

December 2025 Newsletter

Important Dates & Events

December 2	Giving Tuesday...Support Local Scouting!
December 2	Popcorn \$ Due!
December 4	Whitney M. Young Award Luncheon
December 5-7	Mountain District Camporee
December 5-7	NYLT Staff Development Weekend
December 11	River District Committee Mtg., 5:30
	River District Scout Roundtable, 6:30
	Mountain District Committee Mtg., 6:00
	Mountain District Roundtable (to follow)
December 12-13	Wood Badge Staff Development (6pm Fri-3pm Sat), Camp Horne
December 17 -2	Scout Shop CLOSED for Inventory
December 22-26	Scout Service Center CLOSED for Holidays
December 25	Christmas
January 1	Happy New Year! Office is CLOSED
January 2-4	Winter Camp, Camp Horne
January 8	River District Committee Mtg., 5:30
	River District Scout Roundtable, 6:30
	Mountain District Committee Mtg., 6:00
	Mountain District Roundtable (to follow)
January 9-10	Wood Badge Staff Development
January 9-11	NYLT Staff Development
January 18	Wood Badge Participant Orientation
January 17-19	NYLT Weekend #1, Camp Horne
January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
January 24	Merit Badge College
January 30-1	NYLT Staff Weekend

Scouting Calendar for 2025-2026

The Black Warrior Council Scouting Calendar is always available on our Council webpage (click on logo on the right to view or download).

NOTE: We try to minimize changes throughout the year but sometimes that is just unavoidable. Check regularly for updates and a quick way to know if you have the most current calendar is to check the "....current as of date" at the very top of the page.





Happy Holidays!

On behalf of the Black Warrior Council Executive Board and professional staff, we want to wish all of our scouts, leaders, parents, and community members a happy holiday season. We hope that during this very hectic time of year, you find time to rest, recharge, and build very special memories with your loved ones. Thank you for being a part of Scouting in the West Alabama area. Each of you are appreciated and we look forward to an exciting 2026!

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The Scout Shop will be CLOSED for inventory December 17 - January 2

The Scout Service Center will be CLOSED December 22-26



Thank You Tim Patrick

After 11 years as the Camp Horne Ranger, Mr. Tim Patrick has announced that he will be resigning at the end of the year due to health concerns. Tim has been an amazing Ranger as all who know him know how dedicated and committed he has been to Camp Horne and the Scouting program in general. Due to Tim's work and resources he has acquired over the years, Camp Horne has seen vast facility improvements, upgrades to programming, and regular maintenance needs have been addressed.

The Black Warrior Council family will miss Tim tremendously and only wish him the very best as he concentrates on improving his health. We are blessed to have had Tim Patrick as the Camp Horne Ranger. **THANK YOU** Tim for all you have done for the youth of West Alabama!

Upcoming Events

Giving Tuesday

Tuesday, December 2nd

This annual event will be held on Tuesday, December 2nd, and allows the opportunity to support a local charity of their choosing. We hope that you will consider any level of support to Scouting in the West Alabama by using the qr code to the right. We could not provide a quality Scouting program without the generosity of many!



**Celebrate Giving Tuesday
and
Support Scouting in the West Alabama Area**

Mountain District Camporee

December 5-7, 2025

Scouts and Scouters from the Mountain District are encouraged to participate in the Mountain District Winter Camporee to be held at Camp O'Rear December 5-7. Check-in will begin at 5:00 p.m. Friday and the Camporee will conclude by 11:00 a.m. on Sunday. The emphasis for this event will simply be on a relaxed weekend camping together as a Scouting family enjoying the fellowship of all who attend. There will be a pot luck Dutch Oven feast so all troops should come prepared. The cost for the event is \$15 per person and Scoutmasters may register with [Darren Hix](#).



❄️ **2026 SCOUTING WINTER CAMP — LET THE GAMES BEGIN!** ❄️ ☐

January 2–4, 2026 | Camp Horne | Cottondale, AL

Do you have what it takes to **survive the Yeti's challenge?**

Gear up for **three epic days** of adventure, merit badges, and non-stop fun at Camp Horne!

- ☐ **Take the Polar Plunge**
- ☐ **Brave the Winter Elements**
- ☐ **Test your skills in awesome open activities**
- ☐ **Make new friends, eat great food, and create unforgettable memories!**

Scouts can earn up to **TWO merit badges** while diving into high-energy activities that bring out your **Scouting spirit**. **Adults** are welcomed to experience the Open Programs also, *must register to participate*.

We're also looking for Youth Staff!

