



Commissioner Newsletter

Your Single, Best Resource.

September 15, 2025 Edition

“A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don’t necessarily want to go, but ought to be.”

– Rosalynn Carter, former First Lady of the United States

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](#)!

Developing Post Programming - September 30

Exploring is more a methodology than a program. One common misconception among both volunteers and professionals is that they need to have a fully developed Post program ready before even making a sales call to start a new Post. While it’s certainly helpful to bring along a few program ideas to spark interest, the real magic happens later.

When a new Post is forming, part of the process is hosting an “All-In-One Program Planning” session with the Post Committee and key staff members from the organization. Together, they brainstorm and build a first 3–4-month program that reflects the sponsor’s own resources, strengths, and ideas. From there, the youth officers—working alongside their Advisors—take the lead in shaping and growing the ongoing program.

Participants in this September 30 (8:00 PM ET) session will take part in an interactive exercise to brainstorm the beginning program for a new Post. This workshop will also help Commissioners learn how to enhance the program for Posts struggling to grow and retain members. Please register [here](#).

Advancement Myths – BUSTED! Webinar – October 1

Register [here](#) now for the upcoming Scouts BSA committee webinar, Advancement Myths – BUSTED! Happening on October 1, 2025, at 8:00 PM (ET), this free session is designed to clear up confusion, address common misconceptions, and share the official facts about advancement. It's the perfect opportunity for Scouts, parents, and troop leaders to get straightforward guidance on how advancement really works. Join to gain clarity, bust the myths, and discover how you can better support Scouts on their journey. This event will be recorded and posted afterward on the Commissioners of Scouting America Facebook page for anyone unable to attend live.

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](#).

Have You Checked Your Leads Today?

Every lead from BeAScout.org represents a family that has taken the first step to learn more about Scouting. Each one is more than a number—it's a parent seeking adventure for their child, a family looking for connection, and a young person searching for a place to belong. Pending applications are even more significant: these are excited new youth who have already said yes to Scouting, paid to join, and are simply waiting for your unit approval to begin their journey. By approving their applications, you're saying yes back to them. Right now, thousands of leads and pending applications are awaiting follow-up—each one an opportunity to grow Scouting in your community and welcome a new family into the adventure. If you haven't checked your leads and pending applications yet, don't wait. Log in today to ensure every family receives the warm Scouting welcome they deserve. To learn more about managing BeAScout leads, visit this [site](#).

Commissioner Feedback About Virtual Impact Sessions Requested

The National Unit Service Team is seeking input to better support commissioners. A short 4-question survey has been created to gather feedback regarding Impact Sessions. Responses will be used to guide future resources and planning. Please take a moment to complete [this survey](#).

Please Share the Commissioner Newsletter

This Commissioner Newsletter is distributed every other week to more than 11,000 Scouting America commissioners. Its purpose is to provide information that can be shared with the unit leaders we serve. Please pass along the items you believe will be most valuable to them. Together, we can be “the single best resource” for our unit leaders.

Stay Informed With Timely Information

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 change attitudes of older Scout Leaders?

A. It's not apparent what specific attitude the questioner wants to change, so let's assume we're talking about the many changes in Scouting America over the past several years, including its name.

One of Scouting America's strengths is Its ability to engage adults in meaningful service regardless of age. The key is always matching the right role with the skills of the Scouter. Here are examples of older Scouters in Virginia who stayed young at heart:

- A Scouter with 85 years of service teaches photography MB and connects his fellow commissioners to community leaders.
- Two eighty-year-olds organized a troop in an economically challenged neighborhood, then became its Scoutmaster and Committee Chair.

The reluctance of some Scouters to change is not necessarily an issue of age. More likely, it's an emotional investment in tradition mixed with generational differences. After investing countless hours in volunteer service to Scouting, some long-serving Scouters may fear becoming obsolete and losing their legacy.

Here are some ideas to consider:

- Put a personal face on the change. Explain the change's value with examples of a young person who will benefit.
- Pair younger and older leaders. It's a model used by the US leadership at the 2019 World Jamboree. This can foster two-way learning and allow the older leader to create a new legacy when the younger leader succeeds.
- Help them find another position in Scouting that does not involve direct contact with youth but gives them a sense of purpose.
- If technology is a barrier, create hands-on sessions that respect different learning speeds.
- Recognize efforts of experienced Scouters who embrace and lead change. Enlist them to be ambassadors to their peers.
- Look for a quality to admire in each Scouter (young or old) and try to build that into your own way of living.

When changes in Scouting occur, we should respect, have empathy, and empower each other. We'll then have a movement that nurtures and equips the next generation - while celebrating the legacy and wisdom of those who paved the way.

You have questions? Commissioners have answers!

Reach out by email: commissionerserviceteam@scouting.org



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