



Commissioner Newsletter

Your Single, Best Resource.

September 7, 2026 Edition

“Servant leadership is all about making the goals clear and then rolling your sleeves up and doing whatever it takes to help people win.” - Ken Blanchard

You Have Leads!

As of the most recent report, there are more than 11,555 open leads (an increase of 28% since last week) and 425 pending applications (an increase of 35% since last week) awaiting follow-up in the online registration system. Each lead represents a family interested in learning more about Scouting, and each pending application is an excited new youth member who has already paid to join and is just waiting for unit approval. Make sure action is taken on this information to help welcome more youth and families into Scouting.

Encourage Every Unit to Refresh Their BeAScout Pin Today!

Before fall Scouting activities take over the calendar, encourage every unit to refresh its BeAScout pin. A current, complete pin makes it easier for families to find a unit, learn more, and take the next step. Here are four things for units to check:

- Contact information: Make sure phone numbers and email addresses for key contacts are current.
- Meeting information: Confirm the meeting location, day, and time.
- Website and social media: Showcase the unit and highlight upcoming activities and events.
- Online applications: Make sure online applications are turned on so families can easily join and parents can volunteer.

Instructions are available at scouting.org/pin.

New Unit Dashboard Features Highlight PIN Data

Commissioner Tools' Unit Dashboard now includes two new fields to help commissioners plan visits and encourage units to keep their PIN information current:

Meeting Schedule – pulled directly from the unit's PIN data

Last Modified Date – shows when the unit last updated its PIN

Both appear in the "Unit Summary" section, just below the meeting location. The same additions are also visible to units in their own Unit Dashboard within Organization Manager.

JOTA/JOTI: Scouting Around the World

A recent session of #CubChatLive explored how Cub Scouts can connect with Scouts in 170 countries through Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) and Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) this fall. Ruth Barnes Shaw shared how JOTA/JOTI works and how packs can participate. Watch the recording [here](#).

Gear Discounts You Are Probably Not Using (but should be)

If you volunteer in Scouting or work at a summer camp, you're sitting on perks most people never find out about - the outdoor industry's "pro deal" system. Dozens of gear brands offer 30-70% discounts to people who work outdoors. [Here](#) is a quick-reference list of where to look.

National Membership Mixer, September 27

Unit, district, council, and territory volunteers and professionals are invited to the next National Membership Mixer, "Preparing Units for the New Registration & Renewal Process," at 8 pm ET on Sunday, September 27. This webinar will feature an extended Q&A session. Register [here](#).

Reservations Open for Philmont 2028 Treks, October 1

Philmont Scout Ranch celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2028, and registration for 2028 treks opens October 1, 2026. Crews can choose from 7-, 9-, or 12-day backpacking treks, or take on an 8-day Cavalcade on horseback. Every trek offers rugged trails, breathtaking scenery, challenging programs, conservation service, and the camaraderie that makes Philmont a legendary Scouting experience.

Crews that register October 1 through October 15 will receive a special Philturn Rocky Mountain Scout Camp 90th anniversary patch when they arrive for their trek.

With reservations available on a first-come, first-served basis and spots filling quickly, now is the time to start planning for 2028. Details are [here](#).

Fall Has Unique Safety Concerns

As your leaders plan their fall activities, encourage them to review the Guide to Safe Scouting and make sure traditional activities like hayrides are conducted safely. Remember that pumpkin chunkin' with catapults, trebuchets, or air cannons is not permitted, but there are plenty of safe and creative ways to make pumpkins part of your program. Learn more [here](#).

Reminder: Fall Commissioner Impact Session, October 3

Forging Ahead — Building Bridges to Retain, Grow, Thrive will take place Saturday, October 3, from 8 AM to 5 PM at Flag Plaza in Pittsburgh, hosted by Laurel Highlands Council. Open to all Scouters, including council, district, and unit volunteers and professionals. Participants will have opportunities to exchange ideas and best practices, connect with fellow Scouters, and discover practical strategies to help every unit retain, grow, and thrive. Learn more [here](#).

National Membership Engagement Committee

The National Membership Committee is now the National Membership Engagement Committee. Follow their [Facebook page](#) and [Instagram account](#) for great ideas, resources, and tips to help grow Scouting and engage more families.

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

As a Cub Scout leader, why do I need a unit commissioner? I have never worked with one.

A Unit Commissioner is a fellow volunteer who can serve as a trusted resource and sounding board. They can help you work through challenges, provide guidance based on their Scouting experience, connect you with district and council resources, and share ideas that have worked well in other units. They can also help you identify opportunities for leader training, improve parent involvement, strengthen your pack's program, and address membership or leadership challenges. Most importantly, they are there to support you, not to run your unit. Their goal is to help you feel confident in your role as a Cub Scout leader and to help you build a strong, active, and successful pack.

You have questions? Commissioners have answers!

Reach out by email: commissionerserviceteam@scouting.org



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