



On The Horizon – January 2026



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IMPORTANT DATES AT A GLANCE:

EVENT:

OKPIK Meeting 2
 January Roundtables
 STEM University – SEMO
 OKPIC Meeting 3
 NH Order of the Arrow Journey to Brotherhood Meeting
 January Eagle Boards of Review
 New Horizons District Volunteer Recognition Dinner
 Venturing/Sea Scout Lock-In (STL After Dark)
 NH Order of the Arrow Social
 Leave No Trace / Outdoor Ethics Trainer Course
 District Klondike Derby
 STEM University – SIUE
 Scout Sunday
 February Roundtables
 February Eagle Boards of Review
 NH Order of the Arrow Journey to Brotherhood Meeting
 Scout Sabbath
 District Life to Eagle Seminar
 NH Order of the Arrow Chapter Banquet
 Wood Badge Informational Dinner
 Shawnee Lodge Arrowman Experience
 New Horizons District Pinewood Derby
 Council Map and Compass Training
 STEM University – SIUC
 District Pinewood Derby
 March Roundtables
 March Eagle Boards of Review
 NH Order of the Arrow Service Project
 NH Order of the Arrow Journey to Brotherhood Meeting
 Taste of Venturing
 STEM College – Lakeland College
 April Eagle Boards of Review
 April Roundtables
 NH Order of the Arrow Journey to Brotherhood Meeting
 Shawnee Lodge Spring Conclave
 New Horizons Spring Camporee
 District Life to Eagle Seminar
 Spring Wood Badge – Session 1
 Scouts BSA Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills
 Cub Scout Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation
 Shawnee Lodge One Day of Service
 May Roundtables – 2026/2027 Program Preview
 Scouts Read Sacred Texts
 May Eagle Boards of Review
 NH Order of the Arrow Chapter Meeting
 Spring Wood Badge – Session 2
 Venturing/Sea Scouts Celebration Dinner
 NH Oder of the Arrow Ceremonial Social & Development

DATE:

January 3
 January 6
 January 10
 January 10 – 11
 January 13
 January 14, 28
 January 15
 January 17 – 18
 January 18
 January 24 – 25
 January 31
 January 31
 February 1
 February 3
 February 4, 11, 25
 February 5
 February 6
 February 18
 February 22
 February 23
 February 27 – March 1
 February 28
 February 28
 February 28
 TBD
 March 3
 March 4, 11, 25
 March 14
 March 24
 March 27 – 28
 March 28
 April 1, 8, 22
 April 7
 April 8 (Virtual)
 April 10 – 12
 April 24 – 26
 April 29
 May 1 - 3
 May 1 – 3
 May 2 – 3
 May 2
 May 5
 May 7
 May 5, 13, 27
 May 13
 May 16 – 17
 May 17
 May 23

Memorial Day Good Turns	May 24
Swift's Big Kickoff	May 30
June Roundtables	June 2
June Eagle Boards of Review	June 3, 10, 24
National Youth Leader Training – First Session	June 7 – 13
Cub Day Camp – Larson Park	June 8 – 12
National Youth Leader Training – Second Session	June 21 – 27 (Male only)

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

➔ **PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH ALL OF YOUR LEADERS AND PARENTS IN YOUR UNIT, AND HAVE THEM ALL SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THEIR OWN COPY HERE: <http://eepurl.com/Z-9Vr>**

January ROUNDTABLES:

January Roundtable will return to **Manchester United Methodist Church**, 129 Woods Mill Rd, St, Louis, MO 63011, on January 6th, gathering at 6:30 pm, and the program at 7:00 pm. The Cub Roundtable program will be “How to Shop for a Troop” and the Scouts BSA Roundtable program is “Special Needs”.

February ROUNDTABLES:

February Roundtable will be at **Manchester United Methodist Church**, 129 Woods Mill Rd, St, Louis, MO 63011, on February 3rd, gathering at 6:30 pm, and the program at 7:00 pm. The Cub Roundtable program will be “How Deep is your Bench (Succession Planning)” and the Scouts BSA Roundtable program is tentatively “Camp Promotion”.

2025-2026 Program Guides:

These guides, released in May 2025, take you through recommendations on how to best manage Den and Pack meetings, Troop meetings, and Crew meetings for the coming Scouting year—loaded with information on having a fun Scouting program.

2025-2026 Cub Scout Program Guide:

<https://tinyurl.com/5n7xt4p3>

Program Note: “Den Meeting Deck for Leaders” activity cards are now available at the Scout Shop.

The activity cards help den leaders create fun, focused, and age-appropriate meetings.

2025-2026 Scouts BSA Program Guide (the flyer for Program Preview had an incorrect short URL:

<https://tinyurl.com/bdea8pws>

2025-2026 Venturing Program Guide:

<https://tinyurl.com/39p7ra9k>

IMPORTANT NOTES ➔

====> **The Council Office on West Pine has moved!** The new office is located at 1122 Town and Country Commons Drive, Suite 200, Chesterfield, MO 63017 (off Woods Mill Rd. which parallels 141). The new *Scouting Outfitters* is now open at that location (West Pine & Des Peres are now closed).

