

Scouting Today

official publication of the Cornhusker Council, Scouting America

DECEMBER 2025

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Scout Executive Minute

The Cornhusker Council diligently works to provide a safe and high-quality Scouting program to our families in a cost-effective manner. Today it costs the Council more than \$500 per youth per year to support a quality Scouting program. Since 2019, our council has experienced annual operating losses averaging \$150,000 per year and our direct and indirect fundraising has decreased by \$420,000 since 2019. These budget shortfalls threaten our independence. A forced merger with another council would erase **100 years of tradition** from Nebraska's original Scouting council. Scouting has always been local – and a merger would weaken the program in the 16 counties of Southeast Nebraska that we proudly serve. We've made real progress in cutting expenses, streamlining operations, and closing part of the gap over the past year.



In prior years, we subsidized 100% of this cost through corporate donations, major gifts, foundations, fundraising events, board donations, and our Friends of Scouting campaign. However, in recent years, the steady decline in participation in our family Friends of Scouting campaign as well as the decrease in units participating in popcorn has made it impractical to continue this funding model. After a comprehensive evaluation and review process, the Cornhusker Council's volunteer leadership determined that our Scouts would be better served by a Local Council Membership Fee that would provide consistent revenue and be more equitable to those who support our Scouts.

Of the 235 councils nationwide, we are one of approximately 20 councils that don't follow a membership cost model. Our intent is that we return to that small group in the future. In the interim, this change will also allow our staff and volunteer time to directly support our units and programs.

As we continue building a strong, sustainable future for Scouting in the Cornhusker Council, we will implement an **annual membership fee** for both youth (\$60) and adult members (\$30) effective Jan 1st, 2026. This decision was not made lightly. It comes from a place of responsibility, long-term planning, and our commitment to delivering the high-quality Scouting experience that every young person deserves. This fee is lower than a neighboring Council and will be implemented at the individual's annual renewal time. We are working through the details of fee reduction for those who may need it.

Here's why this step is necessary:

- 1. Ensuring Safe, High-Quality Programs.** From leader training, background checks, a rise in insurance premiums to outdoor program support and youth-protection resources, the cost of delivering safe, meaningful Scouting continues to rise. The annual fee helps ensure that every Scout and adult leader has access to the tools, resources, and training needed for a top-tier program.
- 2. Keeping Local Scouting Strong.** The Cornhusker Council provides essential services that units rely on every day—advancement support, program planning support, camping operations, activities, and volunteer assistance. The new fee allows us to maintain and improve these services without reducing core programs.
- 3. Supporting Our Camps and Outdoor Adventures.** Our facilities and outdoor programs require year-round maintenance, staffing, equipment replacement, and safety improvements. The annual fee helps keep our camps safe, well-maintained, and ready for Scouts to explore, lead, and grow.
- 4. Strengthening the Future of Scouting.** Scouting has shaped generations of leaders—and we want that legacy to remain strong for decades to come. A sustainable funding model ensures that our council can continue providing exceptional opportunities, year after year, for every Scout who joins our movement.

Exceptions and Financial Aid:

- Families with three (3) or more Scouts will be capped at paying (3) Council membership fees.
- Scouts participating in more than one program will pay one (1) Council membership fee.
- No Youth will be turned away for an inability to pay the membership fee.

While the details of how financial support will be requested and provided are still being finalized, our commitment to families is to make requesting support a simple process. Financial support will be available for the new Council Membership Fee and camperships for Camp Cornhusker Resident Camps and Cub Scout Day Camps. **We remain committed to raising the funds needed through various fundraising and revenue generation mechanisms, to ensure Scouting is available to every youth who wants to be a Scout.**

National and Unit Membership Fees:

- The Council membership fee is in addition to the annual National Membership fee. The Cornhusker Council does not receive any funds from the National membership fees.
- Units may have additional fees or dues to pay for a Unit's programs and activities; those fees also remain with the Unit and do not go to the Cornhusker Council. Many units also fundraise for these fees and activities and we encourage units to continue those efforts.

Our Promise to You. We are committed to using every dollar responsibly, transparently, and in direct support of our Scouts and volunteers. Your investment in Scouting is an investment in young people gaining character, leadership, confidence, and skills that last a lifetime.

REGISTER NOW!
2025 HOLIDAY BAZAAR,
DEC 13TH



Visit the Cornhusker Council, Outdoor Education Center for unique, handmade shopping options and for interactive activities for youth.

Visit with Santa, make a holiday craft and this year, take a treat home with you. Saturday, December 13th from 9am-1pm.

This is free and open to the public.

We are currently taking applications for vendors and craftors.

For more information:
[Cornhusker Council - Holiday Bazaar](#)

ALSO, CHECK OUT OUR 12 DAYS OF DEALS!

12 Days of Deals

November 26th- All Caps/Hats 10% off
December 1st-Purchase any walking stick, receive a Cornhusker Council Quincentennial patch for FREE!
December 2nd- Save 10% off any wood craft kits.
December 3rd-Purchase a uniform and get the required patches sewn on for free.
December 4th-10% off all belts.
December 5th: 10% off handbooks.
December 8th-Get \$5 in Scout Bucks for every \$50 you spend
December 9th-Class A Uniform shirts: 10% off
December 10th-All remaining popcorn 50% off
December 11th-Save 10% off uniform pants.
December 12th-Save 10% of Camp Cornhusker short sleeve shirts.
December 13th-Visit the Holiday Bazaar and take advantage of 1 of the deals you may have missed!

