

APRIL 12, 2026

www.gamehavenbsa.org

GAMEHAVEN SCOUTS BSA

NEWSLETTER



 <p>Scouting America</p>	<p>AMERICA</p> 
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Don't Forget! Annual Dinner is April 22nd

Deadline to make your reservation is this Sunday, April 12th

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.

Dinner cost is \$40. Your choice of entree is grilled New York strip steak with rosemary pan sauce or wild rice and Gouda Chicken Roulade. Sign up at

<https://scoutingevent.com/299-annualdinner26>. Deadline is this Sunday, April 12th.

Update on Sugar Loaf Scouting For Food

On Saturday, March 28, the Sugar Loaf District had their 39th annual Scouting for food campaign. I have been overseeing this event for the past five years, and wanted to thank all of our Gamehaven Scouts and volunteers, and the students from the National Honor Society of Winona High School, for taking the time to collect 2,795 pounds of food that day.

I also wanted to share some history of how many pounds of food has been collected each year.

- 2026: 2,795 pounds
- 2025: 2,547 pounds
- 2024: 3,321 pounds
- 2023: 1,702 pounds
- 2022: 3,110 pounds

A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE! *Without your help this event would not be possible.*

Matt. St Onge



Safeguarding Youth Training Updates

The Safeguarding Youth Training (SYT) that replaced the YPT training in May 2025 was designed as a full course running approximately 90 minutes long, with a 15–20-minute refresher course and retest required each year thereafter.

This month Scouting America is set to launch this refresher training course. Following is important information to keep in mind about the refresher course and retest for **SYT**:

- If you have completed the full Safeguarding Youth Training (SYT) course and it is currently active or has expired within the last 7 days, you are eligible to take the Refresher Training.
- If your full SYT training has been expired for 7 days or more, you will need to complete the full Safeguarding Youth Course again before receiving credit.
- Participants taking the Refresher Training must successfully pass the exam on the first attempt to receive credit for the Y01 training code. If the exam is not passed, the system will automatically route you to the full Safeguarding Youth Course to ensure a complete review of the material. Once the refresher exam has failed, the refresher course cannot be relaunched, and the full course must be completed.
- The Safeguarding Youth Refresher Training will be available in English and Spanish in the Volunteer Learn Center of your **my.scouting.org** account under the following course titles:
 - Safeguarding Youth Refresher
 - Curso de actualización SYT

Thank you for your continued commitment to safeguarding youth and helping ensure a safe environment for all.

Pamela Legried - Registrar 507-361-5341



Are You Ready?- Zombie Apocalypse!

Two years have passed since the Sickness changed the world. Unconfirmed reports suggest the disease has mutated with victims now exhibiting zombie-like symptoms. We are one of the last outposts standing and this weekend, your skills will be tested. You will need Scout skills, teamwork, and critical thinking to endure. Your patrol must work as a team to navigate camp, learn and demonstrate survival skills needed to survive the Apocalypse and ultimately shelter in your Zombie proof barricade...Ready to inoculate the Zombies and save the city?

Location: Gamehaven Scout Camp

Dates: April 25- 27th

Objective: Survive

Register today! - <https://scoutingevent.com/299-springcamporee26>



- No charge for Scouts & Arrow of Light cubs. Registration is covered by your annual council fees.
- \$10 per adult; Scouts BSA & Arrow of Light
- Registration closes Thurs. April 23rd

Liberty in Action- 250th Challenge Patch

In honor of America's 250th Semiquincentennial, all Scouts can now earn the Liberty in Action 250th 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?srltid=AfmBOorYDKOwX8N4Zaf3JrhBiSPqMUIWx2fBzLLAD57LmiKSt6pkCS00>

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.



Broer's Adventure Camp Groundbreaking



The Gamehaven Council is excited to invite you to the Broers Adventure Camp Groundbreaking Event. This special day marks the beginning of better futures for Scouts, their units, and community groups using this property. The Gamehaven Council was chosen as the beneficiary by John Broers for our desire to introduce youth to outdoor and recreational programming, environmental education, and as a place to experience the wonder of the natural world. In turn, as a tribute to John and his family, we named the property Broers Adventure Camp.

Please join us as we embark on a new journey, a journey that will shape the lives of new generations and our communities!

Event Information:

When: Friday, June 5th

Where: Broers Adventure Camp – 31400 Cone Dale Dr. Houston, MN

Time: Social - 5:00 pm, Groundbreaking – 6:00 pm, BBQ/Tours – 6:30-7:30 pm

Who: Scouts, Leaders, Alumni, and Friends

Deadline: Please RSVP by Friday, May 29th using this link: <https://scoutingevent.com/299-broersgroundbreaking26>

Cost: There is no cost - but a denotations to offset event costs would be accepted (at the event)

Maximum Participants: 150



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.

