

Scouting Today

AUGUST 2026

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CORNHUSKER COUNCIL, SCOUTING AMERICA

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REGISTER NOW!

2026 POPCORN SALE!

Popcorn sales are right around the corner—the sale opens on September 4th! Please work with your Unit's popcorn kernel to get ready for the sale! There are some fun and exciting changes coming—including new popcorn flavors, new timeline, and new drawings!

Remember proceeds from this sale not only supports your Scouts and your Unit but also supports YOUR Council! By selling popcorn, Scouts learn valuable skills in goal setting, communication, entrepreneurship, and financial responsibility—PLUS earn great prizes! We appreciate all the hard work that our Scouts put into this sale!

Our kernels will be getting ready so look for more information coming soon!!!

Sign up here to sell popcorn:
[Popcorn Sales : Unit Fundraising : Cornhusker Council, BSA](#)



REGISTER NOW!

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH 1ST AID (YMHFA), AUG 22

Youth
Mental Health First Aid



Mental Health FIRST AID

Youth Mental Health 1st Aid is an international evidence-based education program proven to be effective in teaching adults how to recognize and respond to signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use challenges. YMHFA is designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health and human services workers, and other caring citizens how to help an adolescent who is experiencing a mental health, substance use challenge, or is in crisis.

Register here: [Cornhusker Council - Youth Mental Health First Aid](#)

REGISTER NOW!

2026 HUSKER USHERING



It's time to think about ushering at this season's Nebraska home games and we need you!

Football season is just around the corner. The first home game for 2026 is Saturday, September 5th.

If you are interested in ushering at the home football games, all you have to do is get signed up on-line. You need to be at least 12 years old to usher. All 12 year olds need to have partner that is 16 years or older.

Stay tuned for special benefits for our Ushers!

Register here for the game(s) you would like to usher at:

[CORNHUSKER COUNCIL - USHERING](#)

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT RECRUITMENT

As we prepare for another exciting fall recruiting season, now is the time for every Scout unit to contact its assigned school and arrange permission to set up a recruiting booth during the school's designated open house, back-to-school event, or other approved recruiting opportunity.

Many schools are finalizing their event schedules, and early communication with school administrators is the best way to secure a visible location and ensure your unit is included in the event. A personal phone call or email to the principal or school office can make all the difference.



A successful recruiting booth should be welcoming, organized, and engaging for both youth and parents. Consider displaying photos of recent adventures, camping trips, service projects, and Pinewood Derby or Cub Scout activities. Have youth and adult leaders available to answer questions, distribute flyers, and invite families to your upcoming Join Scouting night or first unit meeting. Be sure to have membership applications, QR codes, or other registration information readily available.

Remember that your recruiting booth is often a family's first impression of Scouting. Friendly volunteers, enthusiastic Scouts in uniform, and a clear message about the fun, adventure, leadership, and character-building opportunities Scouting provides can inspire new families to join.

If you have not yet contacted your assigned school, please do so as soon as possible. Working together with our school partners helps ensure another successful recruiting season and allows more young people to experience the life-changing benefits of Scouting.

Thank you for your commitment to growing Scouting and welcoming the next generation of Scouts into your unit!

ORDER YOUR RECRUITMENT FLYERS HERE: [Recruitment Flyer Request](#)

We can also provide materials to help with your recruitment campaign: decorate your booth, yard signs, posters, tablecloths, activities, etc. *Contact your District Executive to reserve these materials!*

NEW MEMBER COORDINATOR

Research on what attracts people to a group - and what keeps them engaged - shows that the most important factor is a SENSE OF BELONGING. The power of feeling that you belong holds true for youth seeking friends and families finding their place in a community, or families seeking meaningful experiences for their children. Belonging is created not only through repeated outreach and welcoming but also through recognition of shared values and sustained relationship building. We cannot grow Scouting without developing a sense of belonging for our members and volunteers. New Member Coordinators build belonging to grow Scouting. The Welcome training video on the [Volunteer Learn Center](#) is sufficient for you to get started in your exciting new role. Additional detailed training on Sharing the Benefits of Scouting, Coordinating Recruitment, and the Joining and Welcoming Process is available in Scouting America's Members Learn Center, using the same process for access. **Please email your District Executive with the name and contact information of your New Member Coordinator.**





INCREASE RETENTION OF FIRST-YEAR CUB SCOUTS



Three Simple Steps to Retain More Families – What Packs Can Do

1. MAKE IT PERSONAL!

Create Immediate, Personal Connections

- Contact every new family quickly (within 48 hours).
- Assign a single point of contact. We call this person the New Member Coordinator.
- Make families feel known and included right away.
- Provide a pack T-shirt when joining; a neckerchief, hat, Handbook, or swag bag can also work.

2. MAKE IT FUN!

Deliver Early Fun and Outdoor Experiences

- Host one or more fall campouts or major outdoor events (maybe in September or October).
- Personally ensure every new family knows they can attend.
- Set the tone: Scouting = fun and adventure – hikes, outdoor games, cookouts, s'mores, etc.

Run Simple, Fun, Activity-Based Meetings

- Less talk, more activity.
- Embed advancement into games and hands-on experiences.
- Meet outdoors when possible. Avoid meetings that feel like school.

3. MAKE IT EASY!

Provide Strong Early Leader Support

- Experienced leader runs the first few meetings.
- Give new den leaders time to observe, train, and gain confidence.
- Use simple, ready-to-go plans.

Set Clear Expectations and Structure

- Publish a full-year calendar early with a consistent schedule.
- Communicate clearly using a main channel.

Engage Parents Early with Small Roles

- Each family plans a meeting Adult partners in Lions and Tigers – shared leadership at all levels.
- Use micro-volunteering: A volunteer may run a station at meetings or help with the Pinewood Derby, popcorn sale, group hike, Blue and Gold, field trips, campout cooking, award ceremonies, etc.

BOTTOM LINE: RETENTION IMPROVES WHEN FAMILIES FEEL CONNECTED EARLY, EXPERIENCE FUN IMMEDIATELY, AND ENCOUNTER FEWER BARRIERS.



WHAT PACKS CAN DO – RESOURCES 1, 2, 3

Increase Retention of First-Year Cub Scouts

MAKE IT PERSONAL!

