

## August 2025 Newsletter

### Important Dates & Events

August 6 August 14	Popcorn Show N Sale Orders DUE River District Committee Mtg., 5:30 River District Scout Roundtable, 6:30 Mountain District Committee Mtg., 6:00 Mountain District Roundtable (to follow)
August 20 September 1 September 11	Popcorn Show N Sale Deliveries LABOR DAY HOLIDAY - Scout Service Center CLOSED River District Committee Mtg., 5:30 River District Scout Roundtable, 6:30 Mountain District Committee Mtg., 6:00 Mountain District Roundtable (to follow)
September 12 September 20 September 27	Pull! For the Scouts Shotgun Invitational Young Eagles Aviation MB Day Family Fun Fest

### Scouting Calendar for 2025-2026

Now is the time to plan for 2025-2026! The Black Warrior Council Scouting Calendar is now available (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.

Throughout the year, you can access this calendar by visiting our council webpage.



## Upcoming Events

JOIN THE FRIENDLY COMPETITION

# CUB SCOUT RECRUITMENT CHALLENGE 2025



Each pack must recruit over 10 new youth from August 1st through October 31st for to qualify! Top 3 Packs that recruit the most youth in each district will receive 15 PWD car kits. Winners announced 11/7



**BRYANT BANK**

**SEPTEMBER 12, 2025  
@ CAMP HORNE**



To sponsor, volunteer or register, please call 205-554-1680 or go to:

<https://www.bwc-bsa.org/pull-for-the-scouts>

**Pull! For the Scouts Shotgun Invitational - Friday, September 12th**

The Black Warrior Council's "Pull! For the Scouts Shotgun Invitational" will be held on Friday, September 12th on the sporting clays trail at Camp Horne. This event is one of our most popular



fund-raising activities where local organizations and businesses send teams of four shooters to compete for prizes and to see who is the best.

Consider joining for a great day. Use the button below to learn more. Questions? Contact Bill Gosselin at (205) 554-1680 or by [email](#).

Learn More



## Cub Scout Family Fun Fest

Calling all Cub Scouts and their families to join in a great day of Scouting! Our annual **Family Fun Fest** is just as described, **FUN!** This year's event will be held on Saturday, September 27th in two locations.

RIVER & PRAIRIE DISTRICTS  
Camp Horne 9:00-2:00

MOUNTAIN DISTRICT  
Walker County Lake 9:00-1:00

Use one of the buttons below for more information and registration details.

RIVER & PRAIRIE DISTRICT Family Fun Fest

MOUNTAIN DISTRICT Family Fun Fest

## Aviation Merit Badge Day

The Young Eagles Aviation Association once again will host an **Aviation Merit Badge Day** on **Saturday, September 20th from 9:00 until 1:00** at the Tuscaloosa National Airport. The event is supported by Bama Dixie and will be held in the Bama Dixie hangar. All currently registered Scouts may participate if they have not yet earned the Aviation MB. All requirements for the badge will be able to be completed. To learn more and the requirements for participating, visit our Aviation MB Day webpage using the button below.



Aviation MB Day



## 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 Horne. 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](#)

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## Aracoma Lodge Inducts New Members

At the July 11-13 OA Induction Weekend at Camp Horne, the Aracoma Lodge welcomed 25 new Ordeal members. Congratulations to ALL new members!





## Join the 2025 National Fall Membership Recruitment Kick-Off Webinars!

We are excited to announce two dynamic webinars designed to energize and prepare unit leaders and council staff for a successful Fall Membership Recruitment season!

### 2025 National Fall Cub Scouts Membership Recruitment Kick-Off

**Date:** Thursday, July 31, 2025

**Time:** 8:00 PM ET / 7:00 PM CT / 6:00 PM MT / 5:00 PM PT

**Location:** [https://scouting-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_YWgYwgyIRsiG23FaPxDmEQ](https://scouting-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YWgYwgyIRsiG23FaPxDmEQ)

All Cub Scout unit leaders and a select group of council staff will receive an invitation to join this high-energy national event. The webinar will feature inspiring sessions led by both national and council-level volunteers and staff. Attendees will be engaged in sessions, inspired to take action, and empowered to execute impactful recruitment strategies. The goal is to foster a mindset focused on recruitment and to ignite enthusiasm for expanding the reach of families served. Participants will be well-prepared and eager to implement the recruitment plans of their local council during the Fall season.

### 2025 National Fall Scouts BSA Membership Recruitment Kick-Off

**Date:** Thursday, August 7, 2025

**Time:** 8:00 PM ET / 7:00 PM CT / 6:00 PM MT / 5:00 PM PT

**Location:** [https://scouting-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_aWuUb60ITZWYsGsNo6XcMA](https://scouting-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aWuUb60ITZWYsGsNo6XcMA)

Scouts BSA unit leaders and a select group of council staff will be invited to attend this impactful webinar. A high-energy webinar will be conducted, featuring both national and council-level volunteers and staff. Attendees will explore proven strategies, collaborate in energizing sessions, and leave empowered to grow Scouting in their communities this Fall.

