

HIGH DESERT NEWS

August 2026



Big Changes are coming to Scouting America's technology! Check out <https://techhub.scouting.org/beascout-redesign/> for a peek at the changes that will be coming over the next year!

The new Tech Hub is your go-to resource for information on ScoutBook, BeAScout, My.Scouting, and other technology projects. You'll find project updates, FAQs, system status, details on the BeAScout redesign, and more. Whether you're a volunteer, parent, or Scout leader, it's a valuable resource to bookmark. Learn more: <https://techhub.scouting.org/>

Join Scouting America's Technology Group for a free webinar on Thursday, August 13 at 7:00 PM Central for more information about these exciting updates! Click [here](#) to join the webinar!

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 starting at 7:00pm

[Info here](#) - Each session starts with general info and then breaks into separate "rooms" to discuss Pack/Troop/Crew/Commissioner/Special Interest Topics

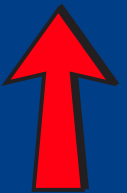


Zoom Meeting ID: 851 4615 1346

Passcode: EJPQv5

(Meeting Code is good for next 3 years)

Scan or Click to
enter Meeting



ABQ Metro Area Hybrid Roundtable for August is at
St. Marks Episcopal Church - 431 Richmond Pl NE - ABQ

El Paso/Las Cruces Area Hybrid Roundtable

South Area Council Office

7601 Lockheed Dr - El Paso

**Questions: contact Ruben Berumen r.b.berumen@gmail.com or
Kym Maldonado kym_maldonado@hotmail.com**

Upcoming Events

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

Date	Event	Location
Aug 4th	Scout Night Out on the Plaza	Las Cruces, NM
Aug 15 th	NM United Scouting America Night	ABQ, NM
Aug 21-23	OA Lodge Section Induction Experience	Gorham Scout Ranch
Aug 29 th	Adventure Day	ABQ, NM
Aug 29 th	Locomotives Game Night	El Paso, TX
Sept 6 th	Scout Night At ABQ Isotopes	ABQ, NM
Sept 7 th	Offices Closed	Council Wide
Sept 19 th	Life to Eagle Class	Online/ABQ Office
Sept 19 th	2026 Sporting Clays Fundraiser	Bosque, NM
Sept 25-27	2026 Fall Camporee - Kirtland AFB	ABQ, NM
Sept 26 th	Massing of the Colors	El Paso, TX
Oct 3 rd	BALOO Training	Camp Tyler Francis
Oct 10 th	Western Tech MBU/Univ. of Scouting	El Paso, TX
Oct 24 th	Cuboree	TBD
Nov 7 th	Health MBU	ABQ, NM
Nov 21 st	Scout Night at NMSU	Las Cruces, NM