- Create immediate, personal connections.
- What to say: *Hello (name), we are so glad you are part of our pack. We look forward to seeing you at our next activity (date/time/location).* Send as a text or email within 48 hours of joining.
- Welcome new families: [WelcomeNewCSFamily WEB.pdf](#)
- Video: [Welcoming New Families](#)
- Welcome ceremony: [Welcome to Our Pack](#)
- Team building pack meeting planner: [Team Building](#)
- Order pack T-shirts. National vendors include [Scout Shop](#), [4imprint](#), and [ClassB](#). Check with your council for local options as well. Use the Brand Center for logos: [Brand Center: Cub Scouts](#).

2. MAKE IT FUN!

Deliver Early Fun and Outdoor Experiences

- Check with your local council for activities and events.
- Planning tools: [Outdoors Pack Meeting Plan Worksheet](#)
- Outdoor Adventures by den: [Cub Scouting Outdoor Adventures](#)
- Video: [Cub Scouting Camping](#)

Run Simple, Fun, Activity-Based Meetings

- [Den Leader Resources](#)
- Activities for Adventures by rank: [Cub Scout Adventures](#)
- Fun and games: [Cub Scout Fun and Games](#)
- Den leader tips and tricks: [Tips and Tricks Videos](#)
- Four-Month Plan (best for new and small packs): [Pack Program Planning Deck](#)
- Den Decks: [Planning Decks by Den](#) or [to purchase](#)

3. MAKE IT EASY!

Provide Strong Early Leader Support

- Encourage training: [Adult Leader Training](#).
- Check with your executive and/or Scout office for roundtables/den leader rallies/forums, etc.
- Watch #CubChatLive on Fridays at 2 p.m. CST ([Cub Chat Live](#)) or listen to the podcast afterward

Set Clear Expectations and Structure

- Publish a full-year calendar early with a consistent schedule using the [Scoutbook Plus Calendar Guide](#) or other online calendar creations: [Canva](#), [Calendar.online](#), [Adobe Express](#).
- Communication options beyond email: [ScoutBook](#), [groupme](#), [band](#), or other channels

Engage Parents Early with Small Roles

How to Volunteer in Cub Scouting

- [Family Talent Survey](#)
- Videos: [Getting Parents Involved](#), [From Parent to Leader](#)
- Committee Resources: [Pack Committee Resources](#)

UNIT RENEWALS OVERDUE

Please work on your unit and membership renewals.

The office needs the Annual Unit Charter Agreement before we can submit your unit renewal.

You can submit online or pay at council from the unit account.

The new Safeguarding Youth Training needs to be taken by everyone who's Youth Protection Training is expired.

Call if you have questions: 402-488-6039



UNIT AND MEMBER RENEWAL COMBINING IN FEBRUARY 2028

By popular demand from Scouting's adult leaders, Scouting America will be combining unit and individual member renewals to February. For the Cornhusker Council, next year's unit renewal (July 2027) will have a prorated fee schedule to February 2028. In January 2027, new members begin to register through February 2028 using a prorated schedule. Starting in March 2027, renewing members begin transitioning on a monthly pro-rated schedule to February 2028.



2026–2028 Membership Transition: The Move to February

UNIT CHARTER & MEMBERSHIP CYCLE

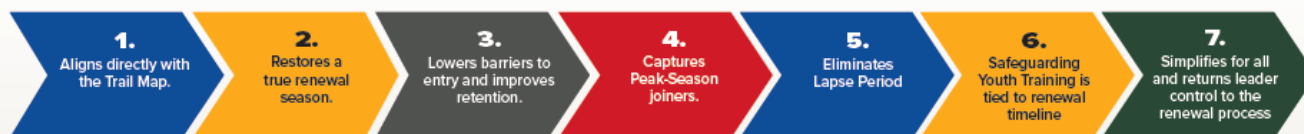
Beginning in September 2026, Scouting America is shifting all unit renewals to February. Starting in 2027, member (adult and youth) renewals will also shift to February. This strategic shift will create a true 'renewal season,' improve retention, better capture those who join in peak recruiting season and, most importantly, puts leaders in control of

the renewal process. In addition, these shifts lower the initial fee to join, eliminates the 2-month lapse period and aligns safeguarding training to renewal dates. These changes directly support membership AND retention.



VISION, BENEFITS AND IMPACT

SEVEN KEY BENEFITS



CAMP CORNHUSKER NEWS

Camp Cornhusker is your camp!

Camp Director: Sammi Lowery (campcornhuskerbsa@gmail.com)

Staff Advisor: Will Cover (william.cover@scouting.org)

Overview : Camp Cornhusker : Camping & Activities : Cornhusker Council, BSA



Camp Cornhusker 2026 - Scouts BSA Session 2, Cub Scout Resident Camp, and WEBELOS-AOL Resident Camp

Reserve you campsite for Camp Cornhusker 2027!

SAFEGUARDING YOUTH

VP Administration-Enterprise Risk Management Committee: Joy Citta

VP Risk Management: Mark Collins

Assistant Council Commissioner: Mitchell Locken

Council Training Chairman: Mike McCollough



BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS FROM THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

1. Teach Young Children Important Personal Information

Make sure younger students know their phone number, home address, how to contact their parents at work, another trusted adult they can call, and how to dial 911 in an emergency.

2. Remind Kids Not to Talk to Strangers

Teach children never to accept rides, gifts, or invitations from someone they don't know.

3. Walk on the Sidewalk Whenever Possible

If there's no sidewalk available, walk facing traffic to see approaching vehicles.

4. Walking to School? Look Both Ways Before Crossing

Kids should stop at every street corner and look left, right, and left again before crossing. Cross only at corners, obey crossing signals, and stay within marked crosswalks. Avoid running into traffic or crossing between parked cars.

5. Does Your Student Ride a Bus? Arrive at the Bus Stop Early

Get to the bus stop early and wait a safe distance from the curb. Teach kids to wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and only board when instructed by the driver or attendant. Children should stay where the driver can see them and never walk behind the bus.

6. Always Wear a Bike Helmet Ride on the right side of the road and follow the same direction as traffic.

7. Buckle Up Every Time

Whether driving across town or just to school, everyone in the vehicle should wear a seat belt.

8. Use the Right Car Seat or Booster Seat

9. Make Sure Teen Drivers Wear Seat Belts

10. Eliminate Distracted Driving

Remind teens to avoid texting, calling, eating, or drinking while driving to school.

