

HIGH DESERT NEWS

June 2025



Prepared. For Life.®

Scouting America held its 2025 National Annual Meeting May 13-16 in Orlando, and the High Desert Council was well-represented by our Scout Executive and a half-dozen volunteers holding key leadership positions.

The phrase “drinking from a firehose” could be accurately applied to the NAM: there were 9 hours of information session for all attendees, plus 46 one-hour elective sessions that zoomed in on specific Scouting topics! And themed breakfasts, lunches, and dinners, including special recognition events. Some of the big topics will be highlighted in their respective areas of this newsletter (specifically changes to the Youth Protection Training Requirements and Merit Badges) and you can check out the “Chair’s Soapbox” at the end of this newsletter for lots more information.

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(Click underlined text to jump to that page)

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
June 13-14	Bushed Bear CDR Service Day	Camp Dale Resler (Cloudcroft, NM)
June 17-26	Scouts at Cumbres Toltec Railroad	Rio Arriba, NM
June 19-21	Cub Scout Day Camp	ABQ Metro Area
June 21 & 28th	Cub Scout Fishing Derby	El Paso, TX
June 22 nd	2026 Jamboree Info Meeting	ONLINE
June 29-July 3	Webelos/AOL Camp	Gorham Scout Ranch (Chimayo, NM)
July 4 th	Offices Closed - Fourth of July	North and South Service Area
July 7-11	Cub Scout Day Camp	El Paso, TX
July 12 - 13	OA Vigil Weekend - Gila Lodge	Camp Dale Resler (Cloudcroft, NM)
July 15th	Popcorn Training	Zoom
July 22 - 24	Popcorn Claiming Dates	Online (Trails End)
Aug 2 nd	Locomotives Game Night	El Paso, TX
Aug 2 nd	Popcorn Kickoff - North	ABQ Metro
Aug 2 nd	Eagle Banquet	ABQ Metro Area
Aug 8 th	IOLS - Training	ABQ Metro Area
Aug 9 th	Popcorn Kickoff - South	TBD
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 30 th	Adventure Day	ABQ Metro Area
Sept 6th	Scout Day at the Isotopes	ABQ Metro Area
Sept 13th	Life To Eagle Seminar	ONLINE or ABQ Office

In the News



It is a distinct honor and pleasure to announce that the High Desert Council has a new Summit Scout on its roster – Mr. Logan Mamanakis of Crew 11, Cedar Crest, NM. He is the first to earn this rank in the new High Desert Council and only the 4th in the area formerly known as the Great Southwest Council since the rank was created in 2014! Congratulations Logan on this momentous occasion and outstanding achievement!

Scouting America
Troop Leader Resources

New Troop Self-Assessments available!

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. Topics include Membership, Troop Meetings, Activities/Outings, Advancement, Patrols/Patrol Method, Youth Leaders, Scoutmaster Team, Troop Committee and Troop Administration/Finance. 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.

Visit <https://troopleader.scouting.org/troop-planning/troop-self-assessments/> for all the information!

Training Trail



Scouting America's most essential training has a brand-new name and a fresh new look. What was previously known as Youth Protection Training (YPT) is now called Safeguarding Youth Training (SYT) – and it's more relevant than ever.

- ✓ Greater focus on Scouting's SAFE initiative
- ✓ Updated insights on technology and online threats
- ✓ Features real volunteers in real Scouting environments

The new 90 minute training is available now on my.scouting.org. Safeguarding Youth training must be taken every year. After the initial training session - subsequent annual refresher courses are about 15 minutes long. If a volunteer's Safeguarding Youth training is not current at the time of annual registration renewal, the volunteer will not be re-registered. For more information - scan the QR code below or click [here](#).



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:

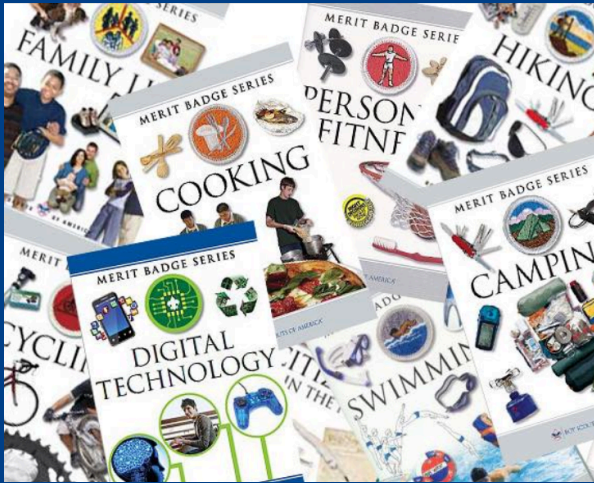
August 22-24, 2025 AND September 6 -7, 2025

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

Advancement Alley

There were some exciting announcements at the National Annual Meeting this year with regards to Merit Badges!!



