

## April 2026 Newsletter

### Important Dates & Events

April 9	River District Banquet
April 9	Mountain District Committee Meeting, 6:00
April 9	Mountain District Roundtable
April 10-12	OA Conclave Work Weekend
April 17-19	OA Section E6 Conclave
April 23	JROTC Day at Camp Horne
May 1-3	OA Spring Fellowship, Camp Horne
May 2	Beaver Day, Camp Horne
May 8-9	Annual Alabama Trade-O-Ree, Five Points Baptist Church
May 10	Mothers' Day
May 14	River District Committee Meeting, 5:30
	River District Roundtable, 6:30
	Mountain District Committee Meeting, 6:00
	Mountain District Roundtable
May 15-17	Camp Staff Training
May 22-25	Cub Adventure Weekend, Camp Horne
May 25	Memorial Day
May 29	Tenderfoot Golf Classic

### 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.



And NOW, the **Scouting Calendar for 2026-2027** is active & posted. Click [here](#) to view, print, or download a copy. It is posted on the Council website's home page for your access at any time!



## Welcome Justin Newman Camp Horne Ranger

We are thrilled to announce that **Justin Newman** has joined the Black Warrior Council as the new Camp Horne Ranger. Justin brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to Scouting. He has served as a long-time volunteer at Camp Horne and recently worked at Philmont Scout Ranch as Cabin Restoration Foreman and Maintenance Technician, where he played a key role in daily operations and facility improvements.

Justin has hit the ground running and already making a difference. Justin's contact information is listed below.

Email: [justin.Newman@scouting.org](mailto:justin.Newman@scouting.org)

Cell: (205) 393-8293

---

## In Case You Missed It!

---



## National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) Course Camp Horne - 2026

Another great NYLT course was conducted in January and February 2026 under the leadership of John and Dawn Godwin. Twenty youth ages 14 and up completed the course and will return to their local units with enhanced leadership skills, many program ideas, and even more motivated about Scouting than ever before.

---



# Black Warrior Council Wood Badge Camp Horne

## Wood Badge Course Camp Horne - 2026

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. The first weekend of Wood Badge has been concluded and it was a very successful start. An outstanding group of 40 dedicated volunteer adults are participating. The second course weekend is March 7-8.





## Annual Recognition Dinner Thursday, February 26

The Council Annual Recognition Dinner was held on Thursday, February 26th in the Community Room of the Tuscaloosa County School System office (1118 Greensboro Avenue, Tuscaloosa). At this annual event, the coveted Silver Beaver Award was bestowed on Mike Henderson and Charlie Plasters. Several members of the 2025 Class of Eagle Scouts was also recognized. Chris Stewart, the voice of the Alabama Crimson Tide did an excellent job as our guest speaker.

---

# SCOUTING NEWS TO KNOW!

---

## From Roger Krone, Chief Scout Executive

Scouting Family,

Today, Scouting America and the Department of War finalized a commitment to strengthen our longstanding partnership with the U.S. military. Over several months, we engaged in dialogue with Department leadership to align on how we could deepen our service to military families, while making programmatic updates to comply with Executive Order 14173.

Throughout our discussions, we remained true to the core commitments that define our organization—our name, our mission, and our promise to serve all youth in our programs. Those commitments are unchanged. We will continue to deliver stability, mentorship, and opportunity to the children of those who serve our nation.

### What This Agreement Delivers

- Continued support for Scouting on military installations worldwide
- Ongoing Department support for National Jamborees and other events
- New benefits for military families, including waiving registration fees for children of active-duty, Guard, and Reserve families
- Launching a new Military Service merit badge, developed in cooperation with the Department
- Memorializing our existing practices for membership registration and safeguarding youth

As part of Scouting America's commitment to comply with Executive Order 14173, we will be discontinuing the Citizenship in Society merit badge. While this change complies with the Executive Order, the lessons found in this merit badge are found throughout the Scouting program. Scouting has always taught respect for others, leadership, and consideration of diverse perspectives through the ideals enshrined in the Scout Oath and Law. Scouting America's mission remains unchanged and is reinforced across our advancement, leadership development, and outdoor experiences.

Our emphasis on duty to God, duty to country, and service to others is strengthened by this partnership. **Scouting's values have not changed, and they will not change.**

### Why This Partnership Matters

Since 1910, Scouting America has played a strategic role in strengthening our nation's military readiness. More than 130 million Americans have been Scouts. Millions have gone on to serve as military leaders, first responders, educators, and civic leaders. For military families navigating

deployments and frequent moves, Scouting has long provided a steady anchor during times of uncertainty.