APPS, CLASSES ENHANCE READINESS

Both students and teachers alike can benefit from taking different Red Cross classes or by downloading free apps from the Red Cross. [redcross.org/apps](https://www.redcross.org/apps).

SUPPORT SCOUTING IN SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA

(info@cornhuskercouncil.org)

GIVE TO NEBRASKA

Founded by Nebraska Nonprofits. For Nebraska Nonprofits.



Give Nebraska's 2026 campaign is underway! Your employer may be promoting this campaign in your workplace and may match a certain percentage of your donation. In 2025, the Top 5 Public Sector Campaigns were: UNL, LPS, City of Lincoln, LES, and Lancaster County. The Top 5 Private Sector Campaigns were: Crete Carrier Corporation, UNMC, Pinnacle Bank, INSPRO, and Clark & Enersen. The Cornhusker Council is a proud partner with Give Nebraska!

Give Nebraska is a federation of nonprofit member agencies operating across the state to make our communities a better place for all who live, work, and visit Nebraska. From the arts and education to animal welfare and the environment, Give Nebraska champions nonprofit organizations that enhance the quality of life in Nebraska and connect donors with the local causes they care most about.

Give Nebraska partners with many public, private, and governmental entities to operate employer-sponsored charitable giving campaigns, inspiring employees to make a difference in their community. We make it easy and effective for companies and employees to support positive change in their communities. In other words, Give Nebraska exists to help YOU make a difference.

Being a part of Give Nebraska has helped us spread awareness about our cause and raise money so we can continue to enhance the quality of life here in Nebraska. Thank you Give Nebraska!

<https://www.givenebraska.org>

U-STOP'S KICK IT BACK TUESDAY FOR CORNHUSKER COUNCIL, SCOUTING AMERICA BEGINS IN AUGUST!

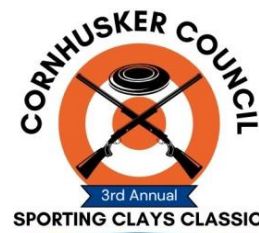


Without the support of our community, U-Stop wouldn't be where they are today. As our way of saying thank you, U-Stop "Kicks It Back" to the community by partnering with various local organizations that uplift, innovate and better our communities. In August, the "Kick It Back" campaign benefits the Cornhusker Council. You can help kick things back by fueling up at your local U-Stop every Tuesday, where 2¢ of every gallon of gas sold will go to one of our giving partners.

3RD ANNUAL SPORTING CLAYS CLASSIC, SEP 26TH

Join us for our 3rd annual Sporting Clays Classic at Oak Creek Sporting Club in Brainard, NE. The day will be filled with 20 stands of sporting clays, shooting games, camaraderie, and fun as we come together to support Scouting.

Join as a team of 4 or be an individual shooter. A maximum of 60 shooters will be allowed (either individuals or grouped as 4 person teams).



Price is \$500 for team and \$125 for individual shooters. Register here: [Cornhusker Council - Sporting Clays Classic](#) For more information contact Jeff Johnson at Jeffrey.Johnson@scouting.org

EXPLORING, VENTURING, SEA SCOUTS

Exploring: Jason Hellmuth (info@cornhuskercouncil.org)

Venturing: Tom Rolfes (trolfes_77@yahoo.com)

Sea Scouts: Tom Rolfes (trolfes_77@yahoo.com)



JOIN EXPLORER POST 575

Interested in a career in law enforcement? Join Post 575! The program is FREE and open to those 14-20 years old interested in learning more about law enforcement.

Contact Jason Hellmuth or the Council Office at info@cornhuskercouncil.org



Exploring exists to teach important life and career skills to young people from all backgrounds through immersive career experiences and mentorship provided by community and business leaders like you. Scouts can be dual enrolled in a Scout Troop and an Explorer Post. If there are other career areas outside of the Law Enforcement career that your Scouts may be interested in and would like to help start an Explorer Post, contact info@cornhuskercouncil.org.

SEA SCOUTS IN NEBRASKA? AYE AYE, CAPTAIN!

Sea Scout units- called ships- are established across the country on oceans, bays, rivers, and lakes. They provide limitless opportunities and exciting challenges that you won't find anywhere else. Sea Scouting is an inclusive program through Scouting America for all youth aged 14-21 (co-ed) (or 13 and completed the 8th grade). Youth can be dual registered in a Troop and a Ship. Cadets can still earn their Eagle Scout and the Quartermaster Award. We have a sailboat, we have adult leaders, we need you! If you are interested, contact Tom Rolfes or the Scout Office (info@cornhuskercouncil.org).



VENTURING CREW 2 - BAHAMAS TALL SHIP SAILING TRIP!

Crew 2 will be going to Sea Base for the Bahamas Tall Ship sailing trip, July 16-23, 2027. Fly directly to the Bahamas! Experience all the Bahamas Adventure has to offer aboard a Tall Ship. This adventure is for groups of 18-20 people who are willing to explore the Sea of Abaco. This is an active ship and requires everyone to work as a team as you learn and experience the workings of sailing and sea travel.



The vessel currently being used in this program is a 60' catamaran perfect for the depth and conditions in the Sea of Abaco. The cost for the adventure is \$1500. Plus passport, airfare and crew gear fees. Contact Bryan Welty for more information: mkbwelty@gmail.com

Venturing is an inclusive (co-ed) youth-led program (ages 14-20) about building adventures with your friends. Choose to do activities that matter to you and develop essential skills like leadership, event-planning, organization, communication, and responsibility while having a blast! Everyone has that moment that opens their eyes to a bigger world than they ever imagined. It might happen while paddling a quiet lake, bonding with new friends around a beach bonfire, or rising to the challenge of leading an exhausted crew to the edges of adventure. Venturing empowers you to create your own experiences while bringing Scouting values to life through high adventure outdoor activities and challenging real-world projects. We continue to grow our Venturing program. Interested? Contact us!

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND NEWS

MULTISPORT MERIT BADGE TRIATHLON, AUG 22ND

Multisport is a racing competition that includes a combination of running, biking, or swimming. This triathlon is intended to serve as the culmination of the Multisport Merit Badge to complete requirement 7. Scouts must have completed requirements 1-6 prior to attending this event to check off requirement 7. This event is in partnership with USA Triathlon and Mutual of Omaha.



All participants need to have passed the 'Swimmer' level swim test.

