

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Scouting  America
Pathway to Adventure Council

2026

MARCH



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PTAC PINewood DERBY



SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026

WOODFIELD MALL | REGISTRATION CLOSES
SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS | APRIL 10

FREE TO ATTEND!



What to Expect

Build Your Own Lego Car

Showcase of a Real Live
Full-size Derby Race Car

Tips and Tricks Table

Open Division Race
(Open to all participants)

"Spin to Win" Game with Prizes
(With Special Guests)

Exotic Car Display by Sponsor

Special Guests



Event Sponsor



MOTOR WERKS

Registration Closes April 10th!

Sign Up Now

SCOUT GAMES



Rugby Chicago Hounds

Saturday, May 24 – 3pm – SeatGeek Stadium

- Stadium Tour at 1pm
- Training Session on the field at 1pm
- Block Party before and during game - tailgating, kid zone, giant inflatables, petting zoo, and more!

****Please select tickets in our reserved block in Section 123, Rows 7-10****

TICKETS HERE



Baseball Chicago Dogs

Saturday, June 13 – 6pm – Impact Field

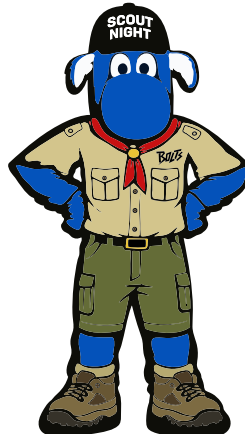
- Chicago Dogs Hat and Scout Night Patch
- Raingutter Regatta and parade on the field before the game and
- Postgame fireworks show

Questions, contact shaunv@thechicagodogs.com or call 224-781-1808

TICKETS HERE



Baseball Thunderbolts



Friday, August 14 – 6:30pm – Ozinga Field

- Opportunity to complete some requirements for the Sport Merit Badge - **Details Coming**
- <- Bolts Hat and Scout Night Patch
- Postgame Fireworks Show
- Overnight camping on the field after the game with breakfast in the morning!

Contact Charles Butler to reserve your spot today 708.489.2255 or cbutler@wcthunderbolts.com

TICKETS HERE

SCOUT GAMES



Basketball Chicago Bulls

Sunday, April 5 – 2:30pm –
United Center

Join Pathway to Adventure Council for a legendary group outing with the Chicago Bulls. Share the excitement of Bulls basketball and the NBA's leading entertainment experience as the team takes on the Phoenix Suns. Get your tickets now through the link below! **For +15 group tickets, contact Joe Hunt at jhunt@bulls.com or 312-455-4173**

TICKETS HERE



Soccer Chicago Fire

Saturday, May 9 – 1:30pm –
Soldier Field

Ticket includes exclusive Scout Night patch and pregame parade on the field at 12:15pm! Portion of the proceeds will go back to PTAC to support local Scouting programs.

For +10 group tickets, contact Mason Clynes at mclynes@chicagofirefc.com or 872-710-0548

TICKETS HERE



Baseball Chicago Cubs

Sunday, April 19 – 1:20pm –
Wrigley Field

Ticket includes exclusive Scout Night patch! Portion of the proceeds will go back to PTAC to support local Scouting programs.

For +15 group tickets, contact Spencer Motley at smotley@cubs.com or 773-404-4081

TICKETS HERE



Baseball White Sox

Saturday, May 9 – 6:10pm –
Gauranteed Rate Field

Ticket Includes exclusive Scout Night patch, pregame parade on the field, Pack/Troop shoutout on videoboard, Scouting activities in the Kids Zone throughout the game! Portion of the proceeds will go back to PTAC to support local Scouting programs. **For group tickets, contact Ryan Smith at rsmith@chisox.com or call 312-674-5459**

TICKETS HERE



RECRUITMENT READINESS

Welcome to your April monthly Membership newsletter article. This month's article will talk about Welcoming your new Scouts, especially those AOL Scouts and their families to your Troop. Your May Membership Newsletter will talk about the importance of how Invitation, and Application Manager can supplement your unit's recruitment efforts. Is there a key thread between these two topics? These two articles will correlate how these topics will support your Spring/Fall Recruitment and Peer-to-Peer Recruitment efforts along with your Arrow of Light-to-Scouts Crossovers and parent involvement. These topics will be further discussed at your monthly Roundtables. Please note, these topics also apply to the Scouts and their families in a Pack, Ship, Crew, Club or Post.