### Service to Military Families

In our discussions, we affirmed Scouting's deep commitment to military families. To that end, we will waive the national registration fees of all active duty, Reserve and Guard troops. Your support in this effort is critical – and we encourage you to make a donation to support Scouting families. [Click here to give today.](#)

### How to Communicate Locally

When speaking with families and volunteers, lead with confidence and clarity:

- This agreement provides continuity for military families
- It supports Scouting on military bases and support for events such as National Jamborees
- Fee waivers will be available for active-duty, Guard, and Reserve families
- Program updates were made to comply with Executive Order 14173
- Our mission, and commitment to serving all youth remains unchanged
- Membership registration and our practices to safeguard youth remain unchanged

Scouting America works constructively with every administration—always focused on serving youth.

### Our Resolve

For more than a century, Scouting America has endured because we are resilient, principled and unwavering in our mission. We remain committed to developing leaders of character. We remain committed to service and our nation. We remain committed to the principles enshrined in our Scout Oath and Scout Law.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to Scouting America.

Respectfully,

Roger A. Krone  
Chief Scout Executive  
President & CEO  
Scouting America

---

### ADDED LOCAL COMMENT FOR OUR BLACK WARRIOR COUNCIL FAMILIES:

*“National also declared that the involvement of girls in Scouting America would not change.”*

---

## Honoring Heritage and Inspiring Growth

On Monday, January 12, **the Scouting America “Indian Lore” Merit Badge will officially become the “American Indian Culture” Merit Badge**, a name and badge design change that reflects our commitment to honoring the rich heritage of Native American histories and cultures.

This update represents a promise to listen and learn from Native voices and inspire Scouts with a deeper understanding of the vibrant cultures that helped shape our nation.

The curriculum and requirements included in the merit badge pamphlet remain unchanged and continue to offer valuable information for Scouts. This updated name adds new layers of authenticity and respect. This is Scouting America's commitment in action: to create learning experiences that respect and celebrate this heritage.

**Question:** I already have the Indian Lore MB, can earn this one as an additional badge?



**Answer:** No. Requirements have not changed. Only the name and the badge design have been changed. Scouts can replace the prior version of this badge on their sash with the new version if they prefer.

---

## Marketing Webinar - Fall Marketing Plans

Join us for an energizing national marketing webinar designed to help councils gear up for a powerful fall recruitment season. We'll walk through the media plan, priority tactics, and ready-to-use messaging that will drive families to join Scouting this fall. From digital strategy and creative assets to local amplification ideas and timelines, this fast-paced session will equip you with the insights and tools needed to grow membership and elevate your campaign impact.



Get inspired. Get aligned. Get ready for success!

**Thursday, April 16 at 7:00 pm (CST)**

Who should attend? Council staff and volunteers working with marketing and/or membership!

---



## Registration Is Now Open for 2027 Treks at Scouting America High Adventure Bases

Now is the time for Scouts in your council to book this once-in-a-lifetime adventure opportunity.

High adventure provides Scout memories that will last a lifetime. The four iconic high adventure bases represent a truly unique Scouting experience that keeps your Scouts engaged and active locally as they prepare for these future adventures.

Visit <https://www.scouting.org/national-high-adventure-bases/adventure-treks/> to find out more about how Scouts in your area can benefit from the amazing experience.

---

**UPCOMING EVENTS  
YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS!**

---



## OA Section E6 Conclave

April 17-19 Moundville Archaeological Park

Conclave is coming to Moundville! Aracoma members need to make sure to sign up on the [Section E6 website](#) soon so the late fee can be avoided. We last hosted this event in 2014 and was attended by over 1000 Arrowmen.

Check out the lodge's [website](#) and facebook page for more information. Get registered today, it will take the entire lodge to host this annual event so don't miss out!



## OA Spring Fellowship

May 1-3 Camp Horne

The OA Spring Fellowship will be held at Camp Horne May 1st-3rd. This will be an important weekend where the Lodge will support Beaver Day to help ready camp for another great summer camping season. All Aracoma Lodge members are needed and encouraged to attend. Full details and registration information will be active soon on the Aracoma website.

[OA Aracoma Website](#)



## Beaver Day

Saturday, May 2nd 8:30 am - 3:00 pm  
Camp Horne

### WE NEED YOU!

Beaver Day is an important time to complete many needed work projects at Camp Horne so all will be ready for our Cubs and Scouts this summer. If you are an Aracoma member, you are encouraged to attend the full OA Spring Fellowship and register through the Lodge's webpage. If you are not yet a member of the OA and are able to help, please use the button below to be taken to our Beaver Day webpage with full details and so you can let us know you be coming!