====>Keep up to date with the “Guide to Safe Scouting” here:

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/toc/>

Youth Protection Training is now “S.A.F.E. Guarding Youth Training (SYT)”: See details under Training!

Scouting America Council Service Territory 5 (CST 5):

As a member District within the Greater St Louis Area Scouting, we are 1 of 13 Councils that comprise **Council Service Territory 5 (CST 5)**, 1 of 14 Territories across the US. **CST 5** covers the states of Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska as well as southern Illinois, and western Iowa, and nearly all of Colorado & Wyoming.

For much more information please follow and share the following two CST 5 Facebook Group Pages:

1. Scouting America Council Service Territory 5 (CST 5) with close to 400 members. For general information about accomplishments and accolades across CST 5, from the individual to units, to districts, councils, and programs please join Scouting America Council Service Territory 5 (NST 5) Homepage: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/924855562032311>

2. Scouting America Council Service Territory 5 Program with 500+ members

For Program specific information please join the Council Service Territory 5 Program:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/270021481844869/>

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER:

Dear Fellow Scouters,

A new year brings new opportunities for leader development, and one of the strongest predictors of a unit's success is trained adult volunteers. Whether you've been leading for years or just stepped into a new role, position-specific training and online modules provide tools that make Scouting smoother, safer, and more fun for everyone. When leaders feel confident, Scouts notice — meetings run better, advancement stays on track, and the program delivers on its promise of adventure and growth.

As commissioners, we're here to help units identify training needs and make sure every leader is set up for success. If it's been a while since your last training update, or if you have new adults on board, reach out to your commissioner team. Let's keep investing in our leaders... because well-trained volunteers build the strongest units!

Yours in Scouting,

Joseph P. "Joe" Bradley, MD
New Horizons District Commissioner
Greater St. Louis Area Scouting
joseph.bradley@icloud.com

MEMBERSHIP:

January Membership Focus

Crossover season is approaching, and now is the time for Scouts BSA troops to connect with Arrow of Light dens through visits, activities, and joint events. Early engagement supports smoother transitions and stronger retention.

And if your unit is looking to grow, it's not too late—January and February remain great months for recruiting new Scouts. District support is available for both crossover planning and spring recruiting.

Membership fees

- \$85/yr. for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouting participants (\$5 increase)
- \$65/yr. for all adult volunteers
- \$30/yr. for Scoutreach
- \$25/yr. for Merit Badge Counselors (Applies only to MB Counselors not already registered as leaders)
- \$50/yr. for Exploring participants Youth & Adults
- \$100/yr. unit renewal/affiliation fee
- \$15/yr. for Scout Life magazine
- Excludes Council Program Fees

Let's keep saying "Welcome!" and growing Scouting this fall. For further information or clarification, please contact any of the following:

- Your Unit Commissioner
- Joe Bradley, District Commissioner (joseph.bradley@icloud.com)
- Nick Prainito, District Executive (Nicholas.Prainito@scouting.org)
- Chris Kadel, Membership Committee Chair (Chris@signalhost.me) / 314.800.7039

ACTIVITIES:

Save the dates!

New Horizons District Volunteer Recognition Dinner:

Every year, New Horizons Scouters gather to celebrate the previous year's accomplishments and to recognize adult leaders from units with the Unit Special Achiever Award and recognize adult leaders who have rendered service of an outstanding nature at the district level with the District Award of Merit. New for this – each unit may nominate TWO adults for the Unit Special Achiever Award! The date for submission for awards is December Roundtable, December 5th, 2025.

When: January 15, 2025, 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm, doors open at 6:00 pm

Where: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 327 Woods Mill Rd, Manchester, MO 63011 (across from Costco)

Cost: \$25 by January 4, 2026, \$27 after January 4, 2026 (no tickets at the door)

Sign up: <https://scoutingevent.com/312-107382>

Unit Special Achiever Award nomination form:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSerJl3EUCdQpiBWNNPjpHzRhWJn-dRZMyvYwBnrt4MACTj7g/viewform>

New Horizons 2025 Horizon Award (District Award of Merit nomination form:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfshTZ6e1hA9nlp6tcvO56QQg3uy_2SKqYxi7LkK31bM6vtg/viewform

Scout Sunday / Scout Sabbath 2026:

Now is the time for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, and Venturers to work on the religious emblems of their faith.

Scout Sunday is listed on the Scouting America's website as Sunday, February 1, 2026, though your specific church may hold Scout Sunday on a different date, so check with your religious institution. Protestant religious emblems are available through P.R.A.Y. which is located in St. Louis (<https://praypub.org/>). For more information on Catholic Scouting emblems, visit the National Catholic Committee on Scouting's website, <https://nccs-bsa.org/religious-emblems/>.

Scout Sabbath in the Greater St. Louis Area Scouting is a community-wide event that will be held on February 6, 2026 at United Hebrew Congregation, 13788 Conway Rd, St. Louis, MO 63141. The service starts at 6:30 pm. For more information on the Jewish religious emblems, visit the National Jewish Committee on Scouting's website, <https://www.jewishscouting.org/>.

