

Scouts BSA Newsletter



Quick Access to Events and Training Information

SCOUTS BSA EVENTS & TRAININGS:

- Sept. 26-28 (Fri-Sun) -
[Scouts BSA Fall Camporee](#)
- Oct. 3-5th (Fri-Sun)-
[OA Fall Induction Weekend](#)
- Oct. 25th (Sat) - Fall Merit Badge Rally
- Nov. 8th (Sat) -
[The 10 Commandment Hike](#)
- Jan. 9, 2026 (Fri-Sun) Scout BSA Operation
Icicle

Pop-Up Merit Badge Class

SHOTGUN MERIT BADGE CLASS

Date: Sunday, August 17th

Time: 12:30pm-5pm

Cost: \$50

Location: Gamehaven Scout Camp -
5015 Simpson Rd.SE, Rochester, MN

[https://scoutingevent.com/299-
popups25shotgun](https://scoutingevent.com/299-popups25shotgun)

Fall Camporee– Scouts BSA

Come and camp with us and celebrate ninety years of Gamehaven Council history! This camporee will be one for the history books as we participate in traditional activities, new activities, the biggest campfire in recent camporee history, and way, way more. Our camporee planning team has been hard at work for the past year putting together an amazing event that you won't want to miss.

WHAT: Fall Camporee

WHO: Scouts BSA Troops (weekend), all interested guests (day pass)

WHEN: September 26-28, 2025.

WHERE: Gamehaven Scout Camp

COST:

- Scouts BSA Youth: \$0 weekend (registered Scouts are free)
- Adult: \$10 weekend
- Day Pass: \$5 (plus food costs if attending lunch or dinner)

SIGN UP: Registration is open! Go to scoutingevent.com/299-fallcamporee25 to register your troop or buy day passes.

Gamehaven Council's 90th Anniversary Celebration

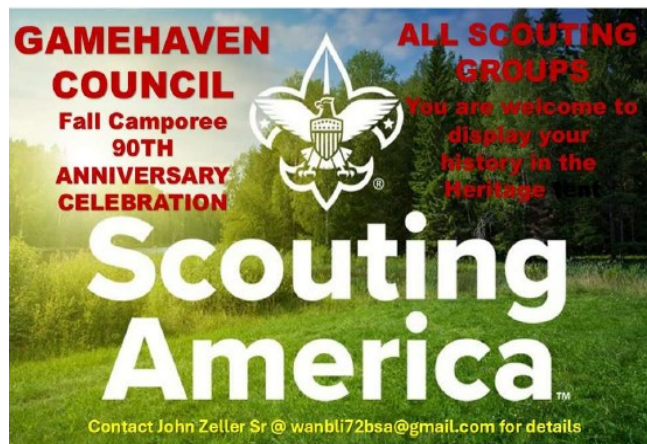
We are inviting family members of Scouts, Cub Scout Families, and Scouters in the community to join us in this celebration.

Participating in the celebration is at no cost. However, we invite you to lunch, or dinner, and anniversary cake. If you are staying for lunch and dinner the cost will be

- Lunch—\$5
- Dinner- \$10

If staying for Lunch , dinner or cake, please signup below. Need to make sure we have food for all who signup. [90th Anniversary Day Pass Signup](#)

Guests coming to attend the event will Sign Up as Day Pass Guests, when they connect to the above link.



Event Date: Saturday, September 27th.

Time: Celebration starts at 1pm (come early for lunch or stay later for dinner)

Location: Gamehaven Scout Camp - 5015 Simpson Rd, SE, Rochester, MN

Event Happenings: Guests will be welcomed to walk around and observe the activities going on and even try your hand at some of them.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ◆ Big Tent with historical displays of Scouting | ◆ Dutch oven Cooking Demonstration |
| ◆ Disc Golf (3-hole course) | ◆ Fun with Paracord |
| ◆ Water Rockets | ◆ Scouts skills challenge will be going on as well. |
| ◆ Gaga Ball | |
| ◆ Blacksmith Demonstration | |

A Promise to Youth at Gamehaven Council

Many of you have heard me refer to the “Scout Experience” in various conversations, letters, or even newsletter articles. Truthfully – that needs to be the litmus test for everything that we do as a council. I use the term “council” collectively. “The council” is more than a building, camp, and staff. The “Council” is all of us – working in one common direction on behalf of our Scouts.