Welcoming your new Scouts and their families, no matter what your unit type, is an important first step to ease concerns when they participate in their first couple of meetings and outings. What you need to remember is that your new Scouts and their families want to "Fit-in" and have a sense of belonging. Remember what it was like when you first joined your unit, including moving from a Pack to a Troop? I bet there was plenty of excitement and a bit of confusion too. There is so much going on, including new acronyms, new meeting formats, new responsibilities and so much to learn for both the youth and their families.

A good rule of thumb is to use these 4 simple steps when talking with your new and existing parents. First, your parents need to be **"invited"**, which your unit accomplished when that parent attends your first meeting or outing. The next step is to make sure that parents feel that they **"belong"** to your unit. After this happens, a parent will be willing to **"participate"**. The final step is to make sure that parents feel **"appreciated"**. If your unit has a New Member Coordinator, they can assist your unit's leadership, so your parents can successfully go through these 4 steps.

There is no timeline or single process to accomplish these 4 steps since each parent will feel welcomed and become acclimated in your unit at their own pace. While these 4 steps are no "silver bullet," they can help a unit the unit increase the involvement and retention of their parents, either as a unit leader or helping a with event or outings. These 4 steps need to happen on a continual basis, so your parents do not feel left out or unappreciated.

In closing, we need to remember that all our new and existing Families, Scouts and Leaders need to be "Seen, Heard and Included". 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. A successful recruitment program, for both youth and adults, should be 24/7 as it could 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.

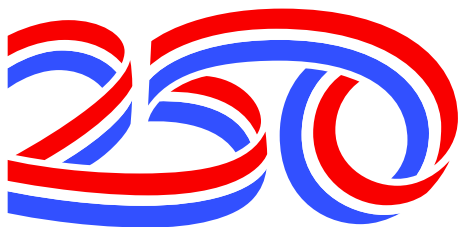
Yours In Scouting,
Rick Romani – PTAC Membership VP



INVEST IN CHARACTER



AMERICA



Celebrate America's 250th

Commemorate America's 250th Anniversary with a limited-edition PTAC 250 shoulder patch. **Patches are \$25 each, and only 250 are available.** Proceeds help support local Scouting through Invest in Character. Units will be notified when patches are ready for pickup at their local PTAC Service Center.

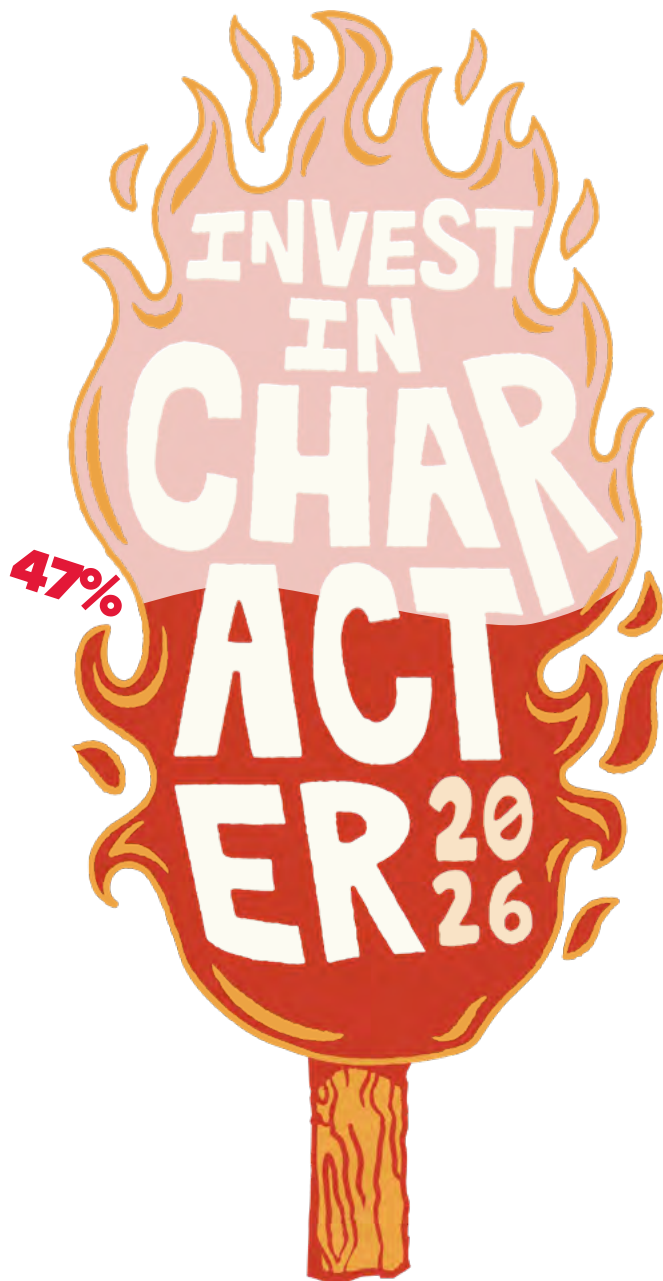
Your support helps fund:

