



Welcome to the High Desert Council North Area June 2025 Roundtable





June 12th, 2025

High Desert Council NORTH Roundtable

Agenda

- Announcements – Kathy Ferdig
 - Welcome – Dale Balmer
- Opening Ceremony – Daniel Beers
- Scouting “Fun Fact” – Terry Brown
- Safety Moment - Everett Heinonen
- Popcorn “Spring Launch” Update – Sarah Davis
 - Training Update – Joe Balestri
- Four Corners/San Juan County Update – Beth Bregar
 - Recognition Update – Brian Tolson
 - Advancement Update – Lois Caipen
 - Activities Update – Randy Reed
 - Commissioner Update – Dale Balmer
- District Executive Update - Mary Mazza-Andersen





Welcome

Dale Balmer





Opening Ceremony

Daniel Beers

Troop 417, OA Lodge Treasurer







Scouting “Fun Fact”

Terry Brown





Scouting Fun Fact #23

Did You Know?



Real American Scouting Trivia

We are all aware of the huge 2019 shift in the structure of Scouting America. Girls were accepted into all BSA programs.

We still have people tell us they are upset that Scouting America allowed girls to join.

HOWEVER, in 1972 (53 years ago), the BSA broadened its membership by introducing girls through the establishment of the “Exploring” program.





Safety Moment

Everett Heinonen





Campsite Lightning Safety



June 2025 Safety Minute





Lightning Statistics

- About 25 million cloud-to-ground lightning strikes occur in the United States each year
- Over the last 30 years, the U.S. has averaged 51 lightning fatalities per year
 - Only about 10% of people struck by lightning are actually killed
 - The other 90% must cope with varying degrees of discomfort and disability, sometimes for the rest of their lives
- Typically, the vast majority of lightning victims each year are male (in 261 instances from 2006-2013, 81% of lightning fatalities were male and 19% were female)





The 30-30 Rule

- When you see lightning, count the time until you hear thunder
 - If that is 30 seconds or less, the thunderstorm is close enough to be dangerous – seek shelter
 - If you can't see the lightning, just hearing the thunder is a good back-up rule
- Wait 30 minutes or more after the lightning flash before leaving shelter





Lightning Safety

- A tent offers NO protection from lightning
 - If camping in a high elevation or exposed area, get out and away from your tent and try to shelter near a grove of trees and assume the lightning position
- The current from a lightning flash will easily travel for long distances
- Stay away from water, wet items, such as ropes, and metal objects, such as fences and poles
- Metal equipment like hiking poles, piolets, climbing irons, carabiners, cookware like cookers, pots or mugs can attract lightning.
 - Store them a few meters apart water-tightly packed in a safe spot





Campsite Selection

- Focus on site selection, minimizing risks, and taking appropriate actions during a storm
- Choose a campsite away from tall trees, high ground, and water
 - Stay away from metal objects
 - Avoid being the tallest object in the area
- Consider Windbreaks
 - A wooded area or close proximity to buildings can provide some protection from high winds
- Avoid Flood-Prone Areas





If you Can't Leave your Tent...

- Don't touch the tent's frame or cover - Try to stay in the very middle of it
- Sit in a squatted position as compact as possible
- Touching the ground only on one spot can prevent you from being electrocuted
 - Never sit on the bare ground
 - A dry air mattress, a folded camping mat or your backpack might help to enhance insulation making you less grounded
 - Keep your hiking boots on
- Get rid of any wiring leading into the tent





Conclusion

- You will experience lightning while camping in New Mexico
- Lightning doesn't have to be close to pose a threat
- You can minimize risk with proper campsite location and preparation
- You can minimize risk during a storm even if you can't leave your tent





Resources

- National Weather Service
 - <https://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning-outdoors#:~:text=Remember%2C%20a%20tent%20offers%20NO,easily%20travel%20for%20long%20distances>
 - <https://www.weather.gov/iln/lightningsafetyweek#:~:text=Avoid%20plumbing%3A%20Metal%20plumbing%20and,very%20good%20conductors%20of%20electricity>





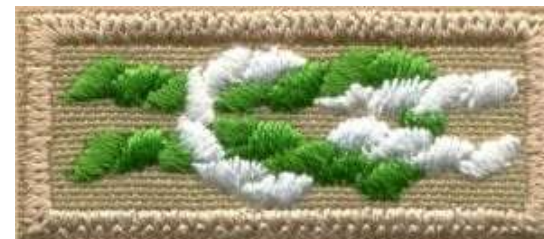
Popcorn “Spring Launch” Update

Sarah Davis





High Desert Training Reports



Joe Balestri





“Connect the dots between individual roles and the goals of the organization. When people see that connection, they get a lot of energy out of work. They feel the importance, dignity, and meaning in their job.”

