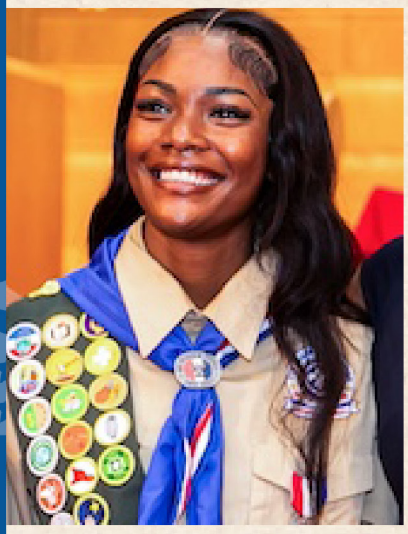
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Scouting America
Pathway to Adventure Council

2026
NOVEMBER










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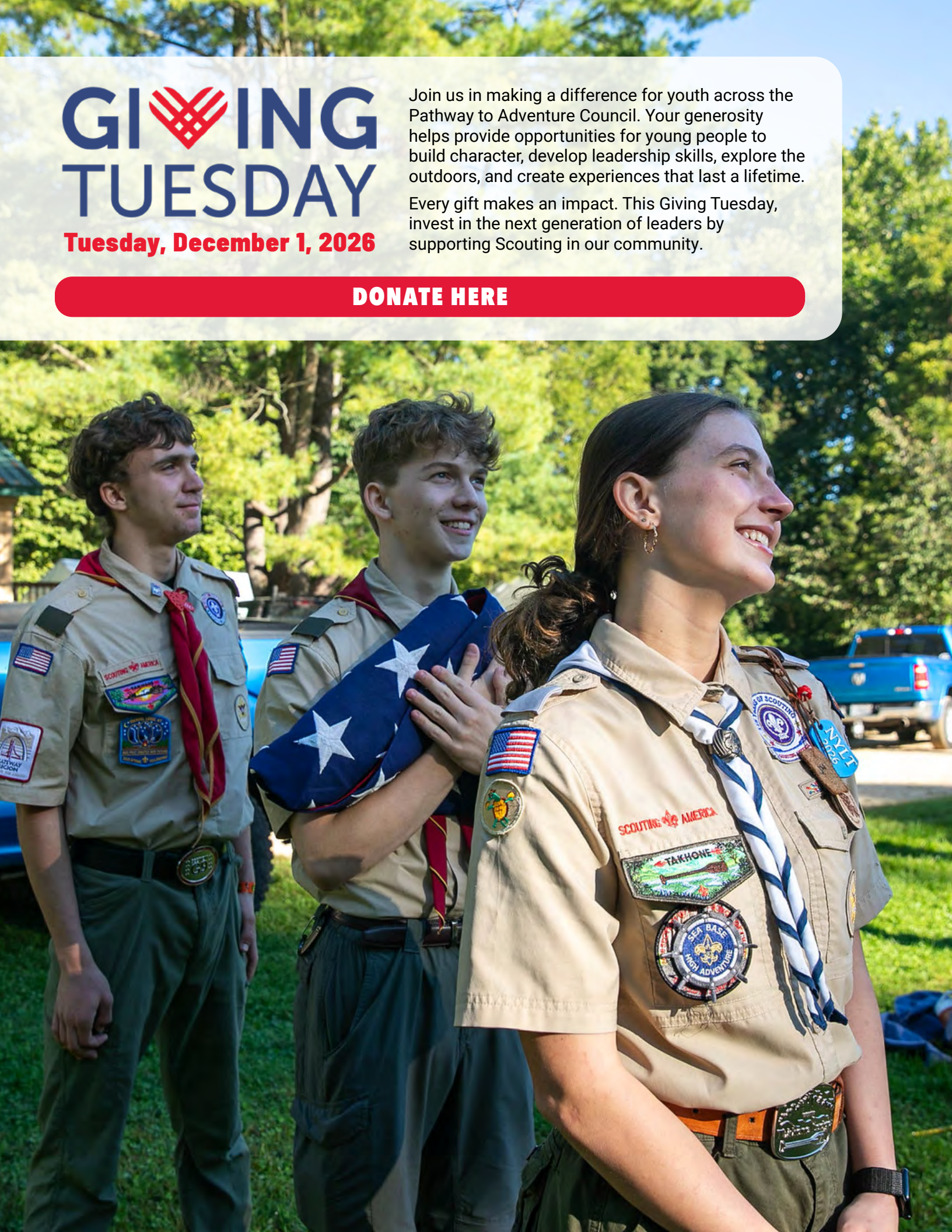
GIVING TUESDAY

Tuesday, December 1, 2026

Join us in making a difference for youth across the Pathway to Adventure Council. Your generosity helps provide opportunities for young people to build character, develop leadership skills, explore the outdoors, and create experiences that last a lifetime.