- Safeguarding Youth & Youth Protection training
- Camp Owasippe & Betz operations
- Program equipment and supplies
- New Scout enrollment and recruitment efforts
- Merit Badge & career exploration programs
- Scout and adult leadership development
- Financial assistance for Scouts
- Professional Service Center support

PURCHASE HERE

GOAL:

\$250,000



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



Volunteer at the Chicago Federation of Labor May Day 5K Run & Walk

Scouts, families, and volunteers are invited to support the Chicago Federation of Labor's May Day 5K Run & Walk on Sunday, April 26, 2026. Volunteer shifts take place between 6:30–9:30 a.m. along the Chicago Lakefront Path outside McCormick Place Lakeside Center. Volunteers will receive a commemorative t-shirt, two complimentary beverage tickets for the post-race after party, and free parking at McCormick Place Lot C.

Those needing service hours can indicate that interest on the sign-up form. Volunteers 18 and under must attend with an adult chaperone or guardian.

For questions, contact Andrea Chaudron at achaudron@chicagolabor.org or 312-222-1000.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Scouts Camp Weekend at Chicagoland Speedway

July 3-5, Chicagoland Speedway in Joliet

Get ready for an unforgettable weekend of racing, camping, and exclusive Scout activities at Chicagoland Speedway's Scouts Weekend - America's Weekend!

Scouts and families can enjoy discounted race tickets for all three days, group seating, FREE lakeside tent camping with ticket purchase, and special Scout-only experiences like a Racing 101 & STEM Q&A with a NASCAR driver, track walk, scavenger hunt, and commemorative Scout patch

To register contact Lauren Russo at lerusso@chicagolandspeedway.com or call 815-722-9709.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Scouting for Food Patches

Scouts can showcase their Scouting for Food efforts with this year's patch.

Orders will be open from April 1-May 8!

[PURCHASE HERE](#)

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



Fly Fishing Merit Badge

Scouts, are you ready to cast your way into an exciting new skill? Oak Brook Trout Unlimited is hosting free, one-day introductory fly-fishing classes for youth ages 11 and up! This program is designed to meet all the requirements for the Fly-Fishing Merit Badge, with certified merit badge counselors on staff to guide you.

Five sessions are available, all sessions are 8:30am-4pm at Camp Sagawau Environmental Education Center & Maple Lake (Cook County Forest Preserves) Space is limited—register early!

To register, contact Mike Lesiak at 630-300-4997 or mdlesiak100@gmail.com

[CONTACT HERE](#)

[MORE INFO HERE](#)



Ceremony Scouts Wanted!

Don't miss the only opportunity this year to have your Scouts present our nation's colors with other PTAC Scouts. Feature your Scouts in front of 1000 VIPs.

A fantastic dinner is served. You must RSVP.

Contact Myriam Herrera at Myriam.Herrera@scouting.org or call (773) 544-1275

[CONTACT HERE](#)

World Scout Jamboree Webinar

Want to learn about the 2027 World Scout Jamboree? Want to know how to sign up? Join the 2027 World Jamboree Early Leadership Team for a webinar and reach out to us through our contact form:

[CONTACT FORM HERE](#)

Sign up for a webinar:

[APRIL 12 WEBINAR](#)

[APRIL 26 WEBINAR](#)



CAMP



Betz Cub Scout Family Camp

Start your engines for Camp Betz Cub Scout Family Camp 2026!

At Cub Scout Family Camp, Cub Scouts and their families will enjoy all the best parts of summer camp together: paddling across Lake Chapin, hitting the range with slingshots and archery, exploring hands-on crafts, building awesome projects, splashing at the waterfront, and taking on exciting themed activities, all in a family-friendly camping environment.

Spots fill quickly—Sessions 4 and 5 are already full, so don't miss your chance to join this adventure!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Cub Scout Day Camp

Cub Scout Day Camp: Nature Investigators is Here!

