

Scouts BSA Newsletter



Get the Current News on What is Happening with Scouts BSA in Southeast Minnesota

In 2025, we will continue a monthly Scouts BSA newsletter. Recently we made some changes that we hope will make it easier to read and print out if needed. One big change is that we will have a list of current events, trainings or meetings schedule 2-3 months out. Each event will be linked to our Black Pug site and will give parents and leaders all the information they need about the event, as well as the opportunity to register. We hope you will find this format more convenient. Let us know what you think.

Give the Gift of Recognition this Holiday Season!

We all know that person in our unit who gives so much to Scouting. Did you know you can nominate them for many amazing awards to be recognized at our Annual Council Dinner on April 24th. Awards include the Scouter of the Year, District Award of Merit, Silver Beaver, and many more. All nominations are due by February 14th, so don't wait until the last minute to help us say "thanks" to these amazing people. You can learn more and find nominations on our website at <https://gamehavenbsa.org/resources/for-leaders/adult-recognitions/>



Quick Access to Event and Training Information

January- March 2025 Scout BSA Activities, Trainings & Meetings

SCOUTS BSA EVENTS COMING UP:

- January 5 (Sun) - [OA Winter Banquet Sign-up](#)
- January 3 (Fri) - [Scout Night at the Grizzlies](#)
- January 10-12 (Fri-Sun) - [Operation Icicle Scouts](#)
- January 24-26 (Fri-Sun) - [Winter Camporee 2025](#)
- January 31 (Fri) - [Worlds Toughest Rodeo](#)
- February 1 (Sat) - [Ice Fishing Derby](#)
- April 15 (Tues) - [MN Wild Scout Night Game](#)
- April 24 (Thurs) - [Gamehaven Council Dinner](#)

UNIT LEADER MEETINGS:

- January 2nd (Thurs) - Wakpaota District RoundTable - 7pm
- February 6th (Thurs) Wakpaota District Roundtable - 7pm
- March 4th (Tues) - Sugarloaf District Roundtable - 6pm
- March 6th (Thurs) - Wakpaota District

To get complete information on an event, you can click on the attached links above. For upcoming meetings refer to the [Events Calendar](#) for updates, locations, etc.

Have You Had a Jambo Team Visit?

Dear Scout Leader,

As you may have heard, Gamehaven is sending a youth contingent to the National Scouting Jamboree in 2026 and we are actively recruiting youth members to join us. The best way to do this is face to face opportunities. Please consider reaching out to have a Jamboree recruitment team visit your troop for a 15-minute presentation on the amazing opportunity to go.

Contact Eric Dierks to set up a visit at erdallsorts1@gmail.com

Best regards,

Eric Dierks-Contingent Leader
Steve Droog-Assistant Contingent Leader



Last Chance for Operation Icicle Early Bird Fee

What is Operation Icicle? It is the greatest, most challenging, and fun weekend of winter Scouting that you will ever have! The weekend is an opportunity for Scouts BSA to develop leadership, communication, teamwork, advancement, and other skills – plus to have a lot of fun! The program is limited to a small number of Scouts, to ensure that the groups get ample learning opportunities. Scouts can also choose to work on one of a number of merit badges.

MERIT BADGES MAY NOT BE COMPLETED AT CAMP – some have prerequisites or additional work needed. For more details, see attached flier.

- Regular Pricing = \$125/Scout
- Late Pricing = \$150/Scout after January 1, 2024

All registrations include a commemorative patch and other take-homes, food, and indoor housing. Optional sweatshirts may be purchased during registration for \$25/piece. All registrations made on or before January 1st will receive their sweatshirts upon arrival at camp. All registrations after January 1st will receive their sweatshirt later in the year.

This year's theme is "Scoutbusters"

There is something strange in the neighborhood! Welcome to Gamehaven Scout Camp, the center of all paranormal activity in the state of Minnesota, as a guest you will dine well, meet new friends, and become part of an elite ghost busting squad! Daily activities will include: Ghost 101, Proton Pack Engineering, Echo 101 Repair Shop, and How to Roast a Marshmallow Class. Attendees receive a Operation Icicle Sweatshirt, patch, and a chance to complete a merit badge during the event!

You can find a list of available Merit Badges at

<https://gamehavenbsa.org/wintercamps>



<https://scoutingevent.com/299-opicescouts25>

Winter Camporee Registration is Open!



Our Winter Camporee this year will be held at Phillippo Scout Camp in Cannon Falls, MN and has a **"Emergency Survival"** theme.

Join the Cannon Falls, Dodge Center, and Pine Island fire and EMS teams to learn about how to survive an emergency in the winter, and witness a real ice rescue as operated by the Pine Island Fire team.

We need registrations in advance, so please go to <https://scoutingevent.com/299-wintercamporee25> today to sign your troop up!

Happy Holidays!

Thank you! This is the sentiment to our volunteer leaders and families who have made 2024 another unforgettable year for the Gamehaven Council.

Because of you, 1,354 Scouts and siblings participated in a Gamehaven Council program during the year.

Because of you, 40 Scouts have achieved the rank of Eagle (at the time of writing), plus nearly 1,000 additional Scouts have achieved their individual advancement rank in their program.

Because of your support and fantastic unit programs, the Gamehaven Council grew Cub Scout recruitment by 20% this year, with each of the three districts increasing recruitment.

Because of you, we were one of the few councils in the Midwest to realize a growth in the fall popcorn sales.

Because of you, our Scouts, and our communities, have better futures.

As we enter the final weeks of 2024, our council staff wishes everyone a blessed holiday season filled with amazing times with their families, friends, and loved ones.

Thank you for being a part of the Gamehaven Council and making a positive difference for the Scouts in your unit and our council.

Sincerely,
*Gamehaven
Council Staff*

Visit the West Concord Museum

The Scout exhibit at the West Concord Historical Society has been tuned up for the Christmas season in West Concord.

The exhibit recently has been added to the Scout Museum National Registry.

Museum is located at
600 West First St
West Concord, MN



Picture of the Scout Exhibit at West Concord Museum

Gamehaven Office Closed Dec. 23rd – Jan. 1st

Greetings Everyone,

Please note that starting December 23rd the Gamehaven office will be closed for the Holidays. We will reopen on Thursday, January 2nd.

The staff will be using this time to celebrate the holidays as well as work on year end projects at the office. We will not be keeping regular hours and the store to purchase items will be closed. If you need advancements please note our closing dates.

LEADERS: A reminder that your unit renewal needs to be completed and turned into Pam before year end. Any questions, please set up a time with Pam Legried. Her number is 507-361-5341. She will be entering in renewals during the time that the office is closed.

Last Chance to Order Gamehaven Merch

The online store will stay open until December 31st, but orders placed after 12/1 may not arrive until 2025.

What options do we have this year?

- Nike Dri-Fit Polos - \$53/each.
- Port Authority Polos -
- Flannel Shirts (solid) -
- Flannel Shirts (patterned) -
- Sweater Knit Jacket - Brady's personal favorite because it's so comfy!

Where do you go to purchase these awesome items?

The Council Web Store will be open from now through December 31, 2024.

Order items any time in that period by going to

<https://stores.inksoft.com/gamehaven/shop/product-detail/1000114>