

# Monthly Newsletter



**AUGUST, 2025**

## 02 POPCORN

**ATTENTION, UNIT KERNELS!** The Popcorn Quest has begun, and every brave unit must answer the call! To prepare for this fall's adventure you must register in the Pecatonica River Popcorn system.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

#### 2 Popcorn

- Register your unit
- Kernel Kickoff Sessions

#### 3 Time Trek Camporee

- 49 Day Countdown
- Trading post closes 8/17

#### 4 Council Monthly

- Summer Office Hours
- Commissioner's Corner

#### 6 Recruitment Readiness

#### 7 Events & Activities

- Chicago Labor Day Parade
- National Night Out
- Chicago Stars Scout Nights
- Day Camp - Last Session
- Santa's Village Discount
- Recycle with Ronald

#### 9 Scout Stories

- Scouts & NASA
- Gary Railcats

#### 10 Special Fundraising Events

- LaSalle Street
- Golf Classic
- Construction Industry Scout Event
- Whitney M. Young, Jr. Service Awards Dinner
- George Meany Celebration
- Indiana Distinguished Citizen Dinner

#### 12 Wood Badge

#### 13 Order of the Arrow

- Newly elected to OA
- Summer Betz Fellowship
- Owasippe Brotherhood Ceremony
- Fall Betz Fellowship
- Vigil Weekend
- Summer Fellowship Help Wanted

#### 15 Council Committees News

- Faith Relations

## 03 TIME TREK CAMPOREE COUNTDOWN

Camporee countdown starts now! With 49 days remaining until the Time Trek adventures are underway, there is still time to register your unit, family, and friends to enjoy the time warp adventures! Don't miss out.

## 07 EXCLUSIVE SCOUT OPPORTUNITIES

There are many exclusive opportunities for our Scouts to take advantage of! Upcoming parade in honor of Labor Day, meet your local law enforcement at National Night Out, exclusive Scout Night opportunities with the Chicago Stars, and much more!



# Popcorn



## Register Your Unit Now!

### ATTENTION, UNITS!

The Popcorn Quest has begun, and every brave unit must answer the call!

To prepare for this fall's adventure and ensure smooth communication, all units planning on (or even considering) selling popcorn must register in the Pecatonica Popcorn system.

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Enter the council key: 118ptac
2. Enter all unit and personal info
3. Click next
4. Enter the type of selling you will be doing this Fall
5. Enter the commission structure you wish to earn.
6. Click submit.

**Register your Unit Here!**

## Popcorn Kernel Kickoff

Join us for a fun and informative popcorn training session to learn about updates to this year's sale, sample delicious Pecatonica River Popcorn, and pick up your order and prize forms. Each 90-minute session will also include time for questions, so come get everything you need to help your unit have a successful sale!

### Schedule:

#### **Saturday, August 2**

Robert J. Welsh Center for Scouting

#### **Sunday, August 3**

Arlington Heights Center for Scouting

#### **Wednesday, August 6**

Moose Lodge, Berwyn

**Popcorn Kernel Kickoff Registration Here!**



# Time Trek Camporee



Scouting  America  
Pathway to Adventure Council

## TIME TREK CAMPOREE:

JOURNEY THROUGH THE AGES

CAMPOREE  
COUNTDOWN: **49 DAYS**

READY TO TAKE A JOURNEY THROUGH  
TIME AT OUR TIME TREK CAMPOREE?

Register now at [www.pathwaytoadventure.org/camporee/](http://www.pathwaytoadventure.org/camporee/)

**SIGN UP  
HERE**



**TIME TREK CAMPOREE  
TRADING POST**

**NOW OPEN**

The Time Trek Trading Post is  
officially open—stock up on exclusive  
Camporee merch, from t-shirts and  
hoodies to hats and sweatpants!  
We've got everything you need to  
outfit your adventure through time.

**SHOP NOW!**

**Deadline to order is 8/17**

# Council Monthly

## Summer Office Hours!

As we move through the summer season, our service centers may have adjusted hours and limited availability. **To ensure we can best assist you, please coordinate with your District Executive to schedule an appointment before visiting.** Thank you for your understanding and continued support of Scouting!