1) The FULL TEXT of ALL Merit Badge Pamphlets are now available for free download! Each pamphlet is linked at the bottom of the respective Merit Badge pages - Check them all out [here](#)!

2) There is now a BSA Merit Badge Test Lab where Scouts can help develop new Merit Badges. Currently there are three active MB's in the Test Lab - Auctioneering, Wildland Fire Management and Life Skills. Later this summer - they will be adding Dance and Sewing/Needlework!



3) New Merit Badges are coming this summer! Later this summer, BSA will be releasing a brand new Artificial Intelligence merit badge as well as a Cybersecurity Merit Badge. These will have digital resource guides instead of traditional pamphlets. Keep an eye out on the Merit Badge Website for more information!



Advancement Alley

Eagle Recommendation Letters

There have been some changes in the Guide to Advancement regarding Requirement #2 on the Eagle Rank Application.

- “Scouts should list 4 people who know them personally and would be willing to provide a recommendation on their behalf.”
- Who? Scout Leaders, teachers, employers, coaches, other Scouts, etc. Do not need to be 21 or older.
- The current Unit Leader or Committee Chair may NOT be one of the listed references, their signature on the application is their endorsement.
- Parents and other relatives are strongly discouraged from serving as references.
- A board of review must not be denied or postponed due to unresponsive references
- Per Section 9.0.1.7 of the GTA - the Scout is responsible for requesting references from the four people listed on the application—this is a valuable life skill. Councils choose the method (letter, email, online form, etc.) and where submitted.
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.

POPCORN UPDATE



Upcoming Trainings and Info Sessions:

North Service Area:

- Roundtable - May 8th and June 12th
- ZOOM Training - July 15th 6:30 PM
- Kickoff - August 2nd (details to come)

South Service Area:

- Roundtable - May 7th and June 4th
- ZOOM Training - July 15th 6:30 PM
- Kickoff - August 9th (details to come)

Council Wide:

- Storefronts open to claim July 22nd - 24th
- Popcorn Orders Due - August 22nd
- Sales Begin - September 12th

Trail's End®

Units who send a representative to all training sessions will be entered in a drawing for some great prizes!



STAY INFORMED!

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



Download on the
App Store

GET IT ON
Google Play

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/>

ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTA FE CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

Conferral Mass and Retreat

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

**OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

2621 VERMONT ST NE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM

REGISTRATION: 8:30 AM
MASS: 9:00 AM
RETREAT: AFTER MASS - 2:00 PM

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

For More information - contact www.Catholicscoutsnm.org.

**Congratulations to these Scouts
who completed the PRAY
program and earned their
religious emblems.**

For More Information - check out
the PRAY website at
<https://www.praypub.org/>

PRAY

Building Faith in Youth

We are known for the PRAY Program - a Bible-based religious emblems program for Protestant and Independent Christian churches designed to bring children, youth, and families to Christ. Our program has impacted the lives of thousands of children nationwide.

Georgia H. Jesus and Me Ava H. God and Me	Bible Basics RP3 Youth & Adult	Jesus and Me Grades K - 1
Benjamin S. God and Family	God and Me Grades 2 - 3	God and Family Grades 4 - 6
Lydia S. Jesus and Me Sammy S. Jesus and me	God and Church Grades 6 - 8	God and Life Grades 9 - 12

Awards Central

Recognition Program of the Month 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/>

Camp Corner



North Service Area Cub Scout Day Camp (Click for info)

- Metro, June 19-21, Asbury United Methodist Church
- **\$95 per Scout**

South Service Area Cub Scout Day Camp (Click for info)

- July 7 - July 11th
- YWCA Camp- 4400 Boy Scout Lane, El Paso, TX 79922
- **\$150 per Scout**
- **\$35 1-day option**
- **\$60 2-day option**

Swimming, Archery, BB, STEAM

Gorham Camp Commissioners Needed

Week 1: June 15-21

Week 2: June 22-28

Week 3: July 6-12



Scouters 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." Questions: email gkelly15363@gmail.com

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

North Service Area

Scouting Opportunity with the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad

RIDE BEHIND A 100-YEAR-OLD STEAM ENGINE ON A TRAIN
FROM CHAMA TO CUMBRES PASS



YOUR TROOP CAN DO THIS

BY SIGNING UP FOR:

The Cumbres Section Town – Trails Building Service Project
June 18 through June 25, 2025

Mission: Help develop a National Historic Landmark on one of the few remaining narrow-gauge railroads in the nation by building trails to National Park Service standards and work on a marked section of trail with your troop.