2026 New Horizons District Pinewood Derby:

The Pinewood Derby is one of the highlights of a Cub Scout's year. This event brings Cub Scouts from across the district to have some fun as they race their cars to see who has the fastest car in West Count. **The event is open to ALL Cub Scouts in the New Horizons District**, regardless of a Scout's placement at their home pack's race. The race rules and design rules will be available when the registration link goes live.

When: February 28, 2026

Where: Beaumont Scout Reservation (Emerson Center)

Race rules, time, pricing and registration information coming soon!

2026 National Scout Jamboree:

Face the Challenge! The 2026 National Jamboree will be here soon! Scouting's flagship event is one-of-a-kind. Join 40,000 Scouts, leaders, and staff at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia to experience everything from one of the longest zip lines in North America (about 3,200' long with a 165' drop from top to bottom!), a world class skate park, ATVs, treetop canopy tours, rock climbing, patch trading, stadium shows, and much more!

If you are interested in serving as a leader for the Greater St. Louis Area Scouting's Jamboree contingent, email staff advisor, Matt Kaufman at matt.kaufmann@scouting.org

Youth Participant cost: \$2,400

Youth Participant registration: <https://scoutingevent.com/312-2026Jamboree>

Non-contingent Jamboree Service Team information may be found here: jamboree.scouting.org

2027 World Scout Jamboree in Poland:

Gdańsk, here we come!

Registration is open now for the 26th World Scout Jamboree, set for July 30 to August 8, 2027, in the historic city of Gdańsk, Poland. This massive global party brings together tens of thousands of Scouts from more than 170 countries, all uniting for 10 days of fun.

Projected cost for youth participants is estimated in the range of \$6,200 - \$6,700 (airfare will affect the cost) More information may be found in "Aaron On Scouting"'s article here:

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2025/11/17/register-now-to-join-the-usa-contingent-at-the-2027-world-scout-jamboree-in-poland/>

ADVANCEMENT:

Scouting America (BSA) has a monthly live chat on Fridays that may be helpful:

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/cubchatlive/>

The Council office has moved to using Scoutbook to log Advancement. This will help ensure advancement is recorded correctly and timely. PLEASE BE SURE TO RECORD ADVANCEMENT FOR YOUR YOUTH AS IT OCCURS.

- Regularly input advancement into Scoutbook
- Have the Unit Leader “approve” that advancement within Scoutbook
- Have the Unit Leader “award” that advancement within Scoutbook

Approving and awarding can be easily done within Scoutbook by regularly running a “Needs Approval” or “Needs Awarding” report where you can quickly approve it all. We’d really appreciate your Units staying up to date with this!

Logging “Service Hours”:

When your youth and adults do community service, please be sure to log those hours using Scoutbook so that they may be rolled into the Council total – all service hours are totaled for the Council and then at the national level and are reported to Congress during the Scouting America’s Report to The Nation every spring. Each hour of Volunteer Time is currently valued at over \$31 Per Hour!

Conservation Good Turn Award:

Another of the awards our Scouts (all programs) and Scouters (yes, scouters) can earn is the Conservation Good Turn Award which is described here: <https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/conservation-and-environment/conservation-good-turn/>

This award is eligible for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing Crew Members, Sea Scouts, and Explorers, and the adult leaders of these programs. The Certificate Application may be found on the page referenced above.

Cub Scout Resources:

Are you looking for some great resources for advancement for all levels of Cub Scouts? Check out the Cub Scout Toolbox for ideas for dens and individuals working on Cub Scout ranks and achievements.

<https://stlbsa.org/resources/resources-toolbox/cub-scouts-toolbox/>

While you are checking out resources, updates to Cub Scout Advancement for the 2024-25 program year were recently posted here: <https://www.scouting.org/topics/program-updates/program-updates-cub-scouts/>

SCOUTS BSA REQUIREMENTS UPDATES:

Ranks:

There are updates to the Scouts BSA Advancement program that became effective on January 1st, 2024. There are minor changes to the Scout and Star ranks (#6). Note that the Cyberchip has been phased out and Scouts should use the Personal Safety Awareness training at:

<https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/scouts-bsa/>

Palms:

Scouts BSA no longer have to wait 3 months between Eagle Palms – they have to earn 5 additional merit badges and live by the Scout Oath and Law.

All the changes are detailed below, including information on major and minor changes to merit badge requirements:

<https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Advancement-Program-Updates-2024.pdf>

Merit Badges:

ALL MERIT BADGE PAMPHLETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE HERE AND CONTAIN THE LATEST 2026 REQUIREMENTS & UPDATES: <https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/>

Many merit badges have updates to their requirements. See the following link:

<https://www.scouting.org/program-updates/scouts-bsa-advancement-updates-effective-january-1-2026/>

New Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence Merit Badges!

Scout BSA has recently released two NEW Merit Badges: Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence.