Non-Scout Youth should complete the form listed on the registration page to show swimming level: Swim Classification Record

Distances: 100m swim, 3.1km bike, 1.5km run

When: August 22, 2026 8am- 12pm

Where: UNO Wellness Center

6323 Maverick Plaza, Omaha, NE 68182

Who: Scouts who have completed requirements 1-6 of the Multisports Merit Badge. Registration is limited to 50 participants.

Youth Cost: \$10

Register here: [Multi-Sport Merit Badge Triathlon at UNO](#)

OUTDOOR LEADER SKILLS TRAINING (BALOO & IOLS), AT CAMP CORNHUSKER, AUG 28-30

Ready to elevate the experience for the Scouts in your unit beyond the weekly meeting? Your adventure starts with the Council's Outdoor Preparedness program.



By completing the Outdoor Preparedness program you will earn your Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO) and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) certifications. BALOO and IOLS aren't just training courses, they are your all-access pass to unforgettable outdoor adventures. These hands-on programs are designed to build your skills and confidence, ensuring you can lead your unit safely in the outdoors.

Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO)

For Cub Scout leaders ready to take their pack on an overnight camping trip, BALOO is an essential, hands-on training that includes an overnight campout.

What you'll get out of it:

- **Gain confidence:** If you're a new leader or have limited outdoor experience, BALOO will equip you with the knowledge to make your pack's first campout a safe and comfortable experience.
- **Create core memories:** Learn how to plan and lead successful, age-appropriate overnight adventures that Cub Scouts and their families will remember for a lifetime.
- **Master the essentials:** Go beyond the basics to master campsite selection, safe cooking techniques, and campfire programs that will spark every Scout's imagination.
- **Get connected:** Collaborate and share ideas with other leaders, building a network that will support your journey long after the course is over.

Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS)

For Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scouting leaders, IOLS is a critical training course that unlocks the secrets of delivering a top-tier outdoor program.

What you'll get out of it:

- Unlock advancement: Gain the practical outdoor skills needed to teach Scouts everything they need for their First Class rank, including:
 - Map and compass navigation
 - Fire-building and cooking
 - Using woods tools safely
 - First aid
 - Rope work, knots, and lashings
- Level up your teaching: Discover new and engaging ways to teach outdoor skills that will keep your Scouts excited and engaged.
- Connect and learn: Learn alongside other leaders in a dynamic, overnight camping environment, sharing best practices and forming lasting connections.

Lead your Scouts on an adventure they'll never forget. BALOO and IOLS are your foundation for delivering the promise of Scouting and creating a world of exploration for your unit.

Ready for the next step? After taking Outdoor Preparedness stay with us for one more day and take Outdoor Adventures. For more information and to sign up for Outdoor Adventures find the separate event on the Council Calendar.

** If you have special dietary restrictions, please reach out to us ahead of time to discuss cooking and meal options.

*****All participants must take the BALOO Prerequisite Training online through my.scouting in order to get credit for both BALOO and IOLS, there is not a separate online prerequisite course for IOLS.**

**** The courses require overnight camping, tents are required. Please see the attachment section for items you will need.

Register here for BALOO: [Cornhusker Council - Outdoor Preparedness](#)

Register here for IOLS: [Cornhusker Council - Outdoor Adventures](#)

If there are any questions, please let us know!

SHOW YOUR PRIDE! JOIN THE FUN FOR SCOUT SPIRIT WEEK, SEP 11TH - 19TH

It is time to unleash your unit's energy and show our community what Scouting is all about. We are thrilled to announce our upcoming Scout Spirit Week, and we need your unit to help lead the charge!

This week is all about celebrating the outdoor adventures, leadership skills, and lifelong friendships built right here in Nebraska. Participating is simple, fun, and a fantastic way to showcase your unit's achievements to potential new families. We challenge every Cub Scout Pack, Scouts BSA Troop, Venture Crew, Explorer Post, and Sea Scout Ship to jump in on the daily themes, wear your gear proudly, and demonstrate your Scout Spirit in everyday life.

Capture the Action & Win Bragging Rights!

We want to see how your Scouts are living the Scout Oath and Law this week. Whether your pack is rocking their Class B t-shirts at school, or your troop is completing a service project, capture those moments!

Here is how to share the fun:

1. Take high-quality photos of your unit participating in the daily spirit challenges:
2. Post them directly to your personal or unit social media pages.
3. Share them on the official Cornhusker Council Facebook Page so the entire community can cheer your Scouts on!

Daily Spirit Challenge:

Sep 11 - Patriot Day in Scouting.

Sep 12 - Post a photo of a Scout in Class A uniform out and about and ask a friend to join Scouting.

Sep 13 - Post a photo and share your favorite Scouting memory.

Sep 14 - Post a photo of the Scout patch from your favorite event and share your story.

Sep 15 - Unit leading or participating in a flag ceremony.

Sep 16 - Post a photo of something you made in Scouting.

Sep 17 - Scout Law I - post a photo of Scouts demonstrating the Scout Law.

Sep 18 - Scout Law II - post a photo of Scouts demonstrating the Scout Law.

Sep 19 - Post a photo of a Scout/Scouts selling popcorn.

Let's flood social media with the incredible impact of Scouting across our council. Talk to your youth leaders, pick your favorite daily challenges, and get ready to show your Cornhusker pride.

LIFE TO EAGLE SEMINAR, SEP 16TH

Learn about what is required by the Life Scout to reach Eagle. Review the project workbook and Eagle Scout application. Registration ends Tuesday, Sep 15th at 4pm!



Register here: [Cornhusker Council - Life to Eagle Seminar](#)

TARGET NEW GROWTH: RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, & RANGE (R3) DAY COMING! SEP 19 AT THE OEC

Looking for the ultimate tool to excite your new sign-ups and keep your current Cub Scouts coming back for more? The wait is over. Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 19, as the Cornhusker Council hosts the highly anticipated Recruitment, Retention, and Range Day at the Outdoor Education Center (OEC) in Lincoln.

This council-wide event is specifically engineered to support your pack's fall membership drives by delivering an unforgettable, high-energy day of target sports. Because Range and Target Activities (formerly known as Shooting Sports) can strictly only be conducted at official events under the supervision of certified Rangemasters, this is a rare and premier opportunity for your youth!



What is in Store for the Scouts?

