

Scouts BSA Newsletter



Quick Access to Event and Training Information

Now thru Summer - 2025 Scout BSA Activities, Trainings, Council Events & Meetings

SCOUTS BSA EVENTS & TRAININGS:

- **March 7 & 8 (Fri-Sat) - [ILST Intro to leader Skills For Troops](#)**
- **March 22nd (Sat) - [Spring Merit Badge Rally](#)**
- **April 15 (Tues) - [MN Wild Scout Night Game](#)**
- **April 24 (Thurs) - [Gamehaven Council Dinner](#)**
- **April 25-27 (Fri-Sun) - [Spring Camporee](#)**
- **May 2-4 (Fri-Sun.) - [OA Spring Mawenemen](#)**
- **June 22-27th (Sun-Fri) - [NYLT National Youth Leadership Training](#)**

UNIT LEADER MEETINGS:

- **March 4th (Tues) - Sugarloaf District Roundtable - 6pm**
- **March 6th (Thurs) - Wakpaota District Roundtable - 7pm**

To get complete information on an event, you can click on the attached links above. For upcoming meetings refer to the [Events Calendar](#) for updates, locations, etc.

Need to Pay your OA Dues or Oxcass Pass for 2025? Click on the Link and pay with Credit Card - Easy Peasy!

*Gamehaven Office Closed
Monday, February 17th
Observance of Presidents Day!*



NYLT Registration is Now Open!

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.

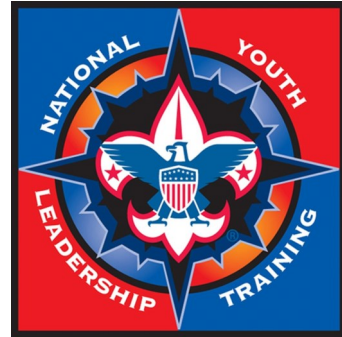
It is a training course that models the ideal unit where each day is a week in the life of a unit. Youth see youth modeling the leadership tools they are teaching, and the participants get to practice and hone the skills they are learning.

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!

Sign Up! The course runs from June 22-27, 2025 at Gamehaven Scout Camp. You can register your scouts today at <https://scoutingevent.com/299-nylt25>



Spring Camporee– Out of this World!

Houston, this is T-75 days until we launch our Spring

Camporee. Systems?

Check. Campsites? Check.

Patches? Check.

We're looking good to go, and excited to welcome our scout astronauts out for a weekend of space-exploration-themed camping fun. There will be info about NASA and careers in extraplanetary research, physics, science, and even a model rocket launch. So make sure your seat straps are fastened and **prepare for takeoff on April 25-27, 2025.**

You can sign your troop up today at <https://scoutingevent.com/299-springcamporee25>



Member Renewals– Tips to make process easier!

Hello, volunteers and Scouting families of Gamehaven Council! The bulk of members are current, but it will be a continuous process because of differing expiry dates for members. To hopefully simplify that process, I'm including some member renewal tips:

- ◆ **Adult Scouters that volunteer in more than one Unit or volunteer capacity (i.e. MBC) should self-pay their membership renewal with a credit card payment, because this online process captures all roles at once.** I still recommend that the renewal be done with a device other than a mobile device as the tab in my.scouting where this is done-My Renewals- is difficult to find on a phone or through the app. If your Unit typically pays for your renewal, a Key 3 leader can still access a receipt of payment for reimbursement purposes from their Roster tool in my.scouting.
- ◆ **Families of youth to be renewed will be directed to a my.scouting account to pay for the renewal online.** If unsure of login credentials to your my.scouting account, please reach out to me as I have a tool for accessing that information. Be prepared with credit card information as that is the only source of payment allowed at this time. The parent that is assigned to the youth is the one who completed the original online application or was listed on a paper application submitted to me for processing. Key 3 leaders of Units have access to Members Due to Renew report to see what parent email is assigned to a Scout.
- ◆ **Key 3 Leaders, I recommend you access your Organization Manager tool monthly to stay on top of members that are eligible for renewal.** Roster tool will state that status and allow you to Opt out members not renewing. Use the Export Roster feature from the grey banner of Roster tool to check on YPT status of adult members and registration expiry dates. You can view this information without downloading it. If you are paying fees to the Council for me to manually process the renewal, use the Unit Payment of Membership Renewal Report from the Print feature in the grey banner of Roster and **not** the Renew feature.

Happy to have so many of you with us for another year!

Pam Legried - Gamehaven Council Registrar

Spring Product Sale

Attention Leaders:

The Spring product sale is a great way for Scouts to pay for their Scouting programs – Summer camp fees, Cub Scout weekend camps, high adventure trips, registration fees, and unit programming.

Training Date: Tuesday, February 25th @6:30 pm at the ROTH Building (Scout Office) – 607 E. Center Street, Rochester.

Product Line-up:

Hanging Plants – Pork and Plants Heritage Farm - Altura

Assorted Chocolate & Fudge – Chocolate Shoppe – Mantorville (Tentative)



Questions: E-mail Arne at arne.landsverk@scouting.org

Spring Merit Badge Rally at RCTC!

Save the date – the Spring Merit Badge rally is going to be held on March 22nd at Rochester Community and Technical College Heinz Building. We are finalizing details with our counselors before registration opens later this month. Confirmed badges (so far) include Dentistry, Law, Landscape Architecture, Home Repair, Plumbing, Movie Making, Citizenship in the Community, and more.