Every gift makes an impact. This Giving Tuesday, invest in the next generation of leaders by supporting Scouting in our community.

DONATE HERE



2026 PTAC UNIT RENEWAL GUIDE

(Charters that Expire on December 31, 2026)

All units must be renewed no later than December 31, 2026. Units that don't renew on or before December 31st will be dropped; *there is no longer a grace period.*

Review the items below to ensure a smooth unit renewal process.

- Units will, by default, register for a 14-month term, with a pro-rated fee of $8.50 per month. All renewed units will have a new expiration date of February 29, 2028.
- All unit leaders must be current with their Safeguarding Youth Training (SYT) certification PRIOR to completing the unit renewal.
- All unit leaders who have an SYT expiration date in January 2027 should renew their certification before the unit renewal is processed.
- Minimum Adult Positions Required for ALL units:
  - Charter Organization Representative (1)
  - Committee Chair (1)
  - Committee Members* (2, minimum)
    - *New Member Coordinator & Pack Trainer meet the minimum criteria.
  - Unit Leader (1)
    - Cubmaster (Pack), Scoutmaster (Troop), Advisor (Crew), Skipper (Ship)
  - Den Leader (1, minimum) – ***requirement only for Packs.***
- Units must renew with a minimum of 5 primary (paid) youth registered (multiple registration youth do not meet the minimum requirement).
- Youth who turn 18 years of age must complete an adult application (pages 3 & 6) and SYT certification, within a month of their birthday, to maintain active membership.
  - Can register as an Asst. Scoutmaster or Unit College Reserve in a troop
  - Can register as a Unit Participant, through the age of 20, in a Crew or Ship.
- ***Start early!*** The holidays will be here soon, complete the unit renewal by November.
- All new adult leaders recruited in the fall should have an adult application (pages 3 & 6, or online) and SYT certification completed and submitted by end of October!
  - It is recommended that volunteer position changes be made before a member is renewed, prior to the unit renewal submission.
- Encourage youth working on their Eagle Rank to submit their paperwork for Council
- approval by December 15th.

Units that don't renew before December 31 will experience a disruption in access to ALL Scouting America membership and resources!

AWARD NOMINATIONS

NESA Outstanding Eagle Scout Award

The NOESA recognizes those Eagle Scouts who have inspired others through their actions and have devoted a lifetime to their profession, avocation, community, and beliefs at great sacrifice to themselves and their families. The award recognizes notable Eagle Scouts who have either performed distinguished service who were known nationally for their achievements.

Nominations are due by 11:59 PM on November 23, 2026. The award will be presented as part of the Youth Recognition Dinner.

FORM HERE

Council Alumnus of the Year Award

The award recognizes an individual who reminds Scouting alumni to maintain a lifetime relationship with Scouting. Potential recipients may be nominated based career or avocation, community service, contributions to Scouting, Scouting promotion, and/or advancement of the Scouting alumni program.

Nominations are due by November 23, 2026. The award will be presented as part of the Council Recognition Dinner.

Direct submissions to: ptac.nesa@gmail.com

FORM HERE

Silver Beaver



The Silver Beaver Award is intended to acknowledge noteworthy service of exceptional character to youth by registered Scouters within the territory under the jurisdiction of Pathway to Adventure. It is the highest award a Scouting America Council can bestow upon a volunteer Scouter.

Spencer Long, Silver Beaver Chairman at spencer.long@gmail.com
or Wes Weems, Silver Beaver Staff Advisor at wesley.weems@scouting.org

Nominations are due by November 23, 2026. The award will be presented as part of the Council Recognition Dinner.

FORM HERE

Venturing Leadership Award

In order to recognize Venturers and Venturing Advisors who have made exceptional contributions and who exemplify the Scout Oath and Law, councils, territories, and the BSA National Council may present individuals with the Venturing Leadership Award.