### Service Centers

**Chicago  
Center for Scouting**  
(312) 421-8800

**Arlington Heights  
Center for Scouting**  
(312) 421-8800

**La Grange  
Center for Scouting**  
(312) 421-8800

**Robert J. Welsh  
Center for Scouting**  
(312) 421-8800

### District Executives

**Tall Grass District**  
Fidel Regalado, District Executive  
[fidel.regalado@scouting.org](mailto:fidel.regalado@scouting.org) (312) 421-8800 ext.247

**TriStar District**  
Rob King, District Executive  
[rob.king@scouting.org](mailto:rob.king@scouting.org) (312) 421-8800 ext.270

**Calumet District**  
Raymond Delcourt, Sr. District Executive  
[raymond.delcourt@scouting.org](mailto:raymond.delcourt@scouting.org) (312) 421-8800 ext.243

**Iron Horse District**  
Isaiah Hardy, District Executive  
[isaiah.hardy@scouting.org](mailto:isaiah.hardy@scouting.org) (312) 421-8800 ext.254

**Aguila District / Soccer in Scouting**  
Nancy Ithier, Sr. District Executive  
[nancy.ithier@scouting.org](mailto:nancy.ithier@scouting.org) (312) 421-8800 ext.216

**Prairie Dunes District and Indiana STEM**  
Kellauna Mack, Assistant Director of Field Service  
[kellauna.mack@scouting.org](mailto:kellauna.mack@scouting.org) (312) 421-8800 ext.266

**Thunderbird District**  
Garry Polodna, Sr. District Executive  
[garry.polodna@scouting.org](mailto:garry.polodna@scouting.org) (312) 421-8800 236

**Portage Creek District**  
Tim Strudeman, Sr. District Executive  
[tim.strudeman@scouting.org](mailto:tim.strudeman@scouting.org) (312) 421-8800 229

**Checaugau, Trailblazer, and Five Creeks District**  
David Tafur, Assistant Director of Field Service  
[david.tafur@scouting.org](mailto:david.tafur@scouting.org) (312) 421-8800 246

**Chicago STEM and Exploring**  
Kristen Vogt, District Director  
[kristen.vogt@scouting.org](mailto:kristen.vogt@scouting.org) (312) 421-8800 232

### Welcome to the Team!



Rob King  
District Executive  
TriStar



Fidel Regalado  
District Executive  
Tall Grass



Sarah Lag  
District Executive  
Prairie Dunes



# Council Monthly

## Commissioner's Corner

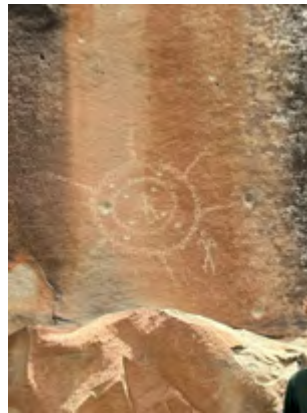
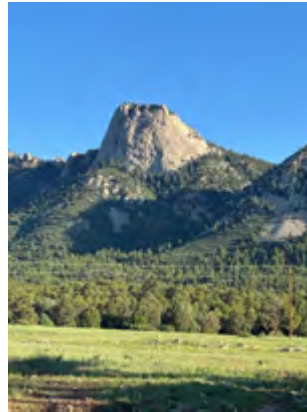
Philmont Scout Ranch has been described as the Scout's Disney World. PSR spans across 140,171 acres of northeastern New Mexico. Most of the land was donated by Waite Phillips, successful petroleum business owner for camping, backpacking, and training. Philmont's mountain terrain ranges in elevation from 6621 feet at headquarters to 12,441 feet atop Baldy Mountain.

PSR staff offers a variety of activities including horseback riding, burro packing, mountain bike, gold panning, rock climbing, forestry, riflery, archeology, and much more. Philmont maintains cattle, burros, buffalo, and riding horses.

Philmont Training Center offers a variety of weeklong conferences for volunteers and professionals every summer. While a Scout Leader is in conference, programs are planned for all members of the family—infant to adult. Some of those activities include: Range and Target Activities, High Ropes and Climbing Tower, Fly Fishing, Hiking Trails, Museum Tours (National Scouting Museum, Chase Ranch Tour, Kit Carson Rayado Tour, Villa Philmonte Tour), Pony Rides and Farm Yard, Craft Center, and Horseback Riding.