For details on these merit badges, read the “Aaron On Scouting” article:

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2025/10/15/scouting-america-launches-merit-badges-in-cybersecurity-and-artificial-intelligence/>

BSA Test Labs:

Scouting America has implemented something new – The *Scouts BSA Test Lab* is an exciting way to help in the development of fun and interesting new topics unique to the Scouts BSA program. The requirements for each badge have the look and feel of merit badges, but instead of a printed pamphlet, you will find links to digital resources to help you complete the requirements. If enough surveys show Scouts enjoyed these potential new badges and a badge becomes an official merit badge, Scouts will be credited with having earned that badge! For more information, visit

<https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/test-lab/>

EAGLE SCOUTS

The Eagle Scout rank process is described in detail at:

<https://stlbsa.org/find-your-district/new-horizons-district/new-horizons-information/> and click on the blue box “NEW HORIZONS EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATES”

Eagle Boards of Review:

The Eagle Boards of Review continue to need additional reviewers! As of now, Eagle Boards will only be held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. Beginning in February 2026, we will resume 3 times a month! ***A big thank you to John Klos, who is stepping down as Eagle Board Chair effective January 15th, 2026.*** Mike Buhr will be taking over as Eagle Board Chair. Contact Mike Buhr at mjbuhr64@gmail.com or (314) 386-5055 to *be a reviewer or coordinator*. Virtual boards of Review will be considered on an individual basis based on need and individual circumstance. **Watch for updates here regarding the Eagle Board Schedule:**

To **schedule** an Eagle Board of Review, a **Scout** needs to call the Eagle Board Hotline at 314.384.2486. Eagle Boards of Review will be held **IN-PERSON** continuing at Parkway United Church of Christ! Masks *may* be required by Parkway UCC based on current COVID infection rates. NOTE – CALL WEEKLY COORDINATOR’S CELL TO GAIN ADMITTANCE as the door to the church is locked.

January 14, 28

February 4, 11, 25 (yes, we are returning to 3 boards a month!)

March 4, 11, 25

April 1, 8, 22

May 6, 13, 27

June 3, 10, 24

IMPORTANT NOTE: Scouts will still be required to submit their paperwork ***in advance*** which helps the reviewers to better help our Scouts. *Please use the Eagle Project Workbook fillable PDF below and email it when requested to the appropriate weekly coordinator.* While not expressly required, reviewers greatly appreciate workbooks that are filled in using the PDF vs. handwritten workbooks.

Links to the **most current** Eagle Scout Project Workbook can be found at this link:

➔ <https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/EagleProjectWorkbook2023a.pdf>

The most current **Eagle Scout Application** can be auto-populated from Scout Book by clicking on “Eagle Scout Application”. The latest version of the fillable PDF may also be found here (***please do not search the Internet or you will likely find an out-of-date version***): <https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/resources/> & click the link “Eagle Scout Application...”

Eagle Scout Letters of Recommendation: Reference letter requirements for Eagle scouts have been updated. See Section 9.0.1.3 of the updated Guide to Advancement:

References: Must list names and contact information for four people who are willing to serve as references for the Eagle candidate. These may be Scout leaders, teachers, employers, coaches, other Scouts, etc. References do not need to be 21 or older. **Parents and other relatives are strongly discouraged** from serving as references. **The current unit leader and committee chair are not eligible to serve as references; their signature on the application is their endorsement.**

Helpful **Life to Eagle Resources:** The PDFs of the “Eagle Boards of Review – Roundtable Overview PPT” and “Life to Eagle PPT” may be found here under “Life to Eagle Resources”: <https://stlbsa.org/find-your-district/new-horizons-district/new-horizons-information/>

Save the dates!

Scouts BSA Merit Badge Skill Centers

Merit Badge Skill Centers: <https://stlbsa.org/advancement-awards/> -> MERIT BADGE SKILL CENTERS

- Personal Management Merit Badge Clinics are being offered by Emily Worthmore. Emily is available to set up clinics at troop meetings or other small groups. If interested, please contact Emily @ worthmore2040@gmail.com or 314-532-1003

Life to Eagle – Advancement Seminars:

February LTE Advancement Seminar:

When: February 18, 2026, 7 pm **sharp IN PERSON!**

Where: Parkway United Church of Christ, 2841 N Ballas Rd, St. Louis, MO 63131

Registration required: <https://forms.gle/L2ngRWJXJugR5L1LA>

April LTE Advancement Seminar:

When: April 29, 2026, 7 pm **sharp IN PERSON!**

Where: Parkway United Church of Christ, 2841 N Ballas Rd, St. Louis, MO 63131

Registration required: Registration available in February

Eagle Projects – at Babler Park:

The Parkway-Rockwood Babler Outdoor Education Center has several projects that would make great Eagle Scout Service Projects. Interested Life Scouts should contact Mike Dowell, Babler Outdoor Education Center Supervisor at 636.891.6681 to make an appointment to review potential projects. (Scouts need to have an adult with them on the phone or when visiting Babler for Youth Protection compliance.)

