



On The Horizon – May 2026



Sign up to have On The Horizon emailed to you at <http://eepurl.com/Z-9Vr>



<https://www.facebook.com/newhorizonsdistrictgslac>

Table of Contents

IMPORTANT DATES AT A GLANCE:.....2

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:3

COMMISSIONER’S CORNER:5

MEMBERSHIP:5

ACTIVITIES:6

ADVANCEMENT:7

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math):10

DEVELOPMENT/ENDOWMENT:.....10

TRAINING:11

CAMPING:13

ORDER OF THE ARROW13

VENTURING & SEA SCOUTING:15

DISTRICT CONTACTS/CALENDAR:15

IMPORTANT DATES AT A GLANCE:

EVENT:

DATE:

Spring Wood Badge – Session 1	May 1 - 3
Scouts BSA Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills	May 1 – 3
In-Person Cub Scout Position-Specific Adult Leader Training	May 2
Cub Scout Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation	May 2 – 3
Shawnee Lodge One Day of Service/Fellowship	May 2
May Roundtables – 2026/2027 Program Preview	May 5
Scouts Read Sacred Texts	May 7
May Eagle Boards of Review	May 5, 13, 27
Spring Wood Badge – Session 2	May 16 – 17
Venturing/Sea Scouts Celebration Dinner	May 16
New Horizons OA Chapter Meeting	May 16
Greater St. Louis Area Scouting Annual Recognition Event	May 21
NH Order of the Arrow Ceremonial Social & Development	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
Camp Kick-Off - Order of the Arrow Service Project	June 6
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)
(No July Roundtable)	
July Eagle Boards of Review	July 1, 8, 22
National Youth Leader Training – Third Session	July 12 – 18
National Scout Jamboree	July 22 – 31
Millenium Park Cub Evening Camp	July 27 – 31
In-Person Cub Scout Position-Specific Adult Leader Training	August 1
August Roundtables	August 4
August Eagle Boards of Review	August 5, 12, 26
National Youth Leader Training – 4 th Session, Weekend 1	August 7 – 9
National Youth Leader Training – 4 th Session, Weekend 2	August 14 – 16
August New Horizons OA Chapter Meeting	TBD
September Roundtables	September 1
Council Challenge Course Intro Training	September 2
September Eagle Boards of Review	September 2, 9, 23
Council Challenge Course Training	September 12 – 13
District Life to Eagle Seminar	September 16
Shawnee Lodge Fall Reunion	September 18 – 20
Fall Wood Badge Course – Weekend 1	September 25 – 27
Venturing Fall Fun Rally	September 25 – 27
Cub Scout Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation	September 26 – 27
Order of the Arrow Section Conclave	October 2 – 4
District Cub Scout Leader Training	October 3
October Roundtables	October 6
October Eagle Boards of Review	October 7, 14, 28
Cub Scout Spookoree	October 9 – 11
Cub Launch	October 10
New Horizons Fall Cub-o-ree/Camporee	October 16 – 19

Haunted Hayrides	October 16 – 18
Scoutbotics – St. Louis University	October 17
Chemistry Merit Badge Clinic	October 17
Fall Wood Badge Course – Weekend 2	October 17 – 18
Scouts BSA Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills	October 23 – 25
Haunted Hayrides	October 23 – 25
FrightFest	October 24
Cub Scout Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation	October 24 – 25
2027 Order of the Arrow Vigil Nominations due	October 31

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>

May ROUNDTABLES:

May Roundtable will be at **Manchester United Methodist Church**, 129 Woods Mill Rd, St, Louis, MO 63011, on May 5th, gathering at 6:30 pm, and the program at 7:00 pm. **This is one of the most important Roundtables of the year – PROGRAM PREVIEW.** The doors will open at 6PM. Gather in the large room for fellowship and meeting other scout leaders in the district. Guest presenters are St. Louis Area Geocachers & Y-Kiki Diving, plus district chairs for camping, training, membership, advancement, OA, and Venturing.

June ROUNDTABLES:

June Roundtables will be on June 2nd, gathering at 6:30 pm, and program at 7:00 pm. NOTE: Cub Roundtable will be held at **Love Park**, 2239 Mason Ln, Manchester, MO 63021, and the program will be “How to Lead a Cub Scout Nature Program”. NOTE: Scouts BSA and Venturing Roundtables will be held at **Manchester United Methodist Church**, 129 Woods Mill Rd, St. Louis, MO 63011, on June 2nd, gathering at 6:30 pm, and the program at 7:00 pm. The Scouts BSA Roundtable program is TBD.

2026-2027 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.

2026-2027 Cub Scout Program Guide:

<https://canva.link/399ji42t49ox6fx>

2026-2027 Scouts BSA Program Guide:

<https://canva.link/sdk5obop41y9u8p>

2026-2027 Venturing Program Guide:

<https://canva.link/iajgljcp0ttcjov>

IMPORTANT NOTES ➔

The Council office is now 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.