The Range Day offers fully supervised, hands-on experiences across three massive fan-favorite activities:

- **BB Guns:** Scouts will learn the fundamentals of marksmanship, proper stance, and safety.
- **Archery:** Youth will step up to the shooting line, learn to pull a bowstring, and aim for a bullseye.
- **Slingshots:** A fast-paced, high-utility station where Scouts hone their hand-eye coordination.

The Secret to Keeping New Families

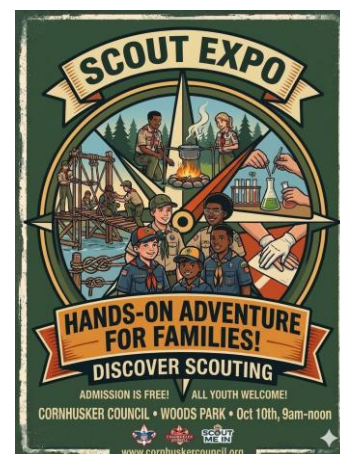
The first 60 days are the most critical window for retaining a newly recruited Cub Scout. There is no better way to solidify their love for Scouting than hand-delivering a major outdoor adventure right out of the gate. Use this event as your primary closer during school recruitment nights. When parents ask, "What do kids actually do in Scouts?", your answer is simple: "Sign up tonight, and your child can shoot BB guns and archery at our council range on September 19!" **SCOUTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING A FRIEND!**

REGISTER HERE: [Cornhusker Council - Recruitment/Retention Range Day](#)

SCOUT EXPO AT WOODS PARK, OCT 10TH

Get ready for a day of adventure, excitement, and family fun! The Cornhusker Council, Scouting America invites the public to Scout Expo, an interactive outdoor event at Woods Park in Lincoln on October 10th from 9am - noon.

Scout Expo gives families an opportunity to experience Scouting firsthand by exploring a variety of hands-on activities hosted by local Scout units. Throughout the park, Cub Scout Packs, Scouts BSA Troops, Venturing Crews, and other Scouting programs will showcase the adventures that make Scouting one of America's premier youth leadership organizations.



Visitors can try their hand at camping skills, outdoor cooking, knot tying, first aid demonstrations, pioneering projects, STEM activities, games, and other exciting challenges. Families will have the chance to meet local Scouts and volunteers, ask questions, and discover how Scouting helps young people build confidence, leadership, character, and lifelong friendships.

Scout units are encouraged to create engaging displays that highlight their unique traditions, favorite outings, high-adventure experiences, community service projects, and outdoor skills. The more interactive the booth, the better!

This is an excellent opportunity to share your unit's enthusiasm while inspiring the next generation of Scouts. Whether your family is curious about Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, or simply looking for an enjoyable day outdoors, Scout Expo has something for everyone. Admission is free, and all youth and their families are welcome to attend. Mark your calendar for Scout Expo at Woods Park this October and come discover why adventure starts with Scouting! No sign-up necessary!

1ST AID, CPR, AED TRAINING, OCT 10TH

First Aid, CPR and AED Training for Adults. Space is limited to 15 participants. Saturday, Oct 10th, 2026, 8:30am-12:30pm

****We must have 6 participants to put the training on****

Training will be held at Innovation Campus, Rise Building
Nebraska Safety Center - Classroom
2125 Transformation Dr #1270
Lincoln, NE 68508

Register here: [Cornhusker Council - First Aid, CPR, AED Training](#)



COUNCIL FALL CAMPOREE, OCT 16 - 18

Captain Corn sez, mark your calendar for the Fall 2026 Council Camporee, Oct 16-18! More details to follow!



NEW MERIT BADGES - COMPETITIVE GAMING AND WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

Check out the Scouting America's latest Merit Badges for your Scouts. Several Cornhusker Council Scouts participated in the Wildland Fire Management Test Lab at Camp Cornhusker earlier this Spring. Their work at the Test Lab will meet the requirements for this Merit Badge. [ALL MERIT BADGES A-Z | SCOUTING AMERICA](#)



EARN YOUR RECRUITER STRIP!

The Arrow of Light badge of rank marks a major milestone in a Cub Scout's growth. The senior patrol leader badge represents one of the most important positions of responsibility in a Scouts BSA troop. And the Eagle Scout award symbolizes an incredible journey of perseverance.



But when considering the array of Scouting awards and recognitions available to young people, you can make the argument that one of them stand above all the others.

If you think about its ability to grow Scouting and introduce this life-changing program to new people, the Recruiter Strip might be the most important patch in Scouting. It's also one of the easiest to earn.

How to earn the Recruiter Strip

The Recruiter Strip has just one requirement: recruit a friend into Scouting.

Any youth member – in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing or Sea Scouts – who gets a friend, classmate or relative to sign up for Scouting can receive the red, white and blue patch.

Each Scout unit comes up with its own procedure for awarding the strip. In most Packs, Troops, Crews and Ships, the young person receives the strip the first time he or she successfully recruits someone into the unit. Submit the completed form to the Scout Shop to receive the recruiter strip: [250646 4x6 BoxStuffer UniformOffer+RecruiterStrip v2](#)

The embroidered cloth strip is worn on the uniform, below the right pocket. *THE PATCH IS FREE!*

FOLLOW US!



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REGISTRAR'S UPDATE

1. Membership "Lapse Period" to be phased out.

Scouting America has announced that the current membership lapse period will be phased out and will end on December 31, 2026.

What Is Changing?

The lapse period has allowed members a short grace period after their renewal date before their membership becomes inactive. As Scouting America moves toward a simpler and more consistent renewal system, this lapse period will gradually be reduced and then eliminated.

Key Dates

Members with an Oct 2026 renewal date will be the last to receive the full "two-month lapse period".

Members with a Nov 2026 renewal date will receive a "one-month lapse period".

Members with a Dec 2026 renewal date will receive "no lapse period".

Beginning in Sep 2026, new and renewing units will use the standard charter fee **plus** pro rata fees through Feb 2028. This is part of the "new" combined unit-member renewal that will go in effect in Feb 2028.

Beginning Jan 1, 2027, members must be current in their registration to maintain active status.

Unit leaders, committee members, and families should begin planning ahead to ensure memberships are renewed on time and there is no interruption in participation, advancement, or registration status.

More information will be shared as Scouting America continues implementing its simplified membership and renewal processes.

