



Commissioner Newsletter

Your Single, Best Resource.

July 6, 2026 Edition

“The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things.” - Ronald Reagan

Scouting is Better with friends!

Following the success of last year's recruiting initiative, Scouting America Outfitters is bringing back the FREE Recruiter Strip program for the 2026 recruiting season.

Beginning August 1, every ScoutShop.org online order will include a two-sided flyer explaining how Scouts can earn a FREE Recruiter Strip by inviting a friend to attend a den or pack meeting and encouraging them to join. The promotion is also featured in the 2026 Cub Scout Welcome Kit.

Once a new Scout joins, the recruiting Scout simply completes the information on the flyer or postcard and takes it to their local Scout Shop to receive a FREE Recruiter Strip. Scout Shops will be reimbursed monthly by Scouting America Outfitters through the established submission process.

New Scoutbook Plus Features

Blue Card now supports the new Blue Card format (SKU 661944), making it easy to print the latest official card. Merit Badge Counselors can now use the Messaging feature to send emails directly to Scouts and their parents, with the ability to filter recipients by Merit Badge for more efficient communication. If you're registered in multiple positions, be sure to select your Merit Badge Counselor role before sending emails to the Scouts you are counseling. These enhancements are designed to make communication easier and help you manage your Scouting responsibilities more effectively.

BeAScout.Org

Please remind your units to check and update their BeAScout pin to ensure their contact information and meeting details are current. If you want to grow a unit, it starts with being easy for families to find. Just as important, encourage unit leaders to respond quickly when a new lead comes in. Families are actively looking for Scouting opportunities, and a fast response while their interest is high can make all the difference. Quick updates, quick responses, real growth.

Plan Now for JOTA-JOTI

JOTA-JOTI, the world's largest digital and radio Scouting event, returns October 16 through 18, 2026. This exciting global event gives Scouts and Scouters the opportunity to make new friends, explore different cultures, share ideas, and participate in engaging activities with participants from around the world, all without leaving home. Whether communicating over amateur radio during Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) or connecting online through Jamboree-on-the-Internet (JOTI), participants experience the true spirit of worldwide Scouting. Mark your calendars now and start planning with your units. Registration opened July 1. Learn more [here](#).

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 serve as a Unit Commissioner for a troop whose Scoutmaster is concerned that leaders in a neighboring troop are encouraging Eagle Scouts to wear the Eagle Scout Graduation Honor Cord at graduation ceremonies despite a school district policy that only allows honors and recognitions earned through the school. He has also been told that Scouts are being advised to conceal the cord until after school officials complete attire checks and then put it on before walking across the stage.

The Scoutmaster believes this reflects poorly on all Eagle Scouts and has asked for guidance. He has families who want him to take the same stance of the leadership of the nearby troop. What would be the appropriate response as a commissioner?

A: I see this play-out online every spring. Your situation is not unique.

If a school district has a policy prohibiting non-school honors from being worn at graduation, Scouts and Scouters should respect that policy. While the Eagle Scout rank is a significant achievement worthy of recognition, intentionally circumventing school rules by concealing an Eagle Scout Graduation Honor Cord until after inspections raises concerns.

As a commissioner, a reasonable response would be to affirm that leaders should encourage Scouts to follow school policies and model ethical behavior. If Scouts, parents, or unit leaders believe Eagle Scout recognition should be permitted, the appropriate course is to work with school administrators to seek a policy exception or change rather than intentionally bypassing existing rules.

Encouraging compliance with school policies aligns with both the Scout Law and Scouting America's mission of preparing young people to make ethical and moral choices throughout their lives.

You have questions? Commissioners have answers!

Reach out by email: commissionerserviceteam@scouting.org



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