

Cornhusker Council Commissioner Corner

Commissioner Priorities in Commissioner Tools

Log into your my.scouting.org account, then use Commissioner Tools to complete the following tasks ASAP!

Task #1: Logging Connections:

According to Commissioner Tools, there are only a handful of units that have been contacted by a unit commissioner since July 1. Please show me (and the CST and national) that this is not true! Plan of action:

- * Log all recent connections ASAP
- * Even if you are not assigned to a unit, but you have visited with unit leadership about recruitment, training, retention or activities, please complete a "Connection" for that unit.
- * Need Help? Contact Karen or Bill

Task #2: Unit Inventory Campaign:

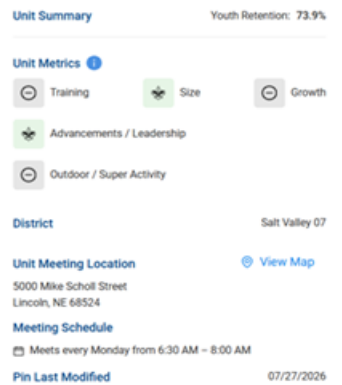
Work with the unit leader(s) to compare the registered roster (my. Scouting) against youth who are actually participating in the unit.

- * Focus on ensuring that every unregistered scout becomes registered in Scouting America. Explain to parents why registration matters — insurance coverage and rank advancement.
- * Identify any barriers to registration and mention financial assistance if cost is a barrier.

Task #3: Verify unit(s) have updated their BeAScout Pin

While in Commissioner Tools, look at the Unit Dashboard with a focus on the Unit Meeting Location, Meeting Schedule and Pin Last Modified sections. If the info is not correct and /or the pin has not recently been modified, contact unit leadership immediately!

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.



Task #4: Review Training Status:

Review SYT (Safeguarding Youth Training) and Position Specific Training of unit leaders.

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.



October 2026 Priorities for Commissioners



Recruitment & Retention:

- Are units monitoring BeAScout leads and responding in a timely manner?
- Is there a Unit calendar of events ready for distribution to families.
- Are pack meetings & activities FUN for the scouts?
- Is the unit planning a Halloween activity? What a great event to utilize Invite a Friend!
- Are new parents/guardians made to feel welcome and maybe even asked to help in some small way?

Popcorn Sales:

As popcorn sales end this month, be sure to THANK unit leaders and families for their support of the scouting program in their own units and our council! These funds are vital to continuing to grow scouting!

2027 Gold Star Unit Incentive Program:

Be sure to share the 2027 requirements of this award with unit leadership. See attached for the list of requirements and the benefits their unit will receive if the requirements are met.



Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary Through Service

As America celebrates 250 years, Scouts across Cornhusker Council will honor this milestone through service, leadership, and community impact.

How to Participate Cornhusker Council District Incentive:

- Plan meaningful service projects throughout 2026
- Log all service hours in Scoutbook+
- Encourage Scouts and families to join in



Scout Expo at Woods Park (33rd and O), Saturday Oct 10, 2026, 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.

**Packs and Troops--
We need you to register your unit booth!**



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!



Hazardous Weather Course Updated



The new Hazardous Weather course is now available in the Volunteer Learn Center on My.Scouting. This course is part of the formula to be a "trained" leader for many Scouting positions, required (for at least one leader) for overnight activities, and a good course for everyone to take to be safe. Note: Scouters are not required to complete the updated version until their current training expires.



WANTED * WANTED

Lead Camp Commissioner for 2027 Summer Camps

Bill Lang is retiring as the Lead Camp Commissioner, so we are seeking a replacement. If you are interested or you would like to recommend someone, please contact Karen ASAP. Also, if you would like to serve on the commissioner camp staff, please put it on your schedule now!