We are in the process of building next year’s budget and program rollout. We are evaluating how we can be more innovative in programming where needed, how we can better serve you and your Scouts in operations, unit service, board development, community engagement, and property utilization (to name a few). Our council has a proud history – in fact, 90 years of it – and we’re just getting started.

In the coming months, various surveys, mailings, and press releases will be shared with our leaders, families, and communities. Please take the time to share your thoughts with us and we’d appreciate hearing from your families.

Also, please mark your calendars for: **Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 6:30- 8:30 pm for the Annual Council Kick-off Event.** This will be in person and dinner will be provided for two members from each unit. We are still working out the location details - but plan on the Rochester area. Our goal is to provide you with all the program and planning materials for the calendar and Scouting year.

2026 will be an amazing year for our council and thank you for making a difference.

Sincerely,

Arne Landsverk – Scout Executive/CEO

The Fall Popcorn Product Sale Team!

The Gamehaven Council fall popcorn sale provides Scouts and Scouting units with a safe, coordinated money earning opportunity with no upfront or long-term costs to the unit!

This is a very effective and important funding source for local Scouting activities. A well-planned product sale could fund your entire year of registrations, unit fees, activities, camps, and events.

If you have questions about the fall popcorn sale, please feel free to reach out to our Product Sale Team.

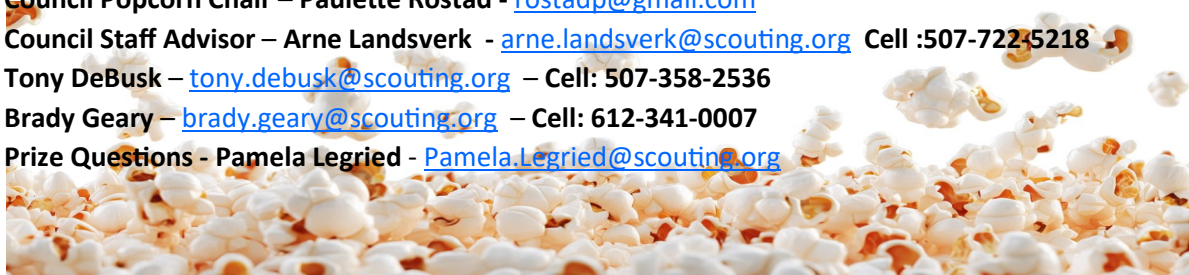
Council Popcorn Chair – Paulette Rostad - rostadp@gmail.com

Council Staff Advisor – Arne Landsverk - arne.landsverk@scouting.org Cell :507-722-5218

Tony DeBusk – tony.debusk@scouting.org – Cell: 507-358-2536

Brady Geary – brady.geary@scouting.org – Cell: 612-341-0007

Prize Questions - Pamela Legried - Pamela.Legried@scouting.org



Recruitment Tools in My.Scouting

Pack, Troop, and Exploring Post Key 3 Leaders.

It's that time of the year to be ready for recruiting new members into your Units! There are 2 tools in my.scouting.org that help you do that: Invitation Manager and Organization Manager>Unit Pin setting.

From Invitation Manager, you can download a QR code or a URL link that directs perspective new members to Apply Now to your Unit. These can be placed in recruitment flyers or in emails you send to prospects. This tool is also where leads land from parents or adults who have viewed your Unit's information in the BeAScout.org search engine and clicked on the More Information button. I have seen the number of leads ramp up over the last few weeks. This is the time parents are starting to look for Scouting options before the hectic back to school season. Notification emails are sent to Key 3 Leaders twice a week when a lead is submitted but these emails are easily passed over or may land in your spam folder. Good practice is to log into your my.scouting weekly and check your Invitation Manager tool (and Application Manager to check for applications that were submitted from BeAScout.org with the APPLY NOW button!)

