

MARCH 15, 2026

[www.gamehavenbsa.org](http://www.gamehavenbsa.org)

GAMEHAVEN SCOUTS BSA

# NEWSLETTER

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## 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.

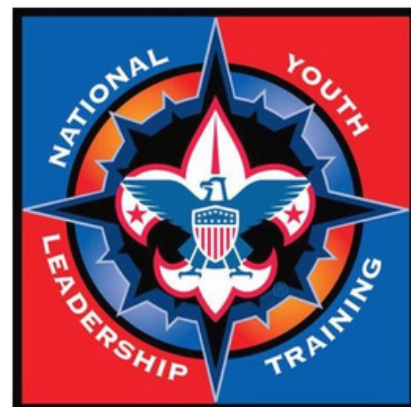
### WHO CAN ATTEND?

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 250<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 8<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> will receive a special recognition from Gamehaven Council.



## Volunteer Recognition Dinner - April 22nd

You are invited to celebrate our dedicated volunteers and another successful year of Scouting! The Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner is an opportunity to celebrate the outstanding people that have made Scouting in Gamehaven Council successful this year. Whether you're being recognized or not, you're invited to join us in an evening of recognition and thankfulness, food and drink, and pleasant company. The dinner will be hosted at the beautiful Mayowood Stone Barn in Rochester, MN.

Sign up at <https://scoutingevent.com/299-annualdinner26>

### We will be honoring the following Volunteers:

- **Scouters of the Year**

- Guy Heinz (SL)
- Jena Schulte (SL)
- Stacy Beyer-Groth (HW)
- Blake Clermont (HW)
- John Lechner (HW)
- James McLaughlin (HW)
- Emily McLaughlin (HW)
- Roger Jirele (WK)
- Lindsay Ranschau (WK)
- Len Rollins (WK)

- **President's Award -**

- Tom Wright

- **District Award of Merit-**

- Chad Coudron
- Brent Ferguson

- **Silver Beaver will be awarded to -**

- Byron Clark
- Chris Bursch

Please join us in recognizing these volunteers and others for their commitment to Scouting.

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## Program Catalog Available Online

Attention leaders - If you missed the program kickoff that we held on February 24<sup>th</sup>, you can still get a copy of the program for 2026-2027. The comprehensive resource includes an editable planning calendar with council events already added, fliers for almost all upcoming events, news, resources, and so much more. Your unit-serving professional should have a print copy for the unit, but additional pdf. copies can be downloaded as well. The virtual catalog will continue to update as events and information changes.

<https://gamehavenbsa.org/catalog26/>



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## Safeguarding Youth Training Concerns

There is a date looming that is making Registrar Pam Legried nervous: 60% of our adult volunteers in Gamehaven Council have a SYT (Safeguarding Youth Training) expiration date of 5/31/2026.



**PLEASE** do not wait until the last minute to retake this important training in your my.scouting.org account as the platform gets famously bogged down with large volume activity. I am the Council support person for resetting the password if you run into trouble with accessing your my.scouting.org. I'm also the person that will have to suspend registrations for people that allow their SYT to expire. Please don't let that be you!

**Note about adult paper applications that are submitted to Gamehaven Council for processing:** Please make sure the SYT completion certificate is included with the application. We can no longer accept paper applications without the assurance that SYT is done.

Thank you,  
Pam Legried

[Pamela.Legried@scouting.org](mailto:Pamela.Legried@scouting.org)

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## Spring Work Weekend at GSC!

April 11th is the Spring Work Saturday at Gamehaven Scout Camp! Enjoy food and fellowship while getting our camp ready for a busy spring and summer season! We will welcome as many people as can show up.

There will be a mix of labor-intensive and non-intensive projects, including painting, trimming, hauling, and cleaning.

**Saturday's work weekend will run from 8am - 3pm.**

Sign up is open today at <https://scoutingevent.com/299-workweekends>.

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## Grand Prix Race Team Needed



*Do you dream of the smell of pinewood? Do you buy sets of plastic wheels to match mold numbers? Did your high school drama teacher call you 'too loud'?*

**We're looking for Scout, Parent, and Leader volunteers for the grand prix event on April 18th.**

You can sign up for volunteer positions by going to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E45A9AD22A6F5C70-62902175-council>

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## 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.

