



Commissioner Newsletter

Your Single, Best Resource.

May 25, 2026 Edition

“The ear of the leader must ring with the voices of the people.” — Woodrow Wilson

Scouting America Trail Map Released

The Scouting America Trail Map: A Path to Enterprise Strength and Membership Growth served as a major focus during the 2026 National Annual Meeting, outlining a clear vision for our organization’s future growth and long-term impact. The Trail Map, found [here](#), is centered around three key priorities: maintaining a relentless focus on volunteers, simplifying and digitizing operations to scale for growth, and reinvesting in strategies that attract more youth to Scouting programs.

Underlying every part of the Trail Map is a shared foundation and commitment to being a leader in S.A.F.E.garding Youth, with a prevention-first mindset guiding every trail and every decision. Together, these priorities reflect Scouting America’s continued focus on strengthening the organization, supporting volunteers, expanding opportunities for youth, and ensuring a safe and positive experience for all members.

Minimum Age for Commissioner Service Changed

Effective with the 2026 National Annual Meeting, Scouting America has lowered the minimum age for commissioner registration from 21 to 18. Young adults who age out of the program can now transition directly into commissioner service, though no previous Scouting experience is required. The registration system has already been updated to reflect the new minimum age requirement.

The flexibility of commissioner service makes it an excellent fit for young adults balancing college, careers, and other life commitments. Volunteers can serve on a schedule that works for them while continuing to make a meaningful impact on Scouting.

Roles such as unit commissioner, assistant district commissioner, and assistant council commissioner are great entry points for those beginning their commissioner journey. Training, resources, and ongoing support will be provided every step of the way.

All that is needed is a desire to serve as the heart of Scouting, build meaningful relationships, and help change lives.

Change to Reregistration Policy

Effective immediately, any youth or adult whose membership has expired may reregister within 12 months of their expiration date without submitting a new application. The only exception is for adults transferring to a different unit with a different Chartered Organization Representative (COR), as a new application will still be required in that situation.

New Eagle Scout Study Results Shared During 2026 National Annual Meeting (NAM)

The results of a new research study, “Eagle Scouts: A Legacy of Values-Based Leadership and Service,” were revealed during the 2026 National Annual Meeting. Scouting America partnered with The Harris Poll to survey thousands of adults and study how Eagle Scouts compare to people who have not participated in Scouting.

The results of this survey help demonstrate the strong advantage Eagle Scouts gain and provide a powerful message about the value of Scouting to prospective members and donors.

Review and share this interactive website on the study [here](#) and download a printable booklet for the study [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? Then reach out and invite your Scouting friends.

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. This week, the National Annual Meeting is taking place in Dallas. We'll share news from the meeting throughout the week on social media.

Ask a Commissioner

Q. What should a unit commissioner do when a unit leader does not respond to requests to schedule a visit or attend a unit meeting?

A. Start by assuming good intent. Unit leaders are often busy with work, family, and program demands, so a lack of response does not always indicate reluctance.

Try a different method of contact. If email has not worked, follow up with a phone call or text if appropriate. Keep messages brief, friendly, and specific, such as offering two or three possible visit dates or asking for a short check-in after a unit meeting.

If there is still no response, reach out to another key contact in the unit, such as the committee chair, to help open communication or assist in scheduling. Sometimes messages simply do not reach the right person or get lost in a busy inbox.

Continue to be consistent but not intrusive. A unit commissioner's role is to support, not pressure. You can also attend a unit meeting if appropriate and introduce yourself briefly to build familiarity and trust, rather than focusing on a formal appointment.

If repeated attempts over time are unsuccessful, involve your assistant district commissioner or district commissioner. They may have additional insight or help facilitate a connection.

Throughout the process, document your contacts and attempts so the district has a clear picture of engagement.

The key is steady, respectful persistence. Many strong commissioner relationships begin after several attempts to connect.

You have questions? Commissioners have answers!

Reach out by email: commissionerserviceteam@scouting.org



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