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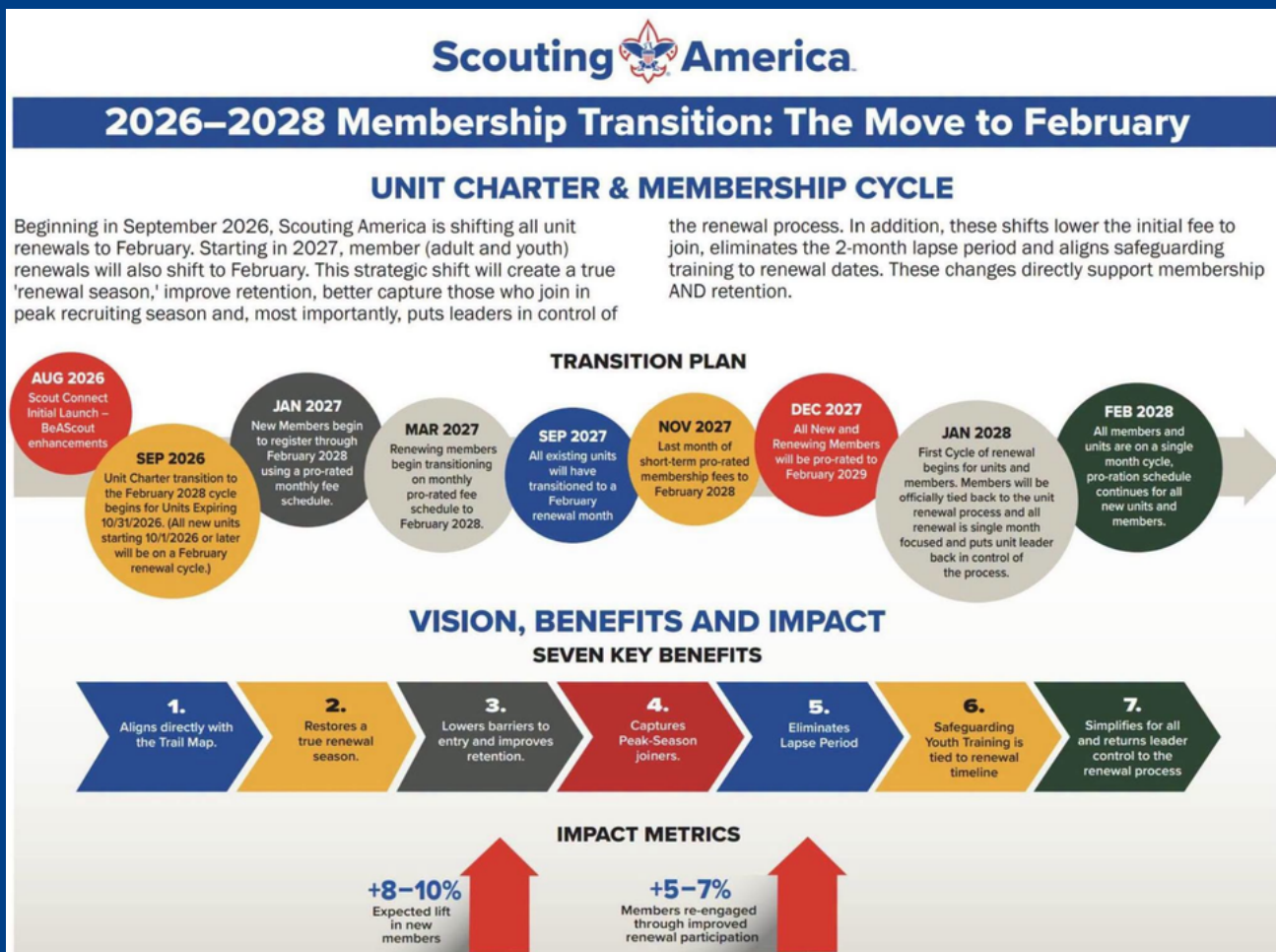
In the News

New Office Hours!!

El Paso
7601 Lockheed Dr
Monday - Friday
8:30am-5pm

Albuquerque (*unchanged*)
5841 Office Blvd. NE
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9am-5pm

Recharter/Membership Cycle Updates



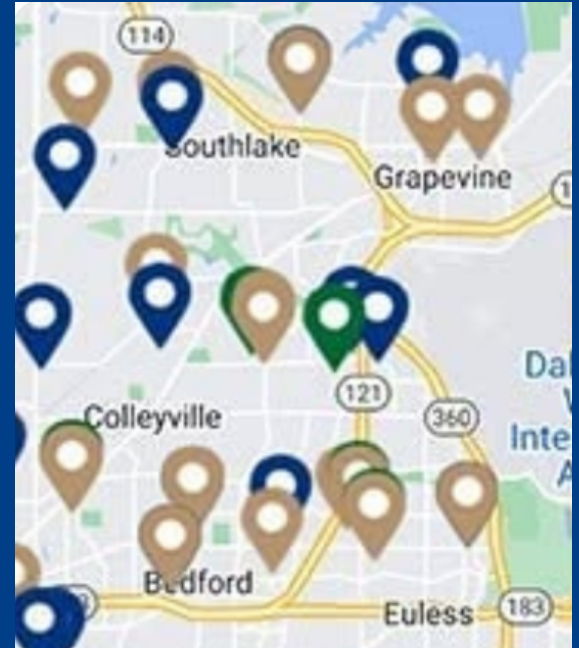
Click Image for More Information!

In the News

BeAScout Pin Updates!

Beginning August 3, 2026, BeAScout will launch an updated experience designed to give prospective families the information they want before contacting a unit. The goal is simple: make it easier for families to find the right Scouting unit and take the next step. Key 3 Leaders will be able to enter more specific information about their units to help prospective families decide which unit is right for them.

Key 3 Leaders should update their pin information now by going My.Scouting - Organizational Manager - Unit Pin so they are ready to go when the system updates go live!



Watch this video for more info! [LINK](#)

Gorham Scout Ranch Update

The Council's Key 3 has been reviewing recent operations at Gorham Scout Ranch in order to determine the most prudent course of action regarding offering summer camp there in 2027. That review examined the low level of recent use of Gorham by HDC Troops, and all of the many costs of putting on a full summer camp program there. As a result of that review, the Key 3 reluctantly recommended to the Council's Executive Board that summer camp at Gorham be suspended for 2027.

