

# Scouts BSA Newsletter



## Quick Access to Event and Training Information

Now thru Summer - 2025 Scout BSA Activities, Trainings, Council Events & Meetings

### SCOUTS BSA EVENTS & TRAININGS:

- March 15th (Sat) - [Lumberjacks Day](#)
- March 22nd (Sat) - [Spring Merit Badge Rally](#)
- April 15 (Tues) - [MN Wild Scout Night Game](#)
- April 24 (Thurs) - [Gamehaven Council Dinner](#)
- April 25-27 (Fri-Sun) - [Spring Camporee](#)
- May 2-4 (Fri-Sun.) - [OA Spring Mawenemen](#)
- June 22-27th (Sun-Fri) - [NYLT National Youth Leadership Training](#)

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.

### **Need to Pay your OA Dues or Oxcass Pass for 2025?**

Click on the Link and pay with Credit Card - Easy Peasy!

## New Council Shoulder Strip Arriving Soon!

Gamehaven Council will soon have an updated design on their Council shoulder strip. At this time we are currently out of our current style, but we are told that the new look could be here early part of April.

Below is what the new patch will look like. We will let you know when they arrive!



# NYLT Registration is Now Open!

## Why attend NYLT?

NYLT transforms the lives of the youth who attend, turning Leaders of others into dynamic Leaders of Leaders, creating the Leaders of tomorrow that today so desperately demands.

## How does NYLT work?

NYLT is an intensive course where youth teach youth leadership lessons and skills of leadership covering 14 core modules.

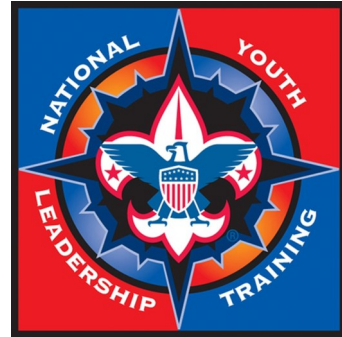
It is a training course that models the ideal unit where each day is a week in the life of a unit. Youth see youth modeling the leadership tools they are teaching, and the participants get to practice and hone the skills they are learning.

## Who can attend?

Registered Scouts who have attained First Class rank and are either 13 years old by July 9th or have finished 8th grade, have mastered First Class camping skills, and are ready to be away from home for a week and engage with the course. Completion of Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST) within the troop is strongly recommended. At least three female staff will be present at all times and appropriate accommodations are made for female participants.

Scoutmasters must approve all participant registrations. It is strongly recommended that the troop cover 50% of the cost to attend (\$125 per Scout), as the skills taught will benefit the troop for years to come!

**Sign Up!** The course runs from June 22-27, 2025 at Gamehaven Scout Camp. You can register your Scouts today at <https://scoutingevent.com/299-nylt25>



# Merit Badge Classes Still Available

While ten of our Merit Badge classes have filled completely for the Spring Merit Badge Rally, you can still sign up for a lot of fun options with open seats below! (AM) Crime Prevention and Fingerprinting

- (AM) Crime Prevention & Fingerprinting
- (AM) Dentistry
- (PM) Disabilities Awareness
- (PM) Home Repairs
- (PM) Law
- (AM) Moviemaking
- (PM) Personal Fitness
- (AM) Plumbing
- (AM) Radio
- (PM) Radio
- (AM) Wildland Fire Management TEST LAB BADGE
- (PM) Wildland Fire Management TEST LAB BADGE

Go to <https://scoutingevent.com/299-springmbr25> to sign up



# AOL Transition To Troops!

**I enjoy the AOL Scouts transition to Troops at this time of the year for 2 big reasons:**

1. I'm excited that the AOL Scouts are continuing their Scouting journey at the troop level where they get to define who they are and to make their mark in the world.
2. It reminds me that spring is around the corner and many opportunities await to enjoy the great outdoors!

This article is to inform families of AOL Scouts and Pack leaders that the membership transition from Pack to Troop is performed in [my.scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org).

Here is a guide linked for how to do this. [AOL Transition Guide](#)

**Another note from Registrar Pam Legried:** Recently a Member Renewal Information email was sent to Key 3 leaders with lists of persons to be renewed, persons to that have dropped, and persons that were opted out. If you have any question about the information listed there, don't hesitate to reach out to me. Note that all members with a 12/31/2024 registration expiry date have a lapse period of 90 days and will remain on your rosters, even if they have opted out or are not renewing, until April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Regarding your Scoutbook roster for inactive youth,** I recommend that you create an inactive den (for Packs) and inactive patrol (for Troops) to reassign these inactive youth, allowing a cleaner system of advancements for your active Scouts.