ORDER NOW!
ON-LINE HOLIDAY SALE!

It's not too late to order! Click on the image to order.

Holiday Wreath Sale



We selected several Mickman Brothers options to choose from. Everyone will love welcoming home friends and with their beautiful wreaths & evergreens. Mickman Brothers is the top national Christmas wreath provider offer **FREE SHIPPING!**

Holiday Fudgie Wudgie Sale



Voted America's best fudge! Think deep, rich Belgian chocolate that'd make Willy Wonka jealous, creamy goodness, and flavors that make your taste buds dance. Small batch, hand-stirred, and exclusive use of Belgian chocolate. Enjoy one or several of the products we selected for our sale.

Sorry, the Stuckey's sale ended 11/27. ☹

REGISTER NOW!

1ST AID, CPR, AND AED TRAINING
FOR ADULTS, JAN 10TH



First Aid, CPR, and AED Training for Adults will be held on Jan 10th from 8:30am to 12:30pm. Space is limited to 15 participants.

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](#)

FOLLOW US!

[\(73\) CORNHUSKER COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA - YOUTUBE](#)



[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CORNHUSKERCOUNCIL](#)

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CAMPCORNHUSKER](#)

[CORNHUSKER COUNCIL, BSA
\(@CORNHUSKERCOUNCIL\) • INSTAGRAM
PHOTOS AND VIDEOS](#)

YOU HAVE LEADS!

Each lead represents a family interested in learning more about Scouting, and each pending application is an excited new youth member who has already paid to join and is just waiting for unit approval. Now is a great time to check in with your District partners. Make sure you know how your Unit and District handles pending applications and leads from BeAScout.org.



Leads should get a response within 24 hours. Pending applications need quick action. Someone has decided to join, filled out an application, and paid the money. Accept them right away. Develop a unit plan on who is responding and move the lead off BeAScout and into a tracking tool like a spreadsheet.

POPCORN STATS! Thank you to all of the parents and kernels that have put in the work this fall! On behalf of the Council we thank you and appreciate you!

Top Selling Units:

Pack 223	\$37,328
Pack 97	\$30,984
Troop 54	\$30,714
Pack 1	\$29,836
Pack 10	\$27,321

Top Selling Scouts:

Troop 54 Jessica K	\$5,688
Troop 64 William L	\$5,263
Pack 346 Felicity H	\$5,258
Pack 10 Sam B	\$4,852
Troop 142 James M	\$4,557



COUNCIL-WIDE RECRUITING CHALLENGE! INCENTIVES!

Our end-of-year recruitment campaign kicks off November 1st and runs through December 31st. We have several incentives for your unit and your Scouts who recruit new members.



Top Troop and Pack in EACH District (minimum of five NEW Scouts during the campaign):

- Free Climbing Wall session at the OEC for the Unit
- \$500 discount to the Unit attending a resident camp at Camp Cornhusker 2026.
- Cake and ice cream party for a unit Function.
- In case of a tie, the tied units will be given a (2) week extension to recruit additional Scouts. If a tie still exists on 1/15/26, the tiebreaker is the unit with the most cumulative growth between 8/1/25 and 11/1/25.

Each Unit that registers 5 NEW Scouts gets an ice cream or slushie party during their stay at a Camp Cornhusker resident camp, a free Council Strip Patch for new members, and a free camping session at the OEC or Camp Cornhusker with a SMORES package.

Each Scout who recruits a new member receives a Recruiter patch and a walking staff (stave) or a staff medallion.

This campaign is for NEW Scouts registered between Nov 1st and Dec 31st, 2025.

Who's going to be the top unit?

CAMP CORNHUSKER NEWS

Camp Cornhusker is your camp!

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

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

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



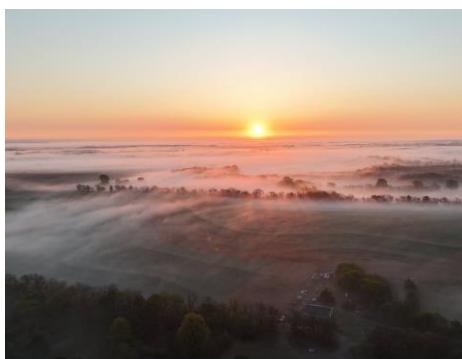
DID YOU KNOW?

The lake at Camp Cornhusker is named "Abel Lake" after the Abel family, founders of NEBCO.

George P. Abel Jr was an Eagle Scout (class of 1935) from the San Diego-Imperial Council before moving to Lincoln, where he lettered in track and football (where he played on the 1941 Rose Bowl Team) at UNL before serving in the US Army during World War II. NEBCO and the Abel Foundation continue to be strong supporters of Scouting in the Cornhusker Council.



CAMP PROMOTION Check out the new camp promo videos in the links below! If you would like a camp promotion presentation at your Unit, contact Will Cover (william.cover@scouting.org).