At the June 17, 2026, meeting of the Council's Executive Board, at which a quorum was present, the following motion was made and seconded: To accept the recommendation from the Council Key 3 that we suspend offering summer camp at Gorham Scout Ranch for 2027, and continue evaluating our capability of hosting summer camp at Gorham in 2028

- HDC will not offer a summer camp program at Gorham in 2027.
- HDC Troops will need to plan their summer camp experience for 2027 at another Council's facility.
- Gorham will remain open and operating for scheduled short-form programs throughout 2026 and in 2027.
- Gorham will remain open for Units to use for their own events.

Unit Buzz!

The August issue of the Unit Buzz is packed with photos of “scouts doing scouting”.

Featured this month are:

- Pack 591
- Troop 410
- Crew 20

**Click or Scan to
Check it Out!!!**

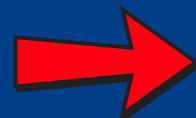


The Unit Buzz is a monthly compilation of unit activities throughout the High Desert Council. Unit leaders are encouraged to use the form below to submit a picture and a short description of their unit in action.

Appropriate submissions include:

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

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



Training Trail

Training Priorities and Needs for HDC

PRIORITIES

- Leader Specific Training
- Unit Key 3 Training
- Specific Training Needs
 - BALOO
 - IOLS
 - Hazardous Weather Training
 - ILST
 - Rangemaster
 - Wilderness First Aid
- National Youth Leadership Training
- Wood Badge
- Continuing Education
 - Roundtable
 - University of Scouting

NEEDS

- Trainers
- Organizers
- Training Committee Members
- Piggyback on Other Events? Standalone Events?
 - Locations
 - Timing

How often and where we offer training will depend entirely on how we match our needs with our priorities!

Would you like to help? Organize? Train?

**Call or email:
Jim Libbin (575) 640-7042
jlibbin@nmsu.edu**

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SAVE THE DATE!

TROOP LEADER

SPECIFIC TRAINING

LEAD ★ TRAIN ★ INSPIRE

TRAINING FOR SCOUTMASTERS, ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTERS, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CHAIRS.

THIS TRAINING WILL HELP YOU:

- Strengthen your leadership skills
- Understand your role and responsibilities
- Support your Scouts and your unit
- Build a strong, successful program

Save the Date!
OCTOBER 10, 2026

BETTER LEADERS. STRONGER UNITS.

LOCATION: WESTERN TECH ON PLAZA
9624 Plaza Cir
El Paso, TX 79927

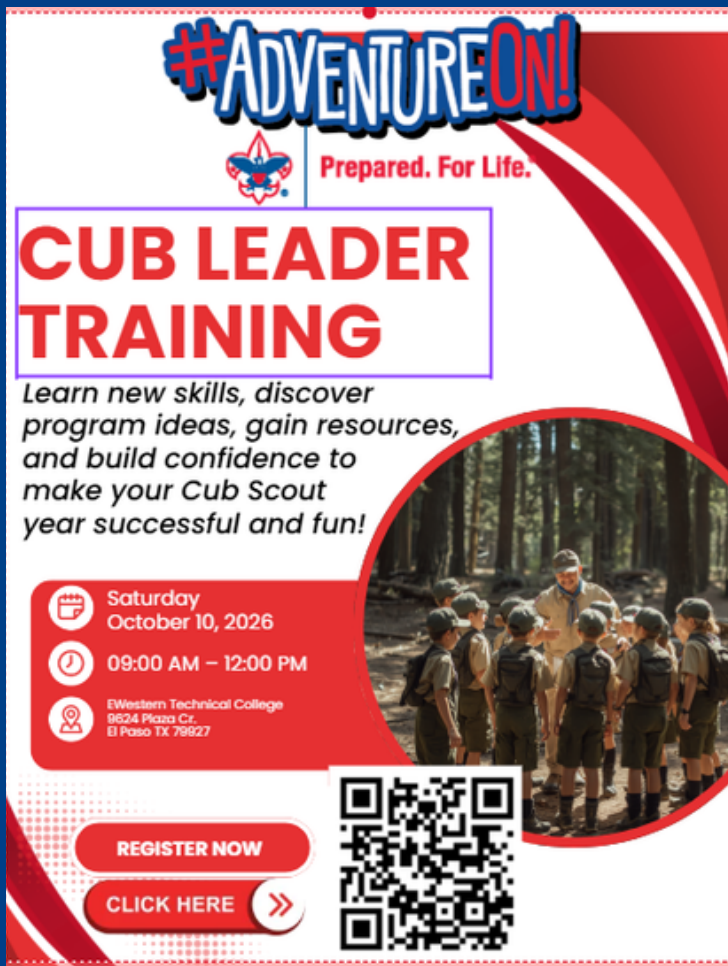
REGISTRATION OPENING SOON!

