

Monthly Newsletter



JULY, 2025

02 POPCORN

ATTENTION, UNIT KERNELS! The Popcorn Quest has begun, and every brave unit must answer the call! To prepare for this fall's adventure you must register in the Pecatonica River Popcorn system.

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Get ready for an exciting season of Scouting fundraising events and dinners! Join us to network, honor impactful community leaders, and explore sponsorship opportunities that support local youth through Scouting.

10 RECYCLE WITH RONALD

We're bringing back our recycling partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities and United Scrap Metal! Recycled aluminum amounts to thousands of dollars for RMHC each year.

Popcorn



Register Now!

[Click Here to Register](#)

2025 PTAC

Popcorn

Registration Instructions:

1. Enter the council key: 118ptac
2. Enter all unit and personal info
3. Click next
4. Enter the type of selling you will be doing
5. Enter the preferred commission structure
6. Click submit.

When registering, don't forget to select your commission structure:

Prizes = physical prizes + up to 34% commission

No Prizes = up to 37% commission

No matter which you choose, your unit is still eligible for patches and all PTAC/PRP incentives!

Council Monthly

Summer Office Hours!

As we move through the summer season, our service centers may have adjusted hours and limited availability. **To ensure we can best assist you, please coordinate with your District Executive to schedule an appointment before visiting.** Thank you for your understanding and continued support of Scouting!

Service Centers

**Chicago
Center for Scouting**
(312) 421-8800 ext.201

**Arlington Heights
Center for Scouting**
(312) 421-8800 ext.208

**La Grange
Center for Scouting**
(312) 421-8800 ext.325

**Robert J. Welsh
Center for Scouting**
(312) 421-8800 ext.251

District Executives

Tall Grass and TriStar District
Michael Hornung, Director of Field Service
michael.hornung@scouting.org (312) 421-8800 ext.252

Thunderbird District
Garry Polodna, Sr. District Executive
garry.polodna@scouting.org (312) 421-8800 236

Calumet District
Raymond Delcourt, Sr. District Executive
raymond.delcourt@scouting.org (312) 421-8800 ext.243

Portage Creek District
Tim Strudeman, Sr. District Executive
tim.strudeman@scouting.org (312) 421-8800 229

Iron Horse District
Isaiah Hardy, District Executive
isaiah.hardy@scouting.org (312) 421-8800 ext.254

Checaugau, Trailblazer, and Five Creeks District
David Tafur, Assistant Director of Field Service
david.tafur@scouting.org (312) 421-8800 246

Aguila District / Soccer in Scouting
Nancy Ithier, Sr. District Executive
nancy.ithier@scouting.org (312) 421-8800 ext.216

Chicago STEM and Exploring
Kristen Vogt, District Director
kristen.vogt@scouting.org (312) 421-8800 232

Prairie Dunes District and Indiana STEM
Kellauna Mack, Assistant Director of Field Service
kellauna.mack@scouting.org (312) 421-8800 ext.266



Welcome to the Team!

It is with great pleasure to introduce Isaiah Hardy to the PTAC team as our new Iron Horse District Executive!

Commissioner's Corner



Safeguarding Youth Training (SYT) is replacing Youth Protection Training (YPT). Scouting America has updated this training receiving input from respected experts in child safety, law enforcement, and child psychology, Scouting America is committed to creating a safe and secure environment for all.

This training is mandatory for all registered adult leaders. The duration of the training is 90 minutes. It is available in English and Spanish. It is required to complete all lessons and score 80% or higher on the final test. After completing the full course once, a 15-minute refresher and retest is required every year to stay current.

All volunteers will be required to take the new Safeguarding Youth Training within the next 12 months.