John F. Bild Eagle Scout Project Grants:

The ***Eagle Scout Association of Greater St. Louis, Inc.*** (St. Louis Eagle Scout Association) may grant Life Scouts working on an Eagle Scout Service Project money to fund their project. Applicants must have received project approval from the District Eagle Scout Board of Review. Grants typically range from \$50 to \$200. The application process, application form, and directions for applying for a grant may be found here:

<http://www.stlesa.org/Eagle-Project-Grants>

For other **Advancement** questions see the “**Guide to Advancement**”: <https://www.scouting.org/advancement>.

For the latest **Advancement Update**, visit: <https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/SBSA-Advancement-Updates-2024-v2.pdf>. New information will be posted here when it becomes available.

Ruben Brill, New Horizons Advancement Chair, jrb179@gmail.com

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math):

Other than **Supernova medals** which are only available at the Council Office, all **Nova patches and pins** can be purchased at any local Scout store or through Gateway Traders gatewaytraders.org. **NOTE: ALL Nova and Supernova requirements are now hosted at** <https://stlbsa.org/STEM/>.

Save the dates for STEM Universities:

STEM University is a full day event for Cub Scouts (Wolf, Bear, Webelos, & AOL) and Scouts BSA, focused on earning STEM-based advancements and NOVA awards. Scouts will get to visit a University, work with STEM experts, and participate in fun, hands-on educational activities. See below for locations and dates.

Registration coming soon. Visit <https://stlbsa.org/stem/> -> STEM Universities

- **SEMO** January 10, 2026
- **SIUE** January 31, 2026
- **SIUC** February 28, 2026
- **Lake Land College** March 28, 2026

The New Horizons STEM Committee is seeking STEM coordinators in each pack, troop, and crew. If you are one, or would like to be one, please let us know. If your unit doesn't have one, let us know how we can help you identify one. For all your STEM questions, contact Lisa Balbes (lisa@balbes.com) or Teresa Colletti (tacolletti@att.net)

DEVELOPMENT/ENDOWMENT:

Check out **endowment opportunities** at: <https://stlbsa.org/give-now/>

Updates:

More information on the 2026 campaign will be coming soon.

New Horizons Annual Giving Link – Make a Gift:

<https://fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/SCOUTS2025/NewHorizons>

For questions regarding the Annual Giving Campaign, contact Nick Prainito at nicholas.prainito@scouting.org.

TRAINING:

Training Awards:

Training Awards have been updated with revised requirements. We should all start using these immediately.

Awards Central: <https://www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central/> - Describes ALL Awards

Revised Forms: <https://www.scouting.org/training/adult/> - scroll to the bottom (Training Awards)

For more information or questions, contact Mike Edler at pk310cm@gmail.com

On-Line Training:

Position-specific training is available at <https://my.scouting.org> as well as a myriad of skill-based virtual offerings (watch for Digital Duffle Bag emails). Take advantage of this time to review and complete your position-specific training. Remember, the Scout Motto is "Be Prepared" and trained adult leaders are prepared and ready to support our programs now and in the future.

Your District Training staff is available to answer any questions you might have:

- Venturing – Chris Ford - cfordmo@gmail.com
- Cub Scouts – Ed Wilhelm - edwilhelm@yahoo.com
- Scouts BSA – Mike Edler – pk310cm@gmail.com
- New Horizons District Training Chair – Mike Edler – pk310cm@gmail.com

Training Tip:

Hello fellow Scouters. I hope the holidays and New Year were a great time of celebration for everyone. As we enter the new year my resolution is to make the Scouting program strong by helping leaders to be more successful. In a recent article the director of Scouting University for the National Scouting America had this to say about training.

Director of Scouting University Wendy Kurten explained:

"With every position we hold, whether it's a new job or a volunteer role in Scouting, success depends on knowing the tools and resources available to us. Training is the best way to gain those tools. When leaders are trained, both Scouts and leaders have stronger, safer and more rewarding experiences."

And the research consistently shows units with trained leaders thrive - read "Aaron on Scouting's article:

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2022/05/30/this-troop-gets-all-its-adult-leaders-trained-in-first-aid-and-it-paid-off/> . Trained leaders know how to use the Scouting methods effectively, feel more confident in their roles and, in turn, deliver a stronger program.

It's been proven through research that training has a profound impact on the retention, cross over, and activities for the youth. Trained leaders are also more likely to receive help from other parents when they have a successful program.

Let's set your unit up to be successful this new year. Email me about setting up training for your unit today.

Thank you, Mike Edler

Address any additional questions regarding Training to **Mike Edler, New Horizons Training Chair**, at pk310cm@gmail.com. For further Training information and resources, please see <https://stlbsa.org/find-your-district/new-horizons-district/new-horizons-information/> and click the blue bar "New Horizons District Training".

Youth Protection Training is now "S.A.F.E. Guarding Youth Training (SYT)":

Youth protection is at the heart of everything we do. Announced at the Scouting America National Annual Meeting in Orlando, the new Safeguarding Youth training is now live and mandatory for all registered adult volunteers. It is also a joining requirement for new adult members.

