

# Cornhusker Council Commissioner Corner



## Our Top Priority: Gold Star Unit Visits

To achieve Gold Star status, a unit must complete a “detailed coaching meeting” with a commissioner. **The commissioner’s goal of the meeting is to identify the successes of that unit as well as the challenges.** The information gained from these meetings will be compiled to assist district and council committees with trainings and/or activities to help units across the council. **The deadline to receive Gold Star status is the end of April, so we don’t have much time left!**

THANK YOU to commissioners who have already completed a Gold Star visit. If you have not, please use the attached form appropriate for the unit (pack or troop). Give the completed form to your district commissioner or myself either in person or by scanning and emailing.

Before the visit, be sure to view the Unit Dashboard using Commissioner Tools in [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org). You will need the training, membership, advancement and outdoor activities to discuss with unit leadership.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your district commissioner or myself at [karensieber@live.com](mailto:karensieber@live.com).

## April 2026 Additional Priorities



### Summertime Pack Award:

Encourage packs to start planning their summer activities so that their scouts can earn the **Cornhusker Council Summertime Pack Award**. The only requirement is to participate in a total of three Cub Scout activities anytime after school gets out and before school begins again in August. Remind units to have scouts invite friends to bring more youth into the program!

### Summer Camp Plans:

Let’s make sure “outing” stays in “SCOUTING” by encouraging every scout to attend camp this summer — day camp, residence camp, or even unit campouts!

## Second Priority — Membership

The chart on the right is the April section of the Council’s 2026 Annual Membership Plan.

Encourage units to plan a spring recruitment, but keep it simple. Invite friends to unit activities, distribute info at school end-of-year events, etc.

Make sure the unit has activities planned for the summer so any new scouts stay connected to the unit.

| Date | Event  | Responsibility  |
|------|--|---|
|      | Continue New Unit sales calls                                      | District Professional, District Commissioner, District Membership Chair |
|      | Get Spring flyers into schools, churches if permitted              | District Membership Committee and Professionals                         |
|      | Hold spring Recruitment  | All   |
|      | Continue to work BeAScout leads                                    | District Membership Chair   |
|      | Finalize committee prospect meetings                               | District Chair, District Membership Chair, District Professional        |
|      | Continue working with units to establish spring Recruitment plans. | District Professional   |
|      | Weekly Membership social media posts                               | District Membership Chair   |
|      | Recruitment Fun Day in the Districts, We Need S’more Scouts        | In each district, District Committee                                    |

## Earth Day Service Project Ideas



**Scouts Trash the Trash Day  
May 2, 2026**

<https://scoutstrashthetrashday.org/>

## Scouting for Clean Waterways (Earth Month—April 2026)

Garbage doesn’t have to be in the water to pollute our rivers, lakes and oceans. That plastic bottle nearly a mile from the lake poses a threat. That fast food bag discarded near a drainage ditch is a danger.

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2026/03/27/scouting-prepares-for-season-2-of-clean-waterways-heres-how-you-can-participate/>



## College of Commissioner Science

April 11, 2026

Bellevue University



Increase your commissioner knowledge and skills to provide better unit service.

Every unit deserves a trained unit commissioner!

Registration is now open:  
<https://scoutingevent.com/324-109340>

Questions? Contact:  
Karen: [karensieber@live.com](mailto:karensieber@live.com)  
or Bill: [wlang50@gmail.com](mailto:wlang50@gmail.com).

Special thanks to Bill Lang, Pam Chandler, Mitchell Locken, Bryan Welty, Dave Shoff and Karen Griffin Sieber for serving as instructors!



**America250**—In celebration of our nation’s 250th anniversary, national is asking every unit to provide 250 hours of community service throughout 2026.

## How to celebrate America's 250th with Cub Scouts



The patch encourages Scouts to explore citizenship and service through Cub Scout-gear activities that celebrate the milestone. And anyone — adults or youth — can earn the patch, which was created to mark an important historical moment while highlighting Scouts' duty to country.

Use this ready-to-go pack meeting plan built around a "250th Birthday Party for America." The celebration includes colonial games, crafts, a service project and patriotic snacks.