Bertha Guzman
Council Commissioner



Recruitment Readiness

July Membership Article

Welcome to your July monthly Membership newsletter article. As we welcome summer's arrival, this month's article will touch on Membership Renewal, National Night Out and Fall Recruitment Readiness. There will be additional information shared on our Membership Website, August PTAC Newsletters and during our Roundtable Kick-offs. This year's recruitment theme is, **"Adventure is Calling! – We're Ready, Are You?"**

Membership Renewal Update: Please remember that Membership Renewal is an ongoing monthly process. If your unit has any members in their "Lapse Period", your District or Unit Commissioner, District Membership Chair, District Chair and / or your DE will be reaching out to you asking, "How Can We Help". The purpose of this contact is to assist our units to ensure that no Scout or Scouter was inadvertently dropped off your roster.

National Night Out (NNO): This year, the 2025 National Night Out will be on Tuesday, August 5th. This is an excellent opportunity to use this event as a "springboard" for your Fall Recruitment since there will be at least 45 Illinois cities and 5 NW Indiana cities participating within PTAC. Please go to the NNO website (<https://natw.org>) if you have any questions or to see if your city is participating as new cities register on a regular basis. Please work with your District Membership Chair and DE to get materials for this community event.

Fall Recruitment Readiness: At our Roundtable Kick-offs, we will stress the importance behind preparing for Fall Recruitment. The first step any unit should take is to ensure that your BeAScout Pin is active and current, which includes all pertinent contact information. Most important, your Pin Mode should be set to "Allow Units to Update Pin information" so you can make the necessary updates. If your pin is set to "Council Mode", please reach out to your District Membership Chair, your District Executive, or myself (arrek1@hotmail.com) so we can change this designation to allow your unit to make all updates to your unit's pin.

Next, please continue to address your online Leads and Applications in a timely manner. For your Leads, please respond to those families within 72 hours and if necessary, follow up with those families in a week if they do not answer your initial response. We need to remember that we cannot make a second first impression. The purpose behind this lead is that families are actually recruiting your unit as their child wants to join Scouting.

This year, there will be flyers, postcards, bookmarks, stickers and gliders with the new graphics. Our Packs will have access to Yard Signs that will have the option to attach a flyer on the backside. Our new families will receive a Welcome Kit, that will be mailed to their home, once their application is processed. Within these Welcome Kits, families will be given information and stickers that can be used to recruit their friends. Please attend your Roundtable Kick-off so you can learn about and obtain all our new recruitment materials.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for all your hard work and dedication to ensure our youth, and their families can experience a Quality Scouting program. Please remember, a successful recruitment program, for both youth and adults, should be 24/7 as it can take multiple contacts to recruit a new family to join Scouting. Please read future newsletters, visit our Membership Website, and attend your District Roundtables for additional information. If you have any questions, please work with your District Membership Chair, District Executive, and your Unit Commissioner.

**Yours In Scouting,
Rick Romani – PTAC Membership VP**

Cub Scout Day Camp



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Calling all Cub Scouts, family, and friends! Make the most of your summer with Cub Scout Day Camp! We are offering multiple Saturday opportunities to enjoy the outdoors with us at a location near you. Expect many exciting themed activities, crafts, range and target sports, and games! This summer season, sign up today and experience the fun-filled thrills of Cub Scout Day Camp!

Please bring lunch and a water bottle!

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Along with a day packed with fun, participating Scouts will get a Day Camp T-shirt to remember the day! Scouts will get to take home the crafts they make.

FUN ACTIVITIES!

- STEM AND CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES
- CREATIVE ENGINEERING
- ARTS & CRAFTS
- OUTDOOR GAMES
- HANDS-ON LEARNING
- RANGE & TARGET SPORTS

* ACTIVITIES VARY BY LOCATION

2025 FEES

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Scouts | \$35 |
| Siblings & Friends | \$35 |
| Adults | FREE |

2025 SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JULY 26 9AM - 4PM

Oak Lawn
Columbus Manor Park

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2 9AM - 4PM

Schaumburg
Our Saviour's United Methodist Church

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9 9AM - 4PM

Park Ridge
Catherine Chevalier Woods Picnic Grove #2

**CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER!**



Special Fundraising Events



LaSalle Street

September 10 | 5:30 – 8:30pm
Wintrust Bank | 231 South LaSalle Street

Join us for an evening of connection, inspiration, and giving back to the movement that helps young people discover Chicago's financial district. You can expect exciting Pinewood Derby racing at the iconic and historic Wintrust Bank lobby as you enjoy libations and food stations that will fuel your competitive spirit.

