

NEWSLETTER



MERIT BADGE RALLY UPDATE

Don't Forget the Merit Badge Rally is happening
this Saturday, October 25th.

- Registration is open until Wednesday, October 22nd.
- A reminder that Scouts need to complete pre-requisites prior to attending class.
- Each Scout, leader and counselor will need to bring a sack lunch, unless the unit is planning something different.
- For auto maintenance, welding and woodworking don't forget to have parent sign the waiver and bring with you to show your counselors.
- Order of the Arrow will be onsite from the morning to early afternoon- they will be selling sodas, water and treats.
- Questions - go to the council web page - to find class waivers, schedules and class information. Also a schedule of check-in times and classes. [Merit Badge Rally Page](#)

Office will be closed on Tuesday,
November 11th for Veterans Day.

VETERANS DAY

Remember and Honor



Snowshoeing with the Scout Executive

I would like to invite registered adult leaders to join me for some snowshoeing at Gamehaven Scout Camp for a couple of hours of comradery, idea sharing, winter scenery, and of course, physical fitness and fresh air.

When: Sunday, January 11, February 8th, and March 1st

Who: Up to 12 registered adult leaders per session.

Where: Gamehaven Scout Camp – 5015 Simpson Rd. SE – Rochester

Time: 12:45 check-in - 1:00-3:00 pm - Activity

What to bring: Your favorite snowshoes or hiking boots, trekking poles, cameras, binoculars, and winter weather gear.

Info: We'll check in at the Admin Building (bathrooms available) and head out for the course. Please park in the main lot near the gateway.

January 11: [Snowshoeing Signup](#)

February 8: [Snowshoeing Signup](#)

March 1: [Snowshoeing Signup](#)



Family Friends of Scouting

Family Friends of Scouting is our council's stand alone fundraiser for the entire year. 100% of contributions received remain in our council to fund our programs, camp, and operations. Our staff will be reaching out to you in the coming weeks to secure a date at a Pack Blue & Gold or Troop Court of Honor. Should you have that date set and would like to share it, please email tony.debusk@scouting.org or arne.landsverk@scouting.org

Your support is critical and much appreciated. Thank you for enabling our council to provide Scouting to southeast Minnesota youth.

Scouting America
Gamehaven Council

Uniform Sale - 20% Off Bundle Ends Oct. 31st

**SAVE
20%**

CUB SCOUTS FULL UNIFORM:
TOP, BOTTOMS, BELT, NECKERCHIEF,
NECKERCHIEF SLIDE, CAP, & SOCKS.

**SCOUTS BSA & VENTURING
FULL UNIFORM:**
TOP, BOTTOMS, BELT, CAP, & SOCKS.

CUB SCOUTS FULL UNIFORM:

Top, Bottoms, belt, neckerchief,
Neckerchief Slide, Cap, and Socks.

SCOUTS BSA FULL UNIFORM:

Top, Bottoms, Belt, Cap and Socks.

20% Off Bundle- Buy a full Scouting uniform and receive 20% off each uniform piece listed.

This sell will end on 10.31.2025.

Stop by today at Gamehaven Scout Shop- Hours:
8am-5pm. Office Closed 1-2pm for lunch hour.

Get Ready to Read!

The outdoor Book Club is a new program offering at Gamehaven Scout Camp for any family that like books, getting outside, and trying hands-on activities. Each month we'll meet to talk about the book, eat a book-themed snack, try hands-on-activities, and participate in an outdoor activity centered on the book. Months alternate between young reader selections for early elementary school, and chapter reader selections for late elementary school and middle school readers.



All book clubs start and end inside and have access to an indoor bathroom;
all families are welcome!

NOVEMBER (Chapter Book) - HATCHET (Paulsen) - Sunday, Nov. 16th (1-3pm)

Brian is on his way to Canada to visit his estranged father when the pilot of his small prop plane suffers a heart attack. Brian is forced to crash-land the plane in a lake, and finds himself stranded in the remote Canadian wilderness with only his clothing and the hatchet his mother gave him as a present before his departure.

DECEMBER (Young Reader) - BEAR SNORES ON (Wilson) - Sunday Dec. 21st (1-3pm)

One by one, a whole host of different animals and birds find their way out of the cold and into Bear's cave to warm up. But even after the tea has been brewed and the corn has been popped, Bear just snores on! See what happens when he finally wakes up and finds his cave full of uninvited guests. All of them having a party without him!

PLUS- FIVE MORE BOOKS IN WINTER /SPRING 2026!

Learns more and take advantage of the book club bundles by going to

[Register for Book Club](#)

Annual Council Kick-Off Event- Save the Date

Please join us for the 2026 Program Kick-off Event
on **Tuesday, February 24** at Hosanna Lutheran
Church – 2815 57 St. NW Rochester. The event

will begin at 6:30 pm and will be in-person. Dinner
will be provided for 2 people per unit. We will be
handing out program information and supplies for
the remainder of the calendar year and winter
months of 2027. More information in the coming
months.



