



On The Horizon – September 2026



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Table of Contents

IMPORTANT DATES AT A GLANCE:	2
SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:	2
COMMISSIONER'S CORNER:	6
MEMBERSHIP:	6
ACTIVITIES:	7
ADVANCEMENT:	9
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math):	13
DEVELOPMENT/ENDOWMENT:	14
TRAINING:	14
CAMPING:	17
ORDER OF THE ARROW	17
VENTURING & SEA SCOUTING:	18
DISTRICT CONTACTS/CALENDAR:	19

IMPORTANT DATES AT A GLANCE:

EVENT:

September Roundtables
 Council Challenge Course Intro Training
 September Eagle Boards of Review
 Council Challenge Course Training
 Sea Scout Ball
 District Life to Eagle Seminar
 Shawnee Lodge Fall Reunion
 Arrow of Light University Troop Meeting (Session 1)
 Arrow of Light University Camp Meeting (Session 2)
 Fall Wood Badge Course – Weekend 1
 Venturing Fall Fun Rally
 Cub Scout Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation
 October Eagle Boards of Review
 Order of the Arrow G7 Section Conclave
 District Cub Scout Leader Training
 October Roundtables
 Scouting For Food Unit Bag Pick up
 Cub Scout Spookoree
 Cub Launch
 Cub Scout Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation
 New Horizons Fall Cub-o-Ree/Camporee
 Haunted Hayrides
 Jamboree on the Air/Jamboree on the Internet
 Scoutbotics – St. Louis University
 Chemistry Merit Badge Clinic
 Fall Wood Badge Course – Weekend 2
 Scouts BSA Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills
 Haunted Hayrides
 FrightFest
 Fall Festival at the Barn
 Cub Scout Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation
 2027 Order of the Arrow Vigil Nominations due
 November Roundtables
 November Eagle Boards of Review
 University of Scouting
 Scouting for Food Bag Distribution
 District Life to Eagle Seminar
 Scouting For Food Bag Collection
 November New Horizons OA Chapter Meeting
 December Roundtables
 December Eagle Boards of Review
 December Cub Scout Leader Training
 STEM University – UMSL
 Good Turn Project at Manchester UMC
 December Commissioner/Committee Holiday Party
 Submission Deadline for Nominations of Spark Plug and
 District Award of Merit
 Shawnee Lodge OA Winter Fellowship Banquet

DATE:

September 1
 September 2
 September 3, 10, 24
 September 12 – 13
 September 12
 September 16
 September 18 – 20
 September 22
 September 26
 September 25 – 27
 September 25 – 27
 September 26 – 27
 October 1, 8, 22
 October 2 – 4
 October 3
 October 6
 October 6
 October 9 – 11
 October 10
 October 10 (S-F)
 October 16 – 18
 October 16 – 18
 October 16 – 18
 October 17
 October 17
 October 17 – 18
 October 23 – 25
 October 23 – 25
 October 24
 October 24
 October 24 – 25 (B-R)
 October 31
 November 3
 November 5, 12 (no week 4)
 November 7
 November 14
 November 18
 November 21
 TBD
 December 1
 December 3, 10 (No week 4)
 December 5
 December 5
 December 5 (tentative)
 December 8
 December 8
 December 20

Scouts BSA Winter Camp	December 28 – 31
January Roundtables	January 5
January Eagle Boards of Review	January 7, 14, 28
Council Venturing/Sea Scout Lock-in (STL After Dark)	January 16 – 17
District Winter Klondike	January 30
STEM University – SIUE	January 31
Council Silver Beaver Nominations Due	January 31
District 2027 Annual Giving Volunteer Training	TBD
District Volunteer Recognition Event	TBD
February Roundtables	February 2
February Eagle Boards of Review	February 4, 11, 25
Council Scout Sabbath	February 5
Scout Sunday Catholic Youth Recognition	February 6
District Life to Eagle Seminar	February 17
District Pinewood Derby	TBD
New Horizons OA Chapter Banquet	TBD
New Horizons District Pinewood Derby	TBD

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>**

September ROUNDTABLES:

September Roundtables will be on September 1st, gathering at 6:30 pm, and program at 7:00 pm at will be held at **Manchester United Methodist Church**, 129 Woods Mill Rd, St. Louis, MO 63011. The Cub program will be “Cub Launch: Adding Fuel to Your Program”. The Scouts BSA Roundtable program is “Roundtable Talk Show Live: Meet the Author of *Webelos Actually Join Troops*”.

