

HIGH DESERT NEWS

September 2025



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**BREAKING
NEWS**

COUNCIL-WIDE ROUNDTABLES!!

Beginning Thursday October 2nd, 2025, the High Desert Council will be presenting a single monthly Roundtable meeting! It will be via Zoom and will begin at 7pm. This will replace the monthly area-specific Roundtable meetings.

It will start with an opening general session with useful info for all; followed by breakout sessions for specific groups (Packs, Troops, Crews, Commissioners, others as-needed)

The primary purpose of a Roundtable meeting 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.

Zoom Meeting ID: 851 4615 1346

Passcode: EJPQv5

(Meeting Code is good for next 3 years)

FMI: Dale Balmer, dbalmer8@comcast.net

Scan or Click to
enter Meeting



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 [Info here](#)

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

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



The new Council Shoulder Patches are here! They are available for purchase at the Scout Shops in El Paso and Albuquerque for \$4.99+ tax! Get yours now!!!



Upcoming Events

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

Date	Event	Location
Sept 19-21	OA Fall Fellowship - Gila Lodge	Camp Dale Resler
Sept 20 th	Catholic Scouting Mass/Retreat*	Santa Fe, NM
Sept 20 th	Radio MB Workshop*	Albuquerque
Sept 20 th	Sporting Clays Tournament	Bernardo, NM
Sept 27 th	National Public Lands Service Day*	Las Cruces, NM
Sept 27 th	Fiesta Fanatics Cleanup*	ABQ Metro Area
Sept 27 th	Massing of the Colors	El Paso, TX
Sept 27 th	NRA Basic Rifle Course	ABQ Metro Area
Sept 28 th	Railroad MB Workshop*	ABQ Metro Area
Oct 2 nd	COMBINED COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE	Online
Oct 3-5	Kirtland Camporee	ABQ Metro Area
Oct 3-4	IOLS North	Aztec, NM
Oct 11 th	Pinewood Derby Build Days	El Paso, TX
Oct 16 th	2025 Eagle Golf Tournament	El Paso, TX
Oct 17-19	OA Fall Conclave - Yah-Tah-Hey-Si-Kess Lodge	Gorham Scout Ranch
Oct 18 th	JOTA Mesilla Valley Radio Club Picnic	Las Cruces, NM
Oct 19 th	Scouting Day at NM United	ABQ Metro Area
Oct 25 th	Western Tech MBU	El Paso, TX
Nov 1 st	STEM MBU at UNM	ABQ Metro Area
Nov 1 st	McKittrick Miler	Salt Flat, TX
Nov 8 th	Scout Night at the Miners - UTEP Game	El Paso, TX

Items marked with an asterik are events coordinated/run by an organization other than the High Desert Council but may be of interest to our members

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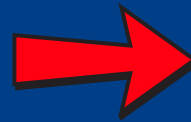
Unit Buzz!

The Unit Buzz is a monthly compilation of unit activities throughout the High Desert Council. Unit leaders are encouraged to use the form below to submit a picture and a short description of their unit in action.

Appropriate submissions include:

- Courts of Honor
- Service projects
- Campouts, hikes
- Other unit level, special activities that deserve recognition

Unit Leaders - Scan/Click here for the submission form!



Check out our Facebook Page and the Resources page of our website for the monthly compilations!



In the News

NEW DIGITAL MERIT BADGE RESOURCES

Not a fan of reading the merit badge pamphlets? Scouting America is working hard to update our resources! There are more than 30 Merit Badges that have recently been updated with videos and other informational links! Go to <https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/all/> and click on the Merit Badge you are interested. The digital links will show in blue under each of the merit badge requirements! They will continually be updating

NEW TEST LAB OPPORTUNITIES



There are now two more chances to help shape future Merit Badge Offerings! Sewing/Needlework and Physics have joined Auctioneering, Wildland Firefighting and Life Skills. For more information on how the Test Lab works - visit <https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/test-lab/>

NEW MERIT BADGES

Social Media Buzz indicates that the new Cybersecurity MB and Artificial Intelligence MB will be released before the end of September! Start thinking about who in your unit would be a good candidate for Merit Badge Counselors!

In the News

Outdoor Programs Survey

The High Desert Council needs your input! The Outdoor Programs Committee has developed three surveys to find out what today's families want to do in the outdoors.

There are different surveys for youth and adults to see if they have different wants and expectations in how they want to spend their time outdoors. (The titles are similar - but there are three different sets of questions.)