Course Details:

Duration: ~90 minutes

Available in English and Spanish

Access it through my.scouting.org

Requirements: Complete all lessons + score 80% or higher on the final test

Annual Refresher:

After completing the full course once, a 15-minute refresher and retest is required each year to stay current.

Transition from Previous YPT:

If you've already completed Youth Protection Training (YPT), your certification remains valid.

If you took the prior YPT training, expiration is "One year from when the new training launched - at the latest [May 2025]. However - there is new material in the SYT which could genuinely save the life of a youth - inside or outside of Scouting."

Why This Matters:

Youth protection is at the heart of everything we do. This updated training reinforces a culture of active supervision, situational awareness, and safety, ensuring we're all equipped to help keep our Scouts safe.

In-Person SYT availability:

If your unit is interested in an in-person training session, it is now available via our Council Youth Protection Champion, Tim Trace. Contact him at tjtrace.bsa@gmail.com

Hazardous Weather Training:

Hazardous Weather is now a required training, and all adults should renew or take this training as soon as they are able. It is available online 24/7 in my.scouting.org. To provide as safe of a program as possible, please take or renew your training!

Save the Dates:

Outdoor Training Courses:

Leave No Trace / Outdoor Ethics Trainer Course:

The Leave No Trace Trainer Course is a 2-day (16 hour), hands-on training designed for Scouting America youth (14 and older), and adult participants who want to deepen their understanding of outdoor ethics and gain the skills to teach others.

When: January 24, 2026 – January 25, 2026 (9:00 am to 5:00 pm both days)

Where: Beaumont Scout Reservation – Sverdrup Lodge

Cost: \$35

More information and registration: <https://www.scoutingevent.com/312-leavenotrace>

Cub Scout Position-Specific Training:

- **LOE/BALOO – Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation Spring Course:**

Next Session: Saturday, May 2, 7:00 am to Sunday, May 3, 2026, 11:00 am
Beaumont Scout Reservation

Cost: \$40

Information & sign up: <https://stlbsa.org/training/> -> SUPPLEMENTAL & OUTDOOR SKILLS -> BALOO

Scouts BSA Position-Specific Training:

- **Spring Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills:**

When: May 1 – 3, 2026

Where: Beaumont Scout Reservation

Cost: \$40

More information coming soon.

If your schedule does not let you attend a classroom training, LET US KNOW. While we cannot schedule special sessions of the outdoor trainings, we can schedule a “classroom” training on dates that work for YOU and your unit!!

Save the Dates:

National Youth Leader Training (NYLT) Courses for 2026:

Attending NYLT gives youth an edge. Not just Scouting, but in school, work, sports and life. NYLT is a six-day course that delivers training in a troop and patrol outdoor setting with an emphasis on the immediate application of learning in a fun environment. Interconnecting concepts and work processes are introduced early, built upon, and aided by the use of memory aids, which allows participants to understand and employ leadership skills much faster. Attending NYLT prepares Scouts for Leadership in the Troop and beyond.

2026 Course dates:

- June 7 – 13, 2026 – Camp Sakima, S-F Scout Ranch
- June 21 – 27, 2026 – Camp Sakima, S-F Scout Ranch
- July 12 – 18, 2026 – Camp Sakima, S-F Scout Ranch
- August 7 – 9 **and** August 15 – 16, 2026 – Beaumont Scout Reservation
(weekend course, both weekends required)

Registration for 2026 NYLT courses coming soon: <https://stlbsa.org/training/nylt/>

If you want to take the next step in Leadership development, consider Staffing NYLT. Interviews will be December 16 at Beaumont Emerson Center or December 17 via Virtual Format. Please complete the application at <https://stlbsa.org/training/nylt/> under NYLT Staff. Pay it forward!

Wood Badge Courses for 2026:

Wood Badge is advanced training for adult leaders in Scouting designed to enhance contemporary leadership skills and develop more effective Scouters. The Wood Badge program gives participants a greater understanding of Scouting aims and methods while developing true Scout Spirit. It is anticipated that all people who complete Wood Badge training will continue to work actively in the Scouting program to further the aims and methods of Scouting.

More information – visit <https://stlbsa.org/training/wood-badge/>

When: May 1 -3, 2026 AND May 16 – 17, 2026 (both weekends required)

Where: Beaumont Scout Reservation

Registration: <https://stlbsa.org/training/wood-badge/>

CAMPING:

All the information about District Camping, Order of the Arrow Camping, Venturing Camping, Cub Scout Day Camps, and Summer Camp is in one spot on the New Horizons Website:

<https://stlbsa.org/find-your-district/new-horizons-district/new-horizons-camping/?654651>

KLONDIKE DERBY: HOW TO TRAIN YOUR SCOUT

The 2026 Klondike Derby will take place at Beaumont on Saturday, January 31st from 8am-4:30pm with the Pathfinder and North Star Districts. The day will be jammed with activities and will include a hot lunch. The event is open to Venturers, Scouts BSA, and Arrow of Light Scouts attending with a troop. Units are welcome to camp on Friday and/or Saturday nights. However, each unit will need to make their own arrangements.

