YOUTH SAFETY SUMMIT - AT A GLANCE

8:30 Gathering & Continental Breakfast

9:00 Welcoming - Matt Hill - Scout Executive & CEO, Mid-Iowa Council

9:30 Breakout Session One

Engaging Youth with Autism
George Wangerin - Assistant Scoutmaster, Northern Star Scouting
Mary Wangerin - National Special Needs Committee, Scouting America
Sharing experiences by a mother and son going through the Scouting program, learn of barriers they encountered, changes they impacted, and successes realized.

Youth and Domestic Violence
How to identify, report and work with young people who are either exposed to or are victims of domestic violence

10:45 Breakout Session Two

Suicide Prevention
Ryan Nesbitt - Alive and Running Iowa
Just like CPR, there is an emergency response to someone in crisis and can SAVE lives called QPR - Question. Persuade. Refer. The QPR mission is to reduce suicidal behaviors and save lives by providing innovative, practical and proven suicide prevention training. The signs of crisis are all around us.

Joining Conferences
Kevin Harris - Troop/Crew Committee Chair & Unit Commissioner, Mid-Iowa Council
Onboarding youth/families can be time-consuming. Youth with visible or invisible disabilities can add additional challenges for a volunteer if a plan is not in place. A Joining Conference is a strategy for onboarding new families designed to enable open conversation and reduce concerns of "what can I ask" and "how do I ask it".

Noon BBQ Lunch - Keynote Speaker: Glen Pounder - Chief Safeguarding Officer, Scouting America

1:15 Breakout Session Three

Online Youth Safety Bullying
Jordan Mix - Director of Educational Programming, Iowa Safe Schools
In today's digital world, maintaining a safe online presence is crucial for youth, who are increasingly at risk of cyberbullying and online harassment. This session provides adults—educators, parents, and mentors—with practical strategies to support youth in navigating the digital space safely. Participants will learn to recognize the signs of cyberbullying, how to foster open communication about online behavior, and hone tools for helping youth protect their digital privacy. By the end of the session, attendees will leave with actionable steps to create safe, supportive environments both online and offline for young people.

Male and Female Scouts
Christine Halbrook - Assistant Scoutmaster, Mid-Iowa Council
How to properly guide both male and female Scouts on how to work together and identify what is and isn't appropriate behavior.

Do's and Don'ts of Advancement of Youth with Special Needs
Mary Wangerin - National Special Needs Committee, Scouting America
A "how-to guide" for working with Scouts and their families with special needs as it relates to rank advancement within Scouting America's programs.

2:30 Breakout Session Four

Welcoming & Serving Youth with Special Needs
Mike Ensley & Lisa Shaw, One Body Ministry, Lutheran Church of Hope
Youth with special needs are less likely to participate in extracurricular activities than their peers. Often doors to these opportunities can be challenging to open for youth and caregivers, learn how to be a welcoming organization through planning, relationships, family consultation, and meeting youth where they are.

Traumatic Childhood Experiences
Deputy Lawson, Polk County Sherriff's Office
Explores the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) on long-term emotional, psychological, and physical health. We will examine common forms of childhood trauma, their effects on brain development, and strategies for supporting recovery and resilience in affected individuals.

3:30 Panel Discussion
Glen Pounder - Chief Safeguarding Officer, Scouting America
Jordan Mix - Director of Educational Programming, Iowa Safe Schools
Deputy Lawson, Polk County Sherriff's Office
Mary Wangerin - National Special Needs Committee, Scouting America