Nominations are due by November 23, 2026. This award will be presented at the Youth & Council Recognition Dinner

Submit To: ptac.advancement@gmail.com

FORM HERE

AWARD NOMINATIONS



Torch of Gold Award

This award recognizes adults for exceptional service and leadership working with Scouts who have disabilities. Awardees must have at least three years of service that includes educating other Scouters about disabilities and working with youth who have disabilities.

Nominations are due by November 23, 2026. The award will be presented as part of the Council Recognition Dinner.

Direct submissions to: ptac.nesa@gmail.com

FORM HERE



Special Needs Scouting Service Award

Nominations are now open for the Special Needs Scouting Service Award! This award recognizes registered adult leaders or Scouting professionals who have taken direct action on behalf of Scouts with special needs while promoting inclusiveness, diversity, and disability awareness in Scouting.

Nominations are due by November 23, 2026. The award will be presented as part of the Council Recognition Dinner.

Direct submissions to: ptac.advancement@gmail.com

FORM HERE



Distinguished Conservation Service Award Presentation - Amelia Votava

Please attend Amelia Votava's presentation at the Merit Badge College on November 14 to learn how to earn Scouting America's Distinguished Conservation Service Award. Amelia earned her DCSA in 2024 and will share many useful tips to help Scouts pursue this prestigious award.

REGISTER HERE

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



Merit Badge College

Saturday, November 14 at Purdue University Northwest

Join us Saturday, November 14 at Purdue University Northwest (Hammond, IN) for a full day of learning, growth, and fun! Scouts can explore a variety of Eagle-required and elective merit badges, ranging from Citizenship in the World to Game Design and even for our newly-added AI merit badge!

Merit badge counselors and volunteers are also needed! If you are interested in helping, or if your Scout needs extra support to be successful attending this event, please email PTACmeritbadgecollege@gmail.com for details.

REGISTER HERE



Toy & Game Fair

Nov. 7-8, at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont

Try out the newest toys and games before they hit stores, join tournaments and inventor challenges, and dive into interactive exhibits the whole family will love. The Scouts will even have a 40 foot long Pinewood Derby Track, and you can build your own car!

Scouts in uniform get FREE admission!

Saturday, Nov. 7 | 10 AM–6 PM Sunday, Nov. 8 | 10 AM–5 PM

REGISTER HERE



Medical Learning Series

Wednesday, November 18, 7:00 - 7:30PM Zoom

Scouts can meet virtually with a panel of medical professionals and get real time answers to their questions about careers in the medical field.

Doctors from a variety of specialties will answer your questions about their education, practices, career paths and what it took to get there live online during monthly sessions.

REGISTER HERE

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

2027 Owasippe Reservations OPEN!

For assistance you can email or call our PTAC Camp Helpdesk between 8:30 am and 5 pm central time. ptac.camping@scouting.org - 224-324-4956

BLACKHAWK | WOLVERINE | RENEKER



Who 'Dun It? Council Camporee

Save the Date! Who 'Dun It? 2027 Council Camporee
September 24-26, 2027 — Sandwich Fairgrounds, IL

A mystery is unfolding... Join us for Who 'Dun It 2027 Council Camporee! Get ready for a weekend of mystery, teamwork, and adventure. Scouts, family, and friends of all ages are invited!

Mark your calendars - more details are coming soon!

SAVE THE DATE

Pinewood Derby at Woodfield Mall

March 13, 2027 — 10am-4pm — Woodfield Mall

All PTAC Scouts are invited to attend a day of thrilling spead and creativity as we gear up for the 2027 Council Pinewood Derby at Woodfield Mall. All entrants compete in both Race and Best Design events. Races for all age brackets including Alumni!

REGISTER HERE

EXPLORING™
DISCOVER YOUR FUTURE

tma | Education Foundation

Technology Manufacturing Association Exploring Club

Is your Scout between the ages of 11 and 14 and curious about how things are made? Join our Manufacturing Exploring Program from November through May to tour local manufacturing facilities, participate in hands-on activities, and connect with industry professionals who can help you discover exciting career opportunities.

Contact Kristen Vogt, Director of Exploring, at kristen.vogt@scouting.org

EMAIL HERE | MORE INFO HERE

WOOD BADGE 2027

The leaves are falling and the days are getting shorter. The squirrels are burying acorns with productive determination. Come spring, many of those acorns will sprout- perhaps one day to become mighty oaks.