Whether you're trekking across scenic ridgelines with your crew or exploring day-long programs with your family, Philmont Scout Ranch offers an unforgettable setting for growth, adventure, and breathtaking mountain memories.

**Bertha Guzman**  
Council Commissioner



National Scouting America has pledged 10 million hours of service to the nation from July 2025 to July 2026 prior to America's 250 years on July 4th, 2026. Don't forget to enter all of your service hours to be tracked.



Congratulations on Silver Antelope Award 2025 to Don Harris!

# Recruitment Readiness

## August Membership Article

Welcome to your August monthly Membership newsletter article. We hope you are enjoying your summer while preparing for the new school year. Hopefully, your unit has been participating and showing what Scouting has to offer to our youth during festivals and parades in your community or neighborhood. Your unit should now attend your Roundtable Kick-off so you can learn about the new materials that will be available to support your school's open house or back to school event. Please remember that the goal of your summer events was to create the awareness and interest in Scouting so families will want their child to join your unit in the Fall.

### Roundtable Kick-off / Fall Recruitment:

This year's recruitment theme is **"Adventure is Calling! – We're Ready, Are You?."** The purpose of your Roundtable Kick-off is to help your unit prepare for your upcoming Fall Recruitment activities. During your Roundtable Kick-off, you will have the opportunity to address your questions and concerns with your District Membership Chair and obtain the collateral materials to support your recruitment events. Your District Membership Chair will verify with you that your BeAScout Pin is current, handout your Fall Recruitment Collateral Materials, which includes your Leader Recruitment Guide, and gather the dates for your Fall Recruitment events so we can support your needs for success. Your unit's Drive For 5 Goals will be available at your September Roundtable.

This year, there will be flyers, postcards, bookmarks, stickers and gliders with new graphics and our new theme. Other changes include the elimination of the Drawstring Backpacks, Door Hangers, and Catapults. Our new families will receive a Welcome Kit, which will be mailed to their home once their application is processed. Within these Welcome Kits, families will receive a Welcome Letter, their new Recruitment Incentive, how to follow us on Social Media, Scout Shop Discount Coupon, a Council Camporee Ticket, a Bumper Sticker along with Peer-to-Peer information and stickers that can be used to recruit their friends. By attending your Roundtable Kick-off, you can learn more about these new materials and how you can obtain additional materials for your Fall recruitment events.

Please continue to address your online Leads and Applications in a timely manner as we will see an increase in online activity as the new school year begins. For your Leads, please respond to those families within 72 hours and if necessary, follow up with those families within a week if they do not reply to your response. We need to remember, **"we cannot make a second first impression."** The purpose behind this lead is that families are actually recruiting your unit as their child wants to join Scouting. This is where your New Member Coordinator can help with following up with these families.

### Membership Renewal Update:

Please remember that Membership Renewal is an ongoing monthly process. If your unit has any members in their "Lapse Period," your District or Unit Commissioner, District Membership Chair, District Chair and / or your DE will be reaching out to you asking, **"How Can We Help."** The purpose of this contact is to assist our units to ensure that no Scout or Scouter was inadvertently dropped off your roster. We are working on new Renewal Guides that can help our families and units navigate through this renewal process.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for all your hard work and dedication to ensure our youth, and their families can experience a Quality Scouting program. Please remember, a successful recruitment program, for both youth and adults, should be 24/7 as it can take multiple contacts to recruit a new family to join Scouting. Please read future newsletters, visit our Membership Website, and attend your District Roundtables for additional information. If you have any questions, please work with your District Membership Chair, District Executive, and your Unit Commissioner.

Yours In Scouting,  
Rick Romani – PTAC Membership VP



# Events & Activities



## Chicago Labor Day Parade

Mark your calendar for the annual Chicago Labor Day Parade & Eddie Fest on Saturday, Sep. 6, returning to Chicago's historic Pullman Neighborhood! This year's parade route steps off at 11 a.m. at 103rd St. & Cottage Grove Ave., proceeding south along Cottage Grove Ave., turning at 112th St. and dispersing at Arcade & Pullman Parks. Eddie Fest will follow immediately after the parade at the parks, featuring food, inflatables, live music, activities and much more.