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## Merit Badge Resources Now Online

Scouts BSA leaders are reminded that on the Scouting America National website, Scouts and leaders may access a host of resources about ALL merit badges. Even the complete merit badge pamphlet is now available free of charge for online viewing or download. In addition, great resources such as supporting videos are available. Check out this great resource and be sure to inform all of your Scouts and parents also.



[MB Resources](#)

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## Honoring Wayne "Sleepy" Harris for 26 Years of Dedicated Summer Camp Service

For over two and a half decades, Wayne "Sleepy" Harris has been a pillar of Scouting excellence and a guiding force behind the magic of summer camp. After 26 years of selfless service, we extend our deepest thanks and heartfelt appreciation to a man who has shaped the lives of hundreds of Scouts and staff through his leadership, mentorship, and unwavering commitment.

Sleepy began his journey with summer camp staff with a heart full of service and a love for the outdoors. Over the years, he wore many hats—each with the same quiet dedication and steady presence that earned him the respect and admiration of campers and colleagues alike. From teaching life-changing skills to offering a listening ear or a word of encouragement, his influence reached far beyond any program area or campfire.



**Dr. Wayne "Sleepy" Harris**

Perhaps his most impactful role came when he took the reins as

Camp Director. Under his leadership, camp operations flourished. He nurtured a culture of excellence, built strong traditions, and ensured that every Scout who passed through camp gates experienced the adventure, challenge, and spirit of Scouting at its finest.

Wayne "Sleepy" Harris has left an indelible mark on our council's history and in the hearts of those privileged to serve alongside him or be mentored by him. His 26 years of service are more than a number—they are a legacy of leadership, character, and care. Thank you, Sleepy, for your incredible devotion to Scouting. Your impact will ripple through generations of Scouts who were made better because you showed up—year after year—with a smile, a story, and a servant's heart.

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## Plan for Summer 2026 Now!

Plans are already in motion for Summer 2026 at Camp Horne. All units are encouraged to make Camp Horne YOUR long term camping destination next summer.

### Camp Dates

#### **Cub Adventure Week-End**

**Friday, May 22 (6:00pm) until May 25 (11:00 am)**

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.

#### **Scouts BSA Week**

**Sunday, June 7th through Saturday, June 13th**

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 would LOVE to add a 2nd week June 14-20 and with your help, we can! We will be in touch with unit leaders early this fall to discuss your attendance plans.

#### **THEME - PATCH DESIGN CONTEST ANNOUNCED**

The theme for our 2026 Camping Season will be "**Celebrate US**", an emphasis on celebrating 250 years since the signing of the U.S. Declaration of Independence and how Scouting has impacted the history of the United States during its 116 years of existence.

We will be holding a patch design contest during the month of September for all Scouts to offer their suggestions/drawings of a patch that we may use to support our camp and theme of "Celebrate US". Watch for details coming soon!

## Summer Camp Leadership for 2026 Announced



**Dr. Walter Davie**  
**Camp Director**

Dr. Davie has been a lifelong Scouter growing up in Troop 89 in Tuscaloosa. Walter is an Eagle Scout. He has served in



**Dr. Daniel Western**  
**Asst. Camp Director**

Dr. Daniel Western has been a lifelong Scouter growing up in Troop 59 in Kansas City, MO. Daniel is an Eagle Scout. He



**Mr. Charlie Plasters**  
**Program Director**

Mr. Charlie Plasters is a lifelong scouter with 35 years of Scouting experience. He is an Eagle Scout in the class of 1994. He has



numerous Scouting positions, including Asst. Scoutmaster, Scoutmaster, and Troop Committee.

Walter has served on the Camp Horne Staff for twenty-nine summers, including two as Program Director and fourteen as Camp Director. Currently, he serves as the Council Program Director.

has served in numerous Scouting positions including Den Leader, Assistant Cubmaster, Cubmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, and Scoutmaster.

He is a member of the Order of the Arrow, has completed Wood Badge and will serve on the 2026 Wood Badge staff. He has attended the 2023 National Jamboree and in 2025, attended the Florida Sea Base. He is the Scoutmaster of Troop 90B.

Daniel has served on the Camp Horne Staff for 2 summers as the Aquatics Director.

served in a variety of positions including Scoutmaster, Order of the Arrow Lodge Advisor, and Cubmaster

He currently serves as a Chartered Organization Representative for 3 units from Woodstock, an Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 777, Roundtable Commissioner, and the Scoutmaster for the upcoming Wood Badge Course.

I'm looking forward to adding another year to my Summer Camp staff experience and serving the units that come to get the Camp Horne experience.



