

FEBRUARY 15, 2026

www.gamehavenbsa.org

GAMEHAVEN SCOUTS BSA

NEWSLETTER



Gamehaven Scout Office will be closed
Monday, February 16th
In Observance of
Presidents' Day



NYLT - Scheduled in October This Year

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 scouts who are at least first-class scouts, and 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! Does that sound like you? Sign up today!

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.

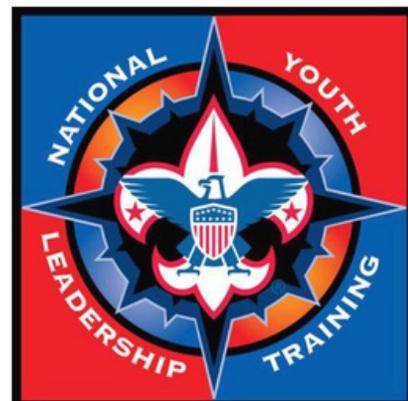
WHO CAN ATTEND?

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!

<https://gamehavenbsa.org/nylt>

Click on the link above to read more about NYLT, get the dates, Information on ILST, and parent/leader guide.



250th Anniversary Committee

Hello Scouts and Scouters,

The Gamehaven Council Activities and Civic Service committee is in need of dedicated and excited volunteers to help us run amazing service projects recognizing the 250th anniversary of the birth of our nation. If you are willing to give us ideas and help find meaningful work to do, please reach out to committee chair Karl Kruger at

karl.kruger@gmail.com

UNITS: Gamehaven Council, in partnership with the National Council of Scouting America, is excited to be facilitating and encouraging the Service 365 initiative this year. Units that perform 250 hours of community service between all of their members (including adults) between February 8th and December 31st will receive a special recognition from Gamehaven Council.



OA Lumberjack Day - March 14th

Order of the Arrow Lumberjack Day provides an organized service opportunity for Arrowmen and volunteers to support the ongoing maintenance and improvement of Gamehaven Scout Camp. This event focuses on preserving camp infrastructure and natural resources to ensure the property remains safe, functional, and welcoming for future Scouting programs.

Participants will assist with a variety of service projects, including log splitting, trail maintenance and clearing, and brush removal. These efforts play a critical role in maintaining accessibility, enhancing safety, and supporting the overall stewardship of the camp's outdoor environment.

The event will take place from **8:00 am - 3:00pm on Saturday, March 14th**. Lunch will be provided.

This event is open to everyone, so bring your friends!

Sign up today to help at: <https://scoutingevent.com/299-OALumberjack2026>



Annual Council Program Kick-Off Event

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. **Please RSVP by February 17th.** To Sign up click on the link. <https://scoutingevent.com/299-kickoff26>



Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST)

ILST (Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops) is the first big step in leadership training as a Scout. Youth participating will learn about team building, leadership styles, and effective communication. This program focuses on teamwork and enabling Scouts so when they return to their units they can employ and teach others the skills they have learned.

The event will be held from **7:00pm on Friday, March 6th to 4:30pm on Saturday, March 7th.** There is also a Saturday only option. All ILST Modules will be covered on Saturday. Friday will be focused on fun and some team building exercises. For Overnight attendees, Evening Snack and Breakfast are provided. Lunch will be provided for all on Saturday. Opening Flags are at 9am.

Cost of Overnight: \$20

Cost of Saturday Only: \$15



We encourage adults to attend as well so they can learn how best to guide the youth leaders in their units. Adults attending will be able to complete Position-Specific Leader Training.

Registration for ISLT is open: <https://scoutingevent.com/299-ilst26>

RATA (Range & Target Activities) Update

2025 was a banner year for RATA at Gamehaven Scout Camp! We onboarded three new Range Safety Officers, two new shotgun instructors, and two new Archery/BB Gun/Slingshot rangemasters, and offered RATA programming at the Spring and Fall Camporees, Order of the Arrow Section Conclave, five Family Adventure sessions, and multiple open shoots.

To keep the momentum going in 2026, we need more volunteers. Many hands make light work, and we're trying to deepen the bench. There are several options to become involved:

Range Safety Officer (RSO)

A least one Range Safety Officer is necessary to operate the shotgun range. To obtain the credential, one must complete the NRA Basic Range Safety Officer Course.

Shotgun Instructor

No classes currently scheduled

Archery/BB Gun/Slingshot Rangemasters

These volunteers operate the Archery, BB Gun, and Slingshot ranges, primarily for Cub Scout programming.

- Northern Star Scouting offers the course several times a year; to register, search for courses at <https://www.northernstar.org/news/enavigator/shooting-sports-trainings>
- Gamehaven Council will offer this training on April 25, 2026. Contact Rob Wilkinson, 612-214-8768 or Robert.m.wilkinson@gmail.com, to sign up.

We're flexible in offering this training, and require only two participants.

If you can't make April 25, 2026, let Rob Wilkinson know and we'll schedule additional sessions.

Watch the newsletter for additional training opportunities!