October ROUNDTABLES:

October Roundtables will be on October 6th, gathering at 6:30 pm, and program at 7:00 pm at will be held at **Manchester United Methodist Church**, 129 Woods Mill Rd, St. Louis, MO 63011. The Cub program will be “Special Needs: Every Scout Belongs”. The Scouts BSA Roundtable program is “The Care and Feeding of NYLT Graduates in Your Troop”.

➔ IMPORTANT! Eagle Boards of Review are moving!

Effective September 2026, Eagle Boards of Review are moving from Parkway UCC to **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**, located at 327 Woods Mill Rd, Manchester, MO 63011 (across 141 from Costco). Additionally, EBORs will be held on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th **Thursday** of the month as noted in “Important Dates at a Glance”.

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:

<http://tiny.cc/qpo2101>

2026-2027 Scouts BSA Program Guide:

<http://tiny.cc/wpo2101>

2026-2027 Venturing/Seas Scout Program Guide:

<http://tiny.cc/mpo2101>

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!

====>Updated Annual Health and Medical Record:

Scouting America has released new 2026 AHMR (both short form for under 72 hours and long form for over 72 hours) which supersedes the 2019 version. While your previous AMHR is good until your next physical exam, please download the AMHR forms here instead of searching the internet: <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr/>

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 New Horizons Scouters,

Starting the Year Strong

September marks the beginning of a new Scouting program year. New families are joining, calendars are taking shape, and fall activities are getting underway.

This is a good time to focus on two things that make units stronger: **welcoming new families and sharing the work.**

A parent walking into a meeting for the first time may know very little about Scouting. A personal introduction, a quick explanation of what is happening, and an invitation to the next activity can make a lasting difference.

It is also important that the work of the unit not fall on just a handful of volunteers. Rather than simply asking someone to “help,” consider making a specific request: coordinate an outing, assist with advancement, or take responsibility for one upcoming event. Small roles often become the first step toward greater involvement.

As the year begins, take a look around your unit. Welcome someone new. Thank someone carrying an extra load. Identify one job that could be shared—and make the invitation.

Strong units are built through relationships and shared responsibility.

Here's to a great start throughout New Horizons District!

Yours in Scouting,

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

MEMBERSHIP:

Sign-Up Night Notes for Fall Recruiting

Register your night on the District tracker. Do it as soon as you have a date, even a tentative one. The tracker is how we route trained closers, DE support, and materials — and how families searching for a nearby Pack find you. Register here: <https://forms.gle/YiDV2ZJ1hrirSx8n8>

Lead with the ask. When a family walks in, the first thing out of your mouth is “Are you here to sign up?” Not a tour, not a slideshow. Most families who show up have already decided; they just need someone to hand them the form. Save the program pitch for the folks who say no.

Use the paper applications. Online registration is where a family ends up, but a poor place to start when you have a parent for ninety seconds. Paper closes the conversation while they are standing there.

- Hand it over the moment they show interest and ask them to finish before they leave. Do not send it home.
- Staff the table with someone whose only job is collecting completed forms.
- Get applications to your registration contact promptly so nothing sits in a folder.
- Bring more than you think you need.
- QR code/link is last resort, not first resort.

Renewals Are Moving to February — What It Means for This Fall

By February 2028, every member and every unit renews in the same month. One season, one date — good news for Committee Chairs who chase renewals twelve months a year. Units and members get there on different clocks.

