



Commissioner Newsletter

Your Single, Best Resource.

September 1, 2025 Edition

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has." - Margeret Mead

Monthly Membership Mixer – September 21

The next Monthly Membership Mixer will be held on Sunday, September 21, at 8:00 PM (ET). The speaker is Scott Armstrong, Director of National Media Relations & Government Affairs at Scouting America, who will share valuable insights on the topic, "Getting Good PR for Your Unit/District/Council." Designed for both volunteers and professionals, this mixer is the perfect opportunity to gain strategies for growing Scouting within districts, councils, and CSTs, while also connecting with others who are passionate about strengthening the movement. Don't miss this chance to learn from an expert and network with dedicated peers. Advance registration is required, so be sure to secure your spot today [here](#)!

Fall Impact Session – October 18

The Fall Commissioner Impact Session will be held in Boise, Idaho, on Saturday, October 18, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Mountain West Council's Boise Scout Service Center, 8901 W Franklin Road. All are invited to attend this exciting opportunity to collaborate with the National Commissioner, members of the National Commissioner Service Team, and fellow commissioners from across the country. Together, we will explore important topics such as retention and membership, the future of unit service, opportunities for young adults in leadership roles, and more. The conference fee is \$45, which includes morning refreshments, lunch, materials, and recognition; however, travel and lodging are not included, and attendees are responsible for making their own arrangements.

For those arriving early, the Mountain West Council will host an optional welcome reception on Friday, October 17, at 6:00 p.m. at the Lou Alasso Scouting Heritage Center.

Registration for the Fall Commissioner Impact Session is now open [here](#).

BeAScout Followup

Now is a great time to check in with your council partners. Make sure you know how your council handles pending applications and leads from BeAScout.org. These should get a response within 24 hours.

It is important to follow the plan and make sure someone is in charge.

Pending applications need quick action. Someone has decided to join, filled out an application, and paid the money. Accept them right away.

Leads also need a quick response and follow-up. Once you have a plan, move the lead off BeAScout and into a tracking tool like a spreadsheet.

We expect thousands of applications and leads from BeAScout.org. Let's welcome each person quickly and warmly!

Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook Update

Scouts, leaders, parents, and alumni from Sea Scouts, Scouts BSA, and Venturing are invited to provide comments that will be considered by a team tasked with updating the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook. The team is working towards one streamlined workbook for the Eagle Scout, Summit, and Quartermaster awards. Input from the Scouting community is being sought to ensure the process is meaningful, effective, and impactful for Scouts across all programs. Feedback is especially encouraged on areas such as workbook design, defining measurable impact, proposal requirements and sections, and updated service project policies. The survey will close on September 19 and can be accessed [here](#).

Two New Badges Added to Scouts BSA Test Lab

The Scouts BSA Test Lab is a chance for Scouts and adults to explore and shape fun, unique new topics before they officially become part of the program. Just like traditional merit badges, these Test Lab badges come with exciting requirements—but instead of flipping through a printed pamphlet, you'll get digital resources to guide your journey.

Two brand-new Test Lab badges ready for you to try:

- Physics – Discover the forces, energy, and motion that power our world.
- Sewing & Needlework – Learn the art, skill, and creativity of working with needle and thread.

Your feedback will help shape these badges for future Scouts—so jump in, explore, and make your impact [here](#).

Save the Date: Scouting America's 2026 National Annual Meeting

The Scouting America 2026 National Annual Meeting (NAM) will be held the week of May 10–16, 2026, at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel in the heart of downtown Dallas, Texas. This annual gathering brings together Scouting professionals, volunteers, and supporters from across the country for a week of inspiration, collaboration, and celebration. Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with fellow leaders, gain valuable insights, and help shape the future of Scouting. Please share this "Save the Date" with your network.

Custom Recruiting Materials Now Available

Scouting America Outfitters has formed a new partnership with a custom vendor to offer high-impact, personalized recruiting materials. Both units and councils can place orders, choosing from the kit options or selecting individual items à la carte [here](#).

Pumpkin Fun — Without the Chunkin’

Pumpkins are a fall favorite — from pies and lattes to glowing jack-o’-lanterns. But one activity you won’t find on the Scouting calendar is “pumpkin chunkin’,” the launching of pumpkins with catapults, trebuchets, or air cannons. While it may seem like harmless fun, it’s actually on the prohibited activities list in the Guide to Safe Scouting. High-speed pumpkins can cause injuries or property damage, homemade launchers can collapse or misfire, and the unpredictable flight paths make it impossible to guarantee safe zones. The rule is simple: if it’s on the prohibited list, it’s out. The goal isn’t to spoil the fun, but to keep fall traditions safe for everyone. So enjoy the season with pumpkin carving, pie baking, and seed roasting — and leave the pumpkin launching to your imagination. Read the official word [here](#). Have a question about this or other safety matters? Submit your question using [this form](#).

New Scouting America Chartering Documents for Catholic Units Now Available

New chartering documents for Catholic sponsored units can be found at the following links:

[Catholic Annual/Charter Agreement](#)

[Catholic Affiliation Agreement](#)

[Catholic Facilities Use Agreement](#)

Get Access to News As It Breaks

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.

Your National Commissioner Service Team Serves 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 do we best integrate objective unit metrics into the relationship building conversations?

A. Look to the Unit Connection Guides found in the unit’s dashboard. They will provide talking points related to each metric. Before bringing advice, listen for what the unit wants to improve

or change - then bring resources that can help. Remember... it's up to the unit's leadership to set performance goals for their unit - not the commissioner.

Q. What is the best strategy to deploy the limited number of commissioners?

A. Focus on impact and membership growth. Assess which units have the greatest need and potential for growth - if they received a little help from a commissioner. Traditionally, new units - especially new Cub packs - fit into this category. Pack parent-leaders often have little or no Scouting background, so they are usually eager to accept some help or guidance. Cub Scouting is the building block of Scouting and if a unit gets off to a good start, they should grow quickly.

Q. Do unit connections assist with commissioner recruitment?

A. Yes, if the commissioner is close enough to the unit and is attentive. There are always parents and leaders who are "bought in" to the program and would be willing to step outside their unit to help another. Propriety suggests you talk to the committee chair or organization representative about possible candidates. The last thing we want to do is to impact the unit's effectiveness or alienate the leadership by taking a key volunteer from them.

You have questions? Commissioners have answers!

Reach out by email: commissionerserviceteam@scouting.org



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