Thank you for leading the adventure!

SCOUTING AMERICA
PREPARED. FOR LIFE.™

Troop Leader Specific Training: This training provides Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters with the knowledge and tools needed to effectively lead a Scouts BSA Troop. Topics include troop operations, advancement, youth leadership, the patrol method, and delivering a quality Scouting program.

Training Trail



#ADVENTUREON!
Prepared. For Life.

CUB LEADER TRAINING

Learn new skills, discover program ideas, gain resources, and build confidence to make your Cub Scout year successful and fun!

**Saturday
October 10, 2026**
09:00 AM – 12:00 PM
El Western Technical College
9624 Plaza Cr.
El Paso TX 79927

REGISTER NOW
CLICK HERE >>



Cub Leader Training: New and experienced Cub Scout leaders are invited to participate in training sessions designed to build confidence, develop leadership skills, and provide the tools needed to deliver a fun and successful Cub Scout program.

BALOO Training: BALOO (Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation) provides Pack leaders with the skills and knowledge needed to safely plan and conduct Pack camping activities. This hands-on training is required for Packs participating in overnight camping.

BALOO Training Camp Tyler Francis October 3rd



Advancement

Plan an Exciting Program for Your Scouts

Now is the time to build a year of adventure, learning, service, and fun. A strong Scout program starts with a clear annual plan. Gather youth leaders, adult volunteers, families, school calendars, community dates, and council events, then shape a calendar that balances advancement, outdoor adventure, leadership development, service, and memorable experiences.



Program Planning Checklist

- Review last year's program and identify what worked well.
- Collect important school, community, district, and council dates.
- Ask Scouts for activity ideas and let youth leaders help shape priorities.
- Choose monthly themes that include outdoor skills, service, advancement, leadership, and fun.
- Build a budget that supports the calendar and communicates costs early.
- Share the finished calendar with families so everyone can plan ahead.

Start planning now: a thoughtful program gives Scouts something to look forward to and helps families stay engaged all year long.

Troop Planning info - <https://troopleader.scouting.org/troop-planning/>

Pack Planning info - <https://www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/leader-resources/pack-meeting-resources/>

Advancement Questions?

- For information on how to contact an Advancement Committee Member for your area - Click [HERE](#) for more information. You will find a list of all our committee members and their contact information!

Advancement



*Take the Next Step on Your
Scouting Journey!*

LIFE TO EAGLE

★ CLASS ★

EVERY EAGLE SCOUT STARTED WITH A SINGLE STEP.
LET US HELP YOU TAKE YOURS.

Join us for an informative and
engaging class designed for Life
Scouts who are ready to navigate
the path to Eagle.



Saturday, September 19th 2026



10:00AM- 12:00PM
Join online via Zoom



Meeting ID: 811 3609 8796
Passcode: 916317



Or join in person
Albuquerque Scout Office
5841 Office Blvd. NE Albuquerque, NM 87109



WE'LL COVER:

- ✓ The Eagle Scout Rank Requirements
- ✓ The Eagle Project Process
- ✓ Tips for a Successful Scoutmaster Conference
- ✓ Resources and Next Steps
- ✓ Q&A and Open Discussion

PREPARE • LEAD • ACHIEVE

PREPARED. FOR LIFE.®

Events

(Click graphic for more information)



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' NIGHT

SAT AUG 15TH

Hello High Desert Council Scouts and Families!

Please join us for Scouting America Night with New Mexico United on Saturday, August 15th!

Save 35% on your game tickets by purchasing through this page at the lowest possible rate.

We hope to see as many of our scouts and families in attendance as possible!!

The deadline to purchase is Wednesday, 8/12 at 5:00 PM MTN

Scouting America
High Desert Council

2026 SEASON

TICKETS

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Scout Night at NM United August 15th, 2026

Location: Albuquerque

Join fellow Scouts, families, and friends for Scouting America Night with NM United!!