In like fashion, your devoted Wood Badge staff are busy right now preparing a fantastic Spring course just for you. They'll help you gather the choicest acorns (your best ideas) and guide you in planting them so they have the surest chance of growing into mighty impacts on your scouting community.

Who should take Wood Badge? Wood Badge is for the brand new leader, and for the one who has already "done it all", and for everyone else in-between. Wood Badge is the opportunity to make new friends, see things from a new perspective, and leave inspired to make the greatest positive impact on the youth you serve. In short, Wood Badge is for you! Sign up now- we'll see you in the Spring!

REGISTER HERE











RECRUITMENT READINESS

Our November Membership article about Arrow of Light (AOL) Scouts, supports our "Leave No Scout or Families Behind" theme and is another part of Fall Recruitment for our Troops. Packs and Troops need to work in unison to ensure our AOL Scouts Crossover before the end of February. This is an important time as Crossovers are the main recruitment activity for our Troops. Having a registered and trained New Member Coordinator (NMC) in your Troop can play a key role and help Welcome and Onboard these new Scouts and Families to your unit. As your AOL Scouts are getting ready to cross over to a Troop, here are a few tips to help our Packs and Troops to prepare your Scout's readiness for Arrow of Light-to-Scouts Transition this year and potentially identify areas of opportunity for next year.

Packs:

- Develop a working relationship with the leadership of a Scouts BSA troop(s) in your community
  - Most troops should have either as assistant Scoutmaster, NMC, or committee member assigned to the new Scouts
  - Your Unit Commissioner can help put you in contact with those troop leaders
- Ensure AOL Scouts visit a troop as early as possible, this is a requirement for the required Bobcat Adventure
- If unsure about a Troop, make an unannounced visit to verify how that troop operates
- Work with troop leaders to secure den chiefs, with a focus on AOL dens and get assistance delivering AOL Adventures
- Invite the Scoutmaster and troop youth leaders to special pack activities to create a level of comfort for the AOL Scouts and their parents
- Plan a meaningful crossover ceremony and include troop leadership to accept the AOL Scouts as they graduate

Troops:

- Become familiar with the six required Adventures and at least two elective Adventures required to earn the AOL rank
- Reach out to Packs in your neighborhood to offer helping their AOL Dens with these Adventures
- Schedule and prepare for AOL Scouts visit a troop meeting and outing as soon as possible
- Select Scouts to serve as den chiefs for each AOL den & arrange for den chief training
- Serve as a resource for overnight activities as your unit can provide equipment, leadership, and logistics for AOL den or pack campouts
- Conduct orientation for parents when AOL Scouts are visiting your troop that includes the difference between Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA and how the AOL rank will help prepare them for joining your troop
- Include information on Summer Camp to allow families to prepare financially
- Get to know the parents and leaders in the AOL dens, which includes having one-on-one discussions about how they can assist the troop when their child joins
- Work with Cubmaster and AOL den leader in planning a meaningful crossover ceremony

Additional information regarding the Arrow of Light-to-Scouts Transition can be found at: https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/resources/recruitment-marketing/webelos-to-scouts-transition/. This information covers Arrow of Light Required Adventures, Unit Responsibilities details, Unit Commissioner Responsibilities, District Arrow of Light Transition Chair along with the Keys for a 12-month Arrow of Light-to-Scout Plan.

In closing, it should be the goal of our Pack and Troop leadership to have our AOL Scouts and their families continue their Scouting experience. We need to remember that all our new and existing Families, Scouts and Leaders need to be "Seen, Heard and Included". 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. A successful recruitment and retention program, for both youth and adults, should be 24/7 as it can take multiple contacts to recruit a new family, but one bad contact to lose that family. 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

FAITH RELATIONS

Upcoming Holidays

Choose a faith that isn't yours and learn more about the religious holidays your fellow Scouts celebrate. Please note that the red note at the beginning of each month only applies if you have Scouts of those faiths in your unit.

2026 HOLIDAYS

Religious Activities

If your Scouts are participating in local Religious Activities, please send a short write up to ptacfaithrelations@gmail.com. We will try to include it in the newsletter.

