

Cornhusker Council Commissioner Corner

Joint Commissioner and District Committee Conference

July 25, 2026, 9am-3pm, OEC

Mark this date on your calendar now for our third joint meeting of commissioners and district committee members from across Cornhusker Council. Our council continues to face many challenges, and we need your help to determine the most effective ways to help our units, leaders and ultimately, the youth.

Agenda topics:

- Retention:** Commissioner focus in scouting year 2026-27 (currently at 40.68%); include review of new guide — see article on page 2
- Recruitment:** Will review council membership plan and available resources
- Increasing Leader Specific Training compliance stats**
- Upcoming changes to member/unit renewal:** See article on page 2
- Scouting America Trail Map and Commissioner Trail Map**—more info to come
- 2027 Gold Star Unit Criteria**

Other agenda topics are still a “work in progress”, so please share any ideas you have with me (karsensieber@live.com) or your district commissioners or district committee chairs.

Please feel free to invite any scouters who might be interested in joining the commissioner staff or a district committee — what a great way to find out what we do!

June Commissioner Priority — Unit Renewal (also known as recharter)

Please share these reminders with unit leaders:

- ◆ Any unit leader position changes need to be completed before submitting the annual renewal. These can be changed in Organization Manager/Position Manager in the My.Scouting account by the COR or the COR Delegate (assigned by the COR).
- ◆ Verify volunteers are current in their Safeguarding Youth Training
- ◆ The Annual Unit Charter Agreement **NEEDS TO BE SIGNED AND SUBMITTED TO THE OFFICE.**

The renewal process will “OPEN” on June 1, 2026 and must be finalized by July 31, 2026.

If help is needed with a Renewal, please encourage unit leaders to reach out to set up an appointment. Appointments can be made over the phone or in person, but leaders should call ahead to do so. Call 402-488-6020, ext. 202 or email: manuela.mcdonald@scouting.org. Unit leaders should have all the signed necessary paperwork with them, along with payments.

If renewal is completed online, there is no need to submit or renew again in the office.

SPECIAL RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE ANNOUNCEMENT

Units can earn \$200 by completing the following by July 1:

1. Register five (5) new youth by July 1, 2026
2. Complete their Unit Renewal
3. Every Scout due to renew by July 1 is renewed

Council will help by providing units the following:

- Outdoor signs for their meeting place
- Flyers to pass out at the neighborhood school
- Cub Scout “Day Camp” Trailer to provide program activities (reserved on first come, first served basis)



June 2026 Priorities



Fall Recruitment Plans:

Stay tuned for more information from the Council and Districts!

Pack Annual Planning:

Encourage packs to set the date for this important meeting soon so that it is on every leader’s summer calendar!

BeAScout pins:


Remind leaders to continue to monitor their unit pins. Parents may already be looking for fall activities for their children!

Leader Specific Training

- See below for the district training report as of April 2026.
- UC’s should be encouraging unit leaders to complete position specific trainings. Summer may be a great time for pack leaders to get their online training completed. Another option is in-person training—Pam Chandler is ready to provide those trainings when requested.

**Every Scout deserves
a Trained Leader!**

District	Trained %
At Large	68.3%
Impact District	54.9%
Prairie Winds	46.6%
Salt Valley	63.3%
Seven Feathers	70.5%
TOTAL	61.8%



Fireworks

Scouting America strictly prohibits both the personal use and commercial sale of fireworks for all youth members and chartered units. Outlined in the official Scouting America Guide to Safe Scouting, these regulations ban fireworks as both an unauthorized activity and an impermissible fundraising method.

The official policy and restrictions include the following specific mandates:

Sales Ban: Units are explicitly prohibited from selling fireworks as a money-earning or fundraising project.


Possession and Use: Scouts, Venturers, and adult leaders cannot possess, display or ignite fireworks, explosives or pyrotechnic devices during any Scouting activity or at campouts. Even common items like sparklers are considered restricted fireworks and are not allowed.