Registration:

Registration opens on 12/1/25. The cost is \$15 per person till 1/22/26. After that, the cost increases to \$20 per person. Registration and the Event Manual can be found at: <https://scoutingevent.com/312-107222>

Theme & Activities

This year's theme originates in the movie series, How to Train your Dragon, a story following Hiccup, a young Viking who befriends a dragon named Toothless. Together, they challenge Hiccup's village's belief that dragons are dangerous, showing that humans and dragons can live in harmony.

Like previous Camporees and Klondikes, patrols will have opportunities to earn points during the skill sessions and afternoon activities, like the Flag & Yell, Costume Contest, Sled Decoration, the Skit Competition, and Sled Race. At this year's Klondike, there is the Pathfinder tradition of the Currency System, where Scouts are free to trade with other Troops and the staff for more coins, extra food, or whatever else they may like. Coins will be turned in for points, so the more coins collected, the more points awarded! This year there will be multiple stocks to buy and trade. The Totem Exchange, another cool Pathfinder tradition, will return this year. In addition, we will be collecting pet food (Cats & Dogs) for the APA Pet Adoption Center in Brentwood, also worth points.

Interested in Staffing?

As always, we need many Scout staff members to run the event. By staffing, Scouts get a chance to practice leadership skills, make some new friends, and help make the event better for everyone. To be eligible to staff, a Scout must either be at least 14 years old, have reached the rank of Star Scout, or are approved by the Camping Chairman and the Scout's Scoutmaster. If a Scout wants to staff, they can reach out to the Camping Chair (see contact info below).

WHY GO TO A KLONDIKE DERBY?

We get asked this question all the time: Why go camping when it's cold and snowy? Our answer—why not! A Klondike offers unique experiences you simply can't get during summer camping. Here's why you should join us:

- You can participate in a way that works for you—come just for the day, stay Friday night, or camp Saturday night.
- Winter camping in the snow offers a greater physical challenge than camping in warmer weather.
- Build your derby sled and put your skills to the test by competing against other units.
- Experience nature in a whole new way. Snow muffles sound, creating a peaceful, quiet setting for relaxation and reflection—plus, no bugs!
- Nothing compares to the comfort of a warm fire on a cold winter day.
- We handle all the planning—you just show up and enjoy the activities.
- A Klondike provides excellent leadership opportunities for Scouts, whether serving on Camporee staff or leading within their own unit.

UPCOMING DISTRICT CAMPOREES & CAMPING EVENTS:

Save the dates for Future New Horizons District Camping Events:

- **2026 Spring Camporee – April 24 – 26, 2026 – World Wide Technology Raceway**

The Spring Camporee is set to be an unforgettable experience! Units will have the rare opportunity to camp in the infield of the racetrack, with day passes available for those joining us just for the day. Action-packed activities will be happening throughout the track, and the council Pinewood Derby will take center stage on Saturday.

The excitement continues into the evening, with special activities in the works—including the potential to attend drag races. While planning is still underway, one thing is certain: this is shaping up to be a Camporee that Scouts and leaders will be talking about for years to come.

With approximately 11 districts expected to attend, this event is on track to sell out quickly. Be sure to watch for updates at Roundtables and in upcoming issues of this publication!

- **2026 New Horizon Cub Scout Day Camps:**

- Larson Park Cub Day Camp – June 8 – 12, 2026
- Millenium Park Cub Evening Camp – July 27 – 31, 2026
- A list of ALL 2026 Cub Scout Day Camps (coming soon!): <https://stlbsa.org/camps/cub-scout-day-camps/>
- **2026 Fall Camporee – October 16 – 18, 2026 – Beaumont Scout Reservation**

Questions? Contact Camping Chair Mike Hulsizer at michael.hulsizer@shawneelodge.org

ORDER OF THE ARROW

2025-2026 Shawnee Lodge Officers:

Lodge Chief – Max Cremer	Lodge 1 st Vice Chief – Nathan King	Lodge 2 nd Vice Chief – Carson Lee
Recording Secretary – David Miller	Corresponding Secretary – Kyle Floyd	Treasurer – Noah Hutchinson

2025-2026 New Horizons Order of the Arrow Chapter Officers & Advisors:

Chapter Chief	1 st Vice Chief	2 nd Vice Chief	Secretary	Chapter Advisor	Associate Advisors:
ISAIAH	DEVON	SYDNEY	LEO	GREG CALDWELL	Elaine Caldwell – 1 st Vice
MEESE	OSBORNE	THURMOND	BYRNE		Chris Byrne – Logistics
					Craig Dahlgren – Bro. Adv.
					Joe Attea - Secretary

Congratulations to the following Arrowmen on being selected for the Founders Award:

MALCOLM BLISS LORENZO GUTTING BOBBY KAYE TREY MAXWELL

Congratulations to the following Arrowmen on being selected for the 2026 Vigil Honor:

JOE BRADLY RUBEN BRILL MAX CRAMER REGGIE FLECKE KYLE FLOYD JASON HAM STEVE HEYMAN
NATHAN KING KARL LESCHOB CARSON LEE BRADEN MATZ DAVID MILLER LILLY STEPHENS JAY WILKINS

New Horizons Order of the Arrow Chapter News:

You can also follow us on social media. You can follow us on **Twitter:** @NewHorizonsOA, **Instagram:** nhchapteroa, **Facebook:** New Horizons Order of the Arrow, or the new Lodge portal **HUB51**.