EMAIL US HERE

Religious Emblems Coordinators

The committee is looking for a few more people to cover the following districts:

Checaugau, Iron Horse, Tall Grass, Thunderbird, & Trailblazer

For more information, please contact Donna at ptacfaithrelations@gmail.com.

EMAIL US HERE

Upcoming Events



Scouts Read Sacred Texts

Last year Pathway to Adventure Council placed 7th for Council participation worldwide. Let's get closer to 1st!

Youth can participate anytime between Oct. 1, 2026 & May 31, 2027, in conjunction with the National Day of Prayer on May 6, 2027. We invite all Scouts. Scouters and youth-serving organizations to join us!

REGISTER HERE



100th Anniversary of the Catholic Ad Altare Dei Religious Emblem.

- All year long, any Scout who has earned their Ad Altare Dei award may order the anniversary patch and neckerchief.

MORE INFO HERE

SPECIAL NEEDS IN SCOUTING

National Caregiver Appreciation Day: Celebrating the Heart Behind Every Scout

National Caregiver Appreciation Day is an opportunity to recognize the parents, guardians, and caregivers who help make Scouting a meaningful and successful experience for every Scout.

Behind many Scouts is a dedicated adult who provides encouragement, coordinates schedules, helps prepare for activities, communicates with leaders, and celebrates achievements both big and small. Many also serve as their Scout's strongest advocate, helping unit leaders understand individual needs, identify appropriate supports, and create opportunities for their Scout to participate, learn, and grow.

For families of Scouts with special needs, this partnership can be especially important. Parents and guardians often share valuable insights about their Scout's strengths, challenges, communication styles, and strategies for success. When families and Scouting volunteers work together, they help create an environment where Scouts can build confidence, develop friendships, learn new skills, and experience the adventure of Scouting.

Pathway to Adventure Council's Special Needs Scouting Committee is here to help! Visit our Special Needs in Scouting webpage for resources to help families and Scouting leaders support Scouts with special needs. Whether you are looking for guidance, resources, or ideas to help your Scout succeed, please know that you are not alone. Our committee is here to support you and your Scout throughout your Scouting journey.

At Pathway to Adventure Council, we recognize that every Scout's journey is unique. The time, patience, advocacy, and love provided by caregivers make a lasting difference-not only in the lives of their own Scouts, but also in the strength of our Scouting community.

To all the parents, guardians, and caregivers who stand beside our Scouts: Thank you! Your dedication helps Scouts discover their potential, overcome challenges, and achieve more than they may have thought possible. Today, we celebrate you and the important role you play in helping every Scout succeed.

WEBPAGE HERE

PTAC SPECIAL NEEDS IN SCOUTING WEBPAGE

pathwaytoadventure.org/special-needs-in-scouting/

NATIONAL SPECIAL NEEDS IN SCOUTING WEBPAGE

scouting.org/resources/disabilities-awareness/



ORDER OF THE ARROW



Recently Elected

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

MORE INFO

Unit Leader Dinner/Election Training

Unit leader Dinners are back in 2026! There will be three dates for the dinners North, Central, and South.

Northern- November 5th @ St. Andrew's Lutheran Church @ 7 PM (Park Ridge, IL).

Central- November 9th @ Union Church of Hinsdale @ 7 PM (Hinsdale, IL).

Southern- November 16th @ St. John Lutheran Church @ 7 PM (Lansing, IL).

This is an opportunity to promote the OA by getting a free dinner! Come by, meet unit leaders in your area and show them what the OA can do for their home units! NEW THIS YEAR! Mock elections!! After the dinner, stay and get unit election training! See how the lodge runs an election!

NOAC Sign-Ups OPEN

There are just 328 days until the National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC), don't let the time slip by and pass up this opportunity. Register today and guarantee yourself a spot at an event that brings together up to 8,000 Arrowmen from across the country, only second to Jamboree.

Save the Date - July 26-31, 2027

Where - University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

REGISTER HERE

Brotherhood Eligible

Hello Arrowmen! We are pleased to announce that we will be performing a brand new Brotherhood ceremony at our next Brotherhood Bash! Everyone who completed their induction in May is eligible to complete their Brotherhood!

The November Brotherhood bash will take place at the Des Planes Izaac Walton on Saturday November 7th. The brotherhood workshop will be held on the Wednesday before the bash, as well as the day of the bash. Please be sure to register beforehand!