Units move first. Starting September 2026, any unit with a charter expiring 10/31/2026 or later renews straight onto the February 2028 cycle: standard charter fee plus pro-rated months to bridge the gap. Same rate, longer term, one larger invoice. Budget for it now.

Members move second. Nothing changes for members in 2026. Anyone you recruit this fall pays the normal fee for a normal twelve months. Their transition comes at their next renewal in fall 2027 — roughly \$32 for a Scout renewing that October.

Units will again renew their members, but not yet. That returns in January 2028. For this fall, families still register and pay online. *If your committee is budgeting around collecting member fees this year, it is not time yet.*

One date to circle: the 60-day grace period ends December 31, 2026. November renewals get 30 days; December renewals must be finished by the 31st.

Bottom line for recruiters: nothing changes about what a family pays or how they join. If a parent asks, the answer is short — “your first year is a normal year, and after that everyone renews together.”

Powerful Sign-Up Nights Are Here — Get Trained!

Every Pack deserves a Sign-Up Night closer, and there is still time to get trained before your night. Reach out to Chris Kadel at 314.800.7039 or chris@signalhost.me to reserve your spot.

Let's keep saying “Welcome!” and growing Scouting this fall. For more information:

- Your Unit Commissioner
- Joe Bradley, District Commissioner (joseph.bradley@icloud.com)
- Ben Brennecke, Field Director (ben.brennecke@scouting.org)
- Chris Kadel, Membership Committee Chair (Chris@signalhost.me) / 314.800.7039

Reminder: Lion & Tiger Adult Partners Must Register Separately

Signing your child's Lion or Tiger application as parent partner does not automatically make you a registered adult volunteer. Unit Leaders should advise adult partners wishing to hold a leadership role that they must submit a separate Scouting America adult application. Contact your Pack's Key 3 or reach out to the District for assistance getting registered.

Follow us on Facebook: [NewHorizonsDistrictCommunity](#)

ACTIVITIES:

Save the dates!

Arrow of Light University:

Troop 677B & 677G will be hosting their annual Arrow of Light University (AOLU) program again in late September. This event is open to **ALL** New Horizons District AOL Scouts to help them transition, *regardless of which Troop that they plan to join*. Troop Guides from the host unit have been busy planning this fall's program with goals of providing a fun and safe environment to allow attendees to complete many of their AOL Adventures well ahead of crossover and preparing attendees for joining New Horizons Scouts BSA Troops. The program has two components (*we recommend attending BOTH sessions to get the most out of it*):

- **Tuesday, September 22, 2026 Troop Meeting:** Scouts from Troop 677 will meet the AOLs and prepare them for Saturday's AOLU, as well as work on a few requirements. Parents will also have the opportunity to meet parents of existing Scouts BSA to learn more about the Scouts BSA program. The meeting will be at 7:00 pm at Quest Church in Wildwood (17126 Old Manchester Road, about a block west of 109).
- **Saturday, September 26, 2026 AOLU:** Scouts from Troop 677 will host various stations to work with AOL Scouts on a range of adventures. There will be food and fellowship, including an evening Campfire. AOLs have the option to camp overnight. A detailed schedule, packing list, and other information will be provided at the Tuesday meeting. The program will start at 8:00 am at Missouri Bluffs Park in the group use camping area (18 Research Park Circle, St. Charles, MO 63304).

If an AOL attends both sessions, we anticipate they will complete the following adventures:

Bobcat (*required adventure*), First Aid (*required adventure*), Outdoor Adventurer (*required adventure*), Personal Fitness (*required Adventure*), Knife Safety (*elective adventure*), and High Tech Outdoors (*elective Adventure*).

