



# Scouts BSA National Youth Council

## 2025 Overview

# What is the National Youth Council?

## OVERVIEW

In Scouts BSA, we believe that youth are the experts of their experience. In order to strengthen the relevance and impact of the Scouts BSA program, the national Scouts BSA committee seeks to engage youth in decisions that affect their experience.

In September 2025, the national Scouts BSA committee will launch its next National Youth Council cohort - a group of youth who will help shape the future of the Scouts BSA program by:

- Sharing their perspectives on the program's strengths and growth areas, as well as what we should be thinking about going forward.
- Providing feedback on programmatic ideas under consideration by the Scouts BSA committee.

The National Youth Council will be comprised of up to 40 total youth with a wide range of experiences and backgrounds from councils across the BSA.

This is a unique opportunity for youth to virtually meet Scouts from across the country and help improve the Scouts BSA program.



# What is the Commitment?

## OVERVIEW

### Tenure and Monthly Commitment

The National Youth Council will serve from **September 2025 to May 2026**. During that time, the National Youth Council will **meet virtually once a month** on Zoom. There may be a periodic need to participate virtually in sub-committee work between full Youth Council Meetings. The anticipated commitment is approximately 3-5 hours per month, including virtual meeting time and pre-work/homework.

### Meeting Schedule

The National Youth Council will kick off in **mid-September**.

From there, we will continue to meet every first Sunday of the month from 7pm-9 p.m. ET. Youth Council members need to be available to attend these meetings on Sunday evenings.



# What are the Eligibility Criteria?

## OVERVIEW

In order to apply to the National Youth Council, youth must be:

- Currently a member of the Scouts BSA program.
- First Class rank or higher.
- At least 14 years old and not yet 18 years old during the entire term (September 2025 - May 2026).
- Currently or have served in a [position of responsibility](#) in a Scouts BSA troop.

There is no cost to participate. Youth must have the ability to join Zoom meetings.



# What is the Selection Process?



## **Application**

*June 20 - August 15, 2025*

Scouts are invited to apply electronically by Aug 15. Parents/guardians & Unit Leaders must consent to their Scout's participation.



## **Selection Notification**

*Mid-September 2025*

Applicants (and their parents/guardians) will be notified of selection decisions via email by mid-Sept.

Please note that we are unable to accept all applicants to join the Youth Council.



## **Launch**

*September 2025*

The first National Youth Council meeting will be held from 7-9 p.m. ET.



**Where we are in the selection process**

# I'm interested. What's next?

## APPLICATION

1

### Ask your parents/guardians & Unit Leader for permission to apply.

Print and have your parent/guardian & Unit Leader sign the [permission slip and talent release](#) form. Upload the completed and signed document to the application form.

2

### Submit your application by August 15.

Interested youth nominees must complete the application by August 15. The application will take approximately 90 minutes to complete and must be completed in one sitting (you cannot start and save/return to the application later). *See next slide for a preview of some of the application questions.*

3

### Email your questions

If you have additional questions after reading this slide deck, email us at [ScoutsBSAcommittee@scouting.org](mailto:ScoutsBSAcommittee@scouting.org)





# What do I need to be prepared to answer on the application?

## APPLICATION

**When completing the application, you will be asked to:**

- Share basic information about yourself (e.g. name, phone number, email address, demographic information, etc) and your parent/guardian (e.g. name, phone number, email address, etc).
- **Upload a photo or PDF of your fully completed and signed parent/guardian & Unit Leader permission form.**
- Share information about your Scouting background, including your Scouting biographical highlights (current and former roles/positions held, honors/awards, and any council or national events you've attended or staffed)
- Responses to the following questions (keep each response to 20 sentences or less)
  - Why are you interested in joining the Scouts BSA Youth Council?
  - What 1-3 ideas do you have to improve the Scouts BSA program? Explain why you believe each idea would improve the program.
  - What is 1 thing you would never change about the Scouts BSA program? Why not?
  - What should Scouts BSA change in order to recruit more of your friends who don't already participate?



**Questions?**

Contact [ScoutsBSAcommittee@scouting.org](mailto:ScoutsBSAcommittee@scouting.org)





# Frequently Asked Questions



# Common Questions

FAQ

## **What are the Scouts BSA positions of responsibility?**

To be eligible for nomination to the National Youth Council, youth must be currently or have served in a position of responsibility in a Scouts BSA troop for any tenure. Positions of responsibility include: Patrol leader, senior patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, troop guide, Order of the Arrow troop representative, den chief, scribe, librarian, historian, quartermaster, junior assistant Scoutmaster, chaplain aide, instructor, webmaster, or outdoor ethics guide.

## **Why is the Youth Council term from September 2025 to May 2026?**

When determining the term of the National Youth Council, we sought to make the commitment reasonable in length (8 months) The commitment will wind down in time for youth to enjoy their summer.

## **I turn 14 right after the application deadline. Can I apply?**

In order to be eligible for nomination, Scouts BSA youth must be at least 14 years old and not yet 18 years old during the entire term (September 2025 to May 2026). You may be able to nominate your Scout in the future. We anticipate launching the next cohort of the National Youth Council in Summer 2026.



# Common Questions

FAQ

## **I am interested, but can't make Sunday evenings.**

Thank you for your interest. In order to serve on the National Youth Council, Scouts must be available to attend meetings on the first Sunday of each month.

We anticipate launching the next cohort of the National Youth Council in Summer 2026. We hope you'll consider applying then if you meet the eligibility and if your schedule allows.