If you're a Scout who loves to lead, guide activities, or help teach, we want **YOU** on the Winter Camp Team!

(Great leadership experience + service hours + extra fun!)

Cost:

- **Scouts:** \$125 (after Dec. 15 → \$140)
- **Adults:** \$60 (after Dec. 15 → \$75)
- **Eagle Rank Scouts:** \$75 (*assist with instruction or open program activities!*)
- **Out of Council Fees:** \$130.00 per youth and \$75.00 per adult

☐ Includes meals, merit badge instruction, patch, and a **long-sleeve T-shirt**

(Register by Dec. 5th to receive your shirt!)

Merit Badge College

January 24, 2026

Scouts throughout the Council are encouraged to make plans to participate in the **2026 Merit Badge College** to be held on Saturday, January 24, 2026. This one day event is a great way for a Scout to earn all, or most, requirements for an additional merit badge taught by an excellent instructor. The Merit College will begin at 9:00 and end by 2:00. Information to include merit badge offerings, registration, and complete schedule will be available soon!



National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) 2026 Course Announced

Scouting develops the leaders of tomorrow! **NYLT** is an outstanding leadership program where youth learn the attributes of great leaders, interact with youth leaders from around the council, and leave with skills and practices that will enhance their ability to serve in local unit leadership positions.

We encourage unit leaders to talk with your older youth and consider enrolling them in our 2026 NYLT course to be held at Camp Home. John Godwin, SM of Troop 151 will once again serve as Course Director. For more details, click on the button below.

Training Website

NYLT Info Sheet



Wood Badge Course Camp Horne - 2026 For every adult leader!

Every Scout deserves a trained leader and Wood Badge is the ultimate adult leader training course. The principles and methods utilized throughout the course are aligned with those used in our most successful businesses, organizations, and yes, Scouting units!

An outstanding staff has been assembled under the leadership of Charlie Plasters, Course Director and John Sims, Asst. Course Director. For more information about how you can get enrolled, visit our 'Training' webpage on the council website or click on the button below.

Training Website

Wood Badge Info



The Black Warrior Council will be sending one Venturing Crew Contingent, under the leadership of Dr. Andy Harrell and Ms. Tammi Rundles, to the 2026 National Scout Jamboree. At this time, there is only one slot left. Youth crew members must be 14 years of age, or 13 years of age and have complete the 8th grade by May 2026, to be eligible. Once this slot is filled, there will be no more availability.

If you have an interest in attending this once in a lifetime event, visit the National Jamboree webpage for more information. Contact [Dr. Walter Davie](#), Council Program Director at the Scout Service Center (205-554-1680) with any questions.

SCOUTING NEWS TO KNOW!

New Scouts BSA Advancement Education Series Addresses Common Challenges

Scouts BSA is launching "Scouts BSA Advancement Demystified: Separating Myth from Reality," a monthly webinar series designed to clarify advancement procedures for troop leaders, parents, and Scouts. The series begins October 1st at 8pm Eastern and will be held on the first Wednesday of each month. The inaugural session, "Advancement Myths – BUSTED!" focuses on correcting common misconceptions about advancement requirements. Later sessions will cover digital tools for merit badge counseling (November 5th) and effective boards of review (December 3rd). Participants are encouraged to submit questions in advance or during the live sessions. Registration is available at https://scouting-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YzYmxMMqQJK0HqvH6nsYBQ#/registration, and additional sessions are planned for 2026.



Cub Adventure Weekend

A new event! A new emphasis!

May 22 (6:00 pm) - 25 (11:00 am), 2026
Camp Horne

We are moving away from the Cub Resident Camp experience toward a fun-filled weekend for entire Cub families. We will take advantage of the Memorial Day weekend and encourage Packs to attend as a unit, OR, families may attend on their own if their Pack is not able to do so as a unit. Activities will include opportunities for advancement, learning outdoor skills, campfires, and inspirational ceremonies to remember those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for their country and also to honor those who continue to serve today.

A "Cub Adventure Weekend" [webpage](#) is now active and will be updated throughout the year. Please take time to visit this page regularly for important updates and planning information!

Scouts BSA Summer Camp June 7-13, 2026

Plans are already in progress for next summer. We want your Troop in attendance! As of now, due to last year's attendance, we are only offering one week of summer camp. Our hope is to add a 2nd week as we have held in



the past, but that will depend on attendance information to be obtained from unit leaders this fall. We are asking every troop to complete a commitment form so that we will know of your plans for 2026. We understand part of the information requested will be a "best guess" but it is really important so that we may plan appropriately. Use the button below to access the Commitment Form (**please complete this form today!**)

Summer Camp Commitment Form

Stay Updated for Camp Planning

A [2026 Summer Camp webpage](#) is active and will be updated as the year progresses. It is the best resource for Troop Leaders as they think toward next summer. Bookmark and visit this page regularly!