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2026/02/Liberty-in-Action-Cub-Scout-Activity-Idea-Guide-v2.pdf>

### Commissioner Staff Contact Info

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## Dates to Remember

- April 9: Roundtables
- April 10-12: Wood Badge Session 1
- April 11: Beaver Day at Camp Cornhusker  
Wildfire Management MB test lab  
College of Commissioner Science
- April 17-19: PW/7F Spring Camporee
- April 18: Beaver Day/Big Mow at Camp
- April 25-26: Wood Badge Session 2
- April 25: Beaver Day/Pool Work at Camp
- May 1-3: OA Spring Event
- May 7: PW and SV Roundtables
- May 8-9: SV District Spring Camporee
- May 9: First Aid, CPR, AED Training
- May 14: 7F Roundtable

## Scouting America Troop Leader Resources

Looking for fresh ideas to energize your troop program? Program Features offer 48 themed modules designed to make planning easier for troop leaders. Covering topics such as outdoor adventure, sports, health and safety, citizenship and personal development, STEM, and arts and hobbies, these resources bring fun, challenge, and new experiences to meetings and outings while supporting advancement. It is a great way to keep Scouts engaged, learning, and excited to return each week. You can find all Program Features for free here: <https://troopleader.scouting.org/program-features/>



### Great webinars packed with practical tools and strategies your unit, district, or council can put to work right away.

◆ Scouts BSA Spring Recruitment Kick-Off  
Everything you need to launch a strong spring recruitment season — from prospecting to welcoming new Scouts.  
<https://vimeo.com/1170110142/644ddd56e>

◆ Empowering the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC)  
How youth leadership drives membership growth — and what you can do to support it.  
<https://vimeo.com/1172262648/df0771469c>

◆ Scouts BSA Advancement Webinar: Working Advancement Into Troop Meetings  
What's Covered: How to add advancement naturally into troop meeting plans, Ways to balance skill-building with fun activities, Tips for supporting Scouts at different levels in the same meeting, Ideas for making advancement part of the adventure instead of just another task. Recording: <https://vimeo.com/1164075044/19a255abb3?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>

### Camp Commissioners



What better way to spend a week during the 70th Anniversary of Camp Cornhusker than as a camp commissioner!

Thank you to the following for planning to serve as camp commissioners — Bill, Lang Jim Buehler, Mark Beatty, Karen Griffin Sieber.

**Additional help is needed (by the week or even just a few days) so please contact Bill Lang** if you would like to assist scouts and leaders have an awesome camp experience during these Scout BSA camps:

June 7-13, 2026    June 14-20, 2026

## Safety Moment:

### 6 fears Scouts might have before their first campout (and how to help)

The first tool for helping an anxious Scout: Be prepared. Before the campout, explain the details, like where they'll sleep, what meals will look like and how they can contact you. But no matter how much you prepare, they might still have concerns. Here are six of the most common fears for first-time campers — and how you can help overcome them.

#### 1. "I'm scared to sleep outside."

The dark. Night sounds. A sleeping bag instead of a bed. **What to say to your Scout:** "Try out your sleeping bag and sleeping pad in the living room so you can see what it'll be like. Remember, adult leaders will be around to make sure nothing bad happens, plus you'll have your tentmates to talk with. And you can just turn on your headlamp for light if you need it."

#### 2. "Are there going to be bathrooms?"

Unfamiliar camp bathrooms or having to "go" in the woods can be genuinely terrifying to kids who rely on familiar environments to feel comfortable going to the bathroom.

**What to say to a Scout:** "Don't worry. Even though you're camping, most campsites will have a bathroom. And you'll have a lot of adults and fellow Scouts around who can answer any question you have. Be sure scouts know where the nearest bathroom is to the campsite."

#### 3. "What if I see or get bitten by bugs?"

For many young campers, bugs can spark major anxiety about being bitten or stung.

**What to say to a Scout:** "I know you're not a huge fan of bugs, but they're an important part of nature, and you're visiting their home. Most bugs don't bite or sting, but if you see one that does, remember that if you leave them alone, they'll usually leave you alone too. Plus, your leaders will tell you what to do during the day, and your tent will keep most, if not all, critters out at night."

#### 4. "But I'm gonna miss my parents!"

Many young Scouts have never slept away from home or in an unfamiliar place without family.

**What to say to your Scout:** "I hear you. You might miss your parents, but you won't have much time for that because you'll be having so much fun."

#### 5. "I might not like any of the foods there."

Scouts who are used to having plenty of choices at home are now faced with eating only what the patrol cooks.

**What to say to a Scout:** "You might find some new foods you love and want to make at home when you return. Share menus ahead of time so new scouts are not surprised by anything."

#### 6. "How will I talk to my friends back home?"

For today's youth, the sudden transition from 24/7 connectivity to a 'no-bars' environment creates anxiety that's more than just homesickness.

**What to say to a Scout:** "You will make so many friends on your campout to talk about your experiences with. As for your friends back home, you'll have some epic stories to share with them when you get back!"

Source: <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2026/03/16/6-fears-scouts-might-have-before-their-first-campout-and-how-to-help/>