Campsite Sign Ups		
Camp Cornhusker 2026		
CAMP SITE	Week 1	Week 2
	Session 1	Session 2
Bear		
Beaver	56	
Bobwhite		
Cheyenne		
Commanche	296	
Crow		
Eagle	8	54
Fox		377
Kiowa		
Mandan		
Missouri		
Omaha	22	
Osage		
Otoe	220	
Ponca		
Wichita		
Winnebago		49
Lakota	223	
Ft. Atkinson		

YouTube: [CAMPCORNHUSKER PROMO](#)
 ATV Video: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1BwTP5mauK/>
 COPE: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1Hn7c3tQx4/>
 Camp Tour: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1Cvdrcj63F/>

Follow Camp Cornhusker on Facebook - Learn more about our Programs!

Follow Camp Cornhusker on TikTok: [Camp Cornhusker Scout Camp \(@campcornhuskerbsa\) | TikTok](#)

Camp Staff Interviews will be held Dec 28th and 29th for summer camp 2026! Contact Sammi Lowery to apply!

SAFEGUARDING YOUTH

VP Administration-Enterprise Risk Management Committee: Joy Citta

VP Risk Management: Mark Collins

Assistant Council Commissioner: Mitchell Locken

Council Training Chairman: Mike McCullough



SAFEGUARDING IN SPORTS WEBINAR

As Scouting America continues to strive to Be A Leader in Safeguarding Youth, Chief Safeguarding Officer Glen Pounder recently took part in a webinar discussing Safeguarding in Sport, providing perspective and insight on this vital topic that applies to all youth activities, whether Scouting, sports, or other youth groups. A good webinar for our parents and leaders to watch. You can view the webinar [here](#).



KNOW2 PROTECT - INTERNET SAFETY CHECKLIST

Online safety starts here. This checklist is your go-to guide to help keep kids and teens safe from online exploitation and abuse. It includes quick, practical steps to protect privacy, limit exposure to strangers and create safer digital spaces. Each check is a step toward protecting what matters most. Print it. Post it. Check it often.

- Set all apps, games, and devices to private.
- Turn off location data services on social media and nonessential apps.
- Make sure you and your children know who they're interacting with online.
- Limit followers to friends and family they know in real life.
- Preview and research the apps your child wants to download.
- Password protect or control access to the places your child downloads or purchases apps and games.
- Have a device check-in time or consider random spot checks of activity and apps.

Download the safety checklist here: [K2P Internet Safety Checklist](#)

For more information and tools to combat online child exploitation: [Know2Protect | Homeland Security](#)

GUIDE TO SAFE SCOUTING

All participants in official Scouting activities should become familiar with the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) and applicable program literature or manuals, and be aware of state or local government regulations that supersede Scouting America practices, policies, and guidelines. The [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) is an overview of Scouting policies and procedures gleaned from a variety of sources. For some items, the policy statements are complete. Unit leaders are expected to review the additional reference material cited prior to conducting such activities.

[Guide to Safe Scouting | Scouting America](#)

SUPPORT YOUR COUNCIL

(info@cornhuskercouncil.org)

GIVING TUESDAY, DEC 2ND

Giving Tuesday is a Global Day of Generosity held each year on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. It provides nonprofits with a powerful opportunity to inspire philanthropy, mobilize supporters, and generate support during the holiday season. For the Cornhusker Council, GivingTuesday serves as a chance to amplify local council initiatives as well as raise dollars for Camp Cornhusker, camperships, and support Scouting in our Council.

[Other Ways to Support Scouting](#)



CORNHUSKER FELLOWS PROGRAM

The Cornhusker Fellows Program is a bold, long-term commitment to sustain and grow Scouting across southeast Nebraska, ensuring every child has the opportunity to develop into a confident, capable, and caring leader.

By becoming a Fellow, each donor commits to giving \$1,000, \$5,000, or \$10,000 annually for a period of 5 or 10 years. Flexible payment options are available, including monthly, yearly, or a single lump-sum contribution. Your support helps invest in leadership development, character building, and transformative outdoor experiences for youth in our community—empowering them to face life's challenges and make a positive impact for years to come.

Become a Cornhusker Fellow today - [CornhuskerFellowsProgram](#)

SEND A SCOUT TO CAMP

Summer camp is often the highlight of a young person's Scouting journey—where they gain independence, build lifelong friendships, and discover their own strength. In 2025 alone, the Cornhusker Council approved more than \$1,500 in scholarships to ensure every Scout had the chance to attend camp.

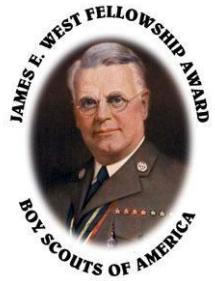


DONATE NOW

As we look toward summer 2026, we need your help to make sure even more youth can experience this life-changing tradition. With a gift of \$250, you can help send a Scout to Camp Cornhusker for a week of adventure, leadership, and growth. Together, we can make sure no Scout misses out on the opportunity to thrive at camp.

JAMES E. WEST FELLOWSHIP AWARD

A James E. West Fellowship gift will help ensure the future of Scouting's outstanding character building programs. Gifts made to the endowment fund will last in perpetuity. The interest from this special fund will be used to support the Cornhusker Council's values-based programs. The award includes a personalized certificate, a lapel pin, and an embroidered square knot.