- Recent Zoom meeting powerpoint
- Timeline to Roll-Out Camp Information (schedules, etc.)
- Program plans
- And more!



District News

River District (Tuscaloosa, Bibb, and Pickens Counties)

District Director: Roland Lewis [email](#)

- December 11th: River District Committee Mtg., 5:30
- December 11th: River District Scout Roundtable, 6:30



Scouts BSA Troop 316 Supports Our Veterans

Troop 316 teamed up with **Operation Iron Ruck** to raise awareness and money for Veteran Suicide Prevention for a recent service project. Current and former military members are carrying the game ball 150 miles from Bryant-Denny Stadium (Tuscaloosa) to Jordan-Hare Stadium (Auburn) in three days! They march on foot carrying heavy military backpacks (Ruck Sacks).

Troop 316 and Forest Lake United Methodist Church housed over 100 of the participants Tuesday night. Scouts welcomed them as they arrived, assisted in carrying in their belongings, cots, and equipment, and setting up the sleeping areas. The next morning at 6:00 AM, the troop assisted them in loading their gear and then travelled to Bryant Denny Stadium for the opening ceremony.

Troop 316 scouts accompanied them for the first 3 miles (at a brisk military pace!) through Tuscaloosa with their "ruck sacks". Each scout's pack weighed at least 22 lbs.- a symbolic reminder of the average of 22 service members a day who are lost to suicide. It was a great experience for the scouts, and plans are already underway to assist them at next years Iron Bowl.

To learn more about Operation Iron Ruck please visit their webpage or social media.



Cub Scout Pack 88 Fights Hunger!

Pack 88 proudly collected 88 food items this season to help Beat Auburn Beat Hunger, showing how Cub Scouts can do their best and help other people. By taking part in this community service project, the Scouts worked together, lived the Scout Law by being helpful and kind, and made a real difference for families facing food insecurity. Their cheerful service adds to the thousands of pounds of food gathered each year and proves that even small acts of goodwill—done with Cub Scout spirit—can make a big impact.

Mountain District (Walker, Marion, Winston, Lamar, and Marion Counties)

District Executive: Darren Hix [email](#)

- December 11th: River District Committee Mtg., 6:00, Camp O'Rear
- December 11th: River District Scout Roundtable, 6:30

Scout troops are encouraged to participate in the December 5-7 Mountain District Camporee to be held at Camp O'Rear. See the article above for more details and contact [Darren Hix](#) to register!

Prairie District (Marengo, Hale, Greene, and Sumter Counties)

District Program Specialist: Greg Whitis [email](#)



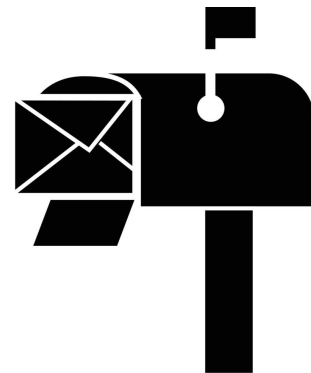
How to Address Mail to the Scout Service Center

Volunteers are reminded that the most efficient way to send mail to us is by using our post office drawer.

Black Warrior Council
P.O. Drawer 3088
Tuscaloosa, AL 35403

Our physical location is:

Black Warrior Council
2700 Jack Warner Parkway, N.E.
Tuscaloosa, AL 35404





Camp Horne

13633 Keenes Mill Road
Cottondale, AL 35453



Camp O'Rear

2180 Curry Highway
Jasper, AL 35501



White Bluff Scout Reservation

Located on Hwy 43, just north of
Demopolis



Board Room at the

Leroy McAbee Scout Service Center

2700 Jack Warner Parkway NE
Tuscaloosa, AL 35404



Eagle Plaza at the

Leroy McAbee Scout Service Center

2700 Jack Warner Parkway NE
Tuscaloosa, AL 35404



Leroy McAbee Scout Service Center

2700 Jack Warner Parkway, N.E. Tuscaloosa, AL 35404

Office: (205) 554-1680 Fax: (205) 554-7830

Website: <https://www.bwc-bsa.org>

Services:

- Scout Shop
- Properties Management
- Membership & Unit Support
- Professional Office for Council Staff

Hours of Operation

Monday - Thursday, 8:30 - 5:00

Friday, 8:30-4:00



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