* "How-to" guide for taking safeguarding youth training: [HOW TO TAKE SAFE GUARDING YOUTH TRAINING.PDF](#)

It is not too early to think about unit renewal/unit re-chartering! Here is a great information video that walks you through the process: [Key 3 Process Unit Renewal 101624 | Videos & Movies on Vimeo](#)

2. Update your Unit PIN settings!

BeAScout.org introduced an updated look and feel designed to better support prospective families. The enhanced experience will provide answers to common questions before families contact a unit, including:

- Estimated cost to join
- Unit meeting days and times
- Whether the unit charges additional dues

To support these improvements, several new fields have been added to the **Unit Pin** page in Organization Manager:

- Fundraising Helps Cover Costs
- Trial Visit Encouraged
- Unit Fee
- Meeting Schedule: Meeting Frequency, Meeting Day, Start Time, End Time

SCOUT SHOP NEWS

CORNHUSKER COUNCIL SCOUT SHOP

1. Order Online with the Cornhusker Council Scout Shop! Buy local! We are set up with our new online ordering system that goes directly into the Cornhusker Council Trading Post email. A unit can upload their advancement form for rank advancements and browse for other advancements and items needed. Uniform etc. Units will click Cornhusker Council to place their order and we try to fill it within 24 hours. [Internal Forms - Customer Online Order Request Tool](#)

2. We offer free shipping on orders over \$125. (Handbooks do not apply).

3. Can't make it into the shop before 5pm? That's okay! Email your order to the Scout Shop (Cornhusker.tradingpost@scouting.org), let us know you will be picking up after hours, once the order is filled, we will contact you for payment options, and set your items in the pick-up box outside the Scout Shop. You are then able to come by and pick up at your convenience.

4. Leuenberger Lavender for sale in the scout shop! Support one of our own local farmers!



5. OWN A PIECE OF CAMP CORNHUSKER HISTORY!

The latest batch of hiking sticks are in the OEC Trading Post. The one on the right is cedar, the one in the middle is locust and the rest are ash. After the extensive tree trimming work at camp this fall (we were especially sad to see the Ash trees die...doggone ash borer!), Kevin Potter decided to make some limited-edition Camp Cornhusker walking sticks.



6. Do you have any Cub Scout uniform shirts tucked away in a closet or drawer, no longer in use? We're collecting gently used uniform shirts to help Scouts in need who may not have the resources to get one of their own. Your donation can make a big difference for a Scout who's just starting their journey! If you have a shirt to donate (any size!), please bring it to the Scout Shop. Let's help every Scout feel proud and included in uniform! If you have a new Scout that needs a uniform, stop on by the Scout Shop and ask! We also have a lot of camping equipment available to help 'fit out' a new Scout.

COUNCIL & DISTRICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS (LINK: [Cornhusker Council](#))

August 2026

7 (C) Twilight Camp: Reverence

7-9 (C) OA Pow Wow

13 (7FD) Roundtable

15-16 (C) OA Vigil Weekend

15 (C) Popcorn University

17 (C) Show & Sell Orders due

27 (SVD) Eagle Board of Review

28-30 (C) Outdoor Preparedness/Outdoor Adventure

September 2026

- 2 (C) Popcorn Pickup 1
- 2 (C) Properties Committee Meeting
- 3 (C) Popcorn Pickup 2
- 3 (PWD/SVD) Roundtable
- 4 (C) Fall Popcorn Sale Begins
- 5 (C) Ushering (Ohio, 11am)
- 7 (C) Labor Day/Office Closed
- 10 (SVD) Roundtable
- 11-13 (OA) Section G5 Conclave
- 11-19 (C) Scout Spirit Week
- 12 (C) Ushering (Bowling Green, 6pm)
- 14 (C) 2nd Popcorn Order Due by noon
- 16 (C) Life-to-Eagle Seminar
- 18 (C) 2nd Popcorn Distribution
- 19 (C) Recruitment Day at the Ranges
- 19 (C) Ushering (North Dakota, 6:15pm)
- 21-22 America 250 Relay Race
- 24 (SVD) Eagle Board of Review
- 24 (SFD) District Committee Meeting
- 25-27 (OA) New Inductions Experience
- 26 (C) Sporting Clays Classic
- 28 (C) 3rd Popcorn Order Due by noon

October 2026

- 1 (PWD/SVD) District Roundtable
- 2 (C) 3rd Popcorn Distribution
- 3 (C) Ushering (Maryland)
- 7 (C) Properties Committee
- 8 (SFD) Roundtable
- 10 (C) 1st Aid, CPR, AED Training
- 10 (C) Scout Expo
- 10 (C) Ushering (Indiana)
- 12 (C) Columbus Day (office closed)
- 16-19 (C) Council Camporee
- 20 (C) POPCORN ENDS
- 22 (SVD) Eagle Board of Review
- 22 (SFD) District Committee Meeting
- 24 (OA) Fall Fellowship Banquet
- 29 (C) Scouts Honor Auction
- 30 (C) Final Popcorn Distribution
- 31 (C) Ushering (Washington)



AMERICA 250 AWARDS - THERE'S STILL TIME!

While Independence Day has passed, you can still earn the Cornhusker Council's America 250 Award and Scouting America's 250 Anniversary Challenge can be found here: [250th Nebraska Celebration](#)



AMERICA 250 CORNHUSKER COUNCIL PATCH

Scouts and Scouters may wear the Cornhusker Council's America 250 award on their uniform. Show your pride in celebrating America's 250th anniversary! Available in the Scout Shop!



AMERICA 250 COAST-TO-COAST RELAY COMES TO LINCOLN

Celebrate the outdoors and 250 years of American history with the American Discovery Trail Society's America 250 Relay. This 6,800-mile relay from California to Delaware will carry a copy of the Declaration of Independence from coast to coast. The race crossed the Golden Gate Bridge on the 4th of July and will end on Thanksgiving at the Atlantic Ocean. Join the celebration by participating for a day or more in a relay.

The relay will arrive in Lincoln on Sep 20th and the 10-mile hike will start on Sep 21st with the 42.5 mile bike ride starting on Sep 22nd. The Lincoln segment of the relay race will be the MOPAC Trail.

The relay is a celebration of America and a celebration of the American Discovery Trail – educating people about American history, culture, and nature. This is not a sports or athletic contest, exhibition, festival, parade, or fundraiser.