Cost: \$15 per AOL Scout – for any participating adult, we ask for donations to help cover our costs (meals, supplies, camping reservation)

Sign-up: If interested, please complete this form by September 15, 2026

<https://forms.gle/hNT2zZcqYvzSDomD6>

Contact Information:

If you have any questions or to get a more detailed information, including the schedule of activities and a packing list, do not hesitate to reach out to: Zeke Remington, 314-616-5671, zremington@gmail.com, or Jon Martin, 703-201-4638, jb_martin00@yahoo.com

Cub Launch:

Spend a day at Beaumont Scout Reservation with the whole family doing all things Cub Scouts love to do: BB gun shooting, Archery, Hike the Bobcat Trail (do Bobcat requirements!), and STEM demonstrations & activities are just a few of the exciting things available – more than 20 different activities.

When: October 10, 2026, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Where: Cub World at Beaumont Scout Reservation

Who: Geared toward new Cubs, but all are welcome

Register: <https://stlbsa.org/cub-scouts-calendar/cub-launch/>

Haunted Hayrides:

Haunted Hayrides are a spooky good time for children of all ages with dates over 2 weekends at nearby Camp Warren Levis. These are open to all Scout units, Scout families and the general public. Each hayride is about 20 minutes, showing the spookier, scarier side of Camp Warren Levis. Keep an eye out for goblins and ghouls, and be careful about that noise in the woods... Come early or stay after your ride for time around the bonfire, and enjoy some chili and hot chocolate from the concession stand.

When: October 16, 17, 23 or 24, 2026

Where: Camp Warren Levis, 500 Boy Scout Lane, Godfrey, IL

Who: Bring the whole family!

Registration recommended, but you can pay with cash at the event.

Registration coming soon – visit: <https://stlbsa.org/cub-scouts-calendar/>

JOTA/JOTI:

Jamboree on the Air/Jamboree on the Internet (JOTA-JOTI) is back October 16–18. Mark your calendars and get ready to connect with Scouts around the world for a weekend of communication, friendship, learning, and adventure. Register here: <https://www.jotajoti.info/>

Fall Festival at the Barn:

Join us for the Fall Festival at The Barn located at **Nagel Equestrian Base in Beaumont Scout Reservation**. Fun for all ages! Pizza and soda for purchase. Costumes are welcome! Activities include Arts & Crafts, Yard Games, Bonfire with S'mores, Hot Chocolate, Branding, Bounce House, Pony Rides, Meet a Horse, Barn Tours, and Hayrides!

When: October 24, 2026, 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Cost: \$5 per person (under 1 is free)

Register: <https://scoutingevent.com/312-118467#>

Fall Fright Night:

Fall Fright Fest is a fun Halloween event for Cub Scouts. Attend just the Saturday event or camp overnight with us and enjoy the entire weekend! Sign up for sessions from 3PM to 7PM Saturday evening! Each session is under 2 hours. Start by listening to a classic Halloween story, then hike the spooky trail, get a goody bag, play on the playgrounds, make slime and get into the Halloween spirit.

Optional camp overnight with us! The classic Fall Fright Fest event is Saturday evening, but now you can join us Friday night and Saturday for a family or pack campout. Friday night we will have a Council hosted campfire program with songs and skits! Families or packs will be responsible for their own meals. Camping space will be provided and campfire program Friday night.

Bring your costume! A fun, age-appropriate, but scary activity to add to the Halloween Spirit! Costumes are welcomed but not a requirement. Wear trail appropriate footwear, you will be going through a wooded trail.

We are seeking some volunteers to help make slime with Cub Scouts during this event. If interested in volunteering to make slime, contact Lisa Balbes at lisa@balbes.com

When: October 24, 2026 (optional – stay overnight to October 25, 2026)

Where: Beaumont Scout Reservation, Cub World

Cost: \$10 per attendee (optional overnight additional \$5 per person)

Registration coming soon – visit: <https://stlbsa.org/cub-scouts-calendar/>

Scouting For Food:

Scouting For Food started in 1985 and is the Greater St. Louis Area Scouting's one-of-a-kind day of service for Scouts of all ages. Thousands of Scouts, parents, and leaders hit the streets on a Saturday in November to distribute bags to the homes in their assigned area. Community members fill up those bags with non-perishable food items, and the Scouts return one week later to pick up those bags and distribute them to local food banks and pantries. Last year we collected nearly 2 million items.