Come for the networking and stay for the race! Expect 3 hours of open bar, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and live music!

MORE INFO HERE



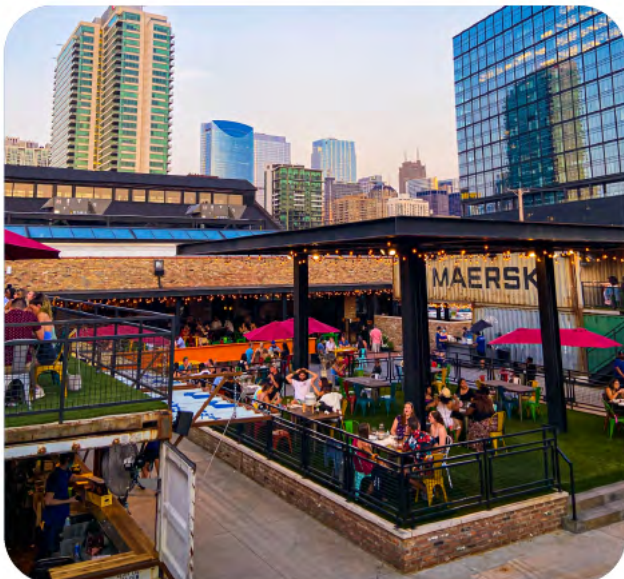
Golf Classic

October 6 | Registration 9am | Shotgun Start 11am
White Eagle Golf Club | 3400 Club Drive, Naperville

Don't miss this opportunity to golf at an exclusive private golf and country club in the Chicago area! All friends & family of Scouting are welcome!

A variety of sponsorships are available, perfect for individuals, companies, and community partners looking to make an impact. All proceeds benefit local Scouting programs!

MORE INFO HERE



Construction Industry Scout Event

October 9 | VIP Reception 4:30pm | Doors Open 5:30pm
City Hall / Recess | 838 West Kinzie Street

Forget the formal dinner — we're taking this year's event to City Hall/ Recess in Chicago's West Loop!

• Craft Cocktails • Chef-Driven Food Stations • Nonstop Networking

Come connect with construction industry professionals, eat, drink, and celebrate Scouting in style!

MORE INFO HERE

Special Fundraising Events



Whitney M. Young, Jr. Service Awards Dinner

October 22 | VIP Reception 6pm | Doors Open 6:30pm
The Ivy Room At Tree Studios | 12 East Ohio Street # 100

This award is presented in recognition of outstanding community service in the development and implementation of opportunities for youth from disadvantaged communities.

2025 Honorees:

- U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth of Illinois
- Simon Cotton, Sr., Scoutmaster, Troop 778
- Donovan Pepper, Walgreens
- Tyronne Stoudemire, Hyatt Corporation