2025 Shawnee Lodge Membership Hub – HUB51:

The **HUB51 Portal** was born out of a desire to serve our members better by making it easier to stay involved in Shawnee Lodge including:

- New Flexible Payment Options
- Improved Communications
- Mobile Friendly Experience

Members should have received an email invitation to create an account. Once you have logged in to the HUB51 Portal, you can access information from the “Upcoming Events” tab. Season & Thunderbird pass members’ Discount codes are available on the Portal when you sign up for events. **If you did not receive your email information**, email Shawnee Lodge at help@shawneelodge.org

Save the Dates:

New Horizons Order of the Arrow 2025-2026 Calendar:

Our calendar of events are listed here, with some details in the sections below.

<https://api.neonemails.com/emails/tracking/click-link/7-mbU8OACQ1ahL5D0ZhUNvBpP0fztTemwBSwY7Lu4DE=/8ns6lZivhUbAfPP7E1AXhqzBctc9p8OQURZ4tAMFz8s=>

Journey to Brotherhood Meeting:

January 13, 2026, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm, more information TBD

Chapter Social:

January 18, 2026, more information TBD

Journey to Brotherhood Meeting:

February 5, 2026, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm, more information TBD

Chapter Banquet:

February 22, 2026, 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm, more information TBD

Shawnee Lodge Arrowman Experience:

February 27, 2026 – March 1, 2026, Beaumont Scout Reservation, more information TBD

Chapter Service Project:

March 14, 2026, more information TBD

Journey to Brotherhood Meeting:

March 24, 2026, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm, more information TBD

Shawnee Lodge Spring Conclave:

April 10 – 12, 2026 – Beaumont Scout Reservation, more information TBD

Arrowmen Opportunities:

The Chapter is also looking for ceremonialists. This is a great way to become more comfortable with public speaking and an excellent way to better understand the traditions of the Order of the Arrow. Interested scouts can reach out to Greg Caldwell at gregory.caldwell@shawneelodge.org.

VENTURING & SEA SCOUTING:

2025-2026 New Horizons Venturing Officers:

President	VP of Administration	VP of Program	VP of Communication	VSOA Advisor
JOSH	ANDI	NATHAN	(TBD)	DENNIS DELANEY
WYCKHOUSE	FADLOVICH	WYCKHOUSE		djdelaney55@gmail.com

Crew Advisors and youth: Please attend the **Roundtable** (see above under “SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS”) and please encourage other youth in your Crew to attend.

EVENTS:

Venturing/Sea Scout Lock-In (STL After Dark)

Join us for a night (and early morning) of exciting fun as we have a plethora of activities slated for the lock-in at Carondelet YMCA. The theme for this event is “Venturing and Sea Scouting Games” – there is something for everyone: swimming/water activities, basketball, volleyball, gaming room, multiple contests, and even a magician. This is something you do not want to miss! Registration is now open.

When: January 17 – 18, 2026, 8:00 pm – 6:00 am
Where: Carondelet Rec Center YMCA, 980 Holly Hills, St. Louis, MO
Cost: \$35 until January 5th, \$40 until January 16th, and \$45 at the door
Sign up here: <https://scoutingevent.com/312-dark26>

SAVE THE DATES:

- **Tastes of Venturing:** March 27 – 29, 2026
- **Venturing/Sea Scout Celebration Dinner:** May 17, 2026
- **Swift’s Big Kickoff:** May 30, 2026
- **Swift Base Camping Dates:** June 14 – 20, 2026 and June 28 – July 2, 2026

Follow us here:

- <https://stlbsa.org/venturing-calendar/>
- **Facebook** at “New Horizons District Venturing”
- **Instagram** at “NH_Venturing”

DISTRICT CONTACTS/CALENDAR:

New Horizons District Executives:

Your district professionals are here to help!

Ben Brennecke, Field Director is serving New Horizons District, and will be filling in while the New Horizons District Director role is vacant. He can be reached at Ben.Brennecke@scouting.org and 314.256.3092.

District Director:

Vacant - contact Ben Brennecke, Ben.Brennecke@scouting.org

For units in the boundaries of Rockwood, Kirkwood, and Valley Park school districts

Senior District Executive:

Nick Prainito, nicholas.prainito@scouting.org

For packs in the boundaries of Parkway, Webster Groves, and Brentwood school districts

The New Horizons District Calendars are available here:

<https://stlbsa.org/find-your-district/new-horizons-district/new-horizons-information/>

Expand the blue box “NEW HORIZONS DISTRICT CALENDARS”