Once again, Mark Balbes has volunteered to be our Scouting For Food Chairperson

When: Units pick up bags for distribution at October Roundtable, October 6, 2026

Bag Distribution – November 14, 2026

Bag Collection – November 21, 2026 **after** 9:00 am (please don't start earlier!)

Where: Each unit will be assigned a specific area

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:

2026 Merit Badge Makeup Day:

The event is designed to help scouts who began a merit badge at summer camp, but did not finish, to complete the merit badge with counselors. All badges that are offered at a GSLAC summer camp will be supported by this event. The climbing tower, rifle range, shotgun range, archery range, and pool will all be available and staffed to allow scouts the opportunity to finish their badges. No advance registration is required; there is no charge for this event; this event is to help scouts complete merit badge partials, not to begin new merit badges; the pool will only be open from 8 am – 11am.

Where: Beaumont Scout Reservation

When: August 22, 2026 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

For more information, contact mbmud@stlesa.org

Merit Badge Counselors please note!

Effective July 1, 2026, a merit badge counselor can now counsel as many as 10 merit badges. You can be a counselor for up to 4 Eagle Required merit badges and 6 electives, or counsel 10 electives, or any

combination of merit badges with the stipulation that you are limited to 4 Eagle Required badges. The previous limit was 4 merit badges total. While scouts may opt to obtain many badges from counselors within their troop, one of the purposes of merit badges is for scouts to reach out to an adult that they don't know. As a reminder, all merit badge counselors need to take "Safeguarding Youth Training (Y01)", "Introduction to Merit Badges (SCO_474)", and "What is a Merit Badge Counselor (SCO_486)"

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 "On Scouting" article:

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

New Wildland Fire Management Merit Badge:

This new merit badge was developed in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the Society of American Foresters, introduces Scouts to wildfire behavior, prevention, emergency preparedness, and related career paths through interactive, hands-on experiences:

<https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/wildland-fire-management/>

New Competitive Gaming Merit Badge:

This new merit badge highlights the growing world of esports, teaching teamwork, strategy, sportsmanship, and career opportunities in gaming, streaming, and technology:

<https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/competitive-gaming/>

Mining in Society:

The Mining in Society merit badge covers the history of mining, explores the status of mining in the 21st century, and introduces Scouts to modern mining careers. There were some changes to the requirements. Here are the current requirements:

<https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/mining-in-society/>

Citizenship in Society discontinued:

Reminder: Citizenship in Society was 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" was 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/>

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 Thursdays 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 314.384.2482.

Eagle Boards of Review will be held **IN-PERSON**!

Our Weekly Coordinators are:

Craig Biehle - week 1

Matt Smith - week 2

Laura Hernke – week 4

Review dates:

September 3, 10, 13

October 1, 8, 22

November 5, 19 (No week 4 due to Thanksgiving)

December 3, 10 (No week 4 due to Christmas)

January 7, 14, 28

February 4, 11, 25

IMPORTANT NOTE: Scouts are 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/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/eagle-scout-workbook/>

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: <https://forms.gle/qcBcciLnjFCrf9yQ6>

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):

22nd Annual Chemistry Merit Badge Workshop:

Do you think all chemists do is blow things up? Would you like to conduct some experiments yourself – and take a tour of a working excipient manufacturer? Do you want to know what an excipient is? Then attend our Chemistry Merit Badge Workshop!

