



Commissioner Newsletter

Your Single, Best Resource.

April 13, 2026 Edition

“We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win, and the others, too.” – John F. Kennedy

New Four-Month Program Planner for Cub Scout Packs

The Four-Month Program Planner provides a roadmap for leaders who want to guide their Scouts through Badge of Rank requirements in four months. By following the planner, a Scout can complete all six required Adventures and two Elective Adventures, freeing the rest of the year for additional electives, activities, and fun without the pressure of advancement deadlines.

The planner begins each month with a Parents’ meeting, helping leaders involve families in the program and share responsibilities for the month’s activities. In the first month, an additional introductory meeting for Cub Scouts and parents helps build connections between new and returning Pack families.

The guide then outlines a week-by-week program plan, including required and elective Adventures, a service project, and a campout for Arrow of Light Scouts. For the first elective Adventure, the planner suggests a Raingutter Regatta, though Packs could choose to run a Pinewood Derby instead. A second elective Adventure is left entirely up to the Pack.

The Planner will be available as a two-page guide and card deck with instructions and QR codes linking to resources for each activity and will be showcased at the National Annual Meeting.

[This video](#) below provides a brief introduction to the Planner.

Scoutbook Plus Added Features

At the request of leaders, member icons now include male and female versions, and leader icons face left so they are easier to distinguish from youth who face right. Also, on the roster, Member IDs are now displayed when grouped by sub-unit. These updates make Scoutbook Plus more intuitive and helps to find the information needed faster.

Recruiting Resources for Venturing

The Venturing Program webinar on recruiting resources is now available to watch on demand [here](#). This is a valuable resource for leaders looking to grow their crew, reach more teens, or explore fresh, effective ideas.

Philmont Advisor Skill School (PASS)

Registration for PASS is now open for Fall 2026 and Winter 2027. This is an action-packed weekend hiking into the backcountry, sleeping under the stars, planning treks with Philmont Staff, and mastering skills. Participants will get exclusive sneak peeks at new programs, meals, and gear. Details and registration [here](#).

Summer Camp Jobs

Summer camp jobs are open right now, and it is a great way to help kids grow, build real experience, and make memories. For those looking for something more than just another seasonal job, this is it. Check out the openings [here](#) and apply today.

Scouting for Clean Waterways

Scouting America has launched the second annual national Scouting for Clean Waterways initiative, bringing Scouts, families, and volunteers together to protect and restore local rivers, lakes, shorelines, and wetlands. In partnership with NOAA, the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, and CleanHub, the program builds on last year's momentum, combining hands-on conservation, environmental education, and community engagement. This initiative aligns with the Impact 365 program, turning sustained volunteer action into measurable environmental outcomes. More details and participation information are available [here](#).

Teaching About Disability Awareness Through Simulated Experiences

A common method for helping youth understand the challenges faced by people with disabilities is through disability simulations. Scouting, with its focus on hands-on learning, naturally lends itself to this type of experiential education. While simulations can provide valuable insight, they also have limitations and potential drawbacks. Discover more about how to approach this topic effectively [here](#).

Safeguarding Youth Refresher Training Now Available

Those who have completed the Safeguarding Youth Training (SYT) course, and it is currently active or has expired within the last 7 days, are eligible to take the Refresher Training. If the full SYT training has been expired for 7 days or more, the full SYT must be completed again.

Participants taking the Refresher Training must successfully pass the exam on the first attempt to receive credit for the Y01 training code. If the exam is not passed, the system will automatically route you to the full SYT course to ensure a complete review of the material.

Reminder: National Marketing Webinar, April 16

A national marketing webinar for volunteers focusing on fall marketing plans will take place via Zoom on April 16 at 8 pm ET. Encourage your volunteers to register [here](#).

Reminder: Youth Leadership in Exploring Webinar, April 23

A Zoom session on April 23 at 8 ET will focus on leadership within Exploring. The session will cover the role of youth officers in managing a Post's program and the ways Commissioners can support officer elections and training. Register [here](#).

Reminder: IMPACT 365 - Scouts Trash the Trash Day, May 2

Scouts Trash the Trash Day is a global Messengers of Peace service project that brings Scouts together to clean up their communities while making a positive impact on the environment. Held on the first Saturday in May, each Scout is encouraged to bring a friend or family member and collect at least one kilo, about 2.2 pounds, of trash. Learn more [here](#).

Reminder: Scouts Read Sacred Text, May 7

The Scouts Read Sacred Texts encourages youth to spend time reading their sacred texts as part of living the Scout Oath and reflecting on their Duty to God. Participation can take place individually, with family members, or as part of a unit activity, while respecting each Scout's faith tradition. Learn more [here](#).

Reminder: Commissioner Week at Philmont Training Center, June 7 – 13

Join commissioners at the Philmont Training Center the week of June 7 – 13. Expand your skills, explore new ideas, and connect with like-minded leaders while experiencing the magic of Philmont. Learn more [here](#). Already registered, reach out and invite your Scouting friends.

Social Media Is Where We First Share

Access news as it breaks by following the Commissioners of Scout America's [Facebook page](#) and [Instagram account](#) and help spread the word about Scouting by liking and sharing posts.

Service Is One of Our Middle Names

The National Commissioner Service Team (NCST) exists to serve commissioners. Learn who are the members of the 2025-26 team are and what they do [here](#).

Ask A Commissioner

Q. I'm a unit commissioner and one of the packs I serve is having trouble recruiting on school campuses. What should they do?

A. If a pack is struggling to recruit on school campuses, reach out to the district and council membership teams. Often those teams already have relationships with schools and can help the pack gain access in ways that follow current policies.

I would also recommend shifting more of the recruiting effort into the community. Families gather at church events, fall festivals, youth sports sign-ups, and community nights. Setting up a simple table with photos of recent pack activities and talking directly with parents can be much more effective than sending home flyers. Your best approach is to “show” rather than to “tell.”

Another important step is making sure the pack’s information is correct and active on BeAScout.org. Many families search online first, and a fast response to inquiries can make a big difference. Consider a website and social media accounts too.

Finally, I would suggest hosting a fun open event instead of a traditional recruiting meeting. Something simple like a rocket launch, campfire night, bacon eating competition, or outdoor activity allows families to experience Scouting first. When kids have fun right away, parents are much more likely to sign them up.

For more ideas, go [here](#).

You have questions? Commissioners have answers!

Reach out by email: commissionerserviceteam@scouting.org



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