

January/February 2026 Newsletter

Important Dates & Events

January 30-1	NYLT Staff Weekend
February 6-8	Wilderness First Aid Course - Camp Horne
February 8	Scout Sunday
February 8-14	Scout Week
February 12	River District Committee Meeting, 5:30
	River District Scouts BSA Roundtable, 6:30
	Mountain District Committee Meeting, 6:00
	Mountain District Roundtable (to follow)
February 14	Wood Badge Set Up
February 14-16	NYLT Weekend #2
February 16	Presidents Day
February 20-22	Wood Badge Weekend #1 (starts Friday morning!)
February 21	Cub Scouts Range & Target Activities Day
February 26	Council Annual Recognition Dinner
February 27	Circle of Honor Luncheon
February 28	Citizenship MB Program Dat at UA
February 28	OA Conclave Work Day
March 7	Skilled Trades MB Day
March 7-8	Wood Badge Weekend #2
March 7	Pinewood Derby, Carl Cannon Chevrolet, Jasper

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.



Thanks for a Great 2025 & We Look Forward to an Even Better 2026!

As we close out another remarkable year in Scouting, I want to extend my deepest gratitude for everything you have poured into our programs, our camps, and—most importantly—our youth. Your dedication, leadership, and love for Scouting continue to shape the future of young people across the Black Warrior Council.

Because of you, Scouts discovered new skills, completed adventures they once thought impossible, strengthened their character, and built memories that will last a lifetime. Whether you led a unit, staffed a camp, served on a committee, supported an event, or quietly ensured things ran smoothly behind the scenes, your contribution made a difference. You demonstrate every day that Scouting's strength lies in its volunteers.

This year brought challenges, successes, and countless moments of growth. Through it all, you showed resilience, creativity, and



unwavering commitment to delivering the promise of Scouting. Your service reflects the very best of our movement—cheerful, dependable, and forward-looking.

Thank you for the hours you invest, the wisdom you share, the patience you give, and the example you set. Our Scouts thrive because of you.

As we look toward a new year of opportunities, I hope you take pride in the impact you've made. Please know that the entire Black Warrior Council is grateful for your work and honored to serve alongside you.

Wishing you a bright, rewarding year ahead.

Yours in Scouting,

Bill Gosselin
Black Warrior Council, Scouting America



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's dedication to supporting Scouting programs and his hands-on expertise make him an outstanding addition to our team. Please join us in welcoming Justin back to Camp Horne as he continues to help strengthen our mission and enhance the camp experience for all. Justin will assume his duties on January 29, 2026.

Upcoming Events



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.

Wood Badge Info

Training Website



Wilderness First Aid Training February 6-8

Wilderness First Aid will be taught February 6-8 at Camp Horne. The certification is good for 2 years and all participants must maintain current CPR/AED certification (included in the course). In order to earn certification, participants for the FULL course must be in attendance at ALL sessions, be on time, and remain to the end.

Red Cross limits the course to 20 FULL course participants. There are only THREE full course slots left!

For complete details, use the button below.

Wilderness First Aid



Cub Scouts Range & Target Activities Day Tuscaloosa Police Firing Range Saturday, February 21

Calling all Cub Scouts!

Join us on Saturday, February 21st for a great day on the firing range. Cubs will have the opportunity to learn basic range safety procedures, the proper way to use a bb gun, bow and arrow, and sling shot. Each Cub will get plenty of time honing their skills.

To learn how to get involved and how you need to prepare, click on the button below for complete details and how to register for this great event.

Aim, ready., fire!

Cub Scouts Range
Day



Council Annual Recognition Dinner **Thursday, February 26**

The Council Annual Recognition Dinner will be held on Thursday, February 26th in the Community Room of the Tuscaloosa County School System office (1118 Greensboro Avenue, Tuscaloosa). The dinner will begin at 6:30 pm and end by 8:00 pm.

At this annual event, the coveted Silver Beaver Award is bestowed upon up to two deserving adult volunteers. The 2025 Class of Eagle Scouts will also be recognized.

Chris Stewart, the voice of the Alabama Crimson Tide will be our guest speaker. And as always, there will be great food and wonderful fellowship.

Use the button below for complete details.

Council Dinner



Citizenship MB Program at University of Alabama **Saturday, February 28**

As the United States of America celebrates 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Black Warrior Council presents Scouts a dynamic opportunity to work on requirements for Citizenship in the Community, Nation, and World. Eagle Scouts on the staff and faculty of the University of Alabama have volunteered to teach classes to help our Scouts earn these important Eagle-Required merit badges. Scouts will have the chance to complete most, if not, all, of a select Citizenship merit badge.

Use the button below for more details!

Citizenship Day Webpage

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 [#/registration](https://scouting.org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YzYmxMMqQJK0HqvH6nsYBQ), and additional sessions are planned for 2026.



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.



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!



District News

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

District Director: Roland Lewis [email](#)

- February 12th: River District Committee Mtg., 5:30
- February 12th: River District Scout Roundtable, 6:30

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

District Executive: Darren Hix [email](#)

- February 12th: River District Committee Mtg., 6:00, Camp O'Rear
- February 12th: 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](#)



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

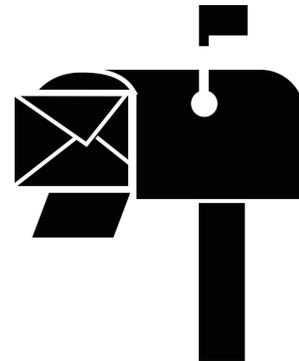
How to Address Mail to the Scout Service Center

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



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