*Yours in Scouting!*

*Pam Legried* - Gamehaven Council Registrar

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## Early Deadline for Spring Camporee 2025

**The time is upon us to register for the Spring Camporee at Gamehaven Scout Camp from April 25-27, 2025.** Due to the need to purchase rockets and assemble them for this *Scouts! In! Space!* Space Exploring-themed camporee, there are two VERY IMPORTANT deadlines to be aware of:

- ◆ **DEADLINE 1:** *Register by March 24th* -to receive your rocket kits *before* the camporee at a predesignated April pickup:
  - **SUGAR LOAF:** the Sugar Loaf camporee team will be reaching out to arrange a drop-off with your unit leader
  - **HIAWATHA:** Pick up date TBD, likely at Gamehaven Scout Camp
  - **WAKPAOTA:** Pick up at the April Roundtable
- ◆ **DEADLINE 2:** *Register by April 16th* - to receive a rocket *at* camporee on Friday night

**REGISTRATIONS AFTER APRIL 16th ARE NOT GUARANTEED TO RECEIVE A ROCKET.** Remaining stock from bulk orders will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis based on registration date and time.

*\*\*\*Units will receive 1 rocket/2 scouts registered. If you would like additional rockets, you must purchase the rocket and engines through the online registration system. Any outside rockets brought to camp must be approved by the camporee committee to ensure safety.\*\*\**

Please read the attached unit leader info packet on this email for more information about the day and activities involved. Also, if your Arrow of Light cubs have not crossed over into your unit yet, please invite them to join us this weekend!

Sign your unit up today at <https://scoutingevent.com/299-springcamporee25>



## Gamehaven Garage Sale

Our Council will be holding the Gamehaven Garage Sale in mid-May at Camp. Declutter your home or business while supporting Scouting in the Gamehaven Council! Donate small appliances, yard equipment (mowers/snowblowers/leaf blowers/etc.), hunting and fishing gear, golf clubs and sporting goods, household goods, kitchenware, yard furniture, etc. The items need to be in good repair and generally fit into a car/truck/trailer.

Please email Arne Landsverk at [arne.landsverk@scouting.org](mailto:arne.landsverk@scouting.org) with any questions and/or thoughts.

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## Scouts Camp-o-rama

Every Scout should go to camp. Since Gamehaven Council does not offer a week-long summer camp experience for our Scouts BSA members, we're proud to promote the week long programs of camps both near and far at our annual **Camp-O-Rama**. Originated by the Order of the Arrow, Blue Ox Lodge, the Camp-O-Rama is a gathering of camps from all over the upper Midwest during a council event. Camps that can't attend in person can send physical or electronic promotions to be displayed as well.

**Saturday-March 22nd, from Noon – 2pm**



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## Gamehaven Council Employment Opportunities

Are you or do you know people interested in providing better futures for youth while strengthening communities? If so, we have a couple of full-time unit service opportunities in our council that we should talk about.

General Overview: Today's professional Scouters are a diverse group of men and women sharing a dynamic career offering independence, achievement, and stability. This is work that makes a difference, work that calls one to continual learning and challenge, work that offers solid compensation, benefits and advancement.

- Must be willing to accept and meet Scouting America's leadership and membership standards and subscribe to the Scout Oath and Law.
- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university (transcript with the date degree conferred stated is required for employment).
- Attained 21 years of age or older
- Ability to work varied hours when necessary, including evenings and occasional weekend work
- Ability to travel for training at least once a year. Most training conferences are 5-7 days.
- A Scouting background is helpful but not required for employment.
- Offers for employment are subject to criminal, reference, and motor vehicle background checks.

Interested in learning more, please e-mail Arne at: [arne.landsverk@Scouting.org](mailto:arne.landsverk@Scouting.org) to set up a time to talk.



## We Are Moving Locations!

*The Gamehaven Council will move office locations in April once updates are completed to our new office suite.*

**Quick Facts:** The new office will be 2,600 SF, with a large parking lot, walk-in entry, and signage visible from North Broadway Ave.

