



Commissioner Newsletter

Your Single, Best Resource.

June 22, 2026 Edition

"Experience is the name that everyone gives to their mistakes." – Oscar Wilde

Loneliness has become a growing global challenge, with the World Health Organization reporting that 1 in 6 people worldwide experience loneliness. The impact is especially significant among teenagers and young adults, where chronic loneliness is linked to higher rates of depression, lower academic performance, and reduced overall well-being.

New research from a Harris Poll conducted on behalf of Scouting America suggests that structured youth programs can play an important role in helping young people build meaningful connections and a sense of belonging. The study found that only 11% of Eagle Scouts reported frequently feeling lonely, compared to 23% of adults who never participated in Scouting. Eagle Scouts were also more likely to report having a strong sense of purpose and higher levels of happiness.

The findings reinforce an important lesson - belonging is not created through technology alone. It develops through shared experiences, teamwork, mentorship, service, leadership opportunities, and being part of a community where young people are encouraged to contribute and grow.

As communities continue to address the challenges of youth loneliness and isolation, programs that foster connection, responsibility, and personal growth remain more important than ever. Providing young people with opportunities to build relationships, develop confidence, and discover purpose can have a lasting impact that extends well into adulthood.

Read a full description of the Harris Poll results [here](#).

Eagles on the Hill Reception Highlights Scouting's Civic Impact

Scouting America hosted the Eagles on the Hill reception in Washington, D.C., bringing Eagle Scouts, youth leaders, adult volunteers, lawmakers, and legislative staff together on Capitol Hill. The reception offered the opportunity to engage directly with federal leaders and share how Scouting prepares young people for lives of character, leadership, and service. Roger Krone, president and CEO of Scouting America, shared details of the experience [here](#) on LinkedIn.

Safeguarding Youth Training Update

The final fixes are now live in Training Manager for Safeguarding Youth Training. Here's what you need to know:

If you previously completed the old Youth Protection Training, you'll be linked to the new 90-minute Safeguarding Youth Training to renew your status.

If you already completed the newer Safeguarding Youth Training, you'll be linked to the 20-minute refresher course.

There's a 30-day grace period to complete the refresher after your current training expires. After that, the full 90-minute course will be required for annual renewal.

Make sure to check your training status soon so you stay up to date!

Looking for New Ways to Grow Your Pack?

Here's a great idea from Pack 224 in Willmar, Minnesota!

They hosted a community Bike Rodeo and invited Cub Scouts to bring a sibling or friend. Participants learned bike safety skills, helmet fitting, hand signals, and safe street-crossing techniques before putting their skills to the test on a fun riding course.

The key membership lesson? Don't just invite prospective families to a meeting; invite them to an adventure! Fun, hands-on events like bike rodeos, fishing derbies, rocket launches, hiking days, and community service projects give families a chance to experience Cub Scouting firsthand.

When youth bring a friend to an exciting activity, they see the fun, friendship, and learning that Cub Scouts offers. It's a simple, effective way to showcase your program and welcome new families into Scouting.

Learn more [here](#) in this very detailed coverage that shows what a successful event looks like.

Improving Retention Begins With One Simple Question

Want to improve volunteer retention? Start by asking one simple question: Are people having fun? As longtime Scouting volunteer Larry Green noted, people stay involved when they enjoy the experience. While organizations often focus on recruitment, policies, and processes, retention is driven by creating meaningful, engaging, and rewarding experiences. When volunteers feel connected, valued, challenged, and appreciated, they are more likely to return. People may join because they believe in the mission, but they stay because they enjoy being part of it. Learn more by reading [this recent](#) OnScouting story.

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

Question: Our Troop struggles to get adults to attend outings. We tried requiring parents to attend two outings each year, but they ignored us or pulled their kid from the program. What would you suggest?

Answer: Your situation is common. Adults don't respond well to demands, especially when they feel participation is being treated as a condition for their child's membership. The good news is that units usually see improvement when they shift from "compliance expectations" to "clear roles, smaller commitments, and meaningful invitations."

A first step is to separate "helping on outings" from "being an adult leader." Many parents assume they have to commit fully or not at all. In reality, most successful units build a ladder of involvement. At the base level, a parent might just help drive once or twice a year. One step up might be helping reserve campsites. Another level might be serving as a registered adult who goes on outings a few times per year.

The second shift is replacing requirements with specific, low-pressure invitations. Instead of "each family must have an adult who attends two outings," try something like: "We need 3 adults for this campout to run safely. Here are the open spots." Then describe exactly what those adults will do, such as "help with transportation" or "be a general supervision adult."

Another important factor is recognizing adult contribution publicly and consistently. Simple acknowledgment at meetings or in newsletters helps, but more importantly, make sure adults see that their presence directly improves youth experience.

Finally, be careful with policies that unintentionally push people away. Requiring attendance can feel like pressure on families who are already stretched thin. A better approach is to build a culture where participation is normal, appreciated, and flexible rather than enforced.

You have questions? Commissioners have answers!

Reach out by email: commissionerserviceteam@scouting.org



Prepared. For Life.®