Buy Tickets Here - [TICKET LINK](#)

Scout Night at the Locomotives August 29th, 2026

Location: El Paso

Join us for Scout Night at the Locomotive! On August 29th, all Scouts purchasing through this link will receive:

- Special rate on tickets in Lower Level Endline (Sec. 111)
- Get a chance to participate in helping present colors before the game.
- free popcorn voucher
- Spectacular Fireworks display after the game
- Exclusive Patch - [BUY TICKETS HERE - LINK](#)



SCOUT NIGHT
AT THE
LOCOMOTIVES
EL PASO, TEXAS

SCOUT NIGHT AT THE LOCOMOTIVES

2026

POPCORN VOUCHER INCLUDED

ON FIELD EXPERIENCE INCLUDED

EXCLUSIVE PATCH INCLUDED

STAR WARS NIGHT!

FIREWORKS AFTER THE GAME!

SATURDAY
AUGUST 29TH

GAME STARTS
7:00 PM

TICKETS ONLY
\$25

SOUTHWEST UNIVERSITY PARK
EL PASO, TEXAS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
CINDI ROJAS
915-201-8383
Cynthia.rojas@scouting.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND JOIN THE ADVENTURE!
WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

SCOUTING ADVENTURE DAY

**SATURDAY AUGUST
29TH, 2026
9AM - 1PM**



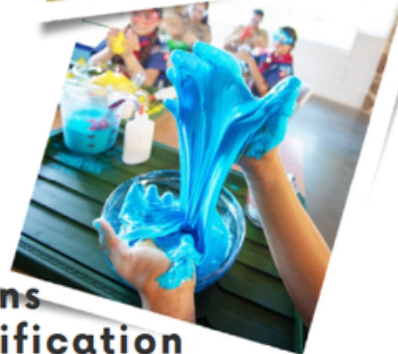
**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FROM BOTH
PACKS AND TROOPS TO SHOW
PROSPECTIVE AND NEW SCOUT
FAMILIES HOW MUCH FUN THEY
CAN BE HAVING WITH SCOUTING
AMERICA!!**

CONFIRMED AS OF 6/7:

**CABQ Climbing Wall
Archery
Camp Cooking**

DESIRED STATIONS:

Pioneering	Pinewood Derby
First Aid	Summer Camp Options
STEM Activities	Wildlife/Track Identification
Handicrafts	???? Open to other ideas



**CONTACT RANDY REED AT
RANDOLPH.REED@GMAIL.COM IF INTERESTED
IN HELPING!**

Albuquerque Area Units!

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

Scout Day at the Isotopes



SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2026

Buy Tickets here - [TICKET LINK](#)

Scout Night at Isotopes Baseball Sept 6, 2026

Location: Albuquerque

Join fellow Scouts, families, and friends for Scouting America Day at RGCU Field at Isotopes Park!

Take advantage of exclusive group pricing with \$18.32 Reserved Level tickets (a tremendous savings off the game day price) and enjoy an exciting day of Albuquerque Isotopes baseball while celebrating Scouting America.

HIGH DESERT SPORTING CLAYS TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY • SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