Commissioner Staff Contact Info
Council Commissioner: Karen Griffin Sieber karensieber@live.com
Ass't Council Commissioner for SYT: Mitchell Locken mlocken@gmail.com
ACC for Training: Pam Chandler pkmchandler@gmail.com
Prairie Winds District Comm. Vacant
Salt Valley District Comm. Bill Lang wlang50@gmail.com
Seven Feathers District Comm. Richard White rwhite4576@gmail.com

Dates to Remember

Oct 8: Seven Feathers Roundtable
Oct 10: First Aid, CPR, AED Training
Scout Expo — Woods Park
Oct 11: Salt Creek Cleanup
Oct 16-18: Council Camporee
Oct 17-18: Wilderness First Aid Training
Oct 20: Popcorn Sale Ends
Oct 24: OA Fall Fellowship Banquet
Oct 29: Scouts Honor Auction



Retention Strategies



Cub Scouts

- **Keep the calendar full and manageable:** In addition to den and pack meetings, offer activities throughout the year. But keep them simple and inexpensive — movie nights, board games, community events and of course, campouts.
- **Make camping approachable:** Try backyard camping as a first step. Be sure to include campfire skits — these encourage comedy and creativity.
- **You can't communicate too much:** An annual calendar is a must, but text or other reminders are helpful too.
- **Get parents involved:** Parents need to feel connected too. Invite parents to help at den and pack meetings. Some packs have a monthly gathering just for adults to give parents a chance to talk and get to know each other.
- **Follow the Scout Law:** If activities are FUN and follow the Scout Law, you will have a successful and thriving pack!

Source: <https://onscouting.org/2026/09/18/heres-the-cub-scout-retention-checklist-every-leader-needs/>

Scouts BSA

A great Scout meeting doesn't have to involve an elaborate activity or an expensive guest speaker. Sometimes, it's as simple as getting Scouts moving. Give them something to do with their hands, and you're more likely to hear "That was fun!" at the end of the meeting.

Make it hands-on: Scouts should do more than listen to someone explain a skill. Whenever possible, give them something they can see, touch, build, practice or solve.

Give older Scouts responsibility: They can mentor new Scouts and teach those who might be struggling with a skill.

Keep Scouts moving: Take meetings outdoors, where Scouts can explore, learn and practice Scouting skills. Scouts might set up tents in groups, play gaga ball or sock on a rope, then return to requirements before playing another game. The key is to mix things up.

Source: <https://onscouting.org/2026/09/28/what-makes-a-great-scout-meeting-a-scoutmaster-and-scout-life-experts-weigh-in/>

Safety Moment:

Campout Safety Checklist



Camping can be enjoyable in almost any area—from the backcountry to summer camp, as well as national high-adventure bases, to name a few. When you decide on a camping trip, you need to consider who, what, where, when, how, and why. Here are a few items to check off on your Campout Safety Checklist:

- ***Documentation Needed**—This includes medical records, guidebooks, and permission slips. A Scout leader can ensure your safety as well as his or her own when you are both better informed of any limitations, hazards, or permissions.
- ***Training**—General training, such as Youth Protection training, CPR/first aid, and Hazardous Weather, or specific training, such as Trek Safely or Wilderness First Aid, gives you the confidence to know what to do in the event of an emergency.
- ***Planning**—Planning is important. Become familiar with your campsite location and do some research about the weather, licensing/permit requirements, and project or activity guidelines so you can be prepared.
- ***Equipment**—Plan for vehicles involved or tools necessary for your camping experience. Also consider trailer requirements and first-aid or emergency kits.
- ***Emergency Planning**—A prepared Scout is a confident Scout. Keep a cellphone handy as well as a list of local authorities (fire department, police, hospitals, etc.) in case an emergency occurs, such as inclement weather or a lost Scout. If you are in the backcountry, canyons, or a remote location, coverage may be one to two hours away. A GPS tracking/messaging device is helpful in these locations.
- ***Program**—Know your program. There should be age-appropriate activities, safety equipment, proper supervision, and a discussion on potential hazards.

Source: <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/campout-safety-checklist/>



Save the Date: June 6-11, 2027

Commissioner Week at the Philmont Training Center

What could be better than learning while camping in beautiful Philmont!

<https://www.philmontscout ranch.org/ptc/ptc-conferences/>



Scouts BSA will host the first-ever Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) Summit on Sunday, Oct. 25. Your SPL can join Scouts from across the country and members of the National Scouts BSA Committee for 30 minutes on Zoom to share what works in their troops.

Scoutmasters were sent an email with the invitation and registration details. Here's what you need to know:

- Check the email address registered in my.scouting
- Look for the subject line: "Send your SPL to the first-ever SPL Summit on Oct 25"
- Forward the SPL section of the email to your SPL only
- Each troop gets one seat, and space is limited
- If your SPL can't attend, work together to select another scout to represent your troop

Learn more: <https://www.scouting.org/program/scouts-bsa-program-update-spl-summit/>