====>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 (CST 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,

As we move into May, many of our units are wrapping up their program year. Courts of honor, crossover ceremonies, campouts, and end-of-year celebrations are happening across the district. This is one of the most visible—and meaningful—times for our Scouts and their families. It's worth asking: *Are we finishing as strong as we started?*

A strong finish doesn't have to mean doing more—it means doing what matters well. Celebrate advancement. Recognize growth. Thank your volunteers. Make sure every Scout feels seen and valued before summer begins. These moments are what families remember.

At the same time, May is when great units quietly start preparing for next year. A few simple questions can set you up for success:

- Do you have key leadership roles filled for the fall?
- Is your calendar taking shape?
- Are you identifying Scouts who may need extra encouragement to stay engaged?

Commissioners can be especially helpful right now—not by adding work, but by being a sounding board. Sometimes a short conversation is all it takes to help a unit leader step confidently into the next season.

Let's finish this program year with purpose—and step into summer ready to build on that momentum.

Yours in Scouting,

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

MEMBERSHIP:

Year Round Recruiting

Closing out the school year with a strong, visible presence at end-of-year events helps your Pack stay connected to families and the wider community in a natural, low-pressure way. Whether you choose to host something simple or make it a tradition to show up at a favorite school or neighborhood event each year, consistency builds recognition and trust over time. At the same time, occasionally rotating in a new event helps you reach potential or new Scouts you might otherwise miss. These moments aren't just celebrations, they're opportunities for Scouts to be seen, welcomed, and remembered right when families are thinking about what comes next.

Is there something already planned in your community that you could help with? Try one of these:

- Family Picnics
- Field Day
- Outdoor Movie Night
- End-of-Year Carnival
- Multicultural Nights

Many of these activities need an extra set of hands, so all ages can be on deck to make a big difference. Enjoy your summer!

Powerful Sign-Up Nights in the Fall - Get Trained!

Every pack deserves a Sign-Up Night closer -- get certified in world-class training that converts nearly every prospect into a new Scout. Reach out to Chris Kadel at 314.800.7039 or chris@signalhost.me and get your pack's seat today.

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, Senior District Executive (Nicholas.Prainito@scouting.org)
- Chris Kadel, Membership Committee Chair (Chris@signalhost.me) / 314.800.7039

ACTIVITIES:

Save the dates!

Memorial Day Good Turns:

Every year on the Sunday before Memorial Day (Sunday, May 24, 2026) Scouts gather to place flags on graves of veterans. There are two Good Turns for Scouts of all ages to participate and you are encouraged to participate in both.

Memorial Day Good Turn for Jewish War Veterans:

The Council Jewish Committee on Scouting's Annual Memorial Day Good Turn will begin on Sunday, May 24, 2026 at 9:00 am. Scouts of all ages are needed to assist in flag placement at over 8,000 graves of Jewish War Veterans located at 8 Jewish cemeteries. More information and a sign-up PDF may be found here:

<https://stlbsa.org/advancement-awards/religious-emblems-program/jewish-scouting/>

77th Annual Memorial Day Good Turn at Jefferson Barracks:

Scouts of all ages are invited to participate in the 77th Annual Memorial Day Good Turn on Sunday, May 24, 2026 hosted by Gravois Trail District. A flag will be placed on each of the approximately 280,000 graves. Registration is between 10:30 am – 11:30 am followed by a procession and flag ceremony prior to flag placement. For more information and registration, visit <https://www.scoutingevent.com/312-2026JBmdgt>

2026 National Annual Meeting:

The 2026 National Annual Meeting will take place on May 11 – 15, 2026 in Dallas, Texas.

Silver Buffalo Award:

Created in 1925, the Silver Buffalo Award for distinguished service to youth is awarded to those persons who give noteworthy and extraordinary service to youth and is Scouting America's highest commendation to the invaluable contributions that outstanding Americans make to youth presented by the National Court of Honor. Among the 14 recipients for 2026, New Horizons Scouter **Jane Grossman** will be receiving this award on May 14, 2026! Congratulations, Jane!

Silver Antelope Award:

Created in 1942, the Silver Antelope Award is the Council Service Territory level distinguished service award presented by the National Court of Honor. It recognizes Scouts of exceptional character whose outstanding service has made a lasting impact on youth across their territory. Among the 32 recipients, including 2 from Council Service Territory 5, New Horizons Scouter **Bruce A. Levitt** will be receiving this award on May 13, 2026! Congratulations, Bruce!

