



Commissioner Newsletter

Your Single, Best Resource.

October 27, 2025 Edition

“The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.” – Phil Jackson, former NBA coach

Scouts BSA Advancement Webinar, November 5

Scouts BSA will host its next Advancement Webinar, “Click, Learn, Earn: Digital Tools for Merit Badge Counselors,” on Wednesday, November 5, at 8 p.m. ET. This session will explore the latest digital resources available to merit badge counselors and provide updated guidance on how to use these tools to enhance the merit badge experience. Participants will also learn strategies to increase engagement and efficiency, helping Scouts get the most out of their advancement journey. Whether you are an experienced counselor or just beginning your service, this webinar offers valuable insights to help you stay current with the newest tools and best practices.

Register [here](#).

Cub Scouts Can Spread Holiday Cheer to Military Members, November 7 Deadline

The holidays can be a lonely time for troops stationed at military bases far from home. Thanks to a new initiative, Cub Scouts have a special opportunity to help bring cheer to those serving our country — and fulfill a citizenship requirement at the same time. For a limited time, the 2025 Cub Scout Holiday Letters for the Military is an official part of the citizenship Cub Scout Adventure, open to Scouts across all ranks. Participants are encouraged to write letters that will be sent to members of the military during the holiday season. Cub Scouts are asked to complete this meaningful activity by November 7, 2025. Learn how the program works [here](#).

National Membership Mixer, November 16

The next National Membership Mixer will be held on November 16, 2025, at 8:00 p.m. Eastern. The featured speaker will be Otto Goedhart, Manager of Membership Growth for Scouting America, who will discuss “Year-end Membership Goals.” This Mixer is designed for volunteers and professionals interested in growing Scouting within their units, districts, councils, and CSTs. Advance registration is required and can be completed at [here](#).

National Cub Scout Program Conference, December 12 - 14

The National Cub Scout Program Conference will be held from December 12 to 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](#).

Managing Multiple Registrations

A Job Aid to help manage their multiple registrations—within a council and across councils—is now available [here](#).

Updates on Handbook Translations

Spanish-language versions of Cub Scout and Scouts BSA Handbooks are currently available for purchase on Amazon and Kindle:

[Lion Handbook](#)

[Tiger Handbook](#)

[Wolf Handbook](#)

[Bear Handbook](#)

[Webelos Handbook](#)

[Arrow of Light](#)

[Scouts BSA Handbook – Girls](#)

[Scouts BSA Handbook – Boys](#)

Traditional- and Simplified-Mandarin Translations are coming soon, and Braille versions are on the way, as well.

This ongoing translation initiative, made possible through the Lilly Endowment, helps ensure more families can experience the values and adventures of Scouting. It will further help to broaden Scouting's appeal, attracting new youth and families from many different backgrounds to learn and grow their character development through the many adventures Scouting provides.

Unit Renewal Guides

Helping a Unit Key 3 member renew an individual member of the unit? You'll find [this](#) new renewal guide of value. Are you working with a unit wishing to renew? [This](#) is the guide that walks you through the process.

National Jamboree Registration – Early Bird Deadline Approaching!

The early bird registration fee of \$1,560 per participant ends November 3rd — after that, the price increases to \$1,800 per participant. Councils can choose from six-unit options and select any combination that best fits their needs. To register, click [here](#) and log in using your my.scouting username and password. For more information, visit jamboree.scouting.org or email national.jamboree@scouting.org.

Cub Chat Live

Cub Scout leaders and volunteers are invited to join #CubChatLive on the Commissioners of Scouting America Facebook page every Friday at 3 p.m. ET. Each weekly episode offers tips, tricks, and ideas to help make den and pack activities more engaging and successful. The topic for November 7 will be "Scoutbook," and on November 14, the discussion will focus on "Family and Reverence Adventures." Recordings of each episode will be available on the Commissioners of Scouting America Facebook page shortly after the live broadcast.

Scoutbook Update

Scoutbook has a helpful new update for Scouts and leaders. Links to the merit badge pamphlets have been inserted at the top of all merit badge requirement pages, making it easier than ever for Scouts to access the resources they need to complete their badges. Scoutbook now notes, "The official merit badge pamphlets are now free and downloadable [HERE](#) or can be purchased at the Scout Shop."

Harris Poll Survey – Coming Soon

Scouting America is partnering with the Harris Poll to update a major outcomes study last conducted in 2010. This research will help us better understand the long-term impact of Scouting. Randomly selected alumni, Eagle Scouts, and volunteers will receive email invitations to participate. A legitimate invitation can be identified by the subject line "Scouting America Requests Your Opinion" and the from address ScoutingAmerica@survey-project.com. The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete, and if you receive one, please take the time to share your experiences in Scouting.

A Reminder to Give Thanks

With Thanksgiving right around the corner, now is a great time to think about how we can thank our Scouting America volunteers. Whether someone has been helping for a couple of outings or serving for decades on camp staff, volunteers' time and energy fuel Scouting. The movement doesn't happen without adult leaders. Week after week, they plan meetings, prep activities, and think through every detail that allows Scouts to Scout. So what can you do to show your appreciation for volunteers who pour into the program? Find some inspiration in [this edition](#) of Aaron (Gina this time) on Scouting. And, thank you for being the heart, building relationships, and changing lives.

Get Your Updates Fast

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.

We Are Ready to Serve 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. How much Scouting experience should be required for a commissioner?

A. Clearly, prior experience in Scouting is an asset for a commissioner candidate. However, as with many of our volunteer roles, there is a place for those who are early in their Scouting journey. There are opportunities in every district and council for new commissioners to gain experience by supporting other commissioners and the administration of unit service. And unit commissioners should not be expected to know the answer to every question. If a new commissioner is a good fit with the leadership of a unit, is willing to acknowledge their need to conduct research to answer a question, and then does so, delivering the answer in a timely manner, they will be well-received and begin building a strong relationship with those leaders.

Q. How do we decrease the average age of the commissioner corps?

A. Age should not be a barrier to unit service. If a volunteer is committed to building strong, collaborative relationships with unit leaders and effectively supporting them in delivering Scouting America's programs, as well as in attracting and retaining youth and adult volunteers, there is a place for them in unit service. Building effective relationships with unit leaders is the foundation of effective unit service; younger commissioners will likely build effective relationships with younger unit leaders most quickly. Considering that recruiting new commissioners will decrease the average age of our team. At the most recent confab, Council

commissioners learned how to recruit AOL parents during the bridging process to be unit commissioners – reach out and they can share with you the presentation deck and script along with the enabling tools.

You have questions? Commissioners have answers!

Reach out by email: commissionersserviceteam@scouting.org



Prepared. For Life.®

