

HIGH DESERT NEWS

July 2025



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We would like to take a moment this month to give a shout out to our unit level volunteers who have earned one of the following Awards in the last six months: Den Leader Training Award, Scouter Training Award, Cubmaster's Key, Scoutmaster's Key and the Unit Leader Award of Merit. Every Scout deserves a trained leader and these registered leaders have gone above and beyond to help their units provide a quality program for their Scouts. THANK YOU for all your hard work!

Den Leader Training Award

- Scott W. Pack 174 (Rio Grande)
- Jake J. Pack 29 (El Paso)
- Ramon J. Pack 29 (El Paso)
- Jonathan B. Pack 3209 (El Paso)
- Angel C. Pack 3209 (El Paso)
- Michael H. Pack 3209 (El Paso)
- Samantha G. Pack 3209 (El Paso)
- Cassandra A. Pack 3209 (El Paso)
- Jessie C. Pack 43 (El Paso)
- Laura Y. Pack 84 (El Paso)

Unit Leader Award of Merit

- Erica R. Cubmaster Pack 409 (Sandia)

Scouter Training Award

- Denisse G. Troop 85 (El Paso)
- Daniel B. Troop 85 (El Paso)
- Miguel C. Troop 85 (El Paso)
- Ruben B. Tr 84 (El Paso)
- Adilene S. Troops 43 and 84 (El Paso)
- Judith J. Troop 84 (El Paso)

Scoutmaster's Key

- Rodolfo G. Troop 85 (El Paso)

Cubmaster's Key

- Kevin W. Pack 29 (El Paso)

For more information on these awards and how to earn them - visit
<https://www.scouting.org/training/training-awards-and-recognition/>

If you have a submission to this newsletter - please send it to
highdesertcouncilnewsletter@gmail.com no later than the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Upcoming Events

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

Date	Event	Location
July 15th	Popcorn Training	Zoom
July 22 - 24	Popcorn Claiming Dates	Online (Trails End)
July 26th	Camp Tyler Francis Day of Service	Camp Tyler Francis (Sunland Park, NM)
Aug 2nd	Locomotives Game Night	El Paso, TX
Aug 2nd	Popcorn Kickoff - Morning Session	Zoom
Aug 2nd	Eagle Banquet	ABQ Metro Area
Aug 8-9	IOLS - Training	Aztec, NM
Aug 9th	Popcorn Kickoff - Evening Session	Zoom
Aug 15 - 17	OA Summer Ordeal/Brotherhood - Gila Lodge	Camp Dale Resler (Cloudcroft)
Aug 22 - 24	OA Summer Fellowship - Yah-Tah-Hey-Si-Kess Lodge	ABQ Metro Area
Aug 22-24	Wood Badge Week 1	Gorham Scout Ranch
Aug 30th	Adventure Day	ABQ Metro Area
Sept 1 st	Labor Day - Offices Closed	North and South
Sept 6th	Scout Day at the Isotopes	ABQ Metro Area
Sept 13th	Life To Eagle Seminar	ONLINE or ABQ Office
Sept 19-21	OA Fall Fellowship - Gila Lodge	Camp Dale Resler (Cloudcroft)
Sept 20 th	Catholic Scouting Mass/Retreat	Santa Fe, NM
Sept 20 th	Sporting Clays Tournament	Bernardo, NM
Sept 26 - 28	OA Fall Fellowship - Yah-Tah-Hey-Si-Kess Lodge	Gorham Scout Ranch
Sept 27 th	National Public Lands Service Day	El Paso
Sept 27 th	Massing of the Colors	El Paso, Texas
Sept 27 th	NRA Basic Rifle Course	ABQ Metro Area

Training Trail



IOLS Training - Aug 8-9

LOCATION: Aztec, NM - Aug 8th & 9th

IOLS is required training for Scoutmasters, Venturing Advisors and their assistants registered in Scouts BSA Troops and Crew, in order to be considered "fully trained".

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, July 31, 2025.
Sorry, no late registration will be accepted.