When: October 17, 2026 – Registration opens at 8 am

The opening session begins at 8:30 am

Pick up at 1:30 pm

Where: Jost Chemical, 8110 Lackland Rd., St. Louis, MO 63114

Registration: Registration is limited, and is available on a first come, first served basis at

<https://forms.gle/XAcdCGo4LDfL6BoH7>

Cost: \$10 – includes lunch

- **PayPal:** <https://paypal.me/stlacstreas> or stlacstreas@gmail.com
- **Checks:** Payable to “St. Louis Section ACS” may be sent c/o Lisa Balbes, 648 Simmons Ave, Kirkwood, MO 63122

Questions: Lisa Balbes – lisa@balbes.com

What to bring:

- Merit Badge Application Card (blue card) signed by your scoutmaster indicating that you are eligible to work on this badge, or proof of conversation
- Safety Glasses, if you have them – if not, they will be provided

- **Closed-toed shoes, pants that extend to the ankle, and shirt sleeves that extend to the wrist are required.** Due to the nature of the activities, Scouts not properly attired will be sent home – **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Prework: Read the entire Chemistry merit badge pamphlet. Requirement 3a (Maillard reaction, such as cooking an onion) must be completed at home, prior to the workshop. Please bring documentation (photos and/or notes) and be prepared to discuss. **The Chemistry Merit Badge has undergone some important changes**, and the merit badge pamphlet may be found here: <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/chemistry/>

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/>

There will be STEM-tastic information shared at the November Round Table, which may include hands-on experiments and door prizes!

Are you looking for STEM ideas for your unit? Ron Colletti would be more than happy to help you with ideas and/or activities. Please contact Ron Colletti at rcollettistl@att.net

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), 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 Ben Brennecke, Ben.Brennecke@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 New Horizon Leaders!

Welcome new and returning Leaders!

I am excited for a great fall Scouting season with lots of events and opportunities for everyone. Are you prepared for all the activities your Scouts want to do?

As Leaders we try to prepare our Scouts for the events they are participating in so that its fun and memorable. Often that means doing things for them to ensure the outcome. It's our job to impart knowledge and guide them on how to do things, not necessarily do it for them. They need to use the knowledge and skills you have imparted to them to try it on their own in order to be successful.

BUT, you need the knowledge in order to give it to them! Training helps provide the knowledge and most importantly the "how to" give that knowledge away. Our council and district, as well as online, have a lot of options for different activities that you can be trained on to train your Scouts and families for the best outcome possible.

If you need help with any training opportunities, please let me know or come to a Round Table and ask.

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 20-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:

Your previous Youth Protection Training (YPT) certification expired at the end of May 2026. 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 Training:

- **LOE/BALOO – Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation**

Fall Courses:

Next Session: Saturday, October 10, 2026, 7:00 am to Sunday, October 11, 2026, 11:00 am
S-F Scout Ranch

OR

Saturday, October 24, 2026, 7:00 am to Sunday, October 25, 2026, 11:00 am
Beaumont Scout Reservation

Cost: \$40

Information & sign up: <https://scoutingevent.com/312-109460>

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

When: Saturday, October 3, 2026, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Saturday, December 5, 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:

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

When: October 23 - 25, 2026

Where: Beaumont Scout Reservation

Cost: \$40

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

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 2027:

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.

2027 Course dates:

- June 6– 12, 2027 – Camp Sakima, S-F Scout Ranch
- June 20 – 26, 2027 – Camp Sakima, S-F Scout Ranch
- July 11 – 17, 2027– Camp Sakima, S-F Scout Ranch
- August 6 – 8 **and** August 13 – 15, 2027 – Location TBD
(weekend course, both weekends required)

Registration for 2027 NYLT courses is coming soon.