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

Explorer Post 575 is in full swing and there is room to join! 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. Together, we equip young people with character, leadership and life skills that can be used both today and in their future career. 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 all 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 IN THE CORNHUSKER COUNCIL

Venturing is an inclusive (co-ed) youth-led program (ages 14-20) all 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!



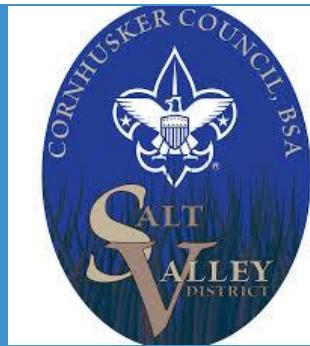
SALT VALLEY DISTRICT

Committee Chair: Jim Buehler (svdistcommchair@gmail.com)

Commissioner: Bill Lang (wlang50@gmail.com)

Director: Drew Wicks (andrew.wicks@scouting.org)

<https://www.cornhuskercouncil.org/aboutus/cornhusker-council-districts/salt-valley-district.html>



SALT VALLEY DISTRICT EVENTS ([CLICK HERE FOR ALL EVENTS CALENDAR](#))

EAGLE BOARD OF REVIEW, DEC 18TH

The next Salt Valley District Eagle Board of review will be held December 18th from 6:30pm - 9:30pm at the OEC, 800 S. 120th Street, Walton, NE.

SALT VALLEY MERIT BADGE CLINIC, JAN 17TH

The Salt Valley Merit Badge Clinic is an advancement opportunity open to Scouts in Troops or Crews age 11-17. Scouts will be introduced to a variety of subjects geared to help them, not only advance along the trail to Eagle, but also learn more about career opportunities and experiences that may interest them. Each Scout is expected to fulfill all the merit badge requirements by reading through the merit badge book, doing prerequisites, and participating in class.

When: Saturday, January 17th, 9 AM - 3:30 PM (Doors open at 8:00am/check in starts at 8:30am)

Lunch: 12noon-12:30 pm - Bring your own sack lunch (Microwave is available)

Where: Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington St Lincoln, NE. Register here: [Cornhusker Council - Salt Valley Merit Badge Clinic](#)

PRAIRIE WINDS DISTRICT

Committee Chair: Russ Ebke (pwdistrictchair@gmail.com)

Commissioner: Lonnie Pohlman (lpohlman@gmail.com)

Director: Will Cover (william.cover@scouting.org)

<https://www.cornhuskercouncil.org/aboutus/cornhusker-council-districts/prarie-winds-district.html>



ALWAYS BE RECRUTING!

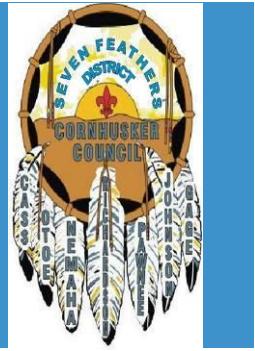


Pssst...save the date...Jan 30 - Feb 1, 2026...KLONDIKE DERBY!

SEVEN FEATHERS DISTRICT

Committee Chair: Peggy Nietfeld (Scouting@nietfeldfarms.com)
Commissioner: Richard White (rwhite4576@gmail.com)
Director: Will Cover (william.cover@scouting.org)

<https://www.cornhuskercouncil.org/aboutus/cornhusker-council-districts/seven-feathers-district.html>



ALWAYS BE RECRUITING!



Pssst...save the date...Jan 30 - Feb 1, 2026...KLONDIKE DERBY!

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND NEWS

FAMILY TROOP OPTION APPROVED

The National Executive Board approved the “Family Troop” option for Scouts BSA, following a successful pilot. This new option will be available December 15, 2025.

This option provides chartered organizations with more flexibility in delivering Scouting to families in communities where there are not enough youth to have a boy-only or girl-only troop. While the vast majority of troops will continue to specifically serve boys or girls in the years ahead, this option gives chartered organizations the ability to meet the unique needs of their communities and families who want to do Scouting together in a unit. There are several things to consider before deciding on whether to become a “Family Troop.” In any situation, the decision should involve all stakeholders:

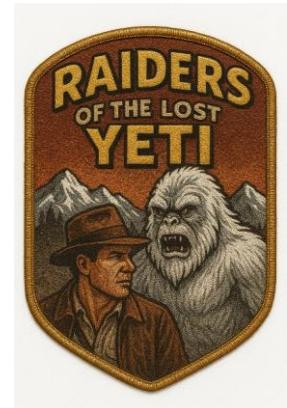
- **Chartered Organization – The chartered organization(s) MUST be a part of the discussion and MUST approve the decision to change the model.**
- **Adult Volunteers – All Scouts BSA troops depend upon our adult volunteers to operate successfully. Adult volunteers, including the Scoutmaster(s), committee chair(s), and committee members, should broadly support a change.**
- **Parents – The parents of the Scouts also should broadly support a change.**
- **Scouts – Scouts BSA is youth-led, and the Scouts should also be a part of the decision-making process.**

For more information, questions, or assistance, contact your District Executive or Commissioner staff.

