



Commissioner Newsletter

Your Single, Best Resource.

July 13, 2026 Edition

"Perseverance is not a long race. It is many short races one after the other." - Walter Elliot

An Enhanced BeAScout Experience Starts Soon

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.

Starting July 9, unit leaders could begin updating several new fields in their Unit Pin within Organization Manager: Fundraising Helps Cover Costs, Trial Visit Encouraged Unit Fee, and Meeting Schedule (meeting frequency, meeting day, start time, and end time). Changes made before August 3 will not appear on BeAScout until the updated experience launches.

Merit Badge Digital Resource Guides

New digital resource guide for Eagle-required Citizenship in the World, Environmental Science and Cycling merit badges and for Fingerprinting badge are now available to complement traditional pamphlets. Learn more [here](#).

Stronger Leaders, Stronger Packs: Training Awards Update

The Cub Scout Training Awards have been updated to better recognize and support volunteer leaders, with a focus on flexibility, accessibility, and program impact. These awards continue to affirm a leader's readiness to deliver a high-quality Cub Scout experience.

[Den Leader Training Award](#) – One-year, repeatable, flexible requirements

[Scouter's Training Award](#) – Two-year focus on training and engagement

[Cubmaster's Key](#) – Three-year emphasis on leadership and planning

Actively promote these awards as achievable milestones, integrate them into training and communication channels, and recognize completions.

Halloween Bookmarks Update

Halloween bookmarks were popular last year and will return this year. They will be shipped directly to Councils in September for distribution. There is an editable [bookmark template](#) available on BSA Brand Center. This is a great way for Packs to reach their target audience.

Guidance for Laser Tag and Squirt Tag & Squirt Guns Published

New SAFE Checklists for both [laser tag](#) and [squirt gun](#) activities are now available to help leaders plan safe, fun experiences. The checklists outline supervision, risk assessment, participant fitness, and equipment requirements.

Key reminders include:

- Laser tag is permitted only at indoor commercial facilities with proper supervision and facility-provided equipment.
- Squirt gun activities must be held outdoors using approved non-pressurized water guns, with eye protection required and no aiming at the face or head.

Unit Commissioner Retention Fast Start Webinar

Did you miss the recent retention webinar for unit commissioners? You can watch a recording [here](#). Look under “National Level Training Events.” Our goal as commissioners is to achieve a retention of 70% or higher.

Follow Us On Social Media

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.

Ask a Commissioner

Q: I'm a new Cub Scout volunteer. What are some fun summer activities that help keep Scouts engaged while also attracting new families?

A: Summer is one of the best opportunities to grow your pack. Families are looking for fun, affordable activities, and a relaxed summer event gives prospective Scouts a chance to experience the excitement of Cub Scouting without the pressure of attending a formal meeting.

The best events are family friendly, easy to participate in, and showcase what makes Scouting unique. Consider activities like:

- Water Olympics with relay races, sponge tosses, and popsicles (and now, water guns!).
- Family Campfire Nights featuring songs, skits, flag ceremonies, bacon, and s'mores.

- Outdoor Movie Nights with popcorn and a pre-show game.
- Fishing Derbies at a local pond or park.
- Raingutter Regattas where Scouts race homemade boats.
- Rocket Launches paired with an ice cream social.
- Nature hikes with scavenger hunts and Leave No Trace activities.
- Bike Rodeos in partnership with your local police department.
- STEM Adventure Days featuring bottle rockets, catapults, and engineering challenges.
- Community service projects like park cleanups or assembling care kits.
- Kickball, Capture the Flag, or other family field games.
- Scout Skills Carnivals with stations for knot tying, first aid, tent pitching, and compass skills.
- Outdoor cookouts where families prepare simple camp recipes together.

A few simple tips can make these events even more successful:

- Encourage every Scout to invite a friend.
- Welcome siblings and parents to participate.
- Keep events to about two hours.
- End with food. Families tend to stay longer, build friendships, and ask questions about joining.
- If possible, invite a nearby Scouts BSA troop to help run activity stations. Younger Scouts enjoy interacting with older youth leaders.

Summer activities are more than just fun. They build friendships, strengthen families, and show prospective members what Cub Scouting is all about: adventure, leadership, service, and having fun together.

You have questions? Commissioners have answers!

Reach out by email: commissionerserviceteam@scouting.org



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