2026 Council Annual Recognition Event:

The Silver Beaver Award is the highest recognition a Scout Council can bestow on an adult volunteer leader. While the date, time, and location are to be determined for this event, congratulations go out to New Horizons Scouters who will be recognized with the Silver Beaver Award: **Christine Berg, Greg Caldwell, Tim Gamma, Kim Montgomery, and John Ziegler**. The Council Duty to God Award recipients **Kenneth Etter** and **Liz Webb** will be recognized. Also being recognized are Silver Buffalo recipient, **Jane Grossman** and Silver Antelope Recipient **Bruce Levitt**.

When: May 21, 2026, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Where: Edward Jones, 12555 Manchester Rd., St. Louis, MO 63131

Cost: \$42

Sign-up: <https://scoutingevent.com/312-annualevent2026>

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/>

Help Wanted!

Do you love spending time outdoors, working with youth and have time Monday-Friday weekday hours (school day hours) to fill? Come join Discovery Base at Beaumont staff to help make a difference in young people's lives!

Positions needed:

- Belayers
- Rangemasters
- Archery & BB Guns
- Initiative Games Leader
- High & Low Ropes Crew
- Outdoor Skills Leaders
- STEM Coordinator

The hourly wage is \$17! If interested, please contact Jesse Engle, Director at 314.954. 5565 or

jesse.ingle@scouting.org

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: <https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/digital-resource-guides/>

2026 UPDATES: <https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/all/>

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!

Scouts 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/>

Citizenship in Society discontinued:

Citizenship in Society has been discontinued effective February 27, 2026. Scouts who started this merit badge prior to that date may continue to work on it until December 31, 2026, though it is no longer an Eagle Required merit badge – see below for more information on Eagle Scout requirements.

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

Important - Eagle Scout Rank Requirements Change/Eagle Scout Application Change:

Effective February 27, 2026, the “Citizenship in Society” has been discontinued, though Scouts who began this merit badge *before* that date may continue to complete it before December 31, 2026. There are now 13 Eagle Required merit badges with a total of 21 merit badges needed to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. The Eagle Scout Application has been changed to reflect this (see below for the link). An additional line for parents’ contact information has also been added in the “Letters of Recommendation” section. Here is an article that clarifies the Eagle Scout Application changes:

https://www.scouting.org/program-updates/clarification-on-the-eagle-scout-rank-application/?utm_source=scoutingwire&utm_campaign=dm110126&utm_medium=email&utm_content=

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! Eagle Boards are held on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. 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! NOTE – CALL WEEKLY COORDINATOR’S CELL TO GAIN ADMITTANCE as the door to the church is locked.

Our Weekly Coordinators are:

- Craig Biehle - week 1
- Matt Smith - week 2
- Laura Hernke – week 4

Review dates:

- May 6, 13, 27
- June 3, 10, 24
- July 1, 8, 22
- August 5, 12, 26
- September 2, 9, 12
- October 7, 14, 28

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 Scoutbook 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:

April LTE Advancement Seminar:

When: September 16, 2026, 7 pm *sharp* **IN PERSON!**

Where: **GSLAS Council HQ, 1122 Town and Country Commons Drive, Suite 200, Chesterfield, MO 63017**

Registration required: Registration coming soon!

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/>.

New STEM NOVAS:

NEW – Motorsport NOVAS are now available to earn! Race to the STEM page to see the requirements. New for this NOVA award, Lions & Tigers can cross the finish line and earn the Motorsport NOVA, too!

<https://stlbsa.org/stem/nova/>

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/>

Own a business? We would love to talk to you about sponsorship opportunities! Please talk to Ben Brennecke (ben.brennecke@scouting.org), Nick Prainito (nicholas.prainito@scouting.org), or contact David Knieriem (Knieriemd@cs.com)

Heart of Scouting:

Our “**Friends of Scouting**” has been renamed “**Heart of Scouting**”. Each unit is asked to host a Heart of Scouting presentation in 2026. All money raised benefits the council and supports all its operations, including but not limited to camp improvements, programs and trainings, service projects, financial aid, and more.

Sign up here for a Heart of Scouting presentation: <https://forms.gle/cJp2oScSQXGzZAhR8>

New Horizons Annual Giving Link – Make a Gift:

<https://fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/SCOUTS2026/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:

To do anything well, people need training, in whatever form that takes. Training may be formal or informal, online or face-to-face; it may help someone learn to ride a bicycle, drive a car, or perform better at a job. Training can be conducted in a group setting or individually. In the end, the result of high-quality training is a person's ability to do something new or better, and a feeling of satisfaction from the accomplishment. How effectively Scouting America influences the lives of youth depends on its leaders and their ability to apply the aims and methods of Scouting—these are the keys. Developing the ability to use these keys is what these courses are all about. Let me know how the training team can help you develop your abilities

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. The refresher is now available followed by a test (you must score 80% or higher or you will need to re-take the 90 minute course).

