

Cornhusker Council Commissioner Corner

Every Scout deserves a Trained Leader

Many of you know that we have a number of leaders across the Council who have not yet completed their position-specific training. As we continue encouraging every leader to become fully trained, let's also make a point to recognize and celebrate those who *have* completed their required courses.

Top 5 Untrained Positions- Council Wide

Position	Trained Count	Untrained Count	Trained %	Untrained %	Total
Committee Member	211	180	54.0%	46.0%	391
Assistant Scoutmaster	74	75	49.7%	50.3%	149
Den Leader	56	58	49.1%	50.9%	114
Chartered Organization Rep.	66	43	60.6%	39.4%	109
Committee Chair	69	38	64.5%	35.5%	107

Why does training matter? Trained leaders deliver stronger, safer, and more consistent program experiences. They understand the aims of Scouting, know how to use the available resources, and feel more confident in guiding youth.

In Scouting America, a leader is considered "Trained" when they have completed **Youth Protection Training** and the **position specific training** required for their role. For direct contact leaders, this includes **Hazardous Weather Training** as part of the position specific requirements. Find the position specific training courses required at: <https://www.scouting.org/training/position-trained-requirements/>

How can we celebrate and recognize these leaders?

Let's award this patch at a pack meeting or a Court of Honor!



September Commissioner Challenge: (Source: Commissioners of Scouting America Facebook)

September is Self-Improvement Month, and it's a great time for Scouting America commissioners to invest in themselves so they can better support the units, leaders, and volunteers they serve.

As commissioners, we're always encouraging others to grow, so why not challenge ourselves to do the same?

Here are a few ways to participate this month:

- ◆ Learn something new. Take a Scouting training, attend a roundtable, explore a new resource, or strengthen a skill that will help you in your commissioner role.
- ◆ Reconnect with your purpose. Spend some time reflecting on why you serve and how your service helps deliver the best possible Scouting experience to youth.
- ◆ Seek feedback. Ask a unit leader, fellow commissioner, or Scouting volunteer: "What's one thing I could do better to support you?" Then listen and act on what you learn.
- ◆ Set one personal goal. Choose something realistic you can improve during September, such as communication, time management, leadership, organization, or simply making more intentional contacts with your units.
- ◆ Share what you learn. Self-improvement becomes even more valuable when we help others grow too. Share a resource, lesson learned, or success with your fellow commissioners.

This September, let's make Self-Improvement Month more than a slogan. **Let's become better commissioners, better leaders, and better servants of the Scouting movement, one small improvement at a time.**

What will you work on improving this September?



September 2026 Priorities for Commissioners



Membership, Membership:

- Has unit updated their units' BeAScout info?
- Are units monitoring BeAScout leads and responding in a timely manner?
- Is there a Unit calendar of events ready for distribution to families. Encourage many FUN activities!
- Has unit followed-up with contacts made at Open House and/or Sign-Up events?
- Encourage use of Invite a Friend to upcoming activities.
- Encourage training of leaders

Logging Connections/visits in Commissioner Tools:

Please document any contacts you have with unit leaders, even if you are not "assigned" to that unit — this includes all UC's & RTC's! Focus on Membership Growth (fall recruitment plans), Retention (annual planning), Leader Training (efforts to get new Cub leaders trained), and Outdoor Activities (summer camp review).

Save the Date!

**College of Commissioner Science
April 10, 2027**

Bryan Medical Center



We will host the 2027 College, so we will need instructors, participants and others to assist the day of the event with registration, etc. Let Karen or Bill know if you can help!

Have your unit(s) updated their BeAScout Pin?



Thousands of families visit BeAScout.org every day. The new BeAScout site has added features to provide those families with even more information to help them decide what unit to join, but that only happens if units update their pin information. Currently, only 40% of pins have been updated to provide that key information. That is why every unit should be reminded to review and update the details on that pin. Information on how to make those updates can be found at <https://www.scouting.org/pin/>

Preparing Units for the New Registration & Renewal Process

This webinar should help us prepare for these upcoming changes in 2027:

Sunday, September 13 at 7:00 pm

Please register: [https://scouting.org.zoom.us/meeting/register/cgpswxybSYu2gdARJYsF0Q#/registration](https://scouting.org.zoom.us/join/https://scouting.org.zoom.us/meeting/register/cgpswxybSYu2gdARJYsF0Q#/registration)

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Dates to Remember

Sept 4: Fall Popcorn Sale begins
Sept 10: Seven Feathers Roundtable
Sept 11-19: Scout Spirit Week
Sept 12: Archeology Merit Badge Clinic
Sept 16: Life to Eagle Seminar
Sept 19: Recruitment/Retention Range Day
Sept 21: America 250 Relay Race
Sept 25: OA New Inductions Experience

Ask a Commissioner

Q. "What are the concerns that young families have about joining a Cub Pack for the first time?"



A. The biggest concerns are time, cost, safety, the commitment expected of parents, and whether their child will feel welcomed and have fun. Families want to know that Cub Scouts will fit into their busy lives, provide meaningful experiences for their children, and not become another complicated or overwhelming obligation.

Pack volunteers can address these concerns by making the experience simple, welcoming, and transparent. Be clear about the schedule and expected commitment, explain costs up front, and communicate that families do not have to attend every activity or take on a major leadership role to participate. Create a welcoming environment where new families are introduced, children quickly make friends, and parents know who to turn to with questions. Make safety and youth-protection practices visible rather than assuming parents already understand them.

Most importantly, show families the fun and value of Cub Scouting. Give prospective families opportunities to experience a meeting, outdoor activity, or special event before they commit. Let them see children having fun, learning new skills, making friends, and spending quality time with their families.

The goal for pack volunteers should be to answer the question every new parent is asking: "Will this be worth our family's time, money, and effort, and will my child love being a Cub Scout?"

If the pack can make the answer "Yes, and it's easier than you think," it removes many of the barriers that keep young families from joining.

Source: August 31 Commissioner EBlas

Cub Scout 4-Month Plan Workshops

Two additional sessions have been added due to high demand. These are designed to familiarize district executives, commissioners, and other folks who support new leaders with the recently released 4-month plan. This plan pulls together specific (and fun!) activities to support Cub Scout rank advancement with weekly meetings. At its heart, it is designed for small and new packs, with multi-grade dens. Sign up for one of the webinars hosted by our national Cub Scouting committee. The *September 15* and *September 29* sessions are full. Register in advance for these added workshops.

- Thursday, September 10 at 11:00 am Central
- Monday, September 21 at 7:00 pm Central

Register here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/lwSDDnxdTH6qWFuaitZ2g#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/lwSDDnxdTH6qWFuaitZ2g#/registration)

Safety Moment:

Updated Guide To Safe Scouting 2026

The 2026 updates to the Guide to Safe Scouting emphasize strengthened youth protection, expanded SAFE requirements, updated activity standards, and alignment with new 2026 program manuals such as the National Range & Target Activities Manual and the Belay On (COPE & Climbing) Manual. These changes reinforce supervision, risk assessment, fitness checks, equipment standards, and environmental monitoring.

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



WELCOME → CONNECT → BELONG

A Parent's Guide for the Next 90 Days



FIRST 24-48 HOURS

- Meet the Den Leader or Cubmaster
- Review Welcome New Cub Scout Family guide
- Join the Pack's communication channels
- Add the next three meetings to your calendar
- Ask questions - every parent starts somewhere!



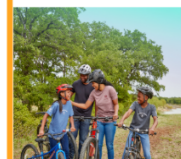
FIRST 1-2 WEEKS GET CONNECTED

- Attend Parent Orientation
- Meet other parents
- Find out how you can help
- Attend your first Den or Pack meeting
- Purchase required uniform items
- Be introduced with your Cub Scout



WHAT TO EXPECT

- Adventures conducted at Den and Pack meetings
- Fun and recognition with the whole Pack
- Camping, hikes, service, and community events
- Parents and families participate alongside their Cub Scouts



FIRST 60 DAYS

- Attend two meetings + one Pack event
- Celebrate completed Adventures
- Help your Cub Scout make friends and try new things
- Give feedback to your Den Leader and Cubmaster
- Confirm you receive all communications



HELP YOUR PACK SUCCEED

- Join Parents and Leaders meetings
- Volunteer for small, defined tasks
- Consider a leadership role
- Families working together build every Pack



Get involved. Ask questions. Make friends. Enjoy the journey.