

GAMEHAVEN SCOUTS BSA

NEWSLETTER

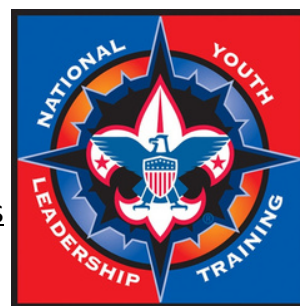


National Youth Leadership Training is Evolving

For four years, Gamehaven NYLT has educated and inspired Scouts from the Southeastern Minnesota area and beyond. In 2026, we're evolving.

For the first time, we're offering NYLT over the course of two weekends in the fall, to better accommodate our Scouts and families.

We're looking for 24 first-class scouts, ages 13-17, to help us pilot this new evolution of leadership training. These Scouts will have to be committed, enthusiastic, and excited to try something new with our youth and adult staff!



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.



We are seeking volunteers to assist with Diversability Day during the Festival of the Trees.

We're excited to host Diversability Day on Saturday, November 29, 2025. The support hours are: 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM. This inclusive community event celebrates accessibility, ability diversity, and connection — and we need your help to make it happen! Help is needed for setup, accessibility support, activities, and cleanup. Flexible shifts — no experience required.

Sensory-friendly support: staff quiet spaces and help attendees who need breaks.

Kid zone support: supervise activities and help with crafts/games.

Please respond to me via this e-mail and let me know. Do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. - **Dianne Adams-Hiawatha Homes** - dadams@hiawathahomes.org

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. [Winter Camporee Link](#)

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 at [Ultimate Sledding Registration](#)

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.](#)

Religious Emblems Program

Forty-two different religious organizations have developed Religious Emblems programs and are recognized as partners with Scouting America. Currently the National Religious Relationships Committee provides an updated Duty to God brochure to use in identification and connection with faith agencies or church bodies that fortify a young person's Scouting Experience. Knowing your resources will help you pursue these unique opportunities - Please visit the [Scouting America Religious Emblems program](#) for more information on an emblem that might apply to you. Also, the [Pray.Org Site](#) for information on religious Emblems Coordinator.



Help Us Re-Envision Gamehaven Scout Camp

We are excited to share that the Gamehaven Master Planning Committee is actively working to re-build camp for renewed use- focusing on revitalizing programming, infrastructure, and engagement to better serve our community.

The Committee is dedicated to:

- Re-imagining camp spaces and systems to meet current needs
- Centering user experience and accessibility
- Align camp activities with strategic outcomes
- Exploring innovating model for sustainability and impact

As part of this effort, we're gathering input from people who care about outcomes to help shape a shared wish list. Your voice matters, and we would love to hear from you!

Please take 3-5 minutes to complete this short survey: [Help Us Revision Gamehaven!](#)

Your ideas will help guide the committee's work and ensure camp is rebuilt with purpose, inclusion and creativity.

Thank you for being a part of this vision! Be on the lookout- A separate email will be going out soon with information on some public comment sessions with our committee.