KLONDIKE DERBY 2026! JAN 30TH - FEB 1ST, 2026

No one knows adventure like our favorite Life Scout, Dr. Henry "Indiana" Jones Jr. In fact, he may well have crossed paths with the Yeti on more than one occasion while searching out artifacts in the Himalayas (especially while visiting Marion Ravnehurst at her tavern in Nepal while trying to locate the headpiece to the staff of Rah).

Join Indy and his team as we take a winter tour of the entire film franchise as this year's Klondike Derby theme: **Raiders of the Lost Yeti**



Participants can dress in character (however, weaponry of any sort, LARP, stage, plastic, etc. are not allowed). Additionally, all character clothing must be worn over appropriate clothing for typical January/February outdoor weather. More details will be available here: [Cornhusker Council - Klondike Derby](#)

SCOUT ANNIVERSARY DAY - SCOUT SUNDAY, FEB 8TH

Scouting America allows chartered organizations to celebrate Scout Sunday on any day in February that best serves the chartering partner. Some organizations choose the Sunday that falls before February 8 (Scouting Anniversary Day) as the date to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting. In 2026, Scout Anniversary Day falls on Sunday, Feb 8th. For others, Scout Sunday is celebrated on the second Sunday in February. It is permissible for a local church to celebrate on the day most acceptable to the pastor and congregation.



Ideas - wear your uniforms and sit together, serve as ushers, lead a prayer and serves as a liturgist, set up a Scouting display in the foyer, ask members of the congregation who were Scouts to stand up, hold your troop's Court of Honor or Pack's award ceremony immediately following the service, or formally present your unit's charter to your place of worship. These activities not only honor the faith of Scouts but also provide an opportunity for community engagement and service.

2026 JAMBOREE - THERE'S STILL ROOM!

The 2026 National Jamboree will be held at Summit Bechtel Reserve, WV from July 22-31, 2026. The National Jamboree is a gathering of thousands of members of Scouting America, usually held every four years and organized by the National Council of Scouting America.

A Jamboree meeting for participants, leaders, and parents will be held on Dec 7th from 4pm-5:30pm at the OEC.



For more information-

Cornhusker Council Jamboree Link: [2026 National Jamboree](#)

National 2026 Jamboree Link: [Home - National Jamboree](#)

Council Contingent Guide: [2026 National Jamboree Council Contingent Guide Fall 2024-Master](#)

Spots are limited. Paula Rezek can help set up a payment plan during registration.

Further Details: [2026 National Jamboree](#)

Adult Leaders Still Needed! We are accepting applications for adults to lead our contingent. You must be currently registered, current on trainings, and completed Wilderness 1st Aid. Previous experience in leading contingents to a previous Jamboree or a National High Adventure base is desired. For more information, contact Will Cover (william.cover@scouting.org).

WOODBADGE 2026! APR 10-12 AND APR 25-26, 2026

Welcome to Cornhusker Council Wood Badge Course 5-324-26-1!

Wood Badge is the premier adult training in Scouting America. In Wood Badge you experience the scouting program, learn leadership skills, and practice teamwork in the patrol method, all while living the values of scouting.

Created by Lord Baden-Powell at Gilwell Park in England, today Wood Badge is offered around the world. Across the two weekends of Wood Badge, you begin your experience as a Cub Scout and cross over to a Scouts BSA Troop, gaining the perspective of a youth and deepening your understanding of the Scouting America program. While portions of the course take place camping, the focus is not outdoor skills and scoutcraft, but rather on leadership and team building. You learn both the theory of leadership and the tools of leadership in ways that not only strengthen your contribution to scouting, but also to your personal and professional life. Don't be surprised if you find yourself applying lessons learned in Wood Badge to improve the communication and team effectiveness in your day-job as well!

Past participants explain why you should take Wood Badge: <https://youtu.be/MEPvnpMLBA0>

Objectives of Wood Badge

- Enable you to view Scouting globally, as a family of interrelated, values-based programs that provide age-appropriate activities.
- Help you recognize contemporary leadership concepts that map to the scouting movement.
- Apply the skills learned as a member of a successful working team, both in and out of scouting. Revitalize your commitment to and recharge your enthusiasm for Scouting by participating in a shared, inspirational experience.

Practical Phase

The practical phase consists of five days of instruction across two weekends. During these two weekends you will become a member of a group, participate in presentations, learn skills, become an effective team, and have a great time doing it. The course is accessible to adults across the full range of ages, experience, and abilities. The following themes are covered in the practical phase:

- Living the Values—personifying the values; setting the example
- Growing—knowing and growing yourself first with a commitment to continuous improvement and lifelong learning
- Connecting—with other people
- Guiding—focusing on enabling and developing others



- Empowering—ultimately helping other people to become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, and more likely, themselves, “to serve and to lead.”

Example session topics include vision, values, listening, managing conversations, leading change, the stages of team development, coaching & mentoring, servant leadership, and project planning.

Application Phase

After completion of the two weekends, you will work on your “ticket”, which are five goals you develop for yourself during the course. You have 18 months to complete your ticket, during which you put into practice the leadership skills you have just learned. Upon completion of the Wood Badge ticket, as certified by a ticket counselor and the Scout Executive, you will be presented with the Wood Badge neckerchief, woggle, and beads.