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:

Fall 2026 New Horizons Cub-o-Ree and Camporee:

Mark your calendars for the **Fall 2026 New Horizons Cub-o-Ree and Camporee**, October 16–18 at Beaumont Scout Reservation! This year's theme is **Mission Possible!**, and Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, and Venturers are invited to accept the mission for an action-packed weekend of **shooting sports, the climbing tower, merit badges, themed challenges, outdoor adventure, and more**. Registration includes all program activities plus **lunch**, making this one of the best values of the Scouting year. **Early Bird registration is just \$18 through September 20 at 11:59 p.m.** The regular fee is **\$23 through October 12 at 11:59 p.m.**, with late registration available at the door for **\$28**. The Leader Guide, including schedules, program details, and registration information, will be available at the September Roundtable. Start planning now, assemble your unit, and get ready for an unforgettable weekend at Beaumont. **Your mission awaits!**

Sign-up link: <https://247scouting.com/forms/312-EventBPForm> (should be live soon!)

Save the dates for Future New Horizons District Camping Events:

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 – 1 st 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:

2026 Shawnee Lodge Fall Reunion:

Join us September 18 – 20, 2026 for our Lodge’s largest annual gathering. There will be lots of Brotherhood while we support our candidates competing their Ordeal. In addition, there will be a time to earn your Brotherhood, Lodge/Chapter elections will be held over the weekend. We look forward to seeing you there, and if you would like to run for a Chapter officer position, please reach out to Isaiah.meese@shawneelodge.org

Where: S-F Scout Ranch Camporee Field

When: September 18, 2026 (after 4:00 pm) to September 20, 2026 (ends at 11:00 am)

Cost: Early Bird Pricing ends August 30th, 2026, 11:45 pm
Late Registration pricing Starts September 13th, 2026, 11:45 pm
Ordeal Candidates: \$27 regular price, \$34 late registration
Ordeal, Brotherhood & Vigil, Ticket only: \$18 regular price, \$25 late registration
Ordeal, Brotherhood & Vigil, Ticket with dinner:
\$27 regular price; \$34 late registration
Ordeal, Brotherhood & Vigil, Ticket with meal plan:
\$44 regular price; \$51 late registration
Season Pass Holder: Dinner \$5, Meal Plan \$22 (must be logged onto their own HUB51 acct)
Thunderbird Pass Holder: Dinner \$5, Meal Plan 19 (must be logged onto their own HUB 51)

Sign up: Use HUB51 (contact help@shawneelodge.org if you need help)

Order of the Arrow G7 Section Conclave:

The 2026 Order of the Arrow Section Conclave will be held at Camp Lewallen, and we will be meeting with several lodges.

Where: Camp Lewallen (about 40 miles South of S-F Scout Ranch)

When: October 2, 2026, to October 4, 2026

Pricing: \$45 for youth or adult before September 21st, 2026
\$60 for youth or adult after September 21st, 2026
\$70 for VIP Attendees

Register here: <https://scoutingevent.com/312-111913-257139>

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

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:

Sea Scout Ball:

September 12, 2026

This annual event is put on by the Sea Scout Squadron for the council includes food, a dance, and often an evening on the water sailing! Don't miss out on this unique event for all!

More information: <https://scoutingevent.com/312-ball26>

53rd Annual Fall Fun Rally

September 25-27, 2026

Beaumont Scout Reservation

Fall Fun Rally includes non-stop activities for Venturers, Sea Scouts, Explorers, and Older Scouts (14 - 20). It is a non-stop weekend of activities at Beaumont Scout Reservation. Over the course of the weekend more than 125 activities, programs, trainings, gatherings, and displays will be held. Spanning shooting sports to STEM, climbing to Sea Scouts, Venturing Trainings to evening parties, Exploring events to First Aid Challenges, the weekend has something for everyone. The event is planned by the Greater St. Louis Area Council Venturing and Sea Scout Officers' Association and is put on by units and volunteers who give of their time to put on an amazing event. Join in the party at Fall Fun Rally as we celebrate the adventure! www.fallfunrally.org facebook.com/fallfunrally

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:

Vacant - contact Ben Brennecke, Ben.Brennecke@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**”

ALL events in Greater St. Louis Area Council may be found in the calendar here:

<https://stlbsa.org/calendar/>