The Council's goal is to use this information to develop and deliver an outstanding outdoor program that meets today's families desires and grow membership by attracting, recruiting, and retaining youth and families.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey so we can better meet your needs. Your feedback is deeply needed and appreciated. If your family falls into more than 1 category - please fill out all appropriate surveys

Survey for Youth

(Parents - please help record their answers if necessary)



Survey for Registered Leaders



Survey for Parents



Training Trail

Range and Target Activities Upcoming Trainings - ABQ Area

NRA Basic Rifle Course
September 27, 2025



NRA Range Safety
Officer Course
December 6, 2025



NRA Basic Shotgun Course
November 14-15, 2025



THE MINIMUM
CLASS SIZE IS 4
AND MAXIMUM
IS 8.

CONTACT: MIKE CUTTER, MICHAEL.CUTTER@MSN.COM, 435-730-2837

Scouting America
High Desert Council



IOLS Training - Oct 3-4

LOCATION: Aztec, NM - Oct 3rd-4th

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, September 27, 2025. Sorry, no late registration will be accepted.

Looking for a IOLS/BALOO Course Director for the South Service Center

Advancement

Questions? Who Do You Contact? -- It Depends, Where do you Live?

- **FARMINGTON/AZTEC/BLOOMFIELD**
 - JOHNNA DOWNING - JOHNNADOWNING@YAHOO.COM
- **DURANGO/BAYFIELD/IGNACIO/PAGOSA SPRINGS/CORTEZ**
 - JULIE HARRIS - HARRISFAMILYDGO@GMAIL.COM
- **SANTA FE/LOS ALAMOS**
 - TIM NEAL - TIMRNEAL@GMAIL.COM
- **WEST ABQ/RR/CORRALES/LOS LUNAS/BELÉN/GALLUP**
 - STEPHEN BARTHOLOMEW - LIFE2EAGLEHELP@YAHOO.COM
- **EAST ABQ/EAST MNTNS/TIJERES/EDGEWOOD**
 - MIKE CUTTER - MICHAEL.CUTTER@MSN.COM
- **SUNSHINE DISTRICT-LAS CRUCES**
 - DAVID HEREFORD, DHEREFOR@NMSU.EDU
- **GERONIMO -SILVER CITY**
 - PAT MCINTIRE, MCINTIREP2@GMAIL.COM
- **POLARIS -EP WEST**
 - JOYCE LIEB, LIEBFAM@AOL.COM
- **MESCALARO -EP NORTHEAST**
 - ROBERT HOLDER, EAGLE200017@YAHOO.COM
- **WAPAHA -SILVER CITY**
 - SOTERO & PAT RAMIREZ, SRAMIR34@EPCC.EDU & COCINAPAT@GMAIL.COM
- **NOT SURE**
 - LOIS CAIPEN - LOCAIPEN@AOL.COM

Awards Central

Point of contact: Brian Tolson

email: briantolson99@yahoo.com or text to : 505-967-6139

2025 Scouter Awards Timeline

Our Volunteers are the lifeblood of our council! Without them - we wouldn't be able to function. If you know of a Scouter who has gone above and beyond to make the Scouting Program great - please take the time to nominate them for an award!

- A full timeline document is posted [HERE](#) on Council's website.
-
- More information about these and other awards can be found at Scouting America's Awards Central home page [HERE](#)

Nominations due to Council Office by January 5, 2026:

The High Desert Council Annual Business Meeting and Awards ceremony will be held on April 11, 2026 at the Inn of the Mountain Gods, in Mescalero NM!

Awards Central

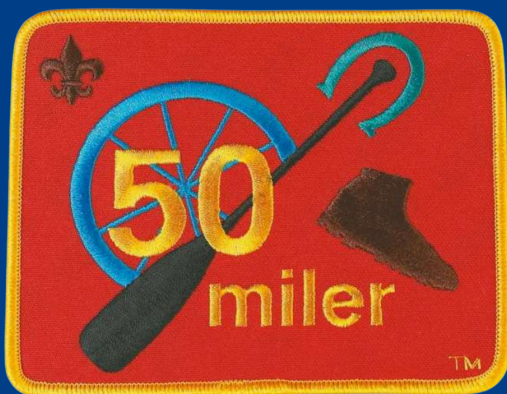
Virtual Classes for Protestant Religious Emblems



P.R.A.Y., and the national committees and associations of Protestant faiths are excited to announce that national virtual programs are returning for 2025. These programs will be beneficial in making the religious emblems available to all youth, especially those who are having difficulty finding an in-person class or congregational support near them.