**REGISTER HERE**



## National Night Out

National Night Out is happening across Pathway to Adventure Council on August 4th, 2025! Join our Explorers in diverse places such as Chicago Heights, Skokie, East Chicago, Niles, and neighborhoods throughout Chicago. Starting at sundown, local police will host give-aways, community sponsors, and multiple other opportunities at this free event! Join PTAC's Exploring Director at Navy Pier (600 E. Grand Ave, Chicago, IL, 60611) with the 18th, 1st, and 12th Districts of CPD from 6-9 PM.

**MORE INFO HERE**



## Scout Night - Chicago Stars

Join us on Sunday, September 7 with the Chicago Stars for a special Student Night opened to PTAC Scouts! Stars will be taking on the defending NWSL champion Orlando Pride at the incredible Lakefront Stadium on Northwestern's campus in Evanston. Scouts will get exclusive discounted tickets, participate in exclusive giveaways and a lively Stars Fan Zone featuring: Live DJ, Concessions, Face Painting, Cosmo's Kids Club, Soccer Darts, and Scouts and leaders will have a group photo opportunity on the field!

**9/7 TICKETS**

### Chicago Stars vs. Portland Thorns

Sunday, September 14 | 2:00 PM | SeatGeek Stadium

**9/14 TICKETS**

# Events & Activities



## Day Camp - Park Ridge

### Last Day Camp of 2025!

Cub Scouts, siblings, friends, and families are invited to join the fun at Catherine Chevalier Woods Picnic Grove #2 on Saturday, August 9, from 9 AM – 4 PM.

Get ready to unleash your creative spirit at this year's Invention Convention, where you and your Cub Scout can dive into a day full of excitement, activity, and hands-on fun!

**REGISTER HERE**



## Santa's Village Tickets

Looking for affordable family fun this summer?

**Purchase Any-Day General Admission Tickets to Santa's Village Amusement & Water Park for just \$29.99 each with promo code 2025CDP.**

Not sure what day you'll visit? Want the flexibility to change your plans with no extra costs? This deal is perfect for you! These tickets are valid any operating day from May to October; no need to pick your date in advance.

Don't miss out on this exclusive discount!

**BUY TICKETS HERE**



## Recycle with Ronald

We're bringing back our recycling partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities and United Scrap Metal! Recycled aluminum amounts to tens of thousands of dollars for RMHC each year. You are making it possible for families to stay close to their children while they are in the hospital.

### Here's how to participate:

- Collect pop tabs in gallon containers or aluminum cans in garbage bags
- Drop them off on Friday, October 18 between 9AM–2PM
- United Scrap Metal, 1545 S. Cicero Ave., Cicero, IL 60804

If you drop off your collection on October 18, all participants get a free facility tour, free food, and access to 25+ 3D model stations and onsite 3D printing—plus you'll learn how metal is recycled and help support families in need. Earn a patch for your good turn and help make a difference in our community!

**SAVE THE DATE**



# Scout Stories

## Scouts & NASA

In the Spring of 2014, STEM Scouts from Pathway to Adventure Council, were given the opportunity to participate in a one-of-a-kind experience involving NASA, science, and the International Space Station. What started as 84 possible experiments was narrowed down to a single project, and 24 Scouts and Venturers and their adult mentors began a three-year adventure that culminated in their efforts being delivered to the ISS by a SpaceX resupply mission in August of 2017. Once the payload was delivered to the ISS, the experiment began to run and remained active for the next 28 days before being returned to Earth and the Palatine Scouts. Unfortunately, a missed detail rendered the results unusable.

Norm McFarland, the project lead and Adult Advisor & Mentor from Trailblazer District / Troop 209, was interviewed by Philmont's National Scouting Museum's Program Specialist Harold White to tell us the story of this group of Scouts and their quest to further our knowledge of bacteria and mutation, while at the same time helping these Scouts learn that even when you don't achieve the results you expect it doesn't mean you have failed.