**For More Information - Contact Mary Mazza-Anderson at
mary.mazza-andersen@scouting.org**

Save the Date



Eagle Banquet

August 2, 2025

Recognition for Eagle Classes of 2024 & 2025

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!!!!

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

North Service Area (con't)

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 info coming soon!
soon!

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 Handicrafts
Camp Cooking Wildlife/Tracks
Pinewood Derby Summer Camp Options
First Aid STEM Activities
???? Open to other ideas

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



LOCATION: North Service Center

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

North Service Area (con't)

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!



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.

South Service Area



Cub Scout Fishing Derby

LOCATION: El Paso,

Get ready for a fin-tastic adventure at our Fishing Derby for Bears, Webelos, and Arrow of Light dens and den leaders! 2nd-5th graders welcome!!

Day 1- June 21 - Education and Safety
Day 2 - June 28 - Fishing Extravaganza

(Scouts must attend both days)

Sponsored by the Ascarate Fishing Club

Jamboree Meeting

LOCATION: Zoom



Jamboree 2026 – First Meeting!

Whether you're committed to going or just curious and want to learn more, join us for our first Jamboree 2026 info meeting!

Date: June 22, 2025

Time: 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Location: [Join Here](#)

Meeting ID and Passcode: 534 256 2915 Password: jamboree

This will be the first of many meetings as we prepare for the adventure of a lifetime! Scouts, parents, and leaders welcome. Come get your questions answered and start getting excited!

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>

VOL. 1, NO. 1



SPECIAL EDITION



12 JUNE 2025

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
17-19, 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

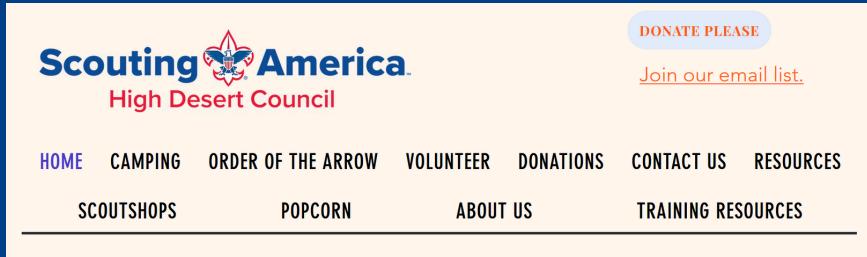


- July 30 – August 8, 2027
- Gdansk region in Poland
- Visit here for more info and to sign up for mailing list and registration info: <https://wsj2027.us/>
- Looking for Registered Leaders to help out. Scan QR Code to fill out an interest Survey. If you have any questions, please email usapoland2027@gmail.com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

Here are some of the highlights of NAM:

Inspiration

The theme of the Meeting was “The Power of One”: One Movement, One Mission, One Future!

Other messages:

- “It’s time to connect with the American family.”
- “We are Scouting’s preservers.”
- “Strong Units are the heart of Scouting.”
- “When we build relationships, we change lives.”

We have four Key Performance Metrics: youth safety, volunteer satisfaction, reduce debt, grow membership. They operate under five National Council pillars:

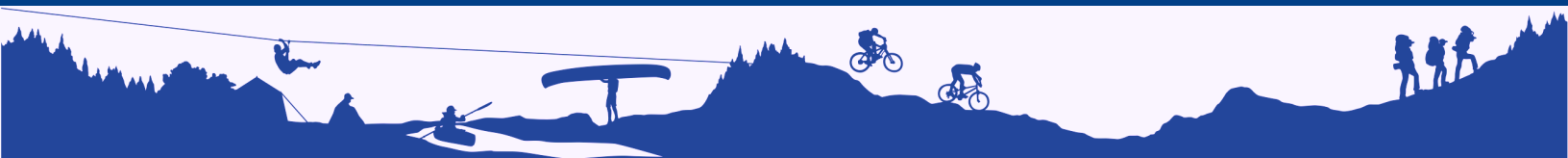
- Be A Leader in Safeguarding Youth
- Change the Way We Work Together
- Make Our Programs Highly Relevant to Today’s Youth
- Broaden Our Appeal and Revitalize Our Brand, and
- Strengthen our Financial Position.
-

David Montgomery was announced as Scouting America’s official recruitment ambassador. He is a running back for the Detroit Lions and an Eagle Scout, who flashed the Scout Sign in the end zone during a game against the Green Bay Packers last December. His message: “Scouting can do for everyone what it did for him.” <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2025/05/15/david-montgomery-says-scouting-helped-him-recover-from-major-injury/>

Good News!

The years-long downward trend in membership was reversed in 2024, with an increase at the of the year to just over 1 million. 2025’s target is 1,075,000, for 4.5% growth. The Big Hairy Audacious Goal: double membership in five years!

(Continued on next page)



The Chair's Soapbox Con't

- Chris Sandberg, High Desert Council Board Chair

2024 was a positive year financially, helped significantly by the \$30 million Eli Lilly corporate grant. That grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. was awarded to help Scouting America build the character of the nation's young people under the "Character Development Through Youth Programs", a Lilly Endowment initiative designed to help youth-serving organizations create, test, implement and sustain strategies that support character development in the young people they serve in chapters and affiliates throughout the nation

Debt at National is being reduced ahead of schedule. In 2024, we paid \$10 million more than the scheduled payment, which saved us \$2 million in interest. The plan is to do the same in 2025. We have paid off almost \$100 million since bankruptcy. National is looking for a small overall positive financial result in 2025.

"Scoutly" - an AI agent is being tested in 7 Councils to assist new users with the online registration process, and will evolve into other applications. National won't make any more changes to the registration system this year.

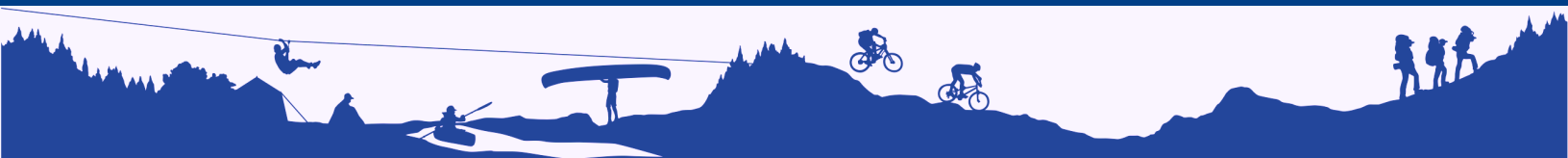
A resource kit for Councils is out with content for Fall recruiting, based upon a July start.

45 new Membership District Executives are coming onboard in various Councils through the Eli Lilly fund's grant, and National is hoping to fund 10 more later this year. That is essential because DEs are Scouting America's on-the-ground sales force, and we have lost way too many in the last several years. High Desert Council applied for one of the grants but were not selected this year. And a new sales kit is underway.

Merit Badges are going digital: all Merit Badge pamphlets are now available as free PDFs. <https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/all/>. A brand-new AI Merit Badge is coming in the next month or so, and will cover AI basics, automation, ethics, deep fakes, career skills, and hands-on applications. A digital Aviation MB is in pilot. Scoutly will become an aid for helping Scouts move through requirements; MB counsellors will still be an essential part of the process.

A portion of the Lilly grant dollars will be spent improving BeAScout website, but that only works when leads are followed up immediately!

(Continued on next page)



The Chair's Soapbox Con't

- Chris Sandberg, High Desert Council Board Chair

Updates

YPT has been replaced with Safeguarding Youth Training - SYT. The course went live this week, and takes about 85 minutes. We are moving toward an annual renewal process where you take the new course and pass the test. On the first anniversary of your SYT completion, you take a 15-minute refresher and pass a test. Scouters who are current on YPT do not have to take the new course - you have a full year of credit if you have just taken YPT (but you can take the new course now). The new SYT program incorporates the S.A.F.E. acronym and focuses on adult supervision and youth abuse prevention. "Our job as volunteers is to be smoke detectors, not firefighters." Its look and feel are very different from YPT and its aim is to empower the great Scouting family to enjoy the magic of Scouting in a safe way.

SYT covers peer-on-peer abuse, but a new Peer-on-Peer Youth Training program is coming soon.

Consider attending the Safety Conference at the Philmont Training Center near Cimarron, NM, September 14-17, 2025.

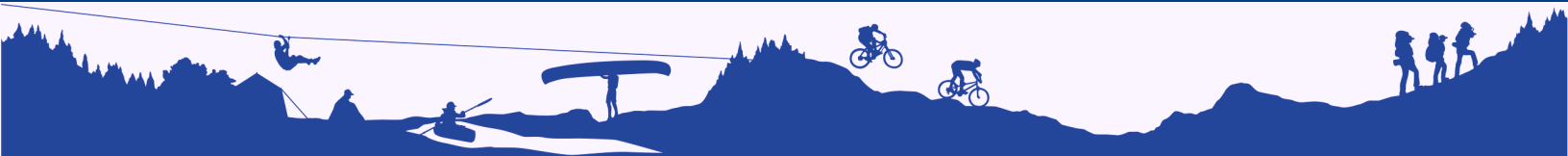
Scouting America is cooperating with Scouts Canada and Scouts (UK) to develop new programs, to hear success stories in programming and youth safety.

The Combined Troop pilot is well underway, and a comprehensive report will be done in September. The revised Cub program has been well received. National will kickoff a trial of "Catalyst" for 20+ year-olds later in 2025. The "Squirrels" program for 4-6 year-olds will be introduced as family/home activities outside of a Pack. National will be doing focus groups asking about uniforms in 2025, and will be surveying Scouts BSA re program similar simplification along the lines of the new Cub program. Also in testing: Seasonal Scouting - a 12-week program for Cubs in sports/other activities, Outdoor Clubs - Scouting without the traditional trappings, and Community Scouting for short-term access.

A brand-new set of Den Meeting Resource Decks was displayed. There is a deck of 116 cards for each of the ranks of Cub Scouts. Each deck includes resource cards, cards for the six required adventures and activities of each rank, cards for 4 to 5 electives, and fun and game cards. Each card includes supply lists, preparation time estimates, and QR codes for further help. These decks should make preparing for and conducting den meetings easier for Den Leaders and more fun for Cub Scouts. Den Meeting Resource Decks should become available at our Scout Shops in July. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUYyciUuvDQ&list=PLuxQzUzGg-5ww_sB8Yc-jlIPm57xaa_gt&index=1

A Scouting for Food/National Day of Service in November is being planned, along with a "10 Million Hours Of Service" project for the 250th national anniversary in 2026. No details at this point.

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The Chair's Soapbox Con't

- Chris Sandberg, High Desert Council Board Chair

2026 National Jamboree - July 22 to July 31, 2026:

- there are scholarships for attendees, and a funding program for those;
- staff registrations turned in by the end of May will be in a lottery for roofed housing!

Scouting America is developing a national marketing/membership campaign for ESPN, YouTube TV, Disney+, Hulu and other channels.

The opportunity for Councils to start conducting raffles is being reviewed.

No consideration is being given to dropping Citizenship in Society Merit Badge or removing it as Eagle-required.

Councils are moving to a two-year charter renewal process; no change for Units. The long-promised update to Council bylaws is finally coming in 2025.

Sobering Facts

- In focus groups, the Scouting America logo had very low recognition, and parents were not generally aware of how their children could join. Scouting had good impressions on camping, outdoor activities, leadership, and character, but there was low willingness to volunteer. Parents reported spending between \$200 and \$2,100 for non-Scouting youth activities that lasted 8-10 weeks. Time constraints were reported as a barrier to considering Scouting, with many youth already in multiple activities.
- 2024 got a grade of "B" - for example, only 43% of volunteers surveyed reported positive satisfaction!
- In a ranking of financial, membership, and other criteria, 108 Councils are Vulnerable or At Risk; 128 are Healthy or Stable (HDC is ranked as Stable).
- New Units are the key to growth, especially for Cub Scout Packs. The number of Units is down 50% since 2019, while average sizes stayed steady. The key is to identify places where new Units can be started.
- We lose 50% of new members in the first 6 months, mainly Cubs. Trained leaders delivering quality program from the get-go is the cure.
- 56% of Councils operated at a deficit in 2024 (including HDC), and 83% of those had declines in revenue since 2019. Membership growth is the key to reversing those statistics!