Scout Night at the Grizzlies- March 7th



Use code "SCOUTS299" at check-out to receive these package deals.

To Sign Up Go to

<https://tickets.rochestergrizzlies.com/>

WHAT: Rochester Grizzlies vs. the St. Louis Jr. Blues

WHERE: Rochester Recreation Center

WHEN: March 7th, 2026. Meet at 6:15pm to coordinate scout activities. Puck drop at 7:05pm.

COST:

- Concessions Package: \$21 (includes ticket, popcorn, hot dog, drink, and scout patch)
- Half-Package: \$16 (includes ticket and concessions)
- Just a Ticket: \$10 (includes a ticket)

DUE: All tickets with concessions must be purchased by Monday, March 1st.

ATTENDING SCOUT WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN: Presenting the Colors, Leading the Pledge of Allegiance, and Mid-Game Walk on the Ice

Meet the Team

Over the last six months our council has introduced two new staff members, Tony DeBusk and Brad Walters. Tony and Brad will be providing leadership to the three districts Packs, Troops, Posts and Ship.

Should you have any Scouting questions or need help with an issue, please reach out to them directly.



Tony Debusk
 Phone: 507-361-5345
 Email: tony.debusk@scouting.org



Brad Walters
 Phone: 507-361-5346
 Email: bradw@scouting.org

Below is the list of units Tony & Brad cover.

Unit Coverage District Executives							
District	Unit Type	Unit #	Coverage	District	Unit Type	Unit #	Coverage
Sugar Loaf	Pack	016	Tony	Hiawatha	Pack	082	Brad
Sugar Loaf	Pack	049	Tony	Hiawatha	Pack	083	Brad
Sugar Loaf	Pack	054	Tony	Hiawatha	Pack	110	Brad
Sugar Loaf	Pack	057	Tony	Hiawatha	Pack	186	Brad
Sugar Loaf	Pack	062	Tony	Hiawatha	Pack	498	Brad
Sugar Loaf	Pack	613	Tony	Hiawatha	Troop	082	Brad
Sugar Loaf	Troop	004	Tony	Hiawatha	Troop	083	Brad
Sugar Loaf	Troop	018	Tony	Hiawatha	Troop	098	Brad
Sugar Loaf	Troop	049	Tony	Hiawatha	Troop	110	Brad
Sugar Loaf	Troop	054	Tony	Hiawatha	Troop	186	Brad
Sugar Loaf	Troop	057	Tony	Hiawatha	Troop	498	Brad
Sugar Loaf	Troop	613	Tony	Hiawatha	Post	012	Brad
Hiawatha	Pack	042	Tony	Wakpaota	Pack	050	Brad
Hiawatha	Pack	043	Tony	Wakpaota	Pack	059	Brad
Hiawatha	Pack	047	Tony	Wakpaota	Pack	069	Brad
Hiawatha	Pack	080	Tony	Wakpaota	Pack	076	Brad
Hiawatha	Pack	156	Tony	Wakpaota	Pack	231	Brad
Hiawatha	Troop	042	Tony	Wakpaota	Pack	348	Brad
Hiawatha	Troop	047	Tony	Wakpaota	Pack	350	Brad
Hiawatha	Troop	056	Tony	Wakpaota	Pack	351	Brad
Hiawatha	Troop	080	Tony	Wakpaota	Pack	353	Brad
				Wakpaota	Pack	354	Brad
Wakpaota	Pack	032	Tony	Wakpaota	Troop	050	Brad
Wakpaota	Pack	094	Tony	Wakpaota	Troop	059	Brad
Wakpaota	Pack	239	Tony	Wakpaota	Troop	069	Brad
Wakpaota	Troop	032	Tony	Wakpaota	Troop	076	Brad
Wakpaota	Troop	039	Tony	Wakpaota	Troop	231	Brad
Wakpaota	Troop	094	Tony	Wakpaota	Troop	232	Brad
Wakpaota	Troop	320	Tony	Wakpaota	Troop	253	Brad
Wakpaota	Ship	001	Tony	Wakpaota	Troop	351	Brad
				Wakpaota	Troop	355	Brad
				Wakpaota	Post	204	Brad

2027 Gamehaven Council Financial Assistance Update

Our Council has a strong tradition of helping families and individuals participate in Scouting by providing funds to offset a portion of their registration fees. We are going to continue this opportunity for families and individuals who need assistance. However, we are going to implement a small change beginning in 2027. We're asking that the unit participate in a council product sale, such as the fall popcorn or the spring flower sale. The individual or family is welcome to participate in the product sale, but it is not a requirement to apply for assistance. We're sharing this information now, so everyone has the chance to make an informed decision with their committees and leadership about participating in an upcoming product sale. We appreciate your consideration and support of this approach.

Hello Key 3 Leaders

I've heard from many of you that you haven't been receiving the Scouting America emails with subject header "Member Renewal Information" that are sent the first of each month. I believe your email settings may be marking them as spam. Another easy workaround to get similar information is to run on a monthly basis the Members Due to Renew Report from your my.scouting.org account.