Transition from Previous YPT:

If you've already completed Youth Protection Training (YPT), your certification remains valid until May 2026. 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:

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
Pine Ridge Scout Reservation

Cost: \$40

Information & sign up: <https://scoutingevent.com/312-108836>

- **In-Person Cub Scout Position-Specific Adult Leader Training**

When: Saturday, May 2, 2026, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

OR

Saturday, August 1, 2026, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Where: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 327 Woods Mill Rd., Manchester, MO 63011

Cost: None

Contact Ed Wilhelm if you are interested in attending: edwilhelm@yahoo.com

Scouts BSA Position-Specific Training:

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

When: May 1 – 3, 2026

Where: Beaumont Scout Reservation

Cost: \$40

Information & sign up: <https://scoutingevent.com/312-2026springIOLS>

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 is now open: <https://stlbsa.org/training/nylt/> -> 2026 DATES

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.

When: September 25 – 27, 2026 AND October 17 – 18, 2026 (both weekends required)

Where: Beaumont Scout Reservation

More information and sign-up: <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>

UPCOMING DISTRICT CAMPOREES & CAMPING EVENTS:

Save the dates for Future New Horizons District Camping Events:

Cub Scout Summer Camping Opportunities:

In 2026, Cub Scout summer camp is offered in two categories, giving families clear options based on what they're looking for.

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

Day Camps deliver 5 days of fun, safe, outdoor adventure for Scouts entering Tiger through Arrow of Light. With no overnights, flexible schedules, and locations at camps or close to home, it's a week of friendship, discovery, and summer excitement.

- 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:* <https://stlbsa.org/camps/cub-scout-day-camps/>

- **Cub Scout Advancement Camps:**

Advancement Camps are new, rank-specific experiences that help Scouts build skills and confidence while getting a head start on advancement. With age-appropriate formats and classic camp fun like archery, STEM, swimming, and games, these camps prepare Scouts for a great year ahead.

A list of ALL 2026 Cub Scout Advancement Camps: <https://stlbsa.org/camps/cub-scout-overnight-camps/>

Plan ahead:

- 2026 Fall Cub-o-ree & Camporee – October 16 – 18, 2026 – Beaumont Scout Reservation
- 2027 Klondike Derby – January 30, 2027 – Beaumont Scout Reservation
- 2027 Spring Camporee – April 16 – 18, 2027 – Camp Warren Levis
- 2027 Fall Cub-o-ree & Camporee – October 15 – 17, 2027 – 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 Cramer

Lodge 1st Vice Chief – Nathan King

Lodge 2nd 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

1st Vice Chief

2nd Vice Chief

Secretary

Chapter Advisor

Associate Advisors:

ISAIAH

DEVON

SYDNEY

LEO

GREG CALDWELL

Elaine Caldwell – 1st Vice

MEESE

OSBORNE

THURMOND

BYRNE

Chris Byrne – Logistics

Craig Dahlgren – Bro. Adv.

Joe Attea - Secretary

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, the new Lodge portal **HUB51**, or the Chapter website: <https://shawneelodge.org/chapters/nh-chapter/>. Coming soon: New Horizons Chapter “**GroupMe**” communications tool.

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 is listed here, with some details in the sections below.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qw46J7gRoVdM_dikbkNLrINJLkyv5SU4D_x_9aFkLII/edit?tab=t.0

Shawnee Lodge One Day of Service:

May 2, 2026, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Cub World at Beaumont Scout Reservation

Lunch is provided by the Lodge.

More information & sign up here:

<https://shawneelodge.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F43848>

New Horizons Chapter Meeting:

May 16, 2026, 6:00 pm followed by a Gateway Grizzlies game at 6:30 pm featuring a Star Wars theme.

OA & Ceremonial Social/Informational:

May 23, 2026 – more information to follow

Summer Camp Kickoff Service Project:

June 6, 2026 – more information to follow

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:

SAVE THE DATES:

- **Venturing/Sea Scout Celebration Dinner:**
 - May 16, 2026, Doors open at 4:00 pm, 4:30 pm – program, 6:00 pm Dinner
 - St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, 33 N. Clay, Ferguson, MO
 - Cost: \$20
 - Register here: <https://scoutingevent.com/312-cele26> (Registration due by May 10th)
- **Swift’s Big Kickoff:**
Join in the fun as we kick off the summer at Swift! The days begins with improving our favorite summer camp. After some meaningful projects, we’ll enjoy som of the fun of the Swift Base and have a party all on our own. Best yet, this is a free event! Potluck dinner – Please bring a side dish or dessert large enough for your unit and some others.
 - Friday, May 29, 2026, 6:00 pm – May 31, 2026, 1:00 pm
 - More information and register here: <https://scoutingevent.com/312-kicko26>
- **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”