



# Commissioner Newsletter

*Your Single, Best Resource.*

**March 30, 2026 Edition**

“A good leader inspires people to believe in the leader. A great leader inspires people to believe in themselves.” - Eleanor Roosevelt

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Servant leadership is central to fulfilling the mission of Scouting America, and new research reinforces just how powerful service can be in shaping young people.

A recent study from Gallup and the Allstate Foundation found that youth who participate in service and volunteer activities report significantly stronger outcomes in career readiness, community connection, and resilience.

Based on a national survey of more than 3,000 young people ages 12 to 25, the research found:

- 52 percent say service helped them feel more prepared for a future career
- 48 percent of youth who serve say they are confident they can achieve the career they want, compared with 33 percent who do not serve
- 79 percent report service helped them feel more connected to their community
- Two-thirds say they feel capable of handling whatever challenges come their way

Youth who spend more time serving report even greater confidence in leadership, teamwork, communication, and problem-solving.

The findings highlight an important truth: service does more than help communities. It helps young people build the mindset, skills, and resilience they need to succeed in life. Programs that emphasize service and leadership are not just meaningful experiences. They are powerful tools for youth development. Read the full report [here](#).

## **National Marketing Webinar, April 16**

A national marketing webinar for volunteers focusing on fall marketing plans will take place via Zoom on April 16 at 8 pm ET. The session will provide practical tools, ready-to-use messaging, and simple strategies to help boost fall recruitment in local communities. Participants will also learn digital tips, shareable content, and ways to amplify Scouting locally, giving them everything needed to make this season a success. Encourage your volunteers to register [here](#).

## **Youth Leadership in Exploring Webinar, April 23**

Exploring is recognized as a Career Education program, but it also emphasizes life skills, citizenship, character education, and leadership experience. A Zoom session on April 23 at 8 ET will focus on leadership within Exploring. The session will cover the role of youth officers in managing a Post's program and the ways Commissioners can support officer elections and training. It will also introduce the Exploring Leadership Experience, a mentored program providing interactive instruction, self-reflection, and practical leadership application. Completion of the program will result in formal recognition for Explorers. Register [here](#).

## **Scouts Read Sacred Text, May 7**

The Scouts Read Sacred Texts event takes place the week of the National Day of Prayer on May 7, 2026. The event encourages youth in Scouting America to spend time reading their sacred texts as part of living the Scout Oath and reflecting on their Duty to God. Participation can take place individually, with family members, or as part of a unit activity, while respecting each Scout's faith tradition. Learn more [here](#).

## **Spring Has Spring and Tools for Spring Recruiting are Available**

The new Spring into Scouting resources are available in the Brand Center. These ready-to-go materials make it easy to support local marketing efforts, share the message of Scouting, and reach new families. Spring is a great time to invite new youth to get involved, try something new, and start their Scouting journey. Grab the resources [here](#).

## **New Programs and Initiatives**

A recent #CubChatLive featured a chat with Ryan Moon, Director of New Programs, for an inside look at the exciting new programs and initiatives. These include a new program for 21 - 35-year-olds, an option for chartering organizations to offer all Scouting programs under one umbrella, seasonal Cub Scouting, and paid Troop leadership. Learn about these and more [here](#).

## **New Scoutbook Enhancements**

Scoutbook just rolled out a update that will make a big difference for leaders and parents who manage awards. The sequencing for NOAA Award devices and Eagle Palms has been cleaned up. At the top of the Awards page, you will now see simple dropdown options for both, which makes selecting and organizing them much faster.

## **Range and Target Supervision**

Does your unit want to conduct a Range and Target Activity. Learn how to help them prepare to do so [here](#).

## **IMPACT 365 - Scouts Trash the Trash Day, May 2**

Scouts Trash the Trash Day is a global Messengers of Peace service project that brings Scouts together to clean up their communities while making a positive impact on the environment. Held on the first Saturday in May, each Scout is encouraged to bring a friend or family member and collect at least one kilo, about 2.2 pounds, of trash. The idea is simple but powerful. By inviting someone else to participate, every Scout can help double the impact while also showing others the value of service and caring for the planet. Learn more [here](#).

## **The Adventure Plan Has Returned**

It's back and better than ever! The Adventure Plan, or TAP, is the go-to website for planning safe, fun, and unforgettable Scout outings. Using six steps called Waypoints, TAP guides you through everything from weighing options and handling logistics to creating itineraries and reflecting on your adventures. With links to Scouting resources and a full Resources section, it makes answering "how do we..." questions easier than ever. Every Scout and leader should have this tool in their toolkit. Access TAP [here](#).

## **Reminder: Commissioner Week at Philmont Training Center, June 7 – 13**

Join commissioners at the Philmont Training Center the week of June 7 – 13. Expand your skills, explore new ideas, and connect with like-minded leaders while experiencing the magic of Philmont. Learn more [here](#). Already registered, reach out and invite your Scouting friends.

## **We Are 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.

## **Commissioners Make a Difference**

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 can unit commissioners help attract and retain adult leaders in Scouting America?

A. Unit commissioners can be the catalyst for actively building a pipeline of future leaders. Reach out to families, alumni, and community members instead of waiting for volunteers to step forward. Ask current leaders to recommend one person they trust who could step into a role next year.

Once a adult joins, support them immediately. Pair them with an experienced volunteer. Check in often the first 60 days and give clear, practical guidance so they gain confidence quickly.

Make expectations clear from the start. Explain what the role actually requires, what success looks like, and how much time it should take. When people know what they are signing up for, they stay longer and avoid burnout. New leaders don't find "just one hour a week" to be funny.

Recognize effort early and often. Say thank you in person. Mention their work in meetings. Highlight their impact in front of parents and other leaders. Give them bacon. Small, consistent recognition keeps people motivated and reminds them their time matters.

Reduce pressure by building teams instead of relying on one person. Encourage leaders to share responsibilities and connect them with leaders from other units so they can trade ideas and support each other. Strong peer support keeps volunteers from feeling overwhelmed.

Step in quickly when problems appear. Address conflicts, confusion about roles, or program issues before they grow into frustration. Fast support shows leaders they are not alone and makes them far more likely to stay.

Every conversation with a volunteer should strengthen their confidence, remind them they matter, and make them want to stay. The most powerful tool a commissioner has is not a title or advanced training. It is a sincere, timely thank you that shows their work is seen and valued. Just like the youth we serve, adult volunteers want "to live a life of impact and purpose."

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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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