Are You Ready for Winter Camping?

The temperature is dropping, and that can only mean one thing... break out the sleeping bags, stocking caps, and start repeating the following mantra to yourself at 10-minute intervals: "COTTON IS ROTTEN". That's right, it's Winter Camp time at Gamehaven Scout Camp! Check out these awesome events for your troop to participate in:

OPERATION ICICLE:

- WHAT: Operation Icicle, a weekend-long winter camp extravaganza at Gamehaven Scout Camp. Come bunk in our lodges, participate in lots of fun and games, and compete for prizes and awards. Scouts will have the opportunity to earn a merit badge as well.
- WHEN: January 9th – 11th, 2026.
- WHERE: Gamehaven Scout Camp
- WHO: Registered Scouts BSA members
- HOW: Registration opens soon at <https://scoutingevent.com/299-opicescouts26>

WINTER CAMPOREE:

- WHAT: Join all three districts for an "Amazing (Klondike) Race" across Gamehaven. This inter-troop competition will be like no other as your patrol races around camp solving riddles and clues to find your next destination.
- WHEN: January 30th – February 1st, 2026
- WHERE: Gamehaven Scout Camp
- WHO: Scouts BSA Troops
- HOW: Registration opens soon.

ICE FISHING DERBY

- WHAT: Whether you are a newbie or an expert, there is something for you on the ice at Gamehaven Reservoir. Join us and our panel of experts as we compete for the biggest fish, smallest fish, most fish, and other fun awards. The competition is open to families and individuals.
- WHEN: February 7th, 2026
- WHERE: Gamehaven Reservoir
- WHO: Open to all
- HOW: Registration opens soon at <https://scoutingevent.com/299-icefishing26>

ULTIMATE SLEDDING NIGHT

- WHAT: Join us on a disco-lit sledding hill for a night of ultimate sledding! We'll be sending tubes, sleds, and more down the hill under the bright lights and blaring music. When you're tuckered out, come into the nearby warming shack for hot chocolate and an assortment of treats for sale.
- WHEN: February 7th, 2026
- WHERE: Gamehaven Scout Camp
- WHO: Open to all
- HOW: Registration opens soon

Council Fire Side Chat - Dec. 4th

Please join the council Key-4 on Thursday, December 4 from 6:30-7:15 pm for the Gamehaven Council Fireside Chat. Topics to include Broers Adventure Camp information, Gamehaven Scout Camp updates, 2025 year in review and 2026 Gamehaven aspirational goals. We'll also have an opportunity for questions and answers. Following the fireside chat, districts will have their scheduled Roundtables.

We invite everyone to attend: [Fireside Chat Zoom](#)

Questions to Ask?- [Please open link and write them down.](#)

Renewal Workshop - Nov 6th - Zumbro Lutheran

Gamehaven Council is conducting a Renewal Workshop for unit Key-3 Leaders on Thursday, November 6, 2025, 6:00pm, at Zumbro Lutheran Church in Rochester. This will be held in conjunction with Sugar Loaf, Hiawatha, and Wakpaota Roundtable

meetings, so registrants can sign up for in person attendance or Zoom session attendance. There is no cost for this workshop!

When: November 6, 2025- Thursday - (6-8pm)

Where: Zumbro Lutheran Church, Fireside Rm. (624 3rd Ave SW, Rochester)

Who should attend? Unit Committee Chairs, Chartered Organization Reps, Unit Leaders (Key-3), and anyone else responsible for submitting your unit renewal.

[Renewal Workshop Registration](#)

Ten Commandments Hike - Nov. 8th

Please join us for the 10th Edition of

THE TEN COMMANDMENT HIKE

In downtown Rochester, MN

Saturday, November 8, 2025 (9am-3:45pm).

Don't miss out on a Gamehaven Council event that only happens every 3 years! Join us for the Ten Commandments Hike on Saturday, November 8, 2025, from 9:00 am – 3:45 pm to visit

10 diverse worship sites and to hear 10 unique perspectives on a commandment. This year is the first year that we have been able to visit Saint Mary's Chapel since 2016!

The hike travels through downtown worship sites and is about 3.5 miles long with frequent stops. It's a fantastic way to live the Scout law, "A Scout is Reverent"! Cost is \$5 per participant, and best enjoyed by members 7 years and older. During each of these visits, the religious leader will take about 15 minutes to

introduce the participants to that faith, worship space, speak about one of the Ten Commandments, and answer questions. Then the Hike group moves to the next house of worship on the Hike. Each participant earns the patch to the right!



[Ten Commandment
Sign Up](#)