Registration opens at 8:00pm on February 24th at <https://www.scoutingevent.com/299-springmbr25>

Scouts Camp-o-rama

Every Scout should go to camp. Since Gamehaven Council does not offer a week-long summer camp experience for our Scouts BSA members, we're proud to promote the week programs of camps both near and far at our annual **Camp-O-Rama**. Originated by the Order of the Arrow, Blue Ox Lodge, the Camp-O-Rama is a gathering of camps from all over the upper Midwest during a council event. Camps that can't attend in person can send physical or electronic promotions to be displayed as well.

Saturday-March 22nd, from Noon – 2pm



Gamehaven Council Employment Opportunities

Are you or do you know people interested in providing better futures for youth while strengthening communities? If so, we have a couple of full-time unit service opportunities in our council that we should talk about.

General Overview: Today's professional Scouters are a diverse group of men and women sharing a dynamic career offering independence, achievement, and stability. This is work that makes a difference, work that calls one to continual learning and challenge, work that offers solid compensation, benefits and advancement.

- Must be willing to accept and meet Scouting America's leadership and membership standards and subscribe to the Scout Oath and Law.
- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university (transcript with the date degree conferred stated is required for employment).
- Attained 21 years of age or older
- Ability to work varied hours when necessary, including evenings and occasional weekend work
- Ability to travel for training at least once a year. Most training conferences are 5-7 days.
- A Scouting background is helpful but not required for employment.
- Offers for employment are subject to criminal, reference, and motor vehicle background checks.

Interested in learning more, please e-mail Arne at: arne.landsverk@Scouting.org to set up a time to talk.

Scouting America Celebrating New Name & Birthday

Friends – Saturday, February 8th, Scouting celebrated its 115 birthday, marking a pivotal moment in the organization’s journey as it officially adopted its new name, Scouting America. Locally, our council will continue Scouting, as we always have, ensuring that future generations will have the opportunity to benefit from our transformative program, focusing on our mission to prepare young people for life by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.



While our name has changed, the passion for Scouting endures. This past week, I attended Pack 351’s Blue and Gold Dinner. Watching the Scouts being recognized for their accomplishments was rewarding! Almost equally rewarding was hearing the excitement in their voices as they gathered with the other Scouts from their Pack, seeing parents, grandparents, brothers, and sisters all together enjoying a meal and comradery while getting to talk to so many different Pack and Troop leaders about their experiences in their units or from their past Scouting adventures.

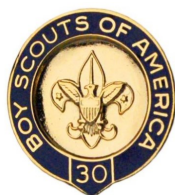
Our council is dedicated to providing young people with opportunities to develop the values, skills, and experiences they need to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Thank you for being a major part of the journey.

Arne Landsverk
Assistant Scout Executive

Last Call for Council Award Nominations.

February is the season of love. Show your love for your fellow volunteers by nominating them for a district or council-level award. Awards include the Scouter of the Year, District Award of Merit, and prestigious Silver Beaver. Anyone can nominate a deserving volunteer for these awards.

Learn more and submit nominations online at <https://gamehavenbsa.org/resources/for-leaders/adult-recognitions/>.



Join Us At The Council Annual Dinner.

It's time to say Thank you to Volunteers & Units!

For 90 years, innumerable selfless volunteers have given time, energy, and resources to help provide amazing adventures to the young people of Gamehaven Council in Southeastern Minnesota. One of the small ways we thank these volunteers is through the awarding of numerous awards on the unit, district, council, and national levels. These awards recognize adults for completion of trainings, completion of difficult tasks, and especially for being noticed by their peers.



Gamehaven Council is proud to recognize our **Award Class of 2025** at the Council Fellowship Dinner on April 24th, 2025, from 5:30pm – 8:00pm. This annual event is where awardees go to be announced to the council for their heroic deeds and achievements, and all of our Scouting family is invited to join in good food, good friends, and great fellowship.

This year we are excited to be hosting the dinner at the historic **Maywood Stone Barn** in Rochester, MN. This early 1900's barn and stables built for Dr. Charles Mayo has been converted into a beautiful venue for all sorts of events, from weddings to dinners like ours.

New This Year: Everyone attending is encouraged to invite a "Guest of Honor" to the dinner. Choose anyone you believe deserves to be recognized for their contributions this year and bring them to the dinner by registering their seat using the "Guest of Honor" code. Write a sentence or two about them so we can include it on their table tent and program.

Early registration is required in order for us to place the food order. Registration will close at 11:59pm on April 13th, so don't miss your chance to attend.

You can sign up today at <https://scoutingevent.com/299-councildinner25>

Council Awards Dinner is scheduled for Thursday, April 24th– Registration will open February 14th

ILST-Intro. to Leadership Skills for Troops

ILST (Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops) is the first big step in leadership training as a Scout. Youths 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 7th to 8:00pm on Saturday, March 8th. 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.

Three meals will be served Saturday for all attendees, plus a snack Friday night.

- Cost of Overnight: \$25 (\$20 for adults)
- Cost of Saturday Only: \$20 (\$15 for adults)

We encourage adults to attend as well so they can learn how best to guide the youth leaders in their units.

Sign up at <https://scoutingevent.com/299-ilst25>