NRA Basic Rifle Course - Sept 27

LOCATION: ABQ Metro Area

This eight hour course includes classroom and range time learning to shoot rifles. Students learn NRA's rules for safe gun handling; rifle parts and operation; ammunition; shooting fundamentals; range rules; shooting from the bench rest, prone, sitting, standing and kneeling positions; cleaning; and continued opportunities for skill development. Students will receive the Basics of Rifle Shooting handbook, NRA Gun Safety Rules brochure, Winchester/NRA Marksmanship Qualification booklet, take a Basics of Rifle Shooting Student Examination, and receive a course completion certificate. The Basic Rifle Course is required to become an NRA Rifle Instructor.

Cost and Location: The course will be taught on 27 September from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm at the City of Albuquerque Shooting Range Park 16001 Shooting Range Access RD NW. The cost is \$35.00 which includes the training material, range fees, and snacks. Students need to bring a 22 caliber preferably single shot rifle and 100 rounds of SR/LR ammunition. The minimum class size is 4 and maximum is 8. Contact: Mike Cutter, Michael.cutter@msn.com, 435-730-2837.

Training Trail



LOCATION - GORHAM SCOUT RANCH Wood Badge training was begun by Baden Powell in 1919 as a way to ensure that the leaders of Scout troops were properly trained. Since then, Wood Badge has been held worldwide, providing advanced leadership training to thousands of Scout leaders. Wood Badge builds upon the best traditions and experiences of the Boy Scouts of America and also draws from a wide range of courses within and beyond the bounds of Scouting to present the latest in leadership theory and team development.

Course will take place over two weekends - you must attend both weekends:

August 22-24, 2025 AND September 6 -7, 2025

If you are coming from the El Paso/Las Cruces area - the first 11 "Paid in Full" Scouters to register can catch a ride to Gorham Scout Ranch. Contact Delbert Humberson, Course Director at 915-345-9637 for more information

For those that need financial assistance please reach out there are still some scholarships available

POPCORN UPDATE



Upcoming Trainings and Info Sessions:

Popcorn Kickoff Events:

- Two sessions -both via Zoom - Choose the one that fits your schedule!
 - 8/2/25 - at 8:00AM or 8/9/25 at 6:30PM
- We will cover the following topics:
 - How the popcorn sale works
 - Sales tips and goals
 - Fun challenges and rewards
 - How Scouts can safely and confidently sell popcorn
 - Q&A for parents and Scouts
 - Get ready to earn your way through this season's sale! Whether you're brand new to popcorn or a returning seller, this session will help you gear up for a successful campaign.



Scan or click
here to join
the Zoom call!



Other Important Dates:

- Storefronts open on Trail's End website to claim July 22nd - 24th
- Popcorn Orders Due - August 22nd
- Sales Begin - September 12th

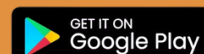


STAY INFORMED!

**ALL COMMUNICATION WILL GO
THROUGH THE
HIGH DESERT BAND APP!**



SCAN ME



Awards Central

Did you know there are 26 different religions included in the religious emblems program with Scouting America? For all the details - Check out

<https://www.scouting.org/awards/religious-awards/>



For More information - contact www.Catholicscoutsnm.org

LOCATION: Santa Fe - This Mass will recognize Scouts from Scouting America, Girl Scouts and American Heritage Girls who earned a religious emblem or award in the previous year. A Retreat will be held following mass with activities designed to jump start each Scout's endeavors in working towards Catholic Scouting Emblems and awards including the 2025 Jubilee Activity Patch.



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. The course kickoff will be during the annual Catholic Scout retreat listed above. Course meetings will then occur in the afternoon on two Sundays a month until middle of May 2026. There will be a course in Albuquerque and a course in Santa Fe for ease of attendance. If there are any Scouts in the Southern portion of the council, please contact the below point of contact for additional arrangements.

Point of contact for this class is: Brian Tolson
email: briantolson99@yahoo.com or text to : 505-967-6139

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

North Service Area

Eagle Scout Recognition Banquet!



LOCATION - ALBUQUERQUE

Date: Saturday, August 2nd, 2025

Time: 11:00AM- 1:00PM

Location: Sandia Presbyterian Church,
10704 Paseo del Norte, Albuquerque, NM 87122

Individual Tickets: \$40 per person

Registration Now Open! - Click here to register

Order of the Arrow - Summer Fellowship



LOCATION - Albuquerque Metro Area

August 22 - 24 Join the Yah-Tah-Hey-Si-Kess Lodge for their "Summer of Love" Themed event. Gila Lodge members are invited to join as well!