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## 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 27-29<sup>th</sup> (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>

**Registration deadline- March 20th**

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## Merit Badge Requirements Moving On-line

Great news! Merit badge pamphlets are getting a modern upgrade! Instead of printed requirement lists, each pamphlet will now feature a convenient QR code and URL that links you straight to the latest requirements in the [Merit Badge Hub](#) on [scouting.org](#). This means you'll always have access to the latest information and resources at your fingertips!

Timeline:

- QR codes are being added to free downloadable pamphlets
- Newly printed pamphlets with QR codes will begin appearing in Scout Shops in 2026
- This change will continue as pamphlets are updated and reprinted over the next several years

**Rationale:** Merit badge requirements are continually reviewed and updated to keep current with technological advances, best practices, and current events. Many requirement updates become effective annually on January 1st, but safety-critical updates may be made at any time. This practice aligns the in-depth subject and motivational material in the pamphlet with the most up-to-date requirements, whether downloaded PDF or printed text.

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## 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.

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## Sugarloaf District Scouting For Food

On Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, Packs and Troops will be collecting food for their annual Food Drive in the Winona, Goodview, Minnesota City and Rollingstone Communities. Food will be collected from 10:00am – Noon. The food drive will restock food shelves at Winona Volunteer Services. Matt St Onge (Scout organizer) is still in need of Scouts and volunteers to help with the Food drive.



**SIGN UP →**

Please take a moment to sign up to collect food in an area of Winona or Rollingstone.

Your help is needed and very appreciated.

Thank you,  
*Matt St. Onge*

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## Staff On the Move

The Gamehaven Council thanks our program director, Emily Geary, for her four years of leadership to our council youth, volunteers, and programs. We wish her the best in her life journeys and her new role at True Friends Minnesota as Camp Courage's onsite Program Manager. Emily's last day with Gamehaven will be on Friday, March 27th.

Should anyone have program questions after the 27th, please call the office at 507-287-1410 and speak to either Barbara or Pam to be directed to the appropriate staff member.

*All the Best to Emily!*



## Liberty in Action- 250<sup>th</sup> Challenge Patch

In honor of America's 250<sup>th</sup> Semiquincentennial, all Scouts can now earn the Liberty in Action 250<sup>th</sup> Challenge Patch. They can earn the patch by participating in activities that highlight patriotism, community service, responsible citizenship, and an understanding of the principles that share our democracy. The program empowers Scouts to connect with their communities, learn about the responsibilities of citizenship, and take meaningful action that reflects the ideals of liberty, leadership and service. More details can be found by clicking on this link

[https://www.scoutshop.org/blog/liberty-in-action-250th-anniversary-challenge.html?](https://www.scoutshop.org/blog/liberty-in-action-250th-anniversary-challenge.html?srsltid=AfmBOorYDKOwX8N4Zaf3JrhBiSPqMUIW)

[srsltid=AfmBOorYDKOwX8N4Zaf3JrhBiSPqMUIW;](https://www.scoutshop.org/blog/liberty-in-action-250th-anniversary-challenge.html?srsltid=AfmBOorYDKOwX8N4Zaf3JrhBiSPqMUIW)

**Earning the liberty in Action patch** - the patch can be earned by completing a set of pre-appropriate activities such as:

- Participating in a community service project
- Learning about local, state or national government.
- Exploring historical landmarks or events connected to American Liberty.
- Demonstrating good citizenship within their unit, school or neighborhoods.



## Did you know we have an Historic Trails Award?

To bring appreciation to the ideals, principles, and traditions that have made our country strong; requirements emphasize cooperation between historic societies and Cub Scout, Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scout units, which should establish a close relationship with a local society as soon as possible when planning a historic activity—most communities have such societies.



- **Who Can Earn This Award?** -Presented to youth and adult members who meet the criteria.
- **How To Get the Award**- Return completed application to council office.
- **Supply Item Description & Uniform Placement** -Cloth patch and leather patch for equipment decoration; not for uniform wear. Supply/BIN Item Number, Cloth patch, No. 188; leather patch, No. 244.

[Historic Trails Award](#)