You can get it done in 3 steps:

- Login to my.scouting account
- Click on Menu after logging into your account>Roster>Reports
- in the left menu>click on Run to the right of Members Due to Renew report.

Step 1

Menu

What are you looking for?

- Home
- My Profile
- My Account
- My Application
- My Training
- Manage Member ID

Organization

Pack 0082 (FP)

- Application Manager
- Invitation Manager
- Organization Manager
- Roster**
- Safeguarding Youth Report
- Trained Leader Report

Step 2

Pack 0082

Organization Manager

- Settings
- Unit Renewal
- Unit Pin
- Unit Dashboard
- Unit Data Metric Entry
- Roster**
- Transfer in
- Position Manager
- Reports**

Step 3

MEMBERS DUE TO RENEW

This report lists all members due to renew within 2 months or who are lapsed.

Run

Help Us Promote & Fill Our October NYLT Course

Dear Gamehaven Council Scoutmasters and Troop committees,

I have a favor to ask of each Troop – help us promote and fill our October NYLT course.

This youth leadership opportunity not only prepares your Scouts for enhanced personal development and leadership skills, but it also changes the trajectory for your Troop's success.

When I joined Troop 199 in Wisconsin, (a year or two ago), I wanted the opportunity to get outdoors and camp. Period. I thought nothing about serving as a leader in the troop until my Scoutmaster nudged me and said, "that NYLT was a way to camp for an additional week that summer." I took him up on that opportunity and it changed my life, the lives of every other Scout in my Troop, in my circle of friends, and to a degree, even my family.

In our council, we have Scouts who need and are ready for this opportunity, they just need a few nudges.

All of us are in the business of improving lives – there is no better way to do this than filling the Gamehaven Council NYLT course with at least one Scout from every troop. Would you commit to sending at least one scout from your troop to participate? We have an incredibly talented staff of youth and adult leaders; we need your help convincing Scouts and their families to join us in October.

We're happy to come out and promote directly to your troop, but we need your help. Please contact Ronda Marshall - rondamarshall@gmail.com or Mark Mowry - mmowry12@gmail.com with any questions or opportunities.

Thanks,
Arne Landsverk
Scout Executive
NYLT Class of 1986

Eagle Scout Certificate Commemorating 250th

To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and in recognition of our partnership with America250, Scouting America will present all Eagle Scouts who earn the rank in 2026 with a special commemorative Eagle Scout certificate. This limited edition certificate will be available only to Scouts who achieve the Eagle rank during the 2026 calendar year.



The special certificate will be issued automatically beginning February 1, 2026. No special request is required; it will replace the standard Eagle certificate for all 2026 recipients.

Scouts who earned the Eagle rank in January 2026 may request a reprint through their local council by following the current process for complimentary reprints guidelines.

For these January 2026 Eagle Scouts, councils are asked to submit reprint requests as a consolidated weekly list. This approach will help ensure timely and efficient production and delivery of certificates.

Operation Iron Scout- Happening This March

Operation Iron Scout is a troop-based camping experience akin to camporees. While troops will camp and cook together, they will participate in a slate of exciting camp activities around designated merit badges.

Our 2026 Merit Badge is Mining in Society! In addition to having completed most (if not all) of the badge requirements, every attending Scout and Adult will receive a limited-edition Metal Patch designed for uniform wear.

Date: March 27-29th (Friday- Sunday)

Location: Gamehaven Scout Camp

Cost: Scout Youth - \$15

Out of Council Youth - \$20

Adults: \$5

Learn more and register at :

<https://www.scoutingevent.com/299-opiron26>



Hiker Direct Program Offers Great Discounts

ALPS Mountaineering stands out as a dedicated partner in outdoor gear, offering exclusive pricing to Scouts, Scout leaders, and parent volunteers through its Hiker Direct program, specifically designed for Scouting members. This initiative ensures that Scouting families have access to high-quality gear at affordable prices, enhancing their outdoor experiences. Being a part of Hiker Direct allows you to

purchase most of the gear on the website at roughly 40% off MSRP, every day of the year! Hikers direct also offers a great referral program offering 5\$ credits for every scout referred to the program.

Hiker Direct started in 1999 with the goal of getting more youth outdoors. Being a part of various scouting groups can get pricey for parents, especially if they have more than one child involved, by offering deals on reliable gear 24/7, it would allow more youth to have a good experience while camping and hiking, and they'll continue to enjoy the outdoors for years to come.

Link to website: <https://hikerdirect.com/>

REWARDS PROGRAM

**GET MORE
FOR YOUR
ADVENTURE**

- ✓ Easy to Earn
- ✓ Easy to Redeem

**500
POINTS**

Get 500 points for every new scout referral who signs up.

= 1 pt

For every \$1 spent, earn 1 point.

**24/7
SAVINGS**

Redeem points anytime at checkout.

There is no limit on how many points you can earn!