Registration will open on July 19th

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

North Service Area (con't)



**SCOUTING
ADVENTURE DAY**

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

**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
- Handicrafts
- Wildlife/Tracks
- Summer Camp Options
- STEM Activities
- ???? Open to other ideas

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

The poster includes three small photographs on the right side: a boy in a yellow shirt holding a green rope, a girl in a purple shirt holding a white flag, and a person's hands holding a blue slime-like substance.

LOCATION: North Service Center

Scout Day at the Isotopes



**LOCATION - Isotopes Park -
Albuquerque, NM**

September 6, 2025 - Gates open at 11
for on field experiences! Game begins at
12:05

Come cheer on the Isotopes! All
Scouts, families, and leaders are invited to
attend. Wear your uniform, bring your
troop or pack, and enjoy special Scout
activities and recognition on the field.

Come and support this event and get a
super cool patch!

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

North Service Area (con't)



Life to Eagle Class Saturday Sept 13, 2025



LOCATION - ONLINE and ABQ METRO

We invite the Life Scout, their parents, and their Leaders to attend physically or via Zoom. The Advancement Committee offers this training each Fall and it usually runs from 10 am to noon on a Saturday. Join us at the GSWC Office or with Zoom. Changes to the Eagle process are frequent and this training will help you succeed within the current expectations that apply to you.

9th Annual Sporting Clays Tournament - Sept 20, 2025



LOCATION - Bernardo, NM

Join us for this exciting annual event that is an important fundraiser for our council. Teams of 5 people complete 20+ shooting stations in this fun event for all ages. Youth age 10 and up may participate if they are accompanied by an adult and have completed the New Mexico Hunter Safety Online Course. Targets, 12 and 20 gauge ammunition are provided - Participants need to bring a shotgun, eye and ear protection. For more information - [Registration Link](#)

South Service Area



CAMP TYLER FRANCIS DAY OF SERVICE

Calling all Scouts BSA Troops and leaders to Join us for a day of service at CTF!
Let's come together to improve and beautify our campgrounds. It's a great
opportunity to make a positive impact and enjoy the outdoors with fellow
Scouts and volunteers.

BRING WATER, SUN PROTECTION, shovels, rakes, brooms, gloves, shears, and
Scout 10 essentials. MUST WEAR CLOSED TOED SHOES.

Saturday July 26th · 8am – 12pm
4200 Girl Scout Ln, Sunland Park, NM 88063

South Service Area (Con't)

Scout Night at the Locomotive!

LOCATION: El Paso, TX

Saturday August 2nd, at 6pm!

- Special rate on tickets in Lower Level Endline (Sec. 115) (\$20/ticket - \$5 for a special patch!)
 - Get a chance to participate in High Five Tunnel
 - free popcorn voucher
- Purchase now and represent your troop!



Questions? contact Cindi Rojas 915-201-8383

Cynthia.rojas@scouting.org

2025 OA Gila Lodge Summer Ordeal and Brotherhood Weekend

Location - CAMP DALE RESLER

The 2025 Summer Ordeal and Brotherhood Weekend is scheduled for Friday-Sunday, Aug 15-Aug 17, 2025

Join us to induct our new candidates into the Lodge. Help with significant service to the camp. The Brotherhood class will be held on Saturday afternoon. Arrival on Friday is scheduled for 7-8 pm. Candidates must arrive before 9:30 pm.

The Road Kill Cafe will be providing scrumptious meals. The Trading Post will be open from Friday evening through Saturday evening.

Remember that the Ordeal and Brotherhood Weekend is for members and candidates only. Please no guests.



Long Term Planning!



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>

DATE CHANGE!!!

