



# Commissioner Newsletter

*Your Single, Best Resource.*

**July 21, 2025 Edition**

“The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there.” - L.P. Hartley

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## **2025 Fall Cub Scouts Membership Recruitment Kick-Off – July 31**

Thursday, July 31, at 8:00 PM ET, Cub Scout unit leaders and council staff can hear from national and council-level volunteers and staff about effective strategies, success stories, and fresh ideas to enhance local recruitment efforts. The focus will be on fostering a strong recruitment mindset and generating momentum for reaching more families this Fall. Register [here](#).

## **2025 Scouts BSA Membership Recruitment Kick-Off – August 7**

Thursday, August 7, at 8:00 PM ET, Scouts BSA unit leaders and council staff will receive practical tools for a successful fall recruitment season. Led by a dynamic team of national and council-level volunteers and staff, the event will feature engaging sessions focused on proven strategies to enhance and expand local Scouts BSA programs. Register now [here](#).

## **Update to Training Requirements: Council Unit Representatives**

The Council Unit Representative (CUR) serves in the same capacity as the Chartered Organization Representative for units chartered by the Council. Systems have been updated to recognize this position as trained upon completion of the COR training in the Scouting America Learn Center.

## **Nominations Now Open for Scouting’s Highest Honor**

The Silver Buffalo Award, Scouting’s top national volunteer recognition, honors extraordinary service to youth — in or outside of Scouting. Past recipients include U.S. presidents and lifelong community leaders. The deadline to nominate someone is August 31, 2025. Help us recognize those making a powerful impact on youth. Learn more [here](#).

## **Family Adventure Camps**

Looking for a vacation the whole family will enjoy? Scouting America’s Family Adventure Camps are open to everyone and offer a unique blend of outdoor fun, relaxation, and adventure for all ages. Whether your family prefers high-energy activities or a slower-paced escape, there’s a

camp experience that fits your style. From tents to cabins, hiking trails to tropical waters, you can choose the comfort level and pace that works best for you.

“These camps are all about families spending time outdoors and creating memories you just can’t get anywhere else,” says Andrea Watson, Family Adventure Camp coordinator. Families with young kids, teens, grandparents — or all three — are welcome to explore, connect, and enjoy time together in nature.

There are currently four Family Adventure Camp locations to choose from. The Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia offers access to the scenic New River Gorge. Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico provides iconic western landscapes and history. Sea Base in the Florida Keys is a tropical getaway ideal during the winter months. And Camp Tahuaya near Waco, Texas, offers a wide variety of activities in a family-friendly campground setting.

No troop or pack required — just bring your sense of adventure. To learn more, check out the [recent #CubChatLive episode](#) with Andrea Watson, where she shares all the details about how your family can get involved.

### **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](#).

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## **Ask A Commissioner**

Q. How do I (as a unit commissioner) build a relationship with a unit leader?

A. Rather than suggest specific activities, let me suggest three milestones to achieve. What you do to achieve all three will depend on the culture of the unit and your personal skills.

1. Be known. First impressions matter. Appear friendly and willing to help. Exchange contact information. If possible, do something together like a meal or activity.
2. Be liked. Authenticity and kindness are key. Provide your complete attention (listen) and put your smart phone away.
3. Be trusted. Responsiveness and dependability show respect. Follow through and communicate effectively.

Q. I’m a district commissioner with a new district executive. What are some things I can do to help both of us succeed?

A. MCS 314 is a good source for information on how the professional and commissioner can collaborate. Here are some ideas pulled from the presenter notes:

- Plan the committee and commissioner agendas as a Key 3.
- Work together to consider the best people for each district job.
- Sit beside each other in meetings so coaching can happen (both ways).
- Set goals and share with each other.
- Be willing to share with each other when special problems arise in a unit.
- Show a desire to be part of the unit-creation process.

Remember that professionals do not work for the volunteers, but with them as partners on behalf of youth. To find out more, go to the [Masters course page](#) of the commissioner website.

Q. What is the difference between “affiliate” groups and “affinity” groups in Scouting America?

A. Scouting America “affiliates” connect alumni with shared experiences. Examples would include participation at a high adventure base, achieving Eagle Scout, participation in a Wood Badge course, Order of the Arrow, and camp staff alumni.

“Affinity” groups are connected by shared interests outside of core Scouting activities. NESA supports Eagle Scout groups with common careers in law enforcement, firefighting, and emergency medical services. There are also affinity groups for law, educators, and those interested in STEM.

For more information, follow [this link](#).

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**You have questions? Commissioners have answers!**

Reach out by email: [commissionerserviceteam@scouting.org](mailto:commissionerserviceteam@scouting.org)

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