Calling all Cub Scouts, family, and friends! Looking for a fun, family-friendly Saturday this summer? Join us for Cub Scout Day Camp: Nature Investigators, where Scouts will explore the great outdoors at a location near you.

This one-day camp experience packs a full day of adventure into a single event. Scouts will rotate through five interactive program stations, investigating nature, building skills, and making memories along the way. Every participant will also take home a commemorative Day Camp item!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Bigfoot Bash Cub-o-Ree

Save the date - Camp Betz - September 25 - 27, 2026

Explore Camp Betz with your fellow Cub Scout adventurers! The Betz Thunderbird has invited its cryptid friends—legends of lore and mystery from around the world—to the biggest Cub Scout event of the year! PTAC's 2026 Cub-o-Ree will be a weekend of Camping, Crafts, Games, Food, STEM, Range and Target Activities and more, all topped off with our Bigfoot Bash campfire program. Camp as a unit or family September 25th-27th, or stop by for the festivities on Saturday.

More details coming soon!

[SAVE THE DATE](#)



CAMP



Cub Scout Resident Camp - At Owasippe

Tigers, Wolves, Bears, and Webelos, are all invited to experience Owasippe's Camp Wolverine! Our program will be centered around a variety of age-appropriate adventures and provide Scouts with plenty of time to explore!

Arrow of Light Scouts will partake in advanced programs while exploring into the horizons of Owasippe's 4800 acres.

Session 1 - Both programs - July 26 - July 29

Session 2 - Both programs - July 29 - August 1

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Reneker Family Camp - At Owasippe

Camp Reneker offers affordable week-long cabin camping for both Scout and non-Scouting families. Each cabin includes a full kitchen and two bedrooms, and a central shower house with washroom, shower, and laundry facilities. Staff-led programs feature age-group activities like hiking, crafting, sports, science experiments, swim instruction, skill development, and service projects.

Have a Scout already attending Owasippe? Families can reserve a cabin at Owasippe's Camp Reneker for the week your Scout is at camp and have them join you before or after their session.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Owasippe & Owasippe MAXED

Get ready for a summer full of adventure, friendship, and unforgettable memories at Owasippe. With more than 110 years of tradition, Owasippe delivers the ultimate Scouting experience—from ziplining, tubing, and horseback riding to merit badges, high-adventure challenges, and campfires under the stars. Whether you're attending with your troop at a Scouts BSA camp or staying with family at Reneker, you're sure to make memories that last a lifetime.

New this year — Owasippe MAXED (June 28–July 4 ONLY):

An exclusive week packed with specialty merit badges, high-adventure overnights, night ziplining, blacklight range events, and more!

[BLACKHAWK](#)

[WOLVERINE](#)

TRAINING



Cub Scout Leader Position Specific Training

April 18 – 9-2:30PM – St. Michael's Lutheran Church, La Grange Park

Are you a new or returning Cub Scout leader? Whether you're a Cubmaster, Den Leader, or Pack Committee Member, this in-person training is the perfect opportunity to build confidence, learn key skills, and connect with others like you!

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation Training (BALOO)

May 2, 8am-12pm at Camp Palos - Lemont, IL

Looking forward to a summer campout with your Cub Scouts? BALOO is required training for at least one adult on all Cub Scout overnight events. This course provides the knowledge and hands-on skills to confidently lead safe, fun, and meaningful outdoor experiences!

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS)

May 2 8am to May 3 12pm at Camp Palos - Lemont, IL

Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) is here to help Scouts BSA leaders confidently provide a well-rounded, safe Scouting experience. This overnight, immersive training covers the outdoor skills that Scouts must master through First Class rank, ensuring leaders like you can guide them along the way.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

TRAINING

Advancement and Recognition Webinar

Advancement and Recognition Committee presents our monthly webinar informational series! On the 3rd Thursday of each month, our team will bring you news, information, and training about all aspects of advancement and recognition from across Scouting America.

[MORE INFO HERE](#)



Wood Badge

Wood Badge isn't just another training course—it's an immersive leadership experience for those who want to grow, challenge themselves, and make a lasting impact.

