



Commissioner Newsletter

Your Single, Best Resource.

October 13, 2025 Edition

“Anything that’s human is mentionable, and anything that is mentionable can be more manageable. When we can talk about our feelings, they become less overwhelming, less upsetting, and less scary.” — Fred Rogers

October is Mental Health Month

Membership in a Scouting America unit offers far more than skills, service, or outdoor fun — it can contribute meaningfully to long-term mental well-being. For example, a longitudinal study of over 9,600 individuals found that people who had participated in Scouting as children were about 15–20% less likely to suffer from mood or anxiety disorders later in life, even after accounting for socioeconomic and family background factors. Scouting amplifies the positive role of self-esteem in coping with stress, enhancing a sense of self-efficacy and emotional regulation. The structure of Scouting — regular group activities, mentorship, community support, and outdoor experiences — fosters resilience, social connectedness, and a strong sense of belonging, all well-known protective factors for mental health.

Monthly Membership Mixer, October 19

Register now for the next Monthly Membership Mixer taking place on Sunday, October 19, 2025, at 8:00 PM ET. The speaker is Pat Wellen, Director of Research and Strategy for Scouting America, who will present *“Takeaways from Recent Membership Research.”* The Mixer is intended for volunteers and professionals committed to expanding Scouting in their districts, councils, and CSTs. This is a valuable opportunity to gain insights, exchange ideas, and connect with others who share a dedication to strengthening Scouting communities. Advanced registration is required — secure your spot [here](#).

National Cub Scout Program Conference, December 12 - 14

The National Cub Scout Program Conference will be held December 12–14, 2025, at the beautiful Florida Sea Base in the Florida Keys. This unique event is designed for Cub Scout leaders who are passionate about the program and eager to help shape its future. Attendees will receive a comprehensive update on the newest resources available to support Cub Scout leaders, gain insight into what’s being developed for the 2026–2027 program year, and have the opportunity to provide feedback on materials currently in development. The conference is intended for those willing and able to serve as a resource within their councils and

communities—whether at the territory, council, district, or pack level. Participants will leave the event fully informed and empowered to share what they’ve learned with others. If you know a Cub Scout leader who is motivated to contribute at the national level and is recognized by their peers as an “influencer,” please encourage them to attend. More information about the event can be found [here](#).

BeAScout.Org Updates

Each year, hundreds of thousands of visitors come to BeAScout.org to learn more about Scouting and find a unit near them. To enhance the user experience, BeAScout has been given a slight makeover this season. Check out the updated site and continue to share it with anyone you know interested in joining.

The frequency of email notifications to the unit Key 3 for membership open leads and pending applications has been increased from twice a week to three times a week. Leads notification emails will be sent on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Pending Application notification emails will be sent on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. By increasing the frequency of these notifications, unit Key 3 stay better informed and equipped to act more quickly—leading to faster response times and, ultimately, welcoming more families into Scouting sooner.

New Video for Parents

Scouting America is committed to keeping youth safe and has released the new Safeguarding Youth Parents’ Guide Video. The video highlights key aspects of the organization’s safeguarding approach for new parents and encourages them to complete the full Safeguarding Youth Training, joining their child on this important journey. It can be viewed [here](#) and shared with parents, volunteers, and local networks. The video complements the written Parent Guides, providing an additional way to learn and ensuring that families have multiple ways to access and understand important safeguarding information.

Unit and Membership Renewals

The ability of units and councils to renew members up to 90 days prior to expiration has raised some questions. To clarify, units and councils may renew or opt out members up to 90 days before their membership expires, while members and parents/guardians have a 60-day window prior to expiration to renew or opt out. In other words, the standard two-month renewal window remains in place. The renewal timelines are as follows: units renewing individual members – 3 months prior; units renewing the entire unit – 2 months; councils renewing individual members – 3 months; councils renewing units – 2 months; members completing self-renewal – 2 months; and parents or guardians renewing youth members – 2 months. Learn more [here](#).

Aerial Sports Support WANTED!

The 2026 National Jamboree is looking for passionate and energetic individuals to join the Aerial Sports Support Team at the Summit Bechtel Reserve. This dynamic team will help deliver thrilling high-adventure experiences like zip-lining and canopy tours to Scouts from across the country. It's an opportunity to make a real impact and be part of something unforgettable.

No prior training required—just a willingness to learn, support youth adventure, and be part of an incredible event. Apply now [here](#).

Do You Follow Us on Social Media?

Follow the [Commissioners of Scout America's Facebook page](#) and [Instagram account](#) and help spread the word about Scouting by liking and sharing posts. Engage those whom you serve by being where they go for information.

How Can We Help 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](#). Reach out to us.

Ask A Commissioner

Q. What are some ways to engage Cub Scout parents into leadership roles?

A. This is a question that confronts all Packs as leaders move on and new parents join the Pack. Here are some suggestions:

- Build a community within your Pack such that new parents feel that they are joining a supportive group. They should see that the Pack is run by other parents who volunteer for specific tasks or roles.
- Involve new parents in a Parent Orientation meeting soon after they have joined so that they can learn how Cub Scouting works and how important volunteers are to the success of the Pack and the scouts.
- Use a [Family Talent Survey](#) to identify skill sets that align with the needs of Dens or the Pack.
- Ask parents to volunteer for individual tasks such as leading an activity or taking responsibility for running an Adventure.
- Encourage your parents to get involved and engaged before bringing up the adult leader registration. Use the parent meetings to highlight the tasks that need to be done and ask for help to carry them out.

- Assess the parent's skill set and enthusiasm after he or she has helped with some tasks and ask them to consider taking a leadership position.
- Once a parent has registered as a leader, make sure they succeed in the role by identifying resources and training appropriate to the role.
- Recognize leaders for the efforts they put in to make the Den or Pack successful.

Many resources are available to help you with this question including these Roundtable videos, [Delegation](#), [Parent to Leader](#), and [Everyone Volunteers](#). This brochure, [Selecting Cub Scout Leadership](#), is helpful also.

You have questions? Commissioners have answers!

Reach out by email: commissionerserviceteam@scouting.org



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