MORE INFO HERE

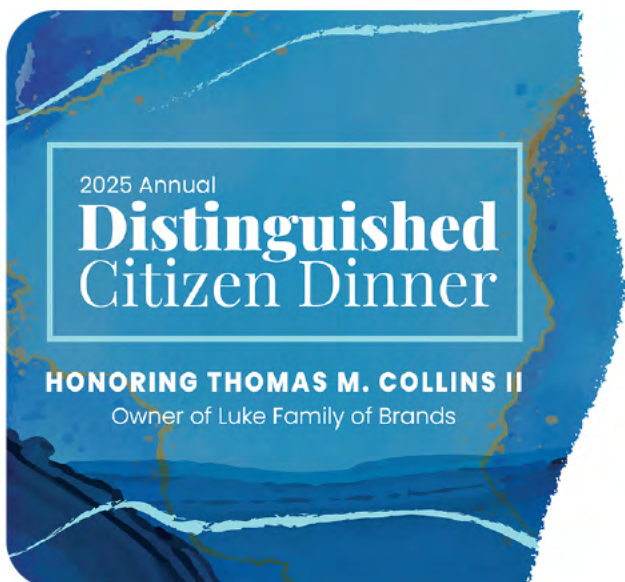


George Meany Celebration

November 20 | 6pm
IUOE Local 399 | 2260 South Grove Street

Join us as we honor Patrick J. Kelly, President And Business Manager, International Union Of Operating Engineers Local 399, for his contributions to labor and unions. Enjoy drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and the camaraderie of fellow union supporters as we celebrate the strength and solidarity of our community and the Scouting movement.

MORE INFO HERE



Indiana Distinguished Citizen Dinner

November 12 | 6 - 8:30pm
Center for Visual & Performing Arts | 1040 Ridge Road, Munster, IN

For 35 years, PTAC has honored top leaders in Northwest Indiana at the annual Distinguished Citizens Award Dinner. This year, we recognize Thomas M. Collins II, Owner of Luke Family of Brands, for his dedication to service, community, and youth development. All proceeds from this event benefit local Scouting programs.

MORE INFO HERE

Time Trek Camporee

Scouting America
Pathway to Adventure Council



TIME TREK CAMPOREE:

JOURNEY THROUGH THE AGES

CAMPOREE
COUNTDOWN: **80 DAYS**

READY TO TAKE A JOURNEY THROUGH
TIME AT OUR TIME TREK CAMPOREE?

Register now at www.pathwaytoadventure.org/camporee/

**SIGN UP
HERE**



**TIME TREK CAMPOREE
TRADING POST**

NOW OPEN

The Time Trek Trading Post is
officially open—stock up on exclusive
Camporee merch, from t-shirts and
hoodies to hats and sweatpants!
We've got everything you need to
outfit your adventure through time.

SHOP NOW!

Program Partner Events



Santa's Village
Amusement & Water Park

Corporate Discount Partner Tickets

ANY DAY TICKETS \$29.99
EACH WITH PROMO CODE:
2025CDP

Tickets valid any operating day 2025 May-October
Includes both amusement and water park

Santa's Village Tickets

Looking for affordable family fun this summer?

Purchase Any-Day General Admission Tickets to Santa's Village Amusement & Water Park for just \$29.99 each with promo code 2025CDP.

Not sure what day you'll visit? Want the flexibility to change your plans with no extra costs? This deal is perfect for you! These tickets are valid any operating day from May to October; no need to pick your date in advance.

Don't miss out on this exclusive discount!

BUY TICKETS HERE

Construction Trades Fair

Come and support CISCO's 4th Annual Union Construction Trades Fair!

Attend for FREE at IBEW Local 134 on Friday, July 11th, from 10-2:00 PM, school-age students who attend will receive free school supplies

This free event opens the door to hands-on exploration of rewarding careers in union construction. Whether you're a student, job seeker, or simply curious about the trades, there's something for everyone.

RSVP HERE



4TH ANNUAL UNION CONSTRUCTION TRADES FAIR

Register TODAY!

Open to the public
Friday, July 11

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
IBEW Local 134
2722 S. Martin Luther King Dr.,
Chicago

While supplies last, school supplies will be provided to school age students present

Event sponsored by:
CISCO

For more information, contact CISCO Education-to-Careers Director Janelle Muhammad at 312-771-4891 or email her at: jmuhammad@cisco.org

Recycle with Ronald

We're bringing back our recycling partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities and United Scrap Metal! Recycled aluminum amounts to tens of thousands of dollars for RMHC each year. You are making it possible for families to stay close to their children while they are in the hospital.

Here's how to participate:

- Collect pop tabs in gallon containers or aluminum cans in garbage bags
- Drop them off on Friday, October 18 between 9AM-2PM
- United Scrap Metal, 1545 S. Cicero Ave., Cicero, IL 60804

If you drop off your collection on October 18, all participants get a free facility tour, free food, and access to 25+ 3D model stations and onsite 3D printing—plus you'll learn how metal is recycled and help support families in need. Earn a patch for your good turn and help make a difference in our community!