BOSQUE, NM • 38 PAIZALAS DR, 87006

For more information - visit <https://givebutter.com/2026-sporting-clays-fyegut>

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

Fall Camporee Sept 25-27

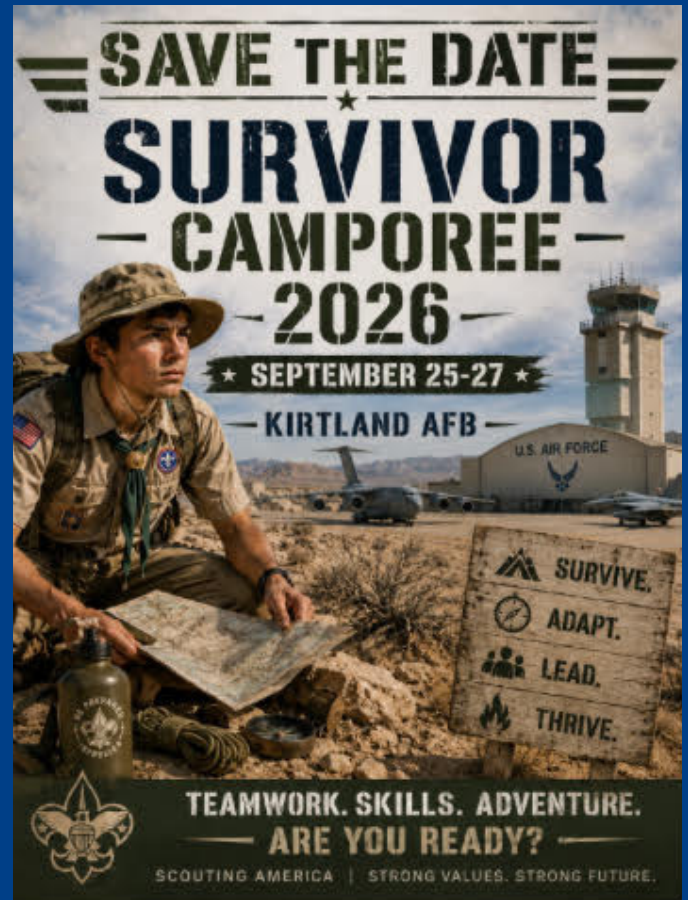
Location: Albuquerque

Join Scouts from across the council for a weekend of camping, competition, and outdoor adventure! This year's Survival theme features hands-on challenges, patrol competitions, wilderness skills, and fellowship.

Scouts will have the opportunity to complete portions of the Wilderness Survival Merit Badge while putting their skills to the test.

Come prepared to compete, camp, and have fun!

Registration opening August 7th [Click here](#)



We are asking for each unit to send at lease one volunteer to help!
Please send an email to sparkstribes2003@yahoo.com

Long Term Planning!



Western Tech MBU Oct 10, 2026

Location: El Paso

Merit Badge University: Scouts can choose from a variety of merit badges, including Welding, Communication, Public Speaking, and more

Get ready for one of the biggest Cub Scout events of the year on October 24th!

Cuboree is a weekend full of outdoor adventure, camping, games, activities, crafts, and family fun. Join Cub Scouts from across the council for an unforgettable weekend of Scouting. Must have BALOO trained adult participate with your unit!

More details and registration coming soon!

SAVE the DATE!

CUBOREE
ADVENTURE • FUN • MEMORIES

Get ready for a weekend packed with adventure, outdoor fun, games, activities, and unforgettable memories for Cub Scouts and their families!

Scouts will explore, learn, and have a blast while building friendships and Scouting spirit.

SAVE THE DATE!
OCTOBER 23-25, 2026
LOCATION: COMING SOON!

DON'T MISS
ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING CUB SCOUT EVENTS OF THE YEAR!

Scouting America | MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON! | Adventure is Calling!

Long Term Planning!

SAVE THE DATE!



Health MBU
NOV 7TH, 2026
9 AM - 4PM

PRESBYTERIAN HEALTHCARE ADVANCED LEARNING LAB
9521 SAN MATEO BLVD NE, ABQ

HIGH DESERT COUNCIL



SCOUT DAY
AT
NMSTATE
NOVEMBER 21ST
SAVE THE DATE!

COLLEGE FOOTBALL EXCITEMENT! | SCOUTS & FAMILIES WELCOMED! | FUN, FRIENDS & AGGIE PRIDE! | SUPPORT NM STATE!

MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!

BSA
KLONDIKE
DERBY

JANUARY 16-18, 2027



CAMP DALE RESLER
1077 COLUMBINE BLVD
CLOUDCROFT, NM 88317

CHALLENGE YOUR PATROL IN A WEEKEND OF
WINTER COMPETITIONS, TEAMWORK,
AND SCOUT SKILLS!

+ CAMPING IS OPTIONAL. +

COMING SOON

SAVE THE DATE!

**ABQ METRO AREA
SCOUTING FOR FOOD 2027**

SATURDAY FEB 6TH
SATURDAY FEB 13TH

LOCATIONS TBD



Libertsons Market | **The STOREHOUSE New Mexico**

Popcorn Info



AUGUST		
	AUGUST 13	Trail's End Unit Onboarding Completed in Leader Portal
	AUGUST 17	Storefront Auto Assignment (VIP Only)
	AUGUST 19	Storefront Manual Adjustment / Claiming Opens
	AUGUST 26	Release Excess Storefronts — be kind, do it early & often!
	AUGUST 16 – 28	First Product Order Window Opens Aug 16 – Submit by Aug 28, 7:00 PM

Join our BAND App for important announcements and the latest popcorn updates throughout the season:

Invitation Link: <https://band.us/n/abaeA7r8O910V>

Check out our resource pack for lots of great information!

[Click here to Download Packet](#)

For more information - visit our [Mission Popcorn Website](#)