Participation Requirements

- Registered as an adult member of Scouting America, including current Safeguarding Youth Training
- Scouting America's Annual Health and Medical Record parts A, B, and C (which requires a physical)
- A complete official Scouting America uniform appropriate to Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, or Venturing consisting of all of the following parts
 - uniform shirt
 - uniform pants, shorts, or skirt
 - uniform belt
 - uniform socks

Sign up here: [Cornhusker Council - Wood Badge](#)

WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE, JULY 30-AUG 8, 2027, GDANSK, POLAND

Registration is now open for the 2027 World Jamboree! The World Scout Jamboree is held every four years at locations all around the world. The next World Jamboree will be held in Gdansk, Poland in the summer of 2027 and will have approximately 45,000 Scouts and leaders from over 140 countries in attendance. Participants must be between age 14-17 at the start of the Jamboree on July 30, 2027. Anyone older than that can apply to be a unit leader or on staff. Anyone younger than that will have to wait for the 2031 Jamboree in Denmark.

Here are two key websites:

The World Scout Jamboree website: <https://www.jamboree2027.org>

The US Contingent website: <https://wsj2027.us>



Registration

Registration is open.

You can register as either a:

- Participant
- International Service Team (IST) member

The estimated cost for each role is:

Participants and Unit Leaders
\$6,200 - \$6,700

International Service Team
\$2,900 - \$3,100

Visit the contingent website to register: wsj2027.us

FAQ:

Event Dates:

July 30, 2027 - August 8, 2027
(there will be 4-5 day pre-tour)

Who can attend?

Scouts- born between
July 30, 2009 and July 30, 2013
Adults (troop leaders, IST and CMT)
Born after July 30, 2013



EARN THE CORNHUSKER COUNCIL'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY AWARD!

In honor of the United States' 250th anniversary, Cornhusker Council invites all youth and adult members to commemorate this historic milestone by earning a special Nebraska 250th Anniversary Patch. This program encourages Scouts to explore our state's history, recognize important figures, contribute to their communities, and reflect on Nebraska's place in the story of America.



Background: The United States will mark its Semiquincentennial in 2026, celebrating 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Nebraska played a critical role in the westward expansion of the U.S. and the shaping of the nation. From the Louisiana Purchase and the passage of the Homestead Act, to the legacy of leaders like Chief Standing Bear, Nebraska holds a unique place in America's journey toward liberty and justice for all.

To honor this milestone, this patch program combines historical learning with civic engagement, outdoor exploration, and service—true to the spirit of Scouting.

Timeframe - All requirements must be completed and submitted by **December 31, 2026**.

Requirements - You can find the award requirements and form here: [Overview : All Programs : Programs : Cornhusker Council, BSA](#). Submit your signed requirement form to the Scout Shop. The award can be awarded at an upcoming court of honor, pack meeting, or special ceremony.

Additionally, we are offering a patch to commemorate the 250th Anniversary! The patch design is based off of the Council's Bicentennial patch offered in 1976. The only requirement to wear this patch is to be a registered Scout or Scouter! The patch is now available in the Scout Store.

FUNDAMENTALS OF TRAINING, JAN 17TH

Are you an adult or youth in scouting that trains other adults or youth? Whether or not you hold a formal position in your unit, if you are involved in Scouting America, then most likely at some point you have and will help with training. "Fundamentals of Training" will be held on Jan 17th from 8:30am to 4pm at Grace Lutheran Church, 22nd and Washington Street, in Lincoln.

If you are a Den Leader, you are training the Cub Scouts in your Den. If you are a Senior Patrol Leader, you are training Scouts in your Troop in skills and leadership. If you are a Merit Badge Counselor, you are training scouts in the skills you are presenting. This is why all adults, and youth over the age of 14, are encouraged to complete Scouting America's Fundamentals of Training courses.

Fundamentals Part 1 - Science of Training is designed to help Scouts and Scouters, regardless of their training experience, identify effective training methods. It will help freshen up the skills of current Scouting America trainers, as well. The skills and strategies presented have been shown to improve teaching and learning. The value of these skills are not limited to a role in Scouting but can be applied in personal and professional settings as well.

Fundamentals Part 2- Craft of Training is the second part of the train-the-trainer continuum. As trainers develop their training skills, this course provides an opportunity for trainers to practice and



refine their abilities through experiential learning, paired with feedback from faculty members and peers.

If you want to be a better teacher, trainer and Scouter join us for the combined Fundamentals of Training parts 1 and 2. We will take breaks during the course, including a break for lunch so bring a lunch! Register here: [Cornhusker Council - Fundamentals of Training](#)

ADULT LEADER TRAINING AWARDS

Scouting America's mission of building character and developing leaders in young people simply would not be possible without the dedication of its adult volunteers. These individuals are the backbone of the program, dedicating countless hours to mentoring, teaching, and serving. To recognize this immense commitment, Scouting America offers a number of adult awards and recognition.



Most Scouting America adult awards are presented with a distinctive square knot patch that is worn on the adult uniform, centered above the left pocket. Each knot's unique color combination represents a different award. The adult training awards celebrate leaders who complete required training and fulfill tenure requirements for their specific roles. When a leader completes these requirements, they earn a distinctive square knot patch to wear on their uniform.