REGISTER HERE

We are Hiring at the Arlington Heights Scout Shop

Working for Scouting America is always an adventure.

Working for the Scout Shop is not just a retail sales job. You get to help volunteers, on a daily basis, navigate through all of the programs Scouting America offers.

The job does require some sales experience, cash handling, sewing experience (we can teach), the ability to have fun, and help customers find what they need.

We are looking for a few good people for this Fall and beyond. Recruitment season is here, and we need people to help guide new Scouts and Scouters with their program and uniform needs.

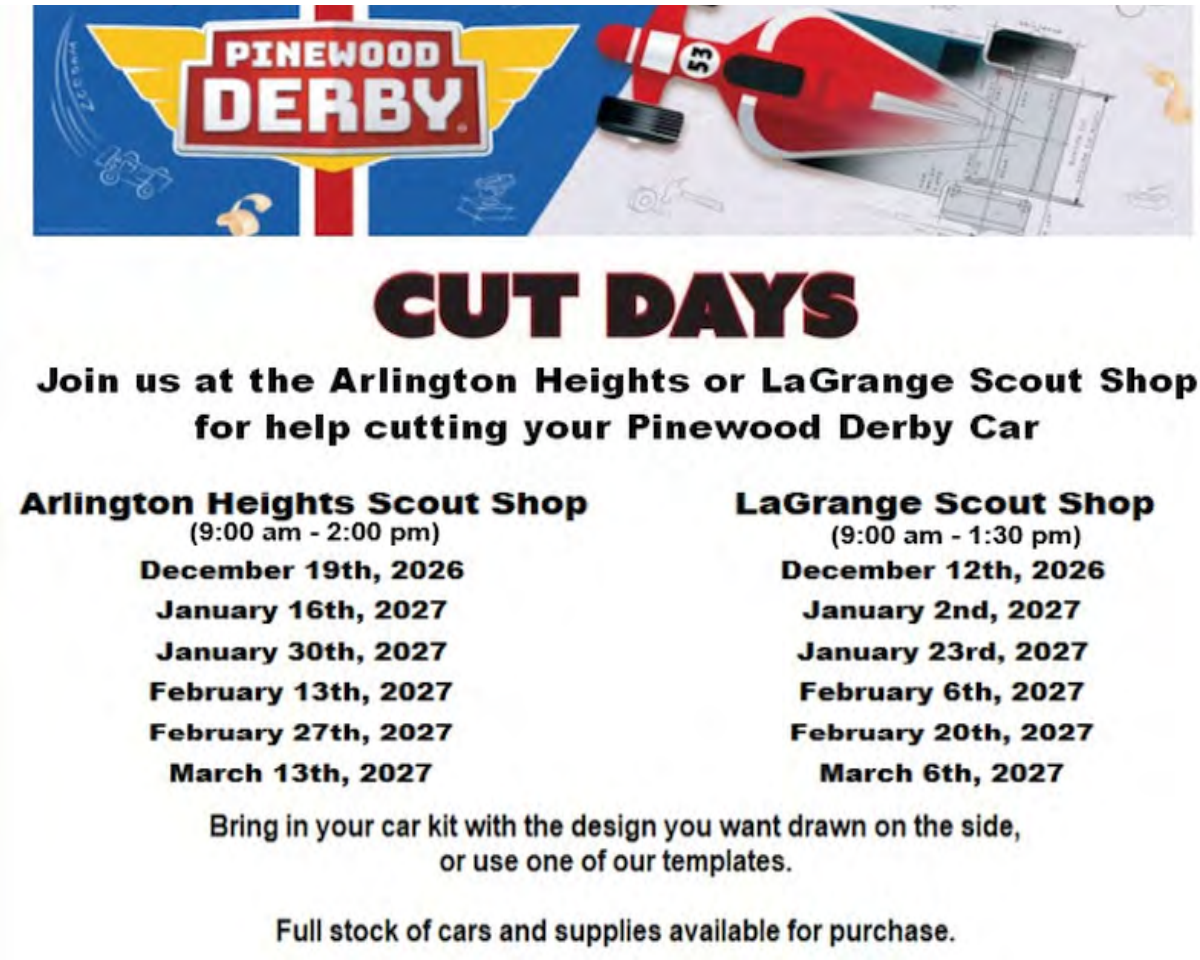
Looking to be part of a positive workplace, have a flexible schedule, get great discounts, and help to move Scouting forward?

