



Commissioner Newsletter

Your Single, Best Resource.

August 4, 2025 Edition

"We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say, 'It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.' Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes." – Fred Rogers

Safe Scouting Summit, September 14 - 17

Registration is now open for the Safe Scouting Summit at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. Held just before the National Outdoor Conference, this event gathers national safety leaders, risk management experts, and camp professionals for three days of learning, collaboration, and innovation aimed at enhancing safety in Scouting.

Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of program safety frameworks, explore best practices in youth and adult risk management, connect directly with Scouting's top health and safety officers, and work with peers to create safer Scouting experiences. The summit is perfect for those responsible for safety and risk in Council Service Territories and local councils, including risk management teams, health and safety officers, camp health officers, high adventure leaders, key volunteers, and professional staff.

If safeguarding youth and adults in Scouting is your mission, the Safe Scouting Summit is for you. Learn more and register [here](#).

National Outdoor Conference, September 17 - 21

The theme, "Rooted in the Outdoors: Scouting's Path Forward," sets the stage for an inspiring week of growth, learning, and collaboration. Attendees will enjoy powerful keynote speakers, in-depth elective sessions, vendor exhibits, and opportunities to connect with some of the top outdoor minds in Scouting. This year's focus areas include: Leading Youth Safety Forward, Collaboration & Change, Youth-Relevant Programs, Brand Revitalization, and Financial Strength & Sustainability. Learn more [here](#) and be sure to go [here](#) to reserve your spot!

New Social Media Playbook Helps to Tell the Story of Scouting

Social media remains one of the most powerful tools for sharing the story of Scouting and inviting new families to join this incredible movement. As we head into recruiting season, be sure to use a brand-new Social Media Playbook designed to help everyone—from beginners to seasoned pros—navigate the top platforms and share the fun, adventure, and impact of

Scouting like never before. Whether posting for a unit, council, or personal account, [this guide](#) will equip with tips, tools, and strategies to make a message resonate and inspire.

Making Custom Marketing Collateral is Now Much Easier

There's a new, exciting way to create eye-catching flyers, banners, postcards, and more—directly within the Brand Center. No design experience is needed to begin. With easy-to-use templates, you can add approved photos, custom text, and important details. The finished project can be saved and downloaded for printing or sharing—all without leaving the Brand Center. Whether promoting Cub Scouts or Scouts BSA, there are plenty of templates available. For help to get started, check out the [step-by-step instructions](#) or watch a [short tutorial video](#). Then dive in and begin customizing recruitment materials today.

Scouts BSA Troop Online Self-Assessment Tool

Scouts BSA recently launched an online self-assessment tool for troops. Previously, this was a PDF form, but it is now available in an online format. The program is not a patch or recognition initiative but a resource to help leaders identify their unit's strengths and challenges, providing real-time resources and relevant information to address concerns. The self-assessment should complement the Commissioners of Scouting America connection guides and serve as an effective discussion point. More information can be found [here](#).

Scouts BSA Youth Council Application Window Closing Soon

The Scouts BSA Youth Council applications are open until August 15th. Scouts BSA members aged 14-17 who are First Class or higher and currently hold, or have held, a leadership position may apply. More information may be found [here](#).

Upgrade to the Renewal Process

Starting this month, Scouting America will begin sending direct text reminders to members about upcoming renewals. These helpful reminders will be sent out 45 days before the membership expiration.

MyScouting Mobile App Update

Effective August 18, the Scouting Calendar and Announcements features in the MyScouting mobile app will be discontinued. Unit leaders can continue to manage events and communications using the calendar feature in Scoutbook Plus. This updated platform offers a streamlined way to plan events, send announcements, and stay connected with your unit. We encourage all leaders to begin using Scoutbook Plus to ensure a smooth transition and uninterrupted communication.

Scoutbook Plus

Scoutbook Plus will begin alerting parents and guardians who are not linked to their children in Akela, the membership database, that they need to verify their connections by December 31, 2025, or their access will be restricted. These connections are crucial for managing membership renewals and registrations. Stay up-to-date with changes to Scoutbook and ask your questions by visiting this [link](#).