Website: America 250 Relay – [American Discovery Trail Society](#)

Sign up: ADT Relay Calendar – [American Discovery Trail Society](#)



ALUMNI NEWS

Cornhusker Council Scouting Alumni: Dennis Wagner
(dwags5550@gmail.com)
Eagles Nest: Dennis Wagner
Woodbadge Alumni: Karren Griffin Sieber
Long Tooth Circle: TBD
Camp Cornhusker Camp Staff Alumni: Jeff Johnson



JOIN THE CORNHUSKER COUNCIL ALUMNI GROUP! ATTENDING UNL? JOIN THE SCOUTING STUDENT ORGANIZATION!

We are excited to begin building a Scouting alumni group in the Cornhusker Council, and we want you to be part of it! This is not just a group for former Scouts and Scouters. It is also for anyone who has had a positive experience with Scouting or supported it along the way. Maybe you were a Scout, a leader, a parent, a volunteer, or maybe you were the neighbor who bought popcorn or Scout greens. If Scouting has meant something to you, there is a place for you in this group.



We hope this will be a fun and welcoming way for people to connect, enjoy fellowship, share memories, and stay involved with Scouting in a relaxed and meaningful way. The group will focus on friendship, shared experiences, and giving back through service projects that support Cornhusker Council.

Additionally, if you are currently or were involved in Scouting and attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, we invite you to join the Scouting America "Recognized Student Organization" or RSO at UNL. If you are interested, go to <https://go.unl.edu/scouting> or contact scouting@unl.edu!

For those who are still active Scouters, joining is also a meaningful way to show your support for Scouting alumni efforts. It can also help you work toward the Scouting Alumni Award, with the opportunity to proudly wear the Scouting Alumni knot on your uniform.



Click on the Alumni knot for more information.

If that sounds like something you would enjoy, we would love to hear from you. Just email me at CCAlumni@gmail.com or visit this link to sign up for free!

<https://www.cornhuskercouncil.org/scouting-alumni/join-scouting-alumni.html>

 Cornhusker Council Scouter Alumni Join the Cornhusker Council Scouter Alumni Network! Once a Scout, always a Scout! The Cornhusker Council Scouter Alumni program is open to anyone who has ever been part of the Scouting family!	 Eagles Nest The Eagles Nest is the official Eagle Scout alumni group of the Cornhusker Council. Open to all Eagle Scouts	 Long Tooth Circle Scouters from across the Council join the Long Tooth Circle to support Camp Cornhusker through volunteer time and donations to foster a sense of ownership.	 Wood Badge Alumni Join the Cornhusker Council Wood Badge Alumni! If you've completed Wood Badge in the Cornhusker Council, you're part of a special group of Scouters.	 Camp Cornhusker Camp Staff Alumni Join us for the Camp Cornhusker Council Staff Alumni Group. We will share upcoming staff events and celebrate the annual success of staff and camp.
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ORDER OF THE ARROW NEWS

Lodge Chief: Jake Manning

Lodge Advisor: Brooks Rushman professionalpower@yahoo.com

Staff Advisor: Will Cover (William.cover@scouting.org)

Website: www.goldensunlodge.org



FALL POW WOW, AUG 7-9

The Golden Sun Lodge will hold its annual Fall Pow Wow at Camp Cornhusker, Aug 7-9. Scouts and Scouters who were elected into the Order of the Arrow this past spring can participate in the induction weekend and Ordeal members can seal their membership in the Order of the Arrow by completing their Brotherhood. Arrowmen, join us in a weekend of fellowship and service! You can register here:

[Cornhusker Council - Golden Sun Lodge Fall Pow Wow](#)

UPCOMING LODGE EVENTS AND DEADLINES

See the Golden Sun Lodge website for more details: [Golden Sun Lodge](#)

- Fall Event (Induction Weekend) at Camp Cornhusker, Aug 7-9
- Lodge officer nominations for 2026-2027 are due Aug 8th
- Founder's award nominations are now open
- Vigil Honor Weekend, Aug 15-16
- New Induction Experience, Sep 25-27 [Cornhusker Council - OA New Inductions Experience](#)
- OA Fall Fellowship Banquet, Oct 24 [Cornhusker Council - OA Fall Fellowship Banquet](#)



SIGN UP FOR G5 SECTION CONCLAVE, SEP 11 - 13.

Gear up for the 2026 G5 Section Conclave: Fallout-clave. Hosted by the Pony Express Council at Camp Geiger near St. Joseph, MO. This isn't just another weekend at camp. This will be an action-packed weekend you won't want to miss.

Cost: \$55 if you register before August 16th.

Register here: [Pony Express Council - 2026 G5 Section Conclave](#)



Golden Sun Lodge Spring Event held, May 1-3, 2026

CONGRATULATIONS TO CORNHUSKER COUNCIL'S NEWEST EAGLE SCOUTS



William Liddy, Troop 64
Isaac Hiser, Troop 256
Royce Capek, Troop 396
Elijah Schreiner, Troop 78
Andrew Harrington, Troop 93



[Scholarships - The National Eagle Scout Association](#)

COMMEMORATIVE EAGLE SCOUT CERTIFICATE

To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and in recognition of our partnership with America250, Scouting America will present all Eagle Scouts who earn the rank in 2026 with a special commemorative Eagle Scout certificate. This limited-edition certificate will be available only to Scouts who achieve the Eagle rank during the 2026 calendar year. The special certificate will be issued automatically beginning February 1, 2026. No special request is required; it will replace the standard Eagle certificate for all 2026 recipients. Scouts who earned the Eagle rank in January 2026 may request a reprint through their local council.

In addition to the National Eagle Scout Association's Scholarship and the NE Eagle Scout Scholarship, there are a numerous other scholarship opportunities for our Eagle Scouts. Find them here on the Cornhusker Council Alumni page:

[Eagles Nest](#)

There may be other opportunities, as well. If you find one, let us know and we'll add it to the Alumni page!

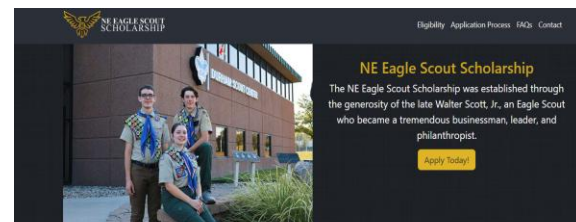
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION EAGLE SCOUT CONTEST

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) invites all Eagle Scouts interested in the American Revolution to participate in the Arthur M. & Berdena King Eagle Scout Contest. See the SAR Website for more information: [SAR High School Eagle Scout Contest - National Society Sons of the American Revolution](#)



Purchase a Brick for the Path at the Outdoor Education Center.