Call (847)640-4430 or click the link below to download, fill out the application and bring it in and ask to speak to Scott.

Yours in Scouting,
Arlington Heights Scout Shop Staff

APPLICATION HERE

Pinewood Derby Cut Days



SCOUT SHOP

November NEWSWIRE

YOUR DIRECT LINE TO THE LATEST ARRIVALS, SEASONAL OFFERS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS.

STORE ASSOCIATE GUIDANCE & EXPERTISE

UNIFORM SIZING & FITTING

SEWING SERVICES

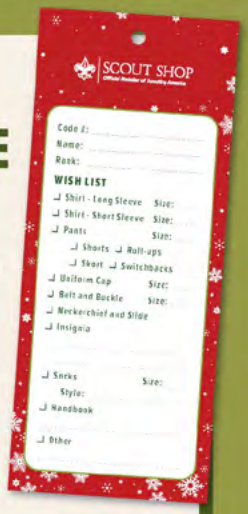
SCOUT ESSENTIALS & BRANDED GEAR

HAPPY THANKSGIVING
FROM SCOUTING AMERICA OUTFITTERS

We're thankful for the families, volunteers, and communities who make every adventure possible! Please note that Scout Shop locations will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and Black Friday.

WHAT'S HAPPENING *at Scout Shop*

THE GIVING TREE IS HERE



Visit a participating Scout Shop from Nov. 8–Dec. 14 to pick a tag from the Giving Tree and help provide gear, uniforms, and handbooks for Scouts in need. Your support helps ensure more Scouts can experience the magic of Scouting!

Available at participating Scout Shop locations. Call your local store for availability.

FIND THE PERFECT GIFTS
FOR YOUR SCOUTS



Explore our Holiday Gift Guide for stocking stuffers, outdoor essentials, and more, with gifts starting under just $25. View the Holiday Gift Guide online, or stop by your local Scout Shop and let our team help you check everyone off your list!

MILITARY SERVICE KNOT
AVAILABLE IN-STORE



Reserved exclusively for those who currently serve or have served in the U.S. Military, full-time or in the reserves. Every knot sold helps fund FREE Scouting registration for youth in military families.

Call your local Scout Shop to check availability!

IN-STORE MONTHLY OFFERS STOP IN & SAVE!



25% OFF* THORLO SOCKS WHEN YOU BUY 2+
Nov. 22 – Jan. 2



25% OFF* GSI OUTDOORS
Nov. 27 – Dec. 7



20% OFF* SAWYER
Nov. 21 – Nov. 28

* Offers valid while supplies last.

NEW ARRIVALS



NEW KNIFE GIFT SET
SKU: 666325

New for the season and **specially priced at just $19.99** from Nov. 2–29. Stop by your local Scout Shop to find this gift-ready favorite while supplies last.



NEW MILITARY SERVICE AND VETERANS MERIT BADGE
SKU: 666327

Launches Nov. 11 on Veterans Day! Honor service. Understand sacrifice. Inspire leadership. The new Military Service & Veterans Merit Badge gives Scouts a new opportunity to learn about the history, veterans, and values of the U.S. Armed Forces.



BRING GNORM HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS
SKU: 666453

Welcome Gnorm to your holiday collection! Born from a compass point in the official 2026 National Jamboree logo, this beloved Scouting character is now available as a limited-edition holiday ornament. Pick yours up online or in select Scout Shops before supplies run out!



NEW NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE EMBLEM
SKU: 666553

Do a Good Turn on Nov. 14! Join Scouts nationwide in making a difference through Impact365, Scouting America's multi-year service initiative. Wear the official emblem to represent your participation and service hours!

STAY CONNECTED
DON'T MISS A THING



Follow us @ScoutShopBSA for the latest arrivals, upcoming events, and seasonal highlights!

SCAN HERE TO SIGN UP FOR TEXT ALERTS

GIVE THE GIFT OF *SCOUT LIFE*



Give a gift that keeps the adventure going all year long with a *Scout Life* subscription. Each issue brings Scout stories, activities, outdoor inspiration, and more straight to your doorstep!

SUBSCRIBE AT ScoutLife.org/Subscribe
WITH DISCOUNT CODE: SHOPNL!



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