Leaders sometimes struggle to see the importance of earning these awards themselves. Earning and displaying your adult training awards on your uniform as a Scoutmaster, Den Leader or other position in Scouting America can signal to potential Scouts and their parents that your unit may be a good choice. Those awards are a visible sign of a commitment to a well-run, safe, and quality program in your unit.

Here are some of the knots earned for training and position-specific excellence:

- [Den Leader Training Award](#): Recognizes leaders of Lion, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, or Webelos dens who completes their position-specific training, have a year of tenure, and meets the designated performance standards.
- [Scouter's Training Award](#): Earned by any registered adult who completes their position-specific training, has two years of tenure, and meets the designated performance standards.
- [Scouter's Keys](#): These "Keys" are awarded to the unit's primary leader (Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Venturing Advisor, or Sea Skipper) for completing training and a minimum of three years of outstanding service and performance in their role.



These knots serve as a silent testament to a volunteer's accomplishments and dedication, making their uniform a chronicle of service and leadership. If you meet the requirements for an award we would encourage you to submit an application and be recognized for your service to your unit and Scouting America.

The completed application forms can be emailed or dropped off at the Council office or emailed to your Council Training Chair. The next time you see a leader with a knot on their uniform, take a moment to acknowledge their dedication. It's a visible sign of the profound impact they've made on the lives of young people through Scouting.

Council Training Chair: Mike McCollough: scoutermike14@gmail.com

Salt Valley District Training Chair: John Schuff: john.schuff@gmail.com

Seven Feathers District Training Chair: Travis Hespen: Twillie_05@hotmail.com

Prairie Winds District Training Chair: Applications welcome, in the meantime reach out to Mike McCollough- scoutermike14@gmail.com

If you are a part of the Prairie Winds District, and are interested in training, we would love to have you volunteer to be a District Training Chair. If you have any questions about being a Training Chair please reach out to Mike McCollough, scoutermike14@gmail.com, he would love to hear from you.

SCOUTS BSA ADVANCEMENT WEBINARS

December: "The Power of the Panel: Elevating Your Boards of Review" is the topic of the webinar on December 3 at 7:00 pm Central.

January: "Eagle Scout Extensions Requests - What Really Matters" will be on January 7 at 7:00 pm Central.

Register [HERE](#) for November; [HERE](#) for December; and [HERE](#) for January.

REMINDER - UPDATE YOUR "PIN!"

Unit and District Leadership - please continue efforts to keep your Unit's "pin" updated in beascout.scouting.org. The ongoing National Marketing Campaign uses this website exclusively to link up potential new members ("leads") with local units. Nationally, 50% of all leads go unanswered! Our Council does not have that problem, but we need to maintain our current level of excellence by keeping our information on this site updated. **Unit leaders, be sure to follow up on ALL leads!**

GROW THE UNIT, GROW THE MOVEMENT

Thank you, for your continued efforts thus far to grow the Scouting movement in southeast Nebraska! Our membership goal is to serve 2,500 youth by December 31st. A few suggestions to build and keep the flow of scouts into your unit:

- * **Continue to invite prospective Scouts to troop activities.** Look for "Normal Friend Activities" - "Bring a Friend" events in your Unit's program. You never know what event will peak someone's interest.
- * **Update your online presence.** Make sure your contact info, meeting time, and location are current on your unit pin. Keep unit websites and social media pages up to date. Keep up with your invitation manager in my.scouting.org. Contact prospective recruits in a timely manner.
- * **Engage the parents as well as the Scouts.** We're recruiting them, too. Make sure you have a 'welcoming committee' for new parents who visit your Unit.
- * **Work together!** If your unit isn't the right fit for your recruit, invite them to visit a neighboring unit. Everyone's contact info is on beascout.org.
- * **Be a presence in your neighborhood.** If no one knows you're around, they can't join you.
- * **Always be recruiting.** Potential new Scouts are everywhere.

GAME RETREAT RESCHEDULED

Last month's game retreat at Camp Cornhusker has been rescheduled to two exciting events! The first will be the OEC Games/Tournament day at 8am on Feb 21st. The Camp Cornhusker Games weekend will be held in Nov 2026. Stay tuned for more details!



VETERANS DAY PARADE

Many thanks to all the Troops and Packs across the Cornhusker Council who participated in the Veterans parade on Nov 16th to honor and say thank you to the brave men and women who have served our nation. Service, duty, and leadership are at the heart of Scouting – values our veterans have lived every day. On this Veterans Day, we honor their courage, their sacrifice, and the example they set for every Scout who promises to do their duty to country. We are proud to be part of the Lincoln Veterans Parade again this year!



REGISTRAR'S UPDATE

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

2. Den Leader Title Migration (i.e. Tiger Cub Den Leader, Webelos Den Leader, Lion Den Leader, Lion Coordinator) will be transitioned to Den Leader. In addition, Assistant Webelos Den Leader will be transitioned to Assistant Den Leader. Leaders with named den leader positions will be given new positions with the same expiration and end dates and should not experience any changes in functionality with their new position.