Whether you're a Cub Scout leader, a Scouts BSA volunteer, or a Scouting professional, this advanced adult leadership training is designed for those who are ready to go beyond the basics. Through team development, communication, and hands-on problem-solving, you'll gain practical tools and lifelong insight to lead with confidence, both in and out of Scouting.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Wilderness First Aid Training

Wilderness First Aid training April 17–18 at the Pleasantview Fire Department

Wilderness First Aid is essential for leaders planning to attend the 2026 National Jamboree and other high-adventure events. This 16-hour course meets Scouting America's requirements and covers the critical skills needed to respond to emergencies in the backcountry.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Leader Field School: Enhanced Scoutcraft Skills Training

May 2 8am to May 3 5pm at Camp Palos - Lemont, IL

Introducing Leader Field School! This patrol-style training weekend on May 2-3 is the perfect opportunity to take the next step into 5 essential scoutcraft skill areas: Nature, Orienteering, Dutch Oven Cooking, Pioneering, and Wilderness Survival.

Participants will receive hands-on, practical experience and will leave with resources for future reference. This program is open to adult leaders only, and participants are encouraged to have taken IOLS.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

ORDER OF THE ARROW

Recently Elected

Congratulations on your election to the Order of the Arrow! We hope you are happy 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.

[MORE INFO](#)



Pay Your Dues

Pay your 2026 dues, only \$20 and renew your membership with Takhone Lodge to get access to all Takhone events.

[PAY HERE](#)

Conclave

The 2026 Section G9 Conclave is fast approaching, and we need every Takhone Lodge member to join us at Camp Long Lake from April 10-12. This is our chance to show the entire section our Takhone pride and ensure the Section Spirit Stick comes home with us! As a member of Takhone Lodge, you receive a special registration rate. When you fill out the registration form as a Takhone member, you will receive an additional \$7 off your registration fee. This year's Conclave will feature the exclusive unveiling of the Section Induction Experience (SIE). This program was unanimously approved during the 2026 National Planning Meeting and is currently only available at the National and Section levels. This is a premier training opportunity for our lodge leaders to learn the new induction methods first-hand.

Regular Fee: \$55 (\$48 with Takhone discount)

Final Registration Deadline: Friday, April 3rd at 11:59 PM

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Spring Fellowship

Calling all newly elected arrowmen and current members, our Groovy decades themed Spring Fellowship will take place at Camp Betz May 1st-3rd! Lots of fun, food, and activities that are a blast from the past! This will be the first lodge in the nation and our first fellowship to do the new ordeal experience for newly elected scouts.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Owasippe Fellowship

OSR fellowship will take place on May 22nd-25th at Owassippe Scout Reservation. Newly elected arrowmen can also complete their induction experience during this weekend and then join in with the fun afterwards! New Arrowmen will help set up OSR for camp during the day and participate in fun activities in the afternoon and evening.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

COUNCIL COMMITTEES NEWS

Faith Relations Committee



Scout Sunday Video

[Please watch the video here, showing of all the pictures you submitted from your celebrations.](#) Scout Sunday/Shabbat is a special day celebrated by Scouting America to highlight the contributions of scouts to their communities. This day emphasizes the importance of faith and duty to God as integral parts of the Scout Oath and Law. Scout Sunday/Shabbat allows scouts to attend services in uniform, often participating in the service through activities such as presenting the colors, leading prayers, or sharing their experiences in scouting. The day helps strengthen the bond between scouting and faith communities and encourages scouts to live by their principles. It also serves as an opportunity for churches and other faith groups to acknowledge and support the scouts' dedication and hard work throughout the year.



Upcoming Events

100th Anniversary Jewish Jamboree: Aug 9-12 2026, Ten Mile Scout Camp, NY

[More information here!](#)

May 7 - Scouts Read Sacred Texts: You can register your unit or just yourself here.

[See flyer for QR code](#) to register or [visit the website here.](#)

Arch Diocese of Chicago Catholic Religious Emblem Ceremony - February 1st:

Youth and Adult awards.

APRIL HOLIDAYS

Please research further into each faith's celebrations to have a better understanding of what your fellow scouts celebrate.



Council Duty To God Award

The Faith Relations Committee is pleased to announce that James Loeppert and Deborah Sitz have received the [Council Duty To God award](#) for 2026.

Read their bios here: [Deborah Sitz](#) [Jim Loeppert](#)

Scouts and Neighborhood Religious Activities

If your scouts are participating in local Religious Activities, please send a short write up to ptacfaithrelations@gmail.com. We will try to include it in the newsletter.