SAVE THE DATE



Scout Nights



NASCAR CHICAGO STREET RACE

Experience the thrill of NASCAR in the heart of Chicago with an exclusive Scout discount! The NASCAR Chicago Street Race is happening July 5-6, 2025. For General Admission only, Kids 12 and under are free! Groups will pick up their youth tickets at the box office when they check-in the day of the event. **Before selecting your tickets, enter promo code SCOUTSCHI in the filter section to apply the special Scout discount. Questions? Contact: Luke Brom at lbrom@nascar.com**

NASCAR TICKETS



Northwest Indiana Oilmen vs. Hammond Vikings

Friday, July 11 | 6:35 PM | Oil City Stadium

Two Scouts will be selected as Honorary Batboy and Batgirl for the game.

One Scout, who stays for the entire game, will win a Six-person Dome Tent with Screen Porch, compliments of Cabela's in Hammond.

Notify Garry.Polodna@Scouting.org with names of Scouts who will be attending.

OILMEN TICKETS



Chicago Sky vs. Minnesota Lynx

Saturday, July 12 | 12:00 PM | Wintrust Arena

Email dbrinsoin@chicagosky.com and let them know you're with Pathway To Adventure

SKY TICKETS



Gary Railcats vs. Lake Country Dockhounds

Saturday, July 12 | 4:00 PM | Steel Yard

Use promo code PathwayJuly12 at checkout

RAILCATS TICKETS



Chicago Stars vs. Portland Thorns

Sunday, September 14 | 2:00 PM | SeatGeek Stadium

STARS TICKETS

Wood Badge



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Wood Badge is a comprehensive leadership course, tailored to help Scouters grow their skills far beyond basic Scouting knowledge with techniques applicable in their Scouting, work, and home life. The next PTAC Wood Badge course will be held at Camp Betz over two weekends: April 10-12 and April 25-26, 2026.

For adult leaders ready to push their comfort zone and engage in this meaningful leadership journey, Wood Badge is waiting! **To learn more — including information about scholarships, testimonials from past participants, and how to register — visit the Wood Badge website today.**

WEBPAGE HERE

WHAT TO EXPECT

- INSTRUCTION & MENTORSHIP BY SKILLED STAFFERS
- TEAM-BASED LEARNING IN THE PATROL METHOD
- IMMERSIVE, OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES
- REAL-TIME LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
- PRACTICAL GOAL DEVELOPMENT
- LIFELONG CONNECTIONS



WEEKEND 1

April 10 @7am - April 12 @5pm

WEEKEND 2

April 25 @7am - April 26 @5pm

PRICING:

Early Bird - \$300

By Dec. 17, 2025

Regular - \$325

Starting Dec. 18, 2025

LOCATION:

Camp Frank S. Betz

3858 E. Snow Rd.

Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Questions? Contact:

PathwayWoodbadge@gmail.com

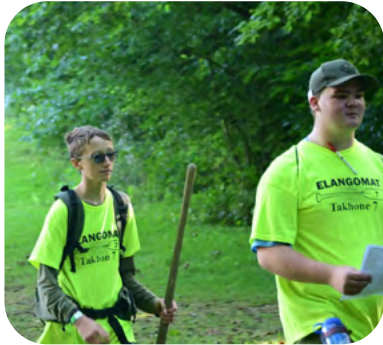
Order of the Arrow



Recently Elected To The OA?

Congratulations on your election to the Order of the Arrow! We hope you are as we are that you are about to join our lodge! We know it can be difficult to navigate your ordeal weekend, so we have put together some resources and information for you on our website. Visit www.aa7.org/ordeal for some information on how to complete your induction!

MORE INFO HERE



Summer Betz Fellowship

Join us for the Survivor-Themed Summer Fellowship on August 8-10 at Camp Betz! There will be food, fun, fellowship, and of course, a great weekend of inductions! See you there!