These classes are open to any Protestant, Non-Denominational, or Independent Christian youth in any organization, grades Kindergarten through 12th, interested in fortifying their experience through their faith. Classes in each of the five program levels are offered and will be presented over Zoom. Registration is free and open until September 30th. For more information email dutytogodbsa@gmail.com or visit [P.R.A.Y Virtual Classes](#)

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/>

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

North Service Area

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](#)

Conferral Mass and Retreat

LOCATION - Albuquerque, NM

Sharing for our friends in the Catholic Scouting Community. Click/scan image to the right for more information

ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTA FE CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

(NOT A HIGH DESERT COUNCIL EVENT)

Conferral Mass and Retreat

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

SCAN HERE
TO REGISTER



REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

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.

Retreat will be held following Mass with activities designed to jump start each scout's endeavors in working toward Catholic scouting emblems and awards including the 2025 Jubilee Activity Patch.

OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION
CATHOLIC CHURCH

2621 VERMONT ST NE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM

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

WWW.CATHOLICSCOUTSNM.ORG

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

North Service Area (con't)

CABQ Fiesta Fanatics

A poster for the 'Fiesta FANATICS' event. It features a background of hot air balloons and a green hill. Text includes: '(NOT A HIGH DESERT COUNCIL EVENT)', 'ONE ALBUQUE', 'KEEP NEW MEXICO TRUE', 'Weeks', 'IMAGINE ARQ', 'Fiesta FANATICS', 'Saturday, September 27, 2025', '9:00 AM - 12:00 PM', '9201 Balloon Museum Dr NE (South Parking Lot)', 'To Register Visit: CABQ.GOV/FIESTAFANATICS', and 'Let's ignite the spark with our annual Balloon Fiesta Litter Cleanup! Join us at the park or clean up in your neighborhood.'

(NOT A HIGH DESERT COUNCIL EVENT)

ONE ALBUQUE

KEEP NEW MEXICO TRUE

Weeks

IMAGINE ARQ

Fiesta FANATICS

Saturday, September 27, 2025
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
9201 Balloon Museum Dr NE
(South Parking Lot)

To Register Visit:
[CABQ.GOV/FIESTAFANATICS](https://www.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.

LOCATION - Albuquerque, NM

Sharing for our friends with the City of Albuquerque! It's that time again - help get our city ready for the biggest event of the year - the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta! Whether you do a cleanup in your neighborhood or join the community at Balloon Fiesta park... do your part to make the community look great! Registration with the City of Albuquerque is required - visit <https://www.cabq.gov/solidwaste/events/fiesta-fanatics-cleanup-event> for more information!

LOCATION - Albuquerque, NM

Sharing for our friends with New Mexico Heritage Rail and New Mexico Railroad Days! Click/scan image to the right for more information



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/252118161743149>

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)



(NOT A HIGH DESERT COUNCIL EVENT)

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

North Service Area (con't)



Kirtland AFB Camporee

LOCATION - Albuquerque, NM

Join us for a fun camporee opportunity with Merit Badges related to Criminal Justice and Law plus demonstrations by Base Personnel (*TBD but possibly including Bomb teams, fire, police, etc.*) Sunday morning optional services at Base Chapel.

**IN ORDER TO ENSURE BASE ACCESS -
REGISTRATION WILL CLOSE SEPT 15TH -
THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Scout Night at NM United - October 19th, 2025

LOCATION - Albuquerque, NM

Join us for a night of high-energy fun as New Mexico United takes the field!

All Scouts in uniform will be recognized during the game, and special activities may include pre-game or halftime field access, a shoutout on the scoreboard, and exclusive Scout patches and post-game meet and greet with the players.

There is also an opportunity for scouts to join the players on field to help be a ball manager 14 years and older for this job.

SCOUT NIGHT AT NM UNITED



Gates open at 1:30pm for on field experiences! Game begins at 3:00pm

**Tickets must be purchased through NM UNITED by 10/16.
For more info and link to purchase - visit
<https://scoutingevent.com/573-102924#>**

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

South Service Area



**Western Tech Merit Badge University/
University of Scouting- (East El Paso)**

LOCATION - El Paso, TX

Date: Saturday October 25, 2025

8:00 AM MT to 4:00PM MT

(Registration Info Coming Soon)

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

South Service Area (Con't)

(NOT A HIGH DESERT COUNCIL EVENT)



National Public Lands Day

LOCATION - Las Cruces, NM

Date: Saturday, September 27, 2025 - 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM

We're excited to partner with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and NEEF (National Environmental Educational Foundation) for a cleanup of Kilborne Hole National Natural Landmark!