[Buy a Brick : Ways to Support : Support Scouting : Cornhusker Council, BSA](#)



Any Eagle Scout
From Nebraska or from Harrison, Mills, or Pottawattamie counties in Iowa

Any Field of Study
Pursue your passion and further your education

Any Nebraska Institution
Choose from a list of over 30 colleges or universities

NEBRASKA EAGLE SCOUT SCHOLARSHIP!

The NE Eagle Scout Scholarship provides Eagle Scouts from Nebraska and from Harrison, Mills or Pottawattamie counties in Iowa scholarship funds to attend a post-secondary institution in the state of Nebraska. Students attending a two-year institution in Nebraska are eligible for up to \$6,000 (\$3,000 annually) and students attending a four-year institution in Nebraska are eligible for up to \$12,000 (\$3,000 annually). For more information, see their website:

[NE Eagle Scout Scholarship](#)

"EAGLE SCOUTS: A LEGACY OF VALUES-BASED LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE:"

Through the Scouting program, Eagle Scouts build character and lifelong strengths that set them apart. To better understand these advantages, Scouting America partnered with The Harris Poll to survey thousands of adults and study how Eagle Scouts compare to people who have not participated in Scouting. The results of this survey help demonstrate the strong advantage Eagle Scouts gain and provide a powerful message about the value of Scouting. Review and share [this interactive website](#) on the study and download a printable booklet for the study [HERE](#).



EAGLE SCOUTS
A Legacy of
Values-Based
Leadership and
Service

Scouting America

RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY THE HARRIS POLL | REPORT PRODUCED BY SCOUTING AMERICA ©2025 | APRIL 2025

IN MEMORIAM

We were saddened by the loss of two long-time Cornhusker Council Scouters earlier this summer, Joan Dreier from Humboldt and Mary Lee Olson from Lincoln.

Joan Dreier was born in 1959 in Dalton, NE where she was involved in 4-H and following her brothers around in all their Cub Scout and Scouting activities and dreamed of becoming a Scout. In 1991, Joan and her husband moved to Humboldt where Joan taught school. When Joan's son's joined Scouts, she achieved her life-long dream of becoming a Scout. Joan first became the Committee Chairperson for Cub Scout Pack 387 and eventually became an Assistant Scoutmaster and finally the Scoutmaster for Troop 387 in Humboldt. She very much enjoyed the outdoor activities and loved camping with the boys and was blessed to have many active parents and Assistant Scoutmasters. Her son Cody became an Eagle Scout in 2010 and son Brandon earned his Eagle Scout in 2015. Throughout Joan's tenure in Scouting, she was proud to have helped 23 young men achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, several of which paid their respects at her funeral. Joan unexpectedly passed away June 29, 2026 after a brief illness.



Mary Lee Olson was born on March 20, 1950 in Broken Bow, NE and married Stewart Olson in 1975 and the couple moved to Lincoln in 1989. One of the things Mary Lee was most passionate about was Scouting. This interest began in 1983 when her oldest son, Eric, started Cub Scouts and she became a Den Mother. Over the years that followed, she held numerous positions within the Scouting community, including Committee Chair at both the Pack and Troop levels, Unit Commissioner, Roundtable Commissioner, and Training Coordinator for the Salt Valley District, NCAP team member, and served on National Camp School staff. In 2018, she was awarded the Silver Beaver Award for her Scouting contributions. Many scout leaders grew in their leadership under her guidance. Mary Lee passed away June 27, 2026 after a long illness. Her memorial service will be held at the Cornhusker Council's Outdoor Education Center on September 12 at 9am.



May we pause to remember these two beloved members of the Cornhusker Council Scouting family whose lives and service have left an enduring mark on countless youth and volunteers. Their unwavering commitment, quiet leadership, and generous hearts embodied the very best of Scouting. While we mourn their passing, we also celebrate lives dedicated to helping young people grow into leaders of character. Their legacy will continue in every campfire lit, every oath recited, every act of service performed, and every Scout whose life was made better because they chose to serve. We extend our deepest condolences to their families and friends, and we give thanks for the remarkable gifts they shared with our Scouting community. May we honor their memory by continuing the work they loved so dearly and striving to leave the movement stronger for the generations yet to come.

SCOUT EXECUTIVE MINUTE

August is one of the most exciting months of the Scouting year. While summer adventures are winding down, a new Scouting season is just beginning. Across the Cornhusker Council, our volunteers, families, and staff are working together to welcome hundreds of new youth into the Scouting program.

Our National Jamboree contingent returned home last week! No doubt, they made plenty of memories, made new friends, and learned more about Scouting. A special thank you to the following Jamboree leaders:



John Schuff (Boy Contingent)
Mike Dames (Boy Contingent)
Matt Kuhn (Girl Contingent)
Shelly Knutson (Girl Contingent)
Evan Reeder (Jamboree Staff)
Richard Westling (Jamboree Staff)
Rhondel McCann (Jamboree Staff)
John Salistean (Jamboree Staff)
Rick Wolzen (Jamboree Staff)
Jeff Horst (Jamboree Staff)



Our fall recruitment campaign is now underway, and I want to thank every unit that is hosting school nights, community events, and open houses. Every invitation extended to a family is an opportunity to introduce a young person to the adventures, friendships, leadership, and character-building experiences that only Scouting can provide. Remember—our most successful units are those that embrace the simple philosophy: **Always Be Recruiting.**

August also marks the beginning of our annual popcorn sale. This is far more than a fundraiser; it is a chance for Scouts to develop confidence, communication skills, goal setting, and financial responsibility while earning their way to exciting adventures throughout the year. Thank you to our families and community members who continue to support this program and our partnership with Colby Ridge and Nebraska's local growers.

As we look ahead, excitement is already building for our **Scout Expo on October 10 at Woods Park in Lincoln**. This event will showcase the incredible experiences our Scouts enjoy every day and provide another opportunity for families across southeast Nebraska to discover what Scouting is all about.

Finally, I want to thank each volunteer, donor, chartered organization, and community partner who makes our mission possible. Your dedication ensures that more young people have the opportunity to experience the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Together, we are building tomorrow's leaders—one Scout at a time.

Thank you for all you do for Scouting and have a safe and successful start to another outstanding Scouting year.