Commissioner Staff Contact Info
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ACC for Training: Pam Chandler <i>pkmchandler@gmail.com</i>
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Salt Valley District Comm. Bill Lang <i>wlang50@gmail.com</i>
Seven Feathers District Comm. Richard White <i>rwhite4576@gmail.com</i>

Dates to Remember

- June 7-13 / June 14-20: Scout BSA Resident Camps
- June 8-12: Weeklong Day Camp
- June 20: Twilight Camp: Messenger of Peace
- June 21-26: NYLT
- June 21-27: Brownsea Wilderness Camp, Webelos/AOL Camp Session 1 and 2
- June 27-29: Cub Scout Resident Camp
- July 11: First Aid, CPR, AED Training
- July 11: Twilight Camp: Standing Bear

Scouting America Military Family Fee Waiver



Effective June 1, 2026 Scouting America is expanding access to Scouting for military-connected youth by waiving the \$85 national youth registration fee for eligible families. This program applies to youth members only and is available for both new and renewing online registration. The initiative is funded nationally through philanthropic efforts. Eligible families include those with current service in the Active Duty, Reserve, or National Guard. The waiver covers only the national youth registration fee, reducing the \$85 to \$0 after the required verification and discount code process is completed. Local council fees, unit dues, optional add-ons such as Scout Life magazine, and processing fees may still apply.

Source:
<https://scouting.webdamdb.com/bp/#/folder/13524102/166251751>

Changes to Renewal Process

Announcement from the 2026 National Meeting:

By February 2028, all members and all units will have a single, common renewal month of February. This change is in response to feedback from unit leaders and other Scouters who asked for a simpler, more consistent renewal experience. Key updates include:

- * Beginning September 2026, all units due for renewal will renew to February 2028.
- * All memberships and unit charters will have a common renewal month of February by February 2028

To simplify the process and in response to unit leaders' requests, Scouting America is returning to unit control of member renewals. If the unit does not renew a members that member may renew themselves after the unit-only period closes. To support the transition during 2026 and 2027:

- * Beginning in September 2026, new and renewing units will use the standard charter fee plus pro rata fees through February 2028.
- * There will be no changes for new and renewing members through 2026.


Expired Membership Renewal Policy Change

This policy change was shared with registrars on May 21: Effective immediately, anyone whose registration expires (youth or adult) who reregisters within 12 months of expiration, can reregister without completing a new application. The only exception that would require a new application would be if it is an adult going to a different unit with a different chartered organization than their previous unit.

End of Lapsed Period

The two-month lapse period will end on December 31, 2026. All members must be current by this date to maintain active status. Members with an October 2026 renewal date are last to receive a two-month lapse period. Members with a November 2026 renewal date will receive a one-month lapse period, and members with a December 2026 renewal date will not receive a lapse period.

Safety Moment: Pie in the Face



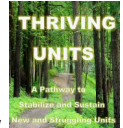
Three activities which have been prohibited are now allowed: **laser tag, low pressure water guns, and pie in the face.**

Pie in the Face guidelines:

- Only adult leaders who consent can receive pies in the face.
- Only one person can receive a pie in the face at a time.
- People getting pied must wear well-fitting eye protection such as swimming goggles or safety goggles.
- People getting pied must not be allergic to their designated pie ingredients.
- Minimal force must be used to prevent injury. For example, use a two-hand method to ensure full control and to control the amount of force of the pie.
- Be ready to step in and correct any unsafe behaviors.
- Pies must consist only of whipped cream in a disposable aluminum pie tin or on a paper plate. If the recipient has a dairy allergy, then a non-dairy whipped cream substitute or non-mentholated shaving cream should be used.
- Demonstrate proper pie application, ensuring pies are not thrown but placed on the person getting pied to prevent injury.
- Ensure personnel applying pies can do so using minimal force to prevent injury and that pies are not thrown.

Source: <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/pie-in-the-face-safe-checklist/>

Thriving Units — A Pathway to Stabilize and Sustain New and Struggling Units



A new guide is now available which provides a clear practical framework for how commissioners and district volunteers can support units from day one through the critical first 30, 60 and 90 days, and beyond. Focused on long-term success, the guide outlines proven approaches to help units become stable, sustainable, and effective in delivering a strong program that keeps youth engaged and supports their leaders. Rather than prescribing who delivers support, the guide focuses on what support is needed, giving districts the flexibility to meet units where they are and provide meaningful, consistent assistance.

Source:
<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/commissioner/resources/thriving-units/Guide-Book.pdf>


Eagle Scouts: A Legacy of Values-Based Leadership and Service



Check out these resources for the results of a new research study about Eagle Scouts:

Interactive website:
<https://www.scouting.org/about/research/eagle-scout-2026/>

Printable booklet:
<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/marketing/pdf/Eagle%20Scout%20Study%202026.pdf>



America250—In celebration of our nation's 250th anniversary, national is asking every unit to provide 250 hours of community service throughout 2026.