Congratulations to efforts of Norm McFarland and Troop 209's ISS Experiment recognition

**FULL INTERVIEW HERE**

## Gary RailCats & Scouts

The Gary RailCats recently hosted a Scout Night filled with fun and fellowship! Our council had the opportunity to set up an outreach booth where families could learn more about Scouting and how to get involved. The RailCats mascot - Rusty the RailCat - even stopped by to show support! Thank you to the RailCats for helping us spread the word about the adventures Scouting offers.

## Do You Have A Scout Story To Share?

**SHARE HERE!**



# Special Fundraising Events



## LaSalle Street

**September 10 | 5:30 – 8:30pm**  
**Wintrust Bank | 231 South LaSalle Street**

Join us for an evening of connection, inspiration, and giving back to the movement that helps young people discover Chicago's financial district. You can expect exciting Pinewood Derby racing at the iconic and historic Wintrust Bank lobby as you enjoy libations and food stations that will fuel your competitive spirit.

Come for the networking and stay for the race! Expect 3 hours of open bar, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and live music!

**MORE INFO HERE**



## Golf Classic

**October 6 | Registration 9am | Shotgun Start 11am**  
**White Eagle Golf Club | 3400 Club Drive, Naperville**

Don't miss this opportunity to golf at an exclusive private golf and country club in the Chicago area! All friends & family of Scouting are welcome!

A variety of sponsorships are available, perfect for individuals, companies, and community partners looking to make an impact. All proceeds benefit local Scouting programs!

**MORE INFO HERE**



## Construction Industry Scout Event

**October 9 | VIP Reception 4:30pm | Doors Open 5:00pm**  
**City Hall / Recess | 838 West Kinzie Street**

Forget the formal dinner — we're taking this year's event to City Hall/ Recess in Chicago's West Loop!

• Craft Cocktails • Chef-Driven Food Stations • Nonstop Networking

Come connect with construction industry professionals, eat, drink, and celebrate Scouting in style!

**MORE INFO HERE**



# Special Fundraising Events



## Whitney M. Young, Jr. Service Awards Dinner

**October 22 | VIP Reception 6pm | Doors Open 6:30pm**  
**The Ivy Room At Tree Studios | 12 East Ohio Street # 100**

This award is presented in recognition of outstanding community service in the development and implementation of opportunities for youth from disadvantaged communities.

### 2025 Honorees:

- U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth of Illinois
- Simon Cotton, Sr., Scoutmaster, Troop 778
- Donovan Pepper, Walgreens
- Tyronne Stoudemire, Hyatt Corporation

**MORE INFO HERE**

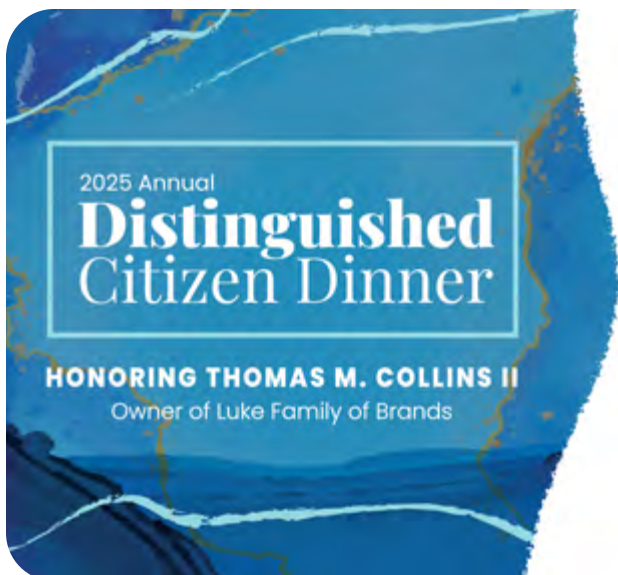


## George Meany Celebration

**November 20 | 6pm**  
**IUOE Local 399 | 2260 South Grove Street**

Join us as we honor Patrick J. Kelly, President And Business Manager, International Union Of Operating Engineers Local 399, for his contributions to labor and unions. Enjoy drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and the camaraderie of fellow union supporters as we celebrate the strength and solidarity of our community and the Scouting movement.