Messenger of Peace Program Guide

The Messenger of Peace program is a global initiative that encourages Scouts to take an active role in creating a better world. The program empowers young people to engage in community service, promote peace, and address local and global challenges through sustainable projects. Scouts participating in the program share their efforts to inspire others, fostering a global network of youth dedicated to positive change and peacebuilding. For more information, access the 2025 program guide [here](#).

Save the Date: National Cub Scout Program Update Conference, December 12 - 15

Join the National Chair of Cub Scouting, the National Cub Scouting Commissioner, and the National Director of Cub Scouting for a weekend in the Florida Keys. Get a complete update on the newest resources to support Cub Scout leaders, provide feedback on resources that are being developed, and get insight into what is being developed for the 2026 - 27 program year.

The conference is for those who are willing and able to serve as a resource for councils as they support Cub Scout leaders. Participants will become fully informed and empowered to present what they learn on a territory, council, district, or pack level.

The conference will begin on Friday evening, December 12th, with an opening dinner and social. Saturday will be filled with sessions with time to enjoy the amenities of the Florida Sea Base, including a sunset cruise. Sunday will conclude with a closing luncheon.

Get Access to News As It Breaks

Follow the [Commissioners of Scout America's Facebook page](#) and [Instagram account](#) and help spread the word about Scouting by liking and sharing posts.

Your National Commissioner Service Team Serves You

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. How do we encourage training?

A. Let's start with why... Why is training important to every Scout leader? Individuals' motivation varies, but at the core, it's to be the best Scouter we can be. If we're going to invest our time and resources, training helps us maximize our impact. Here are some ideas:

- Increase awareness - personal invites are so much better than a mass email.
- Communicate the value - connect their investment of time to the impact, confidence, and experience that will result.
- Make it accessible - offer multiple delivery methods and simplify sign-ups.
- Set expectations - build a culture that sees training as a normal part of the Scouting journey
- Recognize - acknowledge completion of training publicly. On that note... a shout out to Coastal Carolina Council, where 100% of their leaders are "Specific" trained.

Q. How do Scout leaders develop a better relationship with their charter partner?

A. The relationship between the unit and its charter partner and/or host should benefit both parties. The contractual obligations are spelled out in the annual charter agreement, but the key is to understand what both parties expect out of and value most in the relationship.

Here are some practices to consider:

- Provide regular updates on their Scouting program and how it benefits the youth - and aligns with the values and goals of the chartered partner.
- Find ways to be helpful and visible to the institution's members. A service project or uniformed attendance at one of its events are small ways to show appreciation to the organization.
- Be transparent, trusted, and professional in all communications with the partner. This will help for when the inevitable problem arises.
- Cultivate a culture of appreciation. Respect their facility. Small gestures, such as thank-you notes and recognitions, will affirm the value of the partner's support.

Q. How many units do not have an assigned commissioner?

A. Of the 38,412 units in Scouting America, 43% do not have a commissioner assigned to be their “single, best resource”. If you are willing to support one or two local units, reach out to your district commissioner or executive.

Q. How are commissioners to view the "JTE replacement" that Scouts BSA has released?

A. This new “troop self-assessment” is an internal planning tool for the unit. It is not a monitoring or recognition system like the former Journey to Excellence (JTE) system. The assessment includes nine brief surveys to help the unit understand how they’re doing and where improvements can be made. Five of these surveys are designed for the committee or Scoutmasters, while four are best answered by youth leaders. The unit leadership decides whether to share the survey results and any related goals outside of the unit.

The objective unit metrics found in Commissioner Tools complement this new troop assessment tool by measuring the likelihood of a unit renewing its charter. If a troop elects to share their self-assessment with their commissioner, that’s great! That would enable the commissioner to be a more useful resource and partner.

To see the assessment tool, go [here](#).

You have questions? Commissioners have answers!

Reach out by email: commissionerserviceteam@scouting.org



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