With the Organization Manager>Unit Pin tool, you can add information about your Unit and toggle fields to display that makes your Unit stand out from others choices prospects will view in BeAScout.org. The most important thing to do is to verify the **Contact Information** box for the Unit. You can use the Edit icon in this area to pull in a registered member with the Unit. It is best to select someone who is the Unit leader or Committee Chair, or who has been given the functional role of Key 3 Delegate so the above tools are available to them to follow up with prospects. The **Additional Unit Information** box is where you can type in information that is unique to your Unit. Best to highlight when and where you meet. Many families have busy extracurricular schedules for their kids and knowing the day of the week your Unit meets can be extremely helpful. Does your unit have a Facebook page or its own webpage? Use the **Unit Website** box to type in the URL address. Don't forget to click on the Save button at the bottom of the page when you make any changes!

Pam Legried— Registrar 507-361-5341

[Recruitment Tool guide](#)

Check Out These Upcoming Scout BSA Events

FALL MERIT BADGE RALLY

Join us on October 25th for the Fall Merit BAdge rally at MN State and TEchincal College - Winona. Badges will include the new "Life Skills" test lab badge, Signs Signals and Codes, Crime Prevention, Emergency Preparedness, and many more to be announced in the next month. Registration opens September 18th at <https://scoutingevent.com/299-fallmbr25>

POP-UP MERIT BADGE ALERT!

Join us at the Prairie Island Nuclear Plant for Nuclear Science Merit Badge on September 13th. Space is very limited, so make sure to register today at <https://scoutingevent.com/299-popups25nuclearscience>

SYT-Safeguarding Youth Training Update

Thanks to our volunteers that have already taken the new youth protection training-Safeguarding Youth Training (SYT). National is committed for all to participate in this new format and has applied a 5/31/2026 expiration date for the prior YPT format. Key 3 Unit leaders running their roster reports from my.scouting will notice many of their adults will have this expiration date now. Please don't wait until the last minute to take this training when heavy use in the platform will slow its performance. The remainder of this summer might be a great opportunity to knock off this requirement before your busy volunteer season begins! As always, I can assist you with any login issues to your my.scouting.org. Thanks for your commitment to youth and their safety!



Pamela Legried- Registrar
507-361-5341

Obstacle Course

The Gamehaven Scout Camp challenge course is open for business! For the next few months, we are piloting our new programs at the challenge course, and we want your help. You can sign your unit or outside group up for a session on the course for free through the end of November by emailing Brady at brady.geary@scouting.org. As part of the free pilot program, you will receive a guided session (between 1-3 hours, your choice) on the course for up to 16 participants at a time. This is a great way to develop team bonds, practice skills, and improve communication skills amongst your team members. Plus, the course is adaptable for elementary, middle, high, and adult ages – so every group can participate!

Do you not have a group to attend with? We have a few opportunities coming up to participate in challenge course programs with a small group or individually!

- **Fall Family Adventure** – All families attending this event will have an opportunity to use the course. October 11th, 2025
- **Fall Camporee** – All troops and day pass guests will be able to sign up for a course slot. September 26-28, 2025

Mayo Challenge Grant - Help Us Raise Additional \$

The Gamehaven Council has received an amazing opportunity from the Mayo Clinic. If we can raise \$10,000 in additional Friends of Scouting contributions – the Mayo clinic will match that amount with an additional \$10,000.

All contributions remain local benefiting the Scouting program in the Gamehaven Council.

Please consider making a contribution today, strengthening our council and our Scouts future.

Thank you for making a difference!

Donate Now: <https://donations.scouting.org/#/council/299/appeal/7945>

