not too early to start writing nominations
- A full timeline document is posted here and Council's Newsletter and Facebook page.

<https://www.scoutingamericahighdesertcouncil.org/non-advancement-awards>





Questions





Activities Update

Randy Reed

North Area Activities Chair





ONE
ALBUQUE
RQUE
KEEP NEW MEXICO + TRUE



WEEK'S



Piasta FANATICS



Saturday, September 27, 2024

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

9201 Balloon Museum Dr NE
(South Parking Lot)

To Register Visit:
CABQ.GOV/FIESTAFANATICS

Let's ignite the spark with our annual Balloon Fiesta
Litter Cleanup! Join us at the park or clean up in
your neighborhood.





Railroad Merit Badge Day



Come Join New Mexico Heritage Rail during New Mexico Railroad Days for a day of fun, learning all about railroading. Start the morning off with a pancake breakfast, then learn from professionals and hobbyists and tour the historic AT&SF 2926 steam locomotive. Scouts will complete the Railroad Merit Badge.

Register here:

<https://form.jotform.com/252II8I6I743I49>

Date: Sept 28, 2025

Time : 8am-1pm



Where: Albuquerque - South Rail Yards,

1300 2nd Street SW, 87102

Cost: \$10

(family members welcome to also register and pay for breakfast)



KIRTLAND CAMPOREE

OCTOBER 3-5, 2025



FRIDAY:

ARRIVE TO KIRTLAND AFB
AFTER 4PM

SATURDAY:

MERIT BADGES
RELATED TO CRIMINAL
JUSTICE AND LAW, PLUS
DEMONSTRATIONS BY
BASE PERSONNEL
(POSSIBLY INCLUDING
BOMB TEAMS, FIRE,
POLICE, ETC)

SUNDAY:

MORNING
DEMONSTRATIONS
AND OPTIONAL
SUNDAY SERVICES
AT BASE CHAPEL

REGISTRATION CLOSSES SEPT 15TH -
NO EXCEPTIONS



CAMPOREE
INFO



Camporee FAQs

- Troops do NOT have to camp overnight. They can come out for just the day, work on the merit badges, interact with other units, and watch the various demonstrations by base personnel
- AOLs can attend (and camp overnight if they follow the Cub/AOL camping rules!). They can't work on the merit badges, but can meet troops, and watch the various demonstrations by base personnel
- <https://scoutingevent.com/573-100355>





SCOUT NIGHT AT NM UNITED

Albuquerque



VS



October 19th Gates open 1:30 PM



- Tickets approx \$20
- Scan Code to purchase directly from NM United Site
- Sales close on October 16th!



STEM Merit Badge

November 1, 2025



Only a few Spaces left! - Scan to Register!



**ENVIRONMENTAL
SCIENCE**



ENGINEERING



PROGRAMMING

NM SCHOOL OF
ENGINEERING



SAVE THE DATE!!!

NOVEMBER 8TH, 2025



CUB SCOUT RATA DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

CONTACT RANDOLPH.REED@GMAIL.COM IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP!





ALBUQUERQUE METRO AREA 2026 SCOUTING FOR FOOD

FEBRUARY 7TH 2026 & FEBRUARY 14TH 2026
(BOTH SATURDAYS)

IF INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING: PLEASE EMAIL:

- TROOP #,
- GENERAL LOCATION (NE, NW, CENTRAL, ETC)
- CONTACT PERSON

ABQMETROSFF@GMAIL.COM

**STOREHOUSE NEEDS TO GET THE
ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF
LOCATIONS WORKED OUT BY THE
END OF SEPTEMBER**



HIGH DESERT NEWS

Monthly Newsletter



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High Desert Council

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TRAINING RESOURCES

ORDER OF THE ARROW





Advancement Update

Lois Caipen

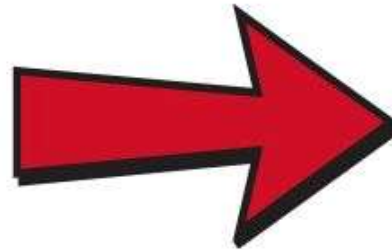
Council VP - Advancement





Life to Eagle Class

**Saturday, Sept 13th
10am - 12pm**



Meet is now Zoom Only!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81882661552?pwd=0FN9hq9UAfnbOaOzacgUniZc1DvgTi.1>

Meeting ID: 818 8266 1552

Passcode: 055552

<https://scoutingevent.com/573-101302>





Commissioner Update

Dale Balmer





Outdoor Success Task Force and Survey



- The Outdoor Success Task Force has come up with 4 surveys and we would like the assistance of the commissioners to help us get these into the hands of individuals who can provide us with their insight. There is a survey for non-members, Youth Members, Adult Members, and Unit Leaders. Would you mind helping us get this into the hands of as many of these groups as possible? I have included a link as well as a QR code for each survey to make it convenient for distribution. I think the best way to get responses from youth and adults is to give them 5 minutes during unit meetings to fill out the survey.
- Any help you can give would be welcome.
- Thanks, Jim Huff, Chair, High Desert Council Outdoor Success Task Force





Non-Member Survey:

<https://forms.gle/14hiu6odj2mcbcth8>





Youth Survey:

<https://forms.gle/Ce9pTTx33ADMak5CA>





Adult Survey:



<https://forms.gle/rCVvNg3njy3q2M7h8>





Leader Survey:

<https://forms.gle/ZQF5B2fvc6MvuEp67>





2027 World Jamboree

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>

If you have any questions, my email is usapoland2027@gmail.com

Bill McKinney

Spirit of Adventure Council, MA

USA Head of Contingent

WSJ'27 Poland





New Council-wide Roundtable

- **Announcing a Council-wide virtual roundtable!**
- **When: 1st Thursday of each month, 7pm**
 - **Next/First Council-wide Roundtable: Thursday, Oct 2nd, 2025**
- **What: Opening general session with useful info for all; followed by breakout sessions for specific groups (Packs, Troops, Crews, Commissioners, others as-needed)**
- **Why: The primary purpose of a Scout Roundtable is to provide monthly, supplemental training and support for unit leaders, offering program ideas, policy information, and opportunities to share experiences and training with other Scouters. Roundtables serve as a forum for leaders to discuss challenges, receive feedback, share successes, network with fellow leaders and commissioners, and get inspired to create stronger, more effective programs for their Scouts.**
- **Where/How: Via Zoom**
 - **Meeting ID: 851 4615 1346**
 - **Passcode: EJPQv5**
 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85146151346?pwd=R1PqbcpEPG1yOVJXBvG93YsYyM2xs.1>

FMI: Dale Balmer, dbalmer8@comcast.net





District Executive

Mary Mazza-Andersen





Breakout Rooms Time!

Rooms include:
Packs – Kathy Ferdig
Troops – Jessie Brown
Crews – Cynthia Howard
Commissioners – Dale Balmer/Jim Libbin
“as needed” rooms

Plan on ending the breakout session in about 30 minutes





Notes/Announcements Distribution

- Email to North Area unit Key 3 & Commissioners (Dale)
- Posted to Council website (Fred)
 - <https://www.scoutingamericahighdesertcouncil.org/resources>
- Sent out by MailerLite/Trailmarker (Mary)
- Post to Council FaceBook page (Erica)