District Religious Emblems Coordinators

The committee is looking for a few more people to cover the following districts:

Checaugau, Iron Horse, Thunderbird, Tri-Star
For more information, please contact Donna at ptacfaithrelations@gmail.com.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES NEWS

Special Needs in Scouting Committee

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

April is Autism Acceptance Month, a time to celebrate the contributions of individuals with developmental disabilities and promote inclusion in our communities!

At Pathway to Adventure Council, this commitment is supported by our **Special Needs Committee**, which works to ensure that every youth has the opportunity to fully participate in Scouting. The committee partners with leaders, parents, and volunteers to provide resources, guidance, and tools that help units support Scouts with a wide range of abilities, making Scouting accessible, welcoming, and meaningful for all.

This year, the committee is also highlighting a new learning tool: **the AI Special Needs in Scouting Empathy Exhibit**. Originally created for the Special Needs Midway at the 2025 PTAC Camporee, this short presentation helps build awareness and understanding when working with Scouts with disabilities.

While it doesn't cover every situation, the exhibit is designed to spark conversation, build empathy, and support thoughtful leadership so that **every Scout has the chance to thrive**.

UPCOMING AWARENESS MONTHS

MAY | Mental Health Awareness Month

CONTACT US

sns@pathwaytoadventure.org

Troop Leaders or parents are welcome to contact the SNS Committee for further information

SPECIAL NEEDS IN SCOUTING WEBPAGE



[pathwaytoadventure.org/
special-needs-in-scouting/](https://pathwaytoadventure.org/special-needs-in-scouting/)

AI EMPATHY EXHIBIT



www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7Pv13z2iXA



NEWSWIRE

OUR DIRECT LINE TO THE LATEST ARRIVALS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

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and you can feel the spark of adventure. Every visit helps you gear up for what's next—whether that's a celebration, a race day, or getting ready for camp season.



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CURRENT & UPCOMING

Events!

COMING SOON: TWO LIMITED-EDITION COLLECTIBLE PATCHES YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

We're dropping two exclusive patches that won't last long. The Artemis II Patch celebrates humanity's first trip around the moon in 50 years, and the Liberty in Action Patch honors 250 years of American history. These rare collectibles are limited-time only. Once they're gone, they're gone for good. Keep your eyes peeled!

PINEWOOD DERBY: LAST-MINUTE GEAR

Shop pre-shaped blocks, accessories, and themed kits to inspire your Scout's creativity. Bring their vision to life and get race-day ready fast.

BLUE & GOLD BANQUETS & CUB SCOUT CROSSOVER CEREMONIES

Celebrate a milestone moment. Stop by for ceremony essentials, gifts, and uniform needs to help Scouts look their best.

MONTHLY OFFER

SHOP NOW AND SAVE!

20% OFF SCOUTS BSA SPRING GEAR

Save on select Scouts BSA spring apparel and gear from *March 30 through June 12*. Available online and in participating Scout Shops. Offer valid while supplies last.

NEW ARRIVALS

THE RIGHT GEAR FOR EVERY ADVENTURE



SCOUT FAVORITE! MOSQUITOASIS

SKU: 665162, XL: 646301

A proven summer-camp favorite with instant pop-up setup and fully enclosed, bug-free sleep.



2/4 BOXED KNIVES WITH ACCESSORY

SKU: 664831, 66832

New Knife Box Sets pair a durable folding knife with an essential accessory, packaged in a keepsake tin that's ready to gift!

2/25 EAGLE SCOUT SWISS ARMY KNIFE

SKU: 665168

An official Eagle Scout Swiss Army Knife featuring trusted Swiss-made quality and everyday tools built to be used.

3/2 SPRING GEAR

Fresh spring gear arrives with warm-weather apparel and accessories designed for outdoor comfort and everyday wear. Explore sun-protecting hats, caps, and graphic tees that show your Scouting pride.

3/4 NEW EAGLE SCOUT PARTY GOODS

New party supplies designed for Eagle Scout celebrations, courts of honor, and milestone moments.



3/9 NEW EAGLE SCOUT TABLET PADFOLIO

SKU: 665555

A meaningful gift for Eagle Scouts, leaders, and mentors—ideal for meetings, interviews, and internships.

Outdoor

TIP OF THE MONTH

GET READY FOR CAMP SEASON!

February and March are the perfect time to check hydration, warm-weather gear, and sleep essentials so you're ready before the first big outing.

STAY CONNECTED

DON'T MISS A THING

Follow us @ScoutShopBSA for the latest arrivals, upcoming events, and seasonal highlights!





Follow Us

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

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