[Beaver Day Webpage](#)



## 12th Annual Trade-O-Ree

May 8-9 Five Points Baptist Church, Northport

The 12th annual Alabama Trade-O-Ree will be held at Five Points Baptist Church, located at 3718 36th Street, Northport, AL 35473, on May 8, 2026, from 12:00 noon until 10:00 p.m., and on May 9th, from 7:15 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. This event serves will benefit scouting initiatives within West Alabama.

As is often the case with collectibles, many items featured may be rare and valuable. Individuals interested

in scouting memorabilia will find this to be an excellent opportunity to view noteworthy items from the Boy Scouts of America/Scouting America movement. The event will also feature a selection of affordably priced patches, pins, equipment, uniforms, books, coins, stamps, neckerchiefs, slides, and other items suitable for collecting or for trading at this year's National Jamboree.

Opportunities are available to volunteer and assist both myself and Troop 100. We would welcome your help!

For more details about this great event, please use the button below!

12th Annual Trade-O-Ree



## Cub Adventure Weekend

*A new event! A new emphasis!*

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

**LIBERTY IN ACTION!** is our theme for the inaugural "Cub Adventure Weekend" event. We will celebrate the 250 years of our nation and pay special tribute to the Memorial Day that will be officially recognized on Monday, May 25th.

We encourage Packs to attend as a unit, **HOWEVER**, 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. Visit this page for leader and prent information and registration details.

## Scouts BSA Summer Camp

June 7-13

### Stay Updated for Camp Planning



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

Leaders are encouraged to review the following information.

- Camp Leadership Update
- Leaders' Guide
- Merit Badge Offerings & Schedule
- Information on Camp-wide Community Service Project
- Older Boy Program
- New twists and program additions!

More will continue to be added between now and camp so check back regularly!

Summer Camp Webpage

# District News

---

## River District (Tuscaloosa, Bibb, and Pickens Counties)

District Executive: Ty Nevith [Email: [tyrenee.nevith@scouting.org](mailto:tyrenee.nevith@scouting.org)]

- April 9th: River District Banquet, 6:00pm, Forest Lake United Methodist Church



## River District Banquet

April 9th

The River District Banquet will be held Thursday, April 9th at the Forest Lake United Methodist Church in Tuscaloosa. The program will begin at 6:00pm and the cost is \$25 per person. Use the button below to register.

[Banquet Registration](#)

---

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

District Executive: Darren Hix [email](#)

- Mountain District Banquet **HAS BEEN POSTONED**  
Due to a lack of award submissions, the banquet has been postponed. Our goal is to hold the event **in May**, but we need leaders to **submit award nominations to Darren** so we can recognize the outstanding volunteers who make Scouting possible.
- April 9th: Mountain District Committee Meeting, 6:00
- April 9th: Mountain District Roundtable

---

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

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

---

## T945 Enjoys Trip to the U.S.S. Alabama

Troop 945 from Boligee enjoys a great trip learning about our state's history and military. Mr. Eddie Cole is the Scoutmaster. From left-to-right, the Scouts are: Isaiah J., Kadence W., Abdrew Q., and Trayshaun M.



---

## Additional Opportunities for Scout-Age Youth!

---



**Leadership Initiatives**  
Summer Internship Programs

## Discover Exclusive Summer Internship Opportunities



Join Us For A Webinar:  
**Wednesday, February 4th**  
8:00 p.m. EST



### Jumpstart a Career in Law, Medicine, Business, Tech, or National Security!

- Learn about 2026 summer internship opportunities in law, medicine, business, tech, and national security.
- Discover the benefits of real-world experience, college prep support, and personalized mentorship.
- Our internships are one-of-a-kind and our interns have been accepted into the world's top colleges.
- Black Warrior Council scouts are eligible for exclusive \$1,000 scholarships.
- Additional financial aid available for students in need.

Scan the QR code to RSVP or visit [www.LIBWC.org](http://www.LIBWC.org)

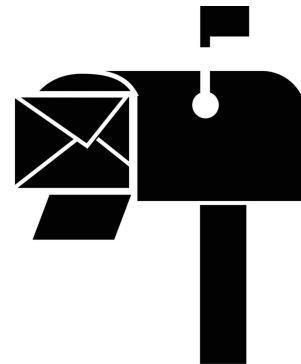
## How to Address Mail to the Scout Service Center

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



**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



Black Warrior Council, BSA | (205) 554-1680 | Tuscaloosa, AL 35404 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email & social marketing for free!