Our new address will be:

**511 Northern Hills Dr. NE – Rochester.**

Northern Hills Drive NE is off North Broadway about ¼ of a mile south of 37th Street.

More information will be shared in the coming weeks.  
*I guess we better start packing!*



## Announcing the 2025 Silver Beaver Recipients

*The Gamehaven Advancement and Recognition Committee is thrilled to announce the two recipients of the 2025 Silver Beaver Awards – Kurt Carlstrom and Ronda Marshall.*

**KURT CARLSTORM** is a Veteran's Service Representative with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, a Committee Member with Troop 320 in Red Wing, and the District Commissioner for Wakpaota District. He has served as a Rangemaster at many council events, using skills he developed through eight years of active duty in the US Army – 407th Civil Affairs to help instruct our Cubs the safest way to use firearms. He is also a recipient of the Order of the Arrow Vigil Honor, Scouter's Key, District Award of Merit, and Distinguished Commissioner Service Award in addition to receiving a Doctorate in Commissioner Service from the University of Scouting. Kurt and his wife Mary have Scouts in Troop 59 – Zumbrota, and Troop 320 – Red Wing, and have a Cub Scout in training.

**RONDA MARSHALL** is a Senior Software Engineer at IBM in Rochester and has brought the leadership skills she's developed through years of challenging and unique circumstances at IBM into her work with Scouts in Gamehaven Council. She served as the Scoutmaster of Troop 82-G for five years until the two gendered units merged in 2024 and she stepped back to hold the ASM role for the troop. She served as the NYLT Course Director for two years in 2023 and 2024, and will be returning in the Course Director role this year. She is a Wood Badge graduate, attending the same course as this year's NYLT Scoutmaster Rachel Stoltman and OA Adviser Lisa Feenstra (so that must have been one great course!) In addition to her work in Scouting, she is an ordained leader at the Community Presbyterian Church and an international host family. Her and her husband Bill have an Eagle Scout graduate at the University of Minnesota and a Scouts BSA member in Troop 82.



Please join us to congratulate both Kurt and Ronda at the Gamehaven Council Annual Dinner on April 24th at the Mayowood Stone Barn building.

Registration is now open at <https://scoutingevent.com/299-councildinner25>

## Join Us At The Council Annual Dinner.

### *It's time to say Thank you to Volunteers & Units!*

Gamehaven Council is proud to recognize our **Award Class of 2025** at the Council Fellowship Dinner on April 24th, 2025, from 5:30pm – 8:00pm. This annual event is where awardees go to be announced to the council for their heroic deeds and achievements, and all of our Scouting family is invited to join in good food, good friends, and great fellowship.

This year we are excited to be hosting the dinner at the historic **Mayowood Stone Barn** in Rochester, MN. This early 1900's barn and stables built for Dr. Charles Mayo has been converted into a beautiful venue for all sorts of events, from weddings to dinners like ours.

**New This Year:** Everyone attending is encouraged to invite a "Guest of Honor" to the dinner. Choose anyone you believe deserves to be recognized for their contributions this year and bring them to the dinner by registering their seat using the "Guest of Honor" code. Write a sentence or two about them so we can include it on their table tent and program.

Early registration is required in order for us to place the food order. Registration will close at 11:59pm on April 13th, so don't miss your chance to attend.

You can sign up today at <https://scoutingevent.com/299-councildinner25>

**Council Awards Dinner is scheduled for Thursday, April 24th– Registration Now Open!**

**WHAT:** Annual Gamehaven Council Awards Dinner

**WHEN:** April 24th, 2024. Dinner begins at 5:30pm, awards begin at 7:00pm

**COST:** \$30 per attendee.

**WHERE:** Mayo Wood Stone Barn in Rochester



## Get Some Service in at Lumberjacks Day

### **Grab your flannel and a hard hat!**

Lumberjack Day is just around the corner! This is a council-wide service day held at Gamehaven Scout Camp on **Saturday, March 15th**, organized by the Blue Ox Lodge. Troops are encouraged to attend and help clean up camp for the coming year. It is an excellent opportunity to get service and conservation hours. Projects this year include cleaning up campsites, wood splitting, and building firewood holders for all of the Cub Scout side campsites.

Bring a pair of work gloves and safety glasses, if you have them. Dress appropriately for the weather, and ensure you have proper footwear (no open-toed, Dudes, Crocs, etc.)

Want more information or to register for the event? Go to <https://scoutingevent.com/299-lumberjackday25>