**MORE INFO HERE**



## Indiana Distinguished Citizen Dinner

**November 12 | 6 - 8:30pm**  
**Center for Visual & Performing Arts | 1040 Ridge Road, Munster, IN**

For 35 years, PTAC has honored top leaders in Northwest Indiana at the annual Distinguished Citizens Award Dinner. This year, we recognize Thomas M. Collins II, Owner of Luke Family of Brands, for his dedication to service, community, and youth development. All proceeds from this event benefit local Scouting programs.

**MORE INFO HERE**

# Wood Badge

## 2026 WOOD BADGE



### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Wood Badge is a comprehensive leadership course, tailored to help Scouters grow their skills far beyond basic Scouting knowledge with techniques applicable in their Scouting, work, and home life. The next PTAC Wood Badge course will be held at Camp Betz over two weekends: April 10-12 and April 25-26, 2026.

For adult leaders ready to push their comfort zone and engage in this meaningful leadership journey, Wood Badge is waiting! **To learn more — including information about scholarships, testimonials from past participants, and how to register — visit the Wood Badge website today.**

**WEBPAGE HERE**

### WHAT TO EXPECT

- INSTRUCTION & MENTORSHIP BY SKILLED STAFFERS
- TEAM-BASED LEARNING IN THE PATROL METHOD
- IMMERSIVE, OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES
- REAL-TIME LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
- PRACTICAL GOAL DEVELOPMENT
- LIFELONG CONNECTIONS

### WEEKEND 1

April 10 @7am - April 12 @5pm

### WEEKEND 2

April 25 @7am - April 26 @5pm

### PRICING:

Early Bird - \$300

By Dec. 17, 2025

Regular - \$325

Starting Dec. 18, 2025

### LOCATION:

Camp Frank S. Betz

3858 E. Snow Rd.

Berrien Springs, MI 49103

**Questions? Contact:**

[PathwayWoodbadge@gmail.com](mailto:PathwayWoodbadge@gmail.com)





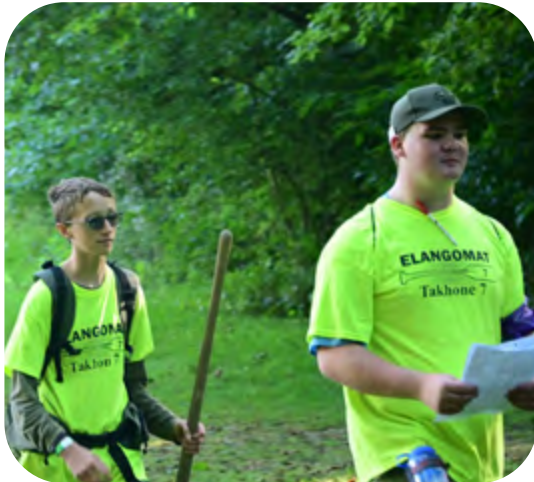
# Order of the Arrow



## Recently Elected To The OA?

Congratulations on your election to the Order of the Arrow! We hope you are as we are that you are about to join our lodge! We know it can be difficult to navigate your ordeal weekend, so we have put together some resources and information for you on our website. Visit [www.oa7.org/ordeal](http://www.oa7.org/ordeal) for some information on how to complete your induction!

**MORE INFO HERE**



## Summer Betz Fellowship

Join us for the Survivor-Themed Summer Fellowship on August 8-10 at Camp Betz! There will be food, fun, fellowship, and of course, a great weekend of inductions! See you there!

**REGISTER HERE**



## Owasippe Brotherhood Ceremonies

If it has been at least six months since you have completed your ordeal, you are eligible for Brotherhood membership in the Order of the Arrow! You can complete this on Tuesday nights all weeks at Owasippe.

**REGISTER HERE**

# Order of the Arrow



## Fall Betz Fellowship

We will see you from September 5-7 for the final fellowship of the year! Come out and complete your ordeal, earn your brotherhood, or just have a great time with fellow Arrowmen!

**REGISTER HERE**

## Vigil Weekend

### Congrats to all Vigil Candidates!

Saul C.  
Lucca D.  
Macey K.  
Kirk L.  
Ashlee L.  
William P.