## RV Parking Available for Alabama Home Football Games

Are you attending an upcoming University of Alabama home football game in Tuscaloosa during the 2025 season? We invite all Scouters and friends to consider making reservations at [Scouting's Cove for RV Parking](#).

The Black Warrior Council, B.S.A. has set up their council office parking area to be used by patrons to the games. It is a small lot that is only 4 miles from the stadium. The lot is adjacent to the Council service center located at [2700 Jack Warner Parkway, NE, Tuscaloosa](#). All motorhomes must be fully self-contained as there are no hookups available.

Reservations are available for the following games.

\* Reservations must be made at least 4 days before gameday.\*

September 6	Ala vs. ULM
September 13	Ala vs. Wisconsin
October 4	Ala vs. Vanderbilt
October 18	Ala vs. Tennessee
November 8	Ala vs. LSU
November 15	Ala vs. Oklahoma
November 22	Ala vs. E Illinois

Please help us spread the word about our RV Parking option for friends and family you may know coming to town to watch the TIDE ROLL! Full details and reservation information is available by using the button below.

[RV Parking](#)

## Scouts BSA National Youth Council: Putting Youth Voices at the Center of Program Development

The Scouts BSA National Youth Council is now accepting applications for its fifth cohort, offering passionate youth leaders

ages 14-17 a unique opportunity to directly influence the future of Scouting. Running from September 2025 to May 2026, this innovative program brings together up to 40 youth from across the country to collaborate with national leadership on real program decisions affecting merit badge requirements, rank advancement, and other key aspects of the Scouts BSA experience.

As current Youth Council member Cooper Harding from Greensboro, N.C. shares, "We talk about all the ideas we have on how we can improve Scouting. It's been a really cool experience."

The eight-month commitment involves monthly virtual meetings on the first Sunday of each month from 7-9 PM ET, with approximately 3-5 hours of total monthly engagement including preparation work. Eligible Scouts must hold First Class rank or higher, have current or previous leadership experience in their troop, and be available for the entire term duration.

**Applications close August 15, 2025**, and participation is completely free. For complete program details, eligibility requirements, a video featuring past participant experiences, and the application link, visit <https://www.scouting.org/topics/program-updates/program-updates-scouts-bsa/>.



**WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE**

**POLAND 2027**

**JULY 30<sup>TH</sup> - AUGUST 8<sup>TH</sup> 2027**

Join us to celebrate 120 years of scouting

You can be a youth participant if you were born between July 30, 2009, and July 30, 2013

**Visit Our Website**

SWEDEN  
Baltic Sea  
RUS.  
Gdańsk  
POLAND  
CZECH  
SLV



Visit WSJ Website:  
[Jamboree2027.org](https://www.scouting.org/jamboree2027.org)

Email us:  
[USAPoland2027@gmail.com](mailto:USAPoland2027@gmail.com)





# District News

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

District Director: Roland Lewis [email](#)

- September 11th: River District Committee Mtg., 5:30
- September 11th: River District Scout Roundtable, 6:30
- September 27th: Cub Family Fun Fest at Camp Horne

## **BWC Represented at NAYLE**

James Godwin from Troop 151 spent two weeks at Philmont Scout Ranch serving on staff for NAYLE (National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience). He served as a Crew Guide at Rayado Ridge. James led seminars and activities that focused on leadership skills. He also helped lead two different groups of Scouts on the Tooth of Time hike.



## **Ranch Hands Program at Philmont**

Emma Kennedy of Troop 316 was selected for the Ranch Hands Program at Philmont and attended this July. Only 25 participants were selected nationwide. This 17-day program involved her being assigned to the Ranch Department and assigned to a backcountry camp (In her case Beaubien) for 8 days. During this time the scouts learned about horsemanship, care of the animals, took traditional trek participants on trail rides, and learned aspects of being on Philmont Staff. After the initial 8 days, all the Ranch Hands participants were gathered together, and selected an itinerary for a custom 8-day Cavalcade, that included climbing Baldy Mountain. At the end of the Cavalcade they participated in a Gymkhana, which is a competition of horsemanship skills. It was very physically demanding experience, but Emma learned a lot and had an experience of a lifetime.



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

District Executive: Darren Hix [email](#)

- September 11th: District Committee Mtg., Camp O'Rear, 6:00
- September 11th: District Roundtable to follow
- September 27th: Cub Family Fun Fest at the Walker County Lake

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

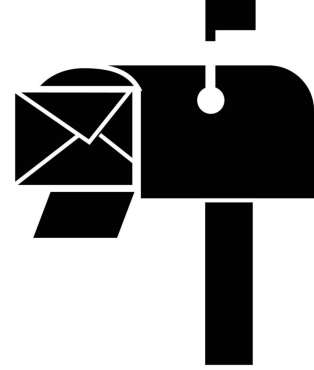
District Program Specialist: Greg Whitis [email](#)



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**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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