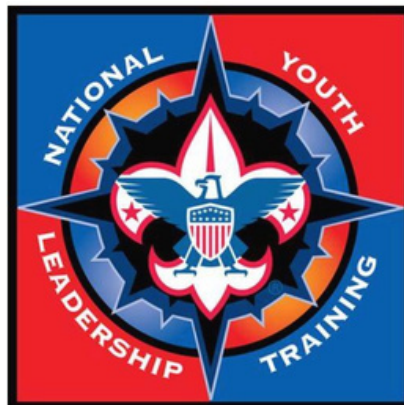
WHO CAN ATTEND?

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.



Leave No Trace #1

Plan Ahead & Prepare

You just decided to spend the next day at your favorite national park. While you're super excited to go, you have other things to tend to before leaving. The next day, you pull up to the park's entrance and learn that your favorite trail is currently closed. Unfortunately, you didn't research any other trails and don't know what to do next. Now you're thinking, *"Hmmm, had I planned better, I could have had a back-up plan and still really enjoyed my trip today"*



Planning ahead and preparing for your trip is one of the 7 Leave No Trace Principles. These Principles empower you to leave nature as unchanged by your presence as possible. It's a way of protecting the natural world and yourself and to preserve our outdoor spaces for the enjoyment of generations to come.

When outdoor visitors plan ahead and prepare, it helps to accomplish trip goals safely and enjoyably while simultaneously minimizing damage to the land.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

- [Leave no Trace Website](#)
- [Conservation Good Turn Award](#)
- [Outdoor Ethics Award](#)

ELEMENTS TO CONSIDER WHEN PLANNING A TRIP

- Plan Ahead And Prepare
- Identify the goals (expectations) of your trip.
- Identify the skill and abilities of trip participants.
- Gain knowledge of the area you plan to visit from land managers, maps, and literature.
- Plan trip activities to match your goals, skills, and abilities.
- Weather
- Terrain
- Regulations/restrictions
- Land boundaries

Knives- A New Style Just Arrived at Gamehaven Store

- These knives feature bold new designs & colors
- Retail from \$14.99 - \$17.99
- Check out the:
 - *Patriot Flame*
 - *Scout Vortex*
 - *Galaxy Trek*
 - *Mystic Python*
 - *Green Goblin*



Hurry! We have limited supply and may not be able to re-order!

OPEN CAMP - June 13th & July 25th

Gamehaven Scout Camp is offering something new for Scout units this Summer!

Many Scout troops in the summer tend to go to various summer camps. This year we are offering two weekends for units to come out with their Scouts to camp and do various activities. PLUS - units may choose to supplement their program with additional staffed stations open for the weekend.



On Saturday's we are planning schedule of fun things units can do with their Scouts:

- 9am-noon- open challenge course time
- 1pm-5pm - Open ranges (Archery & BB Gun)
- 5pm-8pm - Camp Trading Post Open
- 6pm-8pm - Shotgun range open (Scouts BSA units only)
- 8pm-10pm - Open Campfire.

Cost is only \$25/unit

Get Details & Register:

<https://scoutingevent.com/299-opencamp26>

Highlighting Scouting in Our Communities

Scouting is an amazing thing – and America needs to be reminded of those great experiences!

Our narrative should focus on the successes our Scouts have achieved in the Gamehaven Council. Successes are highlighted by their fun and safe experiences, their growth as individuals, and the positive outcomes our programs have provided to each of our communities, our state, and our country.

I routinely get asked whether Scouting is safe, worthwhile, open to anyone, and available where I live. Truthfully, these questions frustrate me because I know the answers, but when I think about those questions from their perspective, they make sense. Our positive narrative is not routinely being shared in our communities, by our media, in our schools, or even amongst ourselves. We need to "Brag Up" Scouting – let people know that what we do matters.

Nationally and locally, membership continues to decrease in large part due to visibility and understanding. Traditional approaches, such as sending out recruitment flyers, setting up school booths at "meet the teacher events", marching in parades, or petitioning legislators or school boards to change access, are not enough by themselves. This alone will not change the narrative. However, when a community sees Scouting as a value, because of its current positive impact, the narrative quickly changes. Please consider engaging in community-based service projects and share action-based pictures or videos of your Scouts engaged in other meaningful programs, celebrations, or adventures with us for our social media platforms, as well as our media outlets, businesses, and schools.

Our staff is going to be visiting local businesses, day care centers, doctor and dentist offices, and libraries in the upcoming months, and would love to "Brag Up" your unit to businesses, but we need material; of course, we'd appreciate your participation in bragging up Scouting to your circle as well.

Our current and future Scouts matter; we have the solution to the problem, but we need to work together to deliver those outcomes.

Arne Landsverk
Scout Executive