In order to
avoid a conflict
with the Order
of the Arrow's
Section
Conclave - the
HDC Camporee
has been
moved to April
24-26, 2026

12 JULY 2025

* SPECIAL EDITION *

BREAKING NEWS

**FIRST EVER HIGH DESERT COUNCIL
CAMPOREE CONFIRMED FOR APRIL 2026**

**ALL SCOUTS BSA/VENTURERS ARE INVITED
TO COME CELEBRATE THE ONE YEAR
ANNIVERSARY OF HIGH DESERT COUNCIL
AND EXPERIENCE A COUNCIL CAMPOREE
LIKE NEVER BEFORE, MEET SCOUTS AND
SCOUTERS FROM AROUND THE COUNCIL
(FOUR CORNERS, EL PASO, LAS CRUCES,
SANTA FE, ABQ, ETC)**

**APRIL
24-26, 2026
VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

We are hoping to have a few hundred Scouts (if not more) at this event. We will need lots of help to make this an incredible opportunity. From Community Organization support/coordination to mundane details like parking coordination and campfire planning and more. If you are willing to help - please email jbalestri55@gmail.com

* IN EDGEWOOD, NEW MEXICO *

Long Term Planning!



Interest Form

Philmont Trek 2026



Philmont Scout Ranch is one of four high adventure bases!

JUNE
8-20



Book Now - Space is Limited to 5 youth and 3 adults!

\$1725 per person - Questions?

Email: MWScout007@gmail.com



POLAND 2027

World Scout
26th Jamboree
Scout Mondial



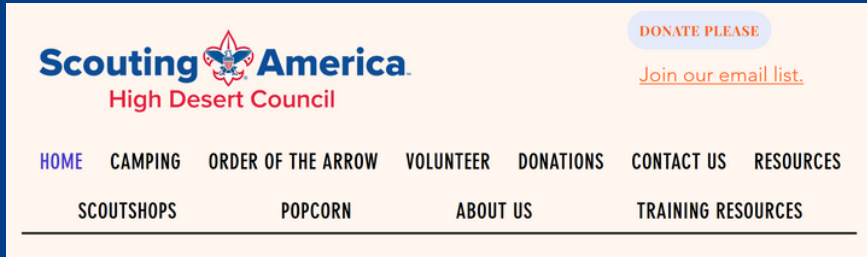
- July 30 – August 8, 2027
- Gdansk region in Poland
- Visit here for more info and to sign up for mailing list and registration info: <https://wsj2027.us/>
- Looking for Registered Leaders to help out. Scan QR Code to fill out an interest Survey. If you have any questions, please email usapoland2027@gmail.com
- **Youth Interest Surveys will be coming out separately**



Important Info

New Website:

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



New Email Distribution System:

Go to our website - and click “join our email list” in the upper right corner and select the mailing list you would like to be on!

New Event Management System

We are no longer using Tentaroo - We are using Black Pug (aka ScoutingEvent) - all event registrations will be done on this new website. <https://scoutingevent.com/573>
You will need to create a new login/account.



Roundtable - South

1st Wednesday of every month [Info here](#)

Roundtable - North

2nd Thursday of every month [Zoom Link here](#)

If you missed Roundtable for the North Service Area - you can check out the slides here!

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



The Chair's Soapbox

- Chris Sandberg, High Desert Council Board Chair

Asking the One Question

In the 1990s, the British men's rowing team had a history of placing 7th or worse in international races. They simply were not competitive. But at the Sydney Olympics in 2000, the team took Gold!

When asked how that amazing change had happened, they explained that the team had made one change over the preceding 24 months: before making any decision, they asked "Will It Make The Boat Go Faster?" If the answer was "yes", they would do it or keep doing it. If the answer was "no", they would try something different.

The Council's new Strategic Plan sets out our goals for the coming years, focused on sustained membership growth. I challenge all of us to adopt the method of the British rowing team, and before we make any decision regarding our units and the Council, ask this One Question:

WILL IT INCREASE MEMBERSHIP?

If the answer is "yes, it will improve recruiting and retention", then we should move ahead with that action enthusiastically.

If the answer is "no, it won't help us build membership", then we should set it aside and move on to other choices which will.

That is the question I will be asking whenever issues come before the Council Key 3 and Executive Board. If every volunteer and professional asks the One Question before every decision, I have no doubt that the High Desert Council will meet the increased membership goals of the Strategic Plan and see success throughout our operations. Let's all commit to using that tool to build the Council!

Thank you for all you do and for all you will do in HDC.

- CKS