REGISTER HERE



Owasippe Brotherhood Ceremonies

If it has been at least six months since you have completed your ordeal, you are eligible for Brotherhood membership in the Order of the Arrow! You can complete this on Tuesday nights all weeks at Owasippe.

REGISTER HERE



Fall Betz Fellowship

We will see you from September 5-7 for the final fellowship of the year! Come out and complete your ordeal, earn your brotherhood, or just have a great time with fellow Arrowmen!

REGISTER HERE

VIGIL WEEKEND

Congrats to all Vigil Candidates!

Saul C.
Lucca D.
Macey K.

Kirk L.
Ashlee L.
William P.
Brian R.
Ashley S.M
Ben S.
Stasiu S.
Joshua Z.
Austin R.

Katie Hogan
Jeff Jewell
Zak Lavaty
David Levsky
Eric Linder
Drew Morton
William Myers
Garry Polodna
Tyler Pondel

Kevin Ranos
Justin Schaff
Katelyn Wallace

**Vigil Weekend is at
Camp Betz, August 23-
24, 2025 [click here for
registration!](#)**

Council Committees News

Faith Relations Committee

Upcoming Events

- June through September 2025 Philmont adult trainings: [Schedule Here](#) Adult Religious Trainings July 6-12
- September 9-14, 2025 -The World Muslim Scouts Jamboree 2025 is a unique event uniting Muslim Scouts globally. Hosted at the National Scout Camp in Cibubur, Jakarta, it celebrates unity, leadership, and Scouting values. [More Information Here](#)
- October 1, 2025 Applications are due for the **July 1-18, 2026** Catholic St. George Trek at Philmont Scout Ranch- [More information](#) and [Archdiocese of Chicago Application](#)
- October 4, 2025 -Fishers of Men fishing event at Mundelein Seminary presented by the Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Committee on Scouting. **Additional Fishing Merit Badge Counselor needed.** Open to Catholic Scouts of all ages. [More information](#)

Interfaith Religious Celebrations

[View July Religious Holidays Here](#)

Please research further into each faith's celebrations to have a better understanding of what your fellow Scouts celebrate.

Scouts and Neighborhood Religious Activities

If your scouts are participating in local Religious Activities or receiving religious awards, please send a short write up to ptacfaithrelations@gmail.com along with a picture for use in a future article.

Religious Emblems

Many religions have their own rules on how to achieve Religious Emblems. [P.R.A.Y.](#) offers many of the workbooks. You can check on the [National Scouting website](#) for more information or check the [All Religions Chart](#) at P.R.A.Y. You can click through the chart to get more information from your particular religion. A few links are not working.

Known issues include: [Jewish Emblems](#) and [Zoroastrian Emblems](#)

Is your Scout Unit or a group of Scouts working on a Religious Emblem? Are you also willing to invite other scouts to join with you to achieve their emblem too? Please fill out this [Google Form Religious Emblem Opportunities](#) either way.

Are you a Scout looking for a group to join? Please fill out this [Google Form: Religious Emblem Requests](#)

We will do our best to connect you or help you create a group.



Do You Have A Scout Story To Share?

Don't keep the good work your Scouts do a secret. Tell us what they did and send a couple pictures. We might put your story on our social media or perhaps your Scout will be the feature in our next story.

Help get Scouts the recognition they deserve!

SHARE HERE!

Scouting America
Pathway to Adventure Council

Follow Us



@PathwayToAdventure



@PathwayToAdventure



Pathway To Adventure Council



Pathway To Adventure Council

Contact Us



(312) 421-8800



PathwayTo.Adventure@Scouting.org



Arlington Heights Center for Scouting

617 E. Golf Rd., Suite 101 | Arlington Heights, IL 60005

Chicago Center for Scouting

106 N. Aberdeen St., Suite 200 | Chicago, IL 60607

La Grange Center for Scouting

27 Calendar Ave., 2nd Floor | La Grange, IL 60525

Robert J. Welsh Center for Scouting

8751 Calumet Ave. | Munster, IN 46321