Ken Blanchard – American Author, business consultant and motivational speaker





High Desert Training Statistics

Council Wide Training Statistics + .7%



North Service Area Statistics +.8%



South Service Area Statistics +.6%





Hazardous Weather

- Hazardous Weather SCO 800
 - Required every two years
 - If not current will show direct contact leaders as “Untrained”
 - 3/11/25 – 303 Leaders not current with SCO 800
 - 4/9/25 – 292 Leaders not current with SCO 800 – small step
 - 5/7/25 – 233 Leaders not current
 - 6/9/25 – 172 leaders





Wood Badge 2025

- Aug 22-24, 2025 and Sept 6-7, 2025
- Gorham Scout Ranch
- Cost \$270 per participant
- Registration is live on council website
- **25** Participants have at least started registration
 - 15 Fully Paid
 - 4 Deposit Paid
 - 6 Registered without payment
- What does 25 mean...GUARANTEED COURSE..once paid
- Several other verbal commitments – 71 days to course today





IOLS/BALOO

- BALOO/IOLS in Four Corners
 - Looking at early fall for course
 - Details to follow as soon as confirmed





Upcoming Training

- Check council website calendar at scoutingamericahighdesertcouncil.org





Breaking News

- What: First Ever High Desert Council Camporee “Out in the World”
- When: April 17-19, 2026 (confirmed)
- Where: Wildlife West Nature Park Edgewood NM (confirmed)
- Who: All Scouts BSA/Venturers from High Desert Council
- Why: Come celebrate the one year anniversary of High Desert Council and experience a Council Camporee like never before, mix with Scouters from around the council (Four Corners, El Paso, Las Cruces, Santa Fe, ABQ, etc)
- Please add as part of your annual planning
- Please email Joe Balestri at jbalestri55@gmail.com if willing to help.





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.





New Position-Trained Requirements

- <https://www.scouting.org/training/position-trained-requirements/> OR <https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Position-Trained-Requirements-Jun2025.pdf>
 - Use this list; it's dated "June 2025" in top left and in file name
- Do NOT use the list in my.scouting's Training Manager; as of 6/11/25 its still pointing to the July 2024 list





San Juan County Scouting

Beth Bregar





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

Roundtable is changing its time!



For 2025 we will meet on the 3rd Saturday of June (21st), September (20th), and December (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.

June Topics:

Cubs & Scouts:

Summer Adventures and Activities to keep your Units thriving!

Popcorn - FUNdraising to support your Units and the Council!

What you need to know about fundraising guidelines, and more!

- **DATE:** June 21, 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.





Recognition Program of the Month (June 2025)

Brian Tolson
Assistant Council Commissioner
and
Council's International Representative

Phone: 505-967-6139
Email: briantolson99@yahoo.com





Scouter's Training Award





Scouter's Training Award

- Purpose of award is to recognize Adults who complete Adult position specific training and some additional tasks
- Different forms for Cub, Scouts, Venturing and Sea Scouting with essentially the same requirements
 - If desired, can earn this award for each program level involved in
 - Each program is designated by a small pin that is affixed to Medal and Knot

- For more info visit:

<https://www.scouting.org/training/training-awards-and-recognition/>





Summary of Requirements

- Tenure requirement is at least two years registered in a unit
- Six additional requirements
 - Complete position specific training (on line or in person)
 - Participate in one supplemental training (i.e. Wood Badge; WFA; MB counselor)
 - Attend one Univ of Scouting course or attend at least four roundtables in a year
 - Participate in an annual unit planning meeting in each year
 - Serve as a registered adult in a unit completing a Council goal (none published)
 - Give leadership in completing the above goal





Award Processing Procedure

- Candidate obtains the form and fills it out
- Unit Committee Chair signs upon completion of requirements
- Forward completed forms to the Council office for further processing and signature by the Council's VP for Training
- Form is then returned to the Unit Committee Chair for award purchase and presentation at a unit event





Upcoming International Events

- **Jamboree on the Air / Jamboree on the Internet (JOTA/JOTI)**
 - October 17 – 19 2025
 - World's largest digital and radio Scout event you do from home
 - Registration opens in July 2025
 - For more info visit: <https://www.jotajoti.info>
- **World Scout Jamboree**
 - July 30 – August 8, 2027
 - Gdansk region in Poland
 - Visit here for more info and to sign up for mailing list and registration info: <https://wsj2027.us/>





Questions





Advancement Update

Lois Caipen

Council VP - Advancement





Eagle Recommendation Letters

- **Change in Requirement #2 on the Eagle Rank Application.**
- **4 people willing to serve as references.**
- **Who? Scout Leaders, teachers, employers, coaches, other Scouts, etc. Do not need to be 21 or older.**
- **Not Current Scout Leader or Committee Chair, their signature on the application is their endorsement.**
- **Parents and other relatives are strongly discouraged from serving as references.**





Eagle Recommendation Letters

- In reference to section 9.0.1.7 of the Guide to Advancement 2025 from Scouting America, the High Desert Council strongly prefers candidates use the letter method for references. This ensures that the letter has been written and signed by the author, is sealed in an envelope (for confidentiality) and sent to the designated unit recipient (either by hand or via mail). Each unit needs to determine who the appropriate recipient/keeper of the references should be prior to the Eagle Board of Review. There is legitimate concern that email can't guarantee authenticity and confidentiality. The High Desert Council does not totally rule out email since there may be extenuating circumstances. Refer to 2025 GTA section 9.0.1.3 #3 and 9.0.1.7 for further information.*





Cub Scout Grade Rollover

- **June 1st is the target date for the Scouting America computers to change each Scout to the higher grade for the next school year.**
- **We wrote to clarify what that means for the Rank Advancement process for Cubs. Especially an AOL candidate with one requirement to complete. The answer is that: “Grade rollover does not impact the ability to record rank advancement.”**





Activities Update

Randy Reed

North Area Activities Chair





SCOUTING ADVENTURE DAY

**SATURDAY AUGUST
30TH, 2025
9 AM - 1 PM**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FROM BOTH PACKS AND TROOPS TO SHOW
PROSPECTIVE AND NEW SCOUT FAMILIES HOW MUCH FUN THEY CAN
BE HAVING WITH SCOUTING AMERICA!!**

CONFIRMED AS OF 6/12:

**CABQ Climbing Wall
Archery**

DESIRED STATIONS:

**Pioneering
Camp Cooking
Pinewood Derby
First Aid
???? Open to other
ideas**

**Handicrafts
Wildlife/Tracks
Summer Camp Options
STEM Activities**

**REACH OUT TO RANDY REED AT RANDOLPH.REED@GMAIL.COM
IF INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING**





Commissioner Update

Dale Balmer





Gorham Commissioners

- Greg Kelly is looking for camp commissioners for summer camp at Gorham. If you can come up for a week, or even a portion of the week, Greg would greatly appreciate it. If you know of individuals in your units that might be interested, feel free to pass this onto them. Camp runs for three weeks:
- Week 1: June 15-21
- Week 2: June 22-28
- Week 3: July 6-12
- Greg's job description: ***"Scouter's in good standing can come to camp for a week or more and act as Commissioners for the Camp Director. It's a fun, no stress way to spend a week (or portion of) at camp, interact with the volunteer leaders and staff, and provide a valuable service for camp. Ideally they should at least understand the role of a Commissioner. There is no charge but they have to register as members of the Camp Staff. They also need to be approved by the Council Commissioner, Jim Libbin."***
- If you have any questions, Greg's email is gkelly15363@gmail.com,





YPT is now SYT!

- Effectively now, Youth Protection Training has been replaced by Safeguarding Youth Training... but they kept the same course code! So you have to check completion and expiration dates to get an idea which courses was taken, and when it expires
 - Any completion date AFTER 5/17/25 is probably SYT (there was an exception allowing anyone that had started YPT to finish it by 5/24/25)
- Whenever your current YPT expires (even if its two years from now), you'll take SYT as YPT is no longer available
 - Well, maybe two years.. Some sources are saying everyone will need to take SYT within a year of it being released [~ 5/31/2026]... stay tuned)
- SYT good for one year, takes ~ 90 minutes. Test at end requires 80% or higher to pass course
- When SYT expires, there will be a short (~15 minutes) refresher course and test





Troop Self-Assessments

- <https://troopleader.scouting.org/troop-planning/troop-self-assessments/>
- Troop Self-Assessment surveys are short surveys that help your troop understand how well it's doing and where it can improve. They also give helpful tips and resources from Scouting America to make your program better.
- Each survey has 9–12 questions and takes about 10 minutes to finish. Troops can use them a few times a year, especially before planning their yearly activities. Leaders like the Scoutmaster and troop committee can also use the results to guide their meetings and decisions.





Self-Assessment Topics

Troop Self-Assessment Surveys

- Membership
- Troop Meetings
- Activities/Outings
- Advancement
- Patrols and Patrol Method
- Youth Leaders
- Scoutmaster Team
- Troop Committee
- Troop Administration and Finance





How Self-Assessments Work

- Fillable pdf that 'scores' based on responses
- Click on the appropriate radio button in a question, and it provides a numerical rating in Points column
- Form adds up all the ratings
- Summarized text response provided at bottom

**SCOUTS BSA****Troop Self-Assessment**
Troop Meetings

Question	Response	Points
1. Each troop meeting is fun and has a purpose for Scouts of all ages.	☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree	
2. Meeting space is adequate for current and future needs.	☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree	
3. Troop meetings follow the plans laid out by the patrol leaders' council.	☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree	
4. Troop meetings follow or support the annual troop plan's monthly themes and preparation for outings.	☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree	
5. Troop meetings build toward upcoming outings.	☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree	
6. Troop meetings include activities that encourage physical fitness.	☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree	
7. Youth leaders run troop meetings with minimal direct adult involvement.	☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree	
8. ____ of Scouts in the troop attended the last four troop meetings.	☐ 50+ % ☐ 40-49% ☐ 31-39% ☐ 30% or Fewer	
9. Meetings start and end on time.	☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree	
10. The patrol leaders' council huddles before and after troop meetings.	☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree	
TOTAL		0 / 40

Your score indicates your Troop:

[Reset Form](#)**Scouting America**Revised: 4/3/25





District Executive

Mary Mazza-Andersen





Next North Area Roundtable

- **NO ROUNDTABLE IN JULY!**





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)

