

Cornhusker Council Commissioner Corner



Joint District Committees and Commissioners Meeting Recap of December 6, 2025, meeting

Thank you to all the commissioners and district committee members who attended this meeting! Your time and input are invaluable to moving the Scouting program forward in southeast Nebraska.

Discussion topics included:

- Annual Membership Fee announcement (see article below for details)
- Review of District Dashboards on my.scouting.org
- Action Plans for:
 - * AOL Retention * Recruitment
 - * Program * Family Troops
 - * New Units
 - * Unit Charter / Membership Renewal



There was such great discussion that we did not have time to finalize the Action Plans. District Committees will be asked to complete the Action Plans specific to their district in early 2026.

Commissioners will be involved in the communication and implementation of the Action Plans as our role of unit service.

January 2026 Priorities for Unit Commissioners

Scout Sunday—Feb 9, 2026:

Encourage unit leaders to participate in or attend a church service. And earn a patch!

Succession Planning:

Assist units to identify potential new pack leaders to replace any that may be “moving on” in May.

Summer Camp 2026 Plans:

Verify that troops have or are in the process of reserving their spot at a summer camp in 2026.

Assist in providing packs the information about day camp or resident camps in Cornhusker.

Unit Visits/Connections:

Please be sure to log any visits /connections that you make for any unit!

Annual Membership Fee: Effective 1-1-26

Effective January 1, 2026, Cornhusker Council will implement an annual membership fee for both youth (\$60) and adult members (\$30) due upon the individual’s annual renewal.

Exceptions and Financial Aid:

Families with three 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.

Talking Points: Use MEMBERSHIP FEE vs Program Fee

Revenue Facts

We have been running a \$150,000 - \$200,000 deficit per year for over the past 5 yrs. Declining FOS Revenue and Popcorn Sales— decline in the # of Scouts and # of units participating

Expense Facts: Cut all non-essential services, froze salaries and benefits, eliminated two professional positions

How does the Membership Fee support Scouting Units?

Secondary accident and sickness insurance, maintenance of camp properties, unit support (training, registration processing, recruitment materials, Scout Shop, subsidized activity/camp fees)

Most Councils have adopted a Membership Fee

Only 20 of the 235 Councils don’t have a fee
Membership Fees range from \$50 - \$200/year
Mid-America (Omaha) charges \$71/year

College of Commissioner Science



April 11, 2026

Bellevue University

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

We need instructors!

Cornhusker Council will be responsible for conducting the **Master** level classes, so if you are interested in serving as an instructor, please contact:

Karen: karensieber@live.com
or Bill: wlang50@gmail.com.

Camp Commissioners

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

Help is needed to assist scouts and leaders have an awesome camp experience during these Scout BSA camps:

June 7-13, 2026

June 14-20, 2026



Room and board provided!

Contact Bill if you are interested.

Wood Badge 2026

If you haven't taken this training, please consider this course.

If you are Wood Badge trained, encourage unit leaders to sign up soon!



Course Dates:

April 10-12, 2026

April 25-26, 2026

Commissioner Staff Contact Info

Council Commissioner:
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Dates to Remember

Jan 8: Roundtables

Jan 10: First Aid, CPR, AED Training

Jan 17: Fundamentals of Training
SV Merit Badge University

Jan 30-Feb 1: Klondike Derby

Feb 5: Roundtables

Feb 20-21: Troop Night at the Museum

Feb 21-22: OEC Cabin Fever Gamefest

New Unified Scouts BSA Handbook



Based on significant feedback from youth and volunteers, Scouting America has announced the release of a unified *Scouts BSA Handbook* designed for all youth who are part of the Scouts BSA program. This handbook does not replace the current 14th Edition of the *Scouts BSA Handbook*, and this unified version has no major program changes. It is simply a single, unified version of the handbook that can be used by boys or girls in Scouts BSA. The text remains the same, but photos now reflect all youth in Scouts BSA. Leaders, youth, and units spoke about their desire for this unified version, and we listened. The handbook will be available for purchase at Scout Shops nationwide in January 2026.

January 19, 2026

MLK National Day of Service



Join Scouts across the country as they participate in the Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service. This day invites every American to step forward and strengthen their communities through meaningful volunteer work, and Scouts will be ready to lead by example.

Across Scouting America, units are planning service projects that reflect the values Dr. King championed. Scouts will take part in community clean-ups, support local shelters and food programs, assist service organizations, and look for thoughtful ways to lift up neighbors who need a hand. It will be a "Day On, Not a Day Off," and a chance for young people to show what service in action looks like.

Dr. King's connection to Scouting began in his youth when he was a member of Troop 151 in Atlanta. His time in Scouting helped nurture a spirit of leadership and community responsibility that would later define his work for justice and equality. By serving with purpose, Scouts will honor his message and continue the work of building stronger and more caring communities. Note: Patches available to order at Scout Shop
Source: *National Commissioner Newsletter, December 22, 2025*



Safety Moment: Fire Safety



Scouting America has partnered with Prepared Hero to offer co-branded blankets. They are available for purchase on the [Prepared Hero website](#).

Prepared Hero's blankets use layers of woven fiberglass with a silicon coating, making them sturdy but lightweight and built for real-life situations. Unlike fire extinguishers that require training and strength, the Prepared Hero blanket is pulled from a pouch and placed over the flames. There aren't levers to release or triggers to squeeze. Also, fire blankets don't cover the surrounding area with chemicals, and they don't enter the HVAC system and spread extinguisher powder through the home.

Source:
<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2025/12/04/prepared-hero-and-scouting-america-team-up-on-fire-safety/>



Incident Reporting Resources

Use this link on the Cornhusker Council website home page to find everything you might need for incident reporting.

Incident Reporting

Timely and complete incident reporting provides Scouting America with an opportunity for analysis of incidents that occur and promotes continuous improvement of our programs.

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New Year Resolutions

I don't often make resolutions for the new year, but this year I thought I would make some scout-related resolutions:

- ◆ Visit each of my assigned units at least once each quarter and log the visit
- ◆ Be the best resource for all units
- ◆ Provide resources to all commissioners in Cornhusker Council

What New Year resolutions will you make?

