

Jayhawk eBugler

JANUARY 2026 ISSUE

SCOUTING NEWS FOR THE MONTH PRESENTED BY THE JAYHAWK AREA COUNCIL, BSA

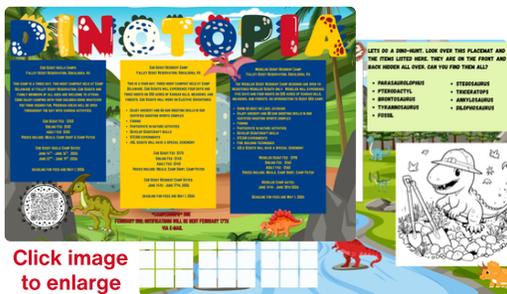
www.jayhawkcouncil.org

TREADING NEW GROUND

Countdown to Council Klondike is on! Mark your calendars because the registration deadline is Thursday, January 15, at 11:59 PM. After that, any latecomers or extra sign-ups will need to swing by onsite registration on Friday, January 23, at the scenic Pomona State Park.

So, grab your patrol, join in on the fun and begin your adventure Treading New Ground for 2026! This event is open to all Scouts BSA and Webelos. Let's make some memories!

[Register Today!](#)



Click image to enlarge

BLUE AND GOLD PLACEMATS AVAILABLE

Attention all Cubmasters and Pack Committee Chairs, the Jayhawk Area Council is once again offering themed placemats for your Blue and Gold Banquets. These placemats are a sneak preview into what Cub Scout Summer Camp is all about. Get ready to have fun in Dinotopia!

These placemats are available to any Cub Scout Pack free of charge. If interested in placing an order, or for more information, please contact Tara at the Council office at 785.276.3343 or email to: tara.montgomery@scouting.org

[Get Registered for Camp TODAY!!](#)

CAMPERSHIPS AVAILABLE

Scouting America Jayhawk Area Council, does not want any Scout to miss the opportunity to attend summer camping programs offered by (our council) due to financial hardship.

The Campership Program is designed to aid Scouting families in these circumstances. Campership Assistance Forms are available in the Literature Kiosk located in the Scout Shop or [online](#). All forms must be signed by the Unit Leader/Chair and submitted to the Scout Office no later than February 3, 2026. First time applicants will be given priority consideration.



SCOUTING SPOTLIGHT

Has your unit or district engaged in noteworthy activities that you would like to share with the broader Scouting community? Got a event coming up and need our help to share? We are eager to highlight the accomplishments of our Scouts. As you know, the newsletter serves to inform our families about developments within the Scouting world. In our effort to provide more information and recognize the dedication of our volunteers and leaders who sustain the spirit of Scouting, we have established some guidelines to ensure fairness for all contributors:

- Details of event: Date and Location
- Who was involved: Packs, Troops or District
- A short blurb for your article
- If the event is a fundraiser please submit [Unit Money Earning Form](#)

MOST IMPORTANTLY: Deadline is the 6th of the month

WOOD BADGE AND NYLT AUCTION DINNER

Wood Badge and NYLT Auction Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 7 @ 6:00 PM at the Town & Country Church here in Topeka. Alumni of both programs are encouraged to attend. Proceeds from the event will fund scholarships for both of our leadership programs that will help cover the cost of course fees.

Do you own a business or have a product, service or gift certificate you would like to donate to a good cause? Wood Badge and NYLT Volunteers are seeking items to be used as part of their Dinner and Silent Auction.

Any questions or donations please contact Joe Blasko at 785.276.3346 or email: joseph.blasko@scouting.org.

We sincerely appreciate your support and generosity.

SWING DANCE FUN!

The time has arrived again where Aviation Explorers Post 8 will be hosting their annual Swing Dance. Save the Date! February 21, 2026 at Vaerus Aviation Hangar at Forbes Field. For more information visit [Post8.org!](#)

250 YEARS OF AMERICA

Scouting America is delighted to announce a national partnership with America250, aimed at inspiring Scouts across the nation to commemorate this significant milestone. This collaboration emphasizes action, learning, and leadership, encouraging Scouts to engage with our nation's history and participate in community service initiatives. Stay tuned for upcoming special events and the requirements for your Scouts to earn a unique anniversary patch!

Congratulations to our 2025 Eagle Scouts!

L. Brandt	Troop 12	J. Lawhon	Troop 11	S. Dengler	Troop 157
W. Carey	Troop 249	Z. Lindsay	Troop 46	J. Roby Williams	Troop 165
H. Diederich	Troop 13	W. Luke	Troop 46	H. Smith	Troop 157
A. Eisenbarth	Troop 18	A. McMullen	Troop 7	C. Thomas	Troop 165
N. Fewell	Troop 59	I. Oleen	Troop 249	R. Whittington	Troop 157G
L. Franklin	Troop 46	B. Partridge	Troop 186	J. Berry	Troop 173
E. Hammeke	Troop 7	C. Ryan	Troop 186	O. Filbert	Troop 173
S. Hammes	Troop 46	P. Vincent	Troop 18	J. King	Troop 173
B. Hanson	Troop 11	E. White	Troop 46	L. King	Troop 173
D. Kopp	Troop 59	S. Johll	Troop 138	K. MacIntosh	Troop 173
R. Kramer	Troop 11	J. Lewis	Troop 71	K. Pugh	Troop 173
F. Lappin	Troop 46			G. White	Troop 193



VENTURING SUMMIT AWARD

Congratulations to A. Grier for achieving the highest award for a Venturing Scout! Your hard work does not go unnoticed!

PLANNING CONFERENCE

The Bison District Committee met on December 6th to coordinate and plan the next year of programming for our Scouts. We'd like to first say thank you for their time and work. A huge thank you as well to those volunteers who came out and participated in our open planning session! Look forward to hearing about all of the new updates and events at Roundtable or here in the E-Bugler.

HOLIDAY HOURS

The Offices and Scout Shop will be closed for the Christmas Holiday from December 24 - 27, and January 1st! We will be closed December 19th, 11:30 AM -1:30 PM for our staff holiday party. Thank you for your understanding!

LEADERSHIP TRAINING UPDATES

We would like to give a heartfelt thanks to Chaz Havens on the time spent as the Council Leadership Training Chair. He has handed the reigns to Shaun Schmidt