Brian R.  
Ashley S.M  
Ben S.  
Stasiu S.  
Joshua Z.  
Austin R.  
Katie Hogan  
Jeff Jewell  
Zak Lavaty

David Levsky  
Eric Linder  
Drew Morton  
William Myers  
Garry Polodna  
Tyler Pondel  
Kevin Ranos  
Justin Schaff  
Katelyn Wallace

**Vigil Weekend is at  
Camp Betz, August 23-  
24, 2025 [click here for  
registration!](#)**



## Summer Fellowship Help Wanted

Camp Betz is in need of skilled help for the upcoming Fellowship Weekend. In addition to the usual activities, there is still a lot of work cleaning up and doing necessary repairs from this spring's storm.

Among the projects: Roof repair to Anderson Lodge, Handicraft, Shooting Sports and the Waterfront shelters. Clearing downed trees and damaged picnic tables from Donovan's Glen campsite. Repairs to existing, and building new picnic tables.

If you are BSA Chainsaw Certified and can bring your own equipment, we can use you! You must be BSA certified to use chainsaws on camp property. We are also in need of additional log splitters. If you have one you can bring and operate, it would be very helpful. As usual we can always use handymen, plumbers and electricians.

Please send an email to Mo Potempa ([mopotempa@comcast.net](mailto:mopotempa@comcast.net)) and/or Bob Solorio ([bobsolorio342@gmail.com](mailto:bobsolorio342@gmail.com)) to let us know if you can help with these or other projects.



# Council Committees News

## Faith Relations Committee

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### Upcoming Events

- June through September 2025 Philmont adult trainings: [Schedule Here](#) Adult Religious Trainings July 6-12
- September 9-14, 2025 -The World Muslim Scouts Jamboree 2025 is a unique event uniting Muslim Scouts globally. Hosted at the National Scout Camp in Cibubur, Jakarta, it celebrates unity, leadership, and Scouting values. [More Information Here](#)
- October 1, 2025 Applications are due for the **July 1-18, 2026** Catholic St. George Trek at Philmont Scout Ranch- [More information](#) and [Archdiocese of Chicago Application](#)
- October 4, 2025 -Fishers of Men fishing event at Mundelein Seminary presented by the Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Committee on Scouting. **Additional Fishing Merit Badge Counselor needed.** Open to Catholic Scouts of all ages. [More information](#)

### Scouts and Neighborhood Religious Activities

If your scouts are participating in local Religious Activities or receiving religious awards, please send a short write up to [ptacfaithrelations@gmail.com](mailto:ptacfaithrelations@gmail.com) along with a picture for use in a future article.

### Religious Emblems

Many religions have their own rules on how to achieve Religious Emblems. [P.R.A.Y.](#) offers many of the workbooks. You can check on the [National Scouting website](#) for more information or check the [All Religions Chart](#) at P.R.A.Y. You can click through the chart to get more information from your particular religion. A few links are not working.

Known issues include: [Jewish Emblems](#) and [Zoroastrian Emblems](#)

Is your Scout Unit or a group of Scouts working on a Religious Emblem? Are you also willing to invite other scouts to join with you to achieve their emblem too? Please fill out this [Google Form Religious Emblem Opportunities](#) either way.

Are you a Scout looking for a group to join? Please fill out this [Google Form: Religious Emblem Requests](#)

We will do our best to connect you or help you create a group.



## Do You Have A Scout Story To Share?

Don't keep the good work your Scouts do a secret. Tell us what they did and send a couple pictures. We might put your story on our social media or perhaps your Scout will be the feature in our next story.

Help get Scouts the recognition they deserve!

**SHARE HERE!**

**Scouting America**  
Pathway to Adventure Council

## Follow Us



@PathwayToAdventure



@PathwayToAdventure



Pathway To Adventure Council



Pathway To Adventure Council

## Contact Us



(312) 421-8800



PathwayTo.Adventure@Scouting.org



**Arlington Heights Center for Scouting**

617 E. Golf Rd., Suite 101 | Arlington Heights, IL 60005

**Chicago Center for Scouting**

106 N. Aberdeen St., Suite 200 | Chicago, IL 60607

**La Grange Center for Scouting**

27 Calendar Ave., 2nd Floor | La Grange, IL 60525

**Robert J. Welsh Center for Scouting**

8751 Calumet Ave. | Munster, IN 46321