Not in the Las Cruces area?
[Browse NPLD Event locations In Your Area](#)

Massing of the Colors

LOCATION - El Paso, TX

Date: Saturday, September 27, 2025 - : 11:30 am - 2:00 pm

Massing of the Colors is an event where multiple color guards from multiple organizations, come together to honor the flag of the United States of America.

Cubs and Scouts BSA are welcome to attend this event to honor the flag. Ceremony is held from 12:00-2:00 PM with registration starting at 11:30 AM.



PWD BUILD DAY - EL PASO OFFICE
SATURDAY OCTOBER 11TH
9:00 AM MT TO 1:00 PM MT

ADDITIONAL DAYS: NOVEMBER 22, DECEMBER 13

Pinewood Derby Build Day

LOCATION: El Paso, TX

No Registration Needed

Attention all racers far and wide! Come build your pinewood derby cars with us! We will have the tools you need to get your motors running!

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

South Service Area (Con't)



MESILLA VALLEY RADIO CLUB
IS HOSTING A PICNIC FOR
JAMBOREE ON THE AIR FOR SCOUTS

REGISTER TODAY!



OCTOBER 18

10-2 PM
6609 JEFFERSON LANE
LAS CRUCES, NEW
MEXICO 88007

#ADVENTUREON!



Bushed Bear Camp Dale Resler Service Day October 18th, 2025



LOCATION: Cloudcroft NM

When: Check in at 8 AM. Projects will be over at 4 PM

What: Clean up Service Project at Camp Dale Resler- all Troop level youth and adults are invited to attend to help . Please bring shovels, rakes, brooms, gloves, shears, and Scout 10 essentials.

*****WEAR OLD CLOTHES THAT CAN GET RUINED*****

Scouts are not allowed to use power tools

No overnight camping

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED BUT YOU MUST REGISTER MEDICAL FORMS A AND B REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE

Contact Sue Jacintho, Order of the Arrow Lodge Advisor at suejuja@msn.com or 575-635-9654 for more information.

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

South Service Area (Con't)

McKittrick Miler November 1, 2025

LOCATION: Salt Flat, TX

Come Hike with us! Start at Frijole Campground for some fun educational activities and then head out to enjoy the fall colors!! There are several trails that you can choose from! Bring your family and get outside!

Registration is now open! <https://scoutingevent.com/573-100706#>



Scout Night at the Miners - November 8th

LOCATION: El Paso, TX

- Calling all scouts and families! Mark your calendars for an exciting evening at the UTEP Miners football game.
- Time: Game starts at 2 PM, Gates open 1 PM
- **REGISTER AS A UNIT! - <https://scoutingevent.com/573-103545#>**
- Tickets will be available for pick up at our office starting two weeks prior to the game. Our office hours are 10 AM to 2 PM, Monday through Friday.
- Come out and support the UTEP Miners while enjoying a fun-filled night with your fellow scouts. We look forward to seeing you there!



Long Term Planning!

STEM Merit Badge University with UNM School of Engineering

Saturday 11-1-25

Unfortunately registration for this event is completely full! Stay tuned for information about our next MBU in the Spring!



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



**Scouting
America**
High Desert Council

The STOREHOUSE
New Mexico
www.StorehouseNM.org

ABQ Metro Area Scouting for Food Feb 7 & 14, 2026

We have confirmed dates with Storehouse NM! We will determine collection locations based on interested units. If you are interested - please email ABQMetroSFF@gmail.com as soon as possible. We need to determine locations by the end of September.

Long Term Planning!



- **What:** National Jamboree is not just a 'big summer camp.' It is "the adventure of a lifetime," with amazing hands-on activity and adventure.
- **Where:** Summit Bechtel Reserve, West Virginia
- **When:** July 22-31, 2026, leaving around July 19 for a fun pre-trip.
- **Who:** The High Desert Council will send as many 20-participant contingents of Male or Female as possible, but we have to be at those even 20 people for each contingent.
- Adults are also encouraged to volunteer for the Jamboree Service Team (<https://jamboree.scouting.org/staff/>)
- For More information - visit <https://scoutingevent.com/573-89330>



POLAND 2027

World Scout
26th Jamboree
Scout Mondial



- 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>