SCOUT SHOP NEWS

[CORNHUSKER COUNCIL SCOUT SHOP](#)

1. Order Online with the Cornhusker Council Scout Shop! Buy local!

[Internal Forms - Customer Online Order Request Tool](#)

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.

2. THE NEWEST TOOL TO HELP DEN LEADERS IS AT THE SCOUT STORE!

The Den Meeting Deck makes planning a den meeting fun, simple, and easy. There is a deck for each badge of rank and contains all the activities needed to earn all six required Adventures and four or five elective Adventures.

3. BACK IN STOCK! Sioux City Sarsaparilla in the Scout Store! Stop on by the OEC later this summer and get one of your camp favorites!



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

5. 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.

6. Didn't get your Camp Cornhusker swag? Stop on by the Scout Shop where we have a number of specialty items from camp available!



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



8. 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.



9. 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](#))

December 2025

- 3 (C) Properties Committee Meeting
- 4 (PWD, SVD, 7FD) Roundtables
- 6 (PWD, SVD, 7FD) District Committee & Commissioner Retreat
- 11 (C) Woodbadge Staff Orientation
- 13 (C) Holiday Bazaar at the OEC
- 18 (SVD) Eagle Board of Review
- 18 (7FD) District Committee Meeting
- 23 (SFD) District Committee Meeting
- 24 (C) Christmas Day
- 28-29 (C) Camp Staff 2026 Interviews

January 2026

- 1 (C) New Year's Day (office closed)
- 7 (C) Properties Committee Meeting
- 8 (All) District Roundtables
- 10 (C) 1st Aid, CPR, AED Training
- 15 (7FD) Seven Feathers District Committee Meeting
- 17 (SVD) Merit Badge Clinic
- 17 (C) Fundamentals of Training
- 19 (C) MLK Jr. Day
- 22 (SVD) Eagle Board of Review
- 24 (C) NYLT Staff Development
- 27 (SVD) District Committee Meeting
- 30-1 Feb (C) Klondike Derby

February 2026

- 4 (C) Properties Committee Meeting
- 5 (All) District Roundtables
- 8 (All) Scouting Anniversary Day and Scout Sunday
- 13-14 (C) Woodbadge Staff Development
- 16 (C) Washington's Birthday
- 19 (7FD) District Committee Meeting
- 24 (SVD) District Committee Meeting
- 26 (SVD) Eagle Board of Review
- 28 (C) NRA Shotgun Basic
- 28 (SVD) District Dinner

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



LODGE WINTER EVENT, JAN 23-25, 2026

The Lodge's next big event is the Winter Event!! Which will take place January 23-25. Location TBD at this time. You can still mark that weekend off on your calendars for a great weekend of food, games, fun and fellowship! Feel free to contact us at any time by utilizing the Let's Chat button on our website or by using the Contact Us tab in LodgeMaster. We love hearing from our members.

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



The spirit of Scouting doesn't end when a young person earns their final badge or ages out of their unit—and across the Cornhusker Council, Scouting America, alumni are proving just that. Former Scouts, leaders, and families are reconnecting through a renewed network of Scouting alumni groups, all committed to supporting today's youth, strengthening local units, and preserving the traditions that shaped their own lives. From community service to mentorship to celebrating Scouting's lasting impact, these alumni are stepping forward in growing numbers, demonstrating that once you're part of Scouting, you're always part of the family!

<p>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!</p>	<p>Eagles Nest The Eagles Nest is the official Eagle Scout alumni group of the Cornhusker Council. Open to all Eagle Scouts</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
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The Cornhusker Council Scouting Alumni group is the Council's overarching alumni group and open to any Scout or Scouter. The Eagles Nest is for Eagle Scouts residing in the Cornhusker Council. The one-time dues goes to support the Eagle Scout banquet. The Long Tooth Circle is Camp Cornhusker's alumni group. Annual dues go to support projects and program at Camp Cornhusker. Wood Badge Alumni is for those Scouters who completed Wood Badge in the Cornhusker Council; one-time dues go towards Woodbadge scholarships. Finally, the C3SA is an alumni group for Scouts and Scouters who served on camp staff at Camp Cornhusker.

For more information: [Cornhusker Council Scouting Alumni](#) Do you know a Scouter? Share the link!

CONGRATULATIONS TO CORNHUSKER COUNCIL'S NEWEST EAGLE SCOUTS

Abe Derickson, Troop 16

Delia Thompson, Troop 16

Talon Gilfert, Troop 220

Ethan Rosenthal, Troop 221



The NESA application portal opens *December 1, 2025*, and closes *January 31, 2026*. For more information: [Scholarships - The National Eagle Scout Association](#)

In addition to the National Eagle Scout Association's Scholarship, there are a number of 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!

Eagle Scouts, stay connected - join NESA!

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



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

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



EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT REQUEST! The Wyuka Cemetery Board of Trustees approached us with an Eagle Scout Project idea to document and map the 12000 Veteran gravestones that are in the cemetery. Currently, there is no documentation where Veterans are buried at Wyuka and the Board is seeking assistance so they can better honor the Veterans interred there (Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Wreathes Across America). If your Eagle candidate is interested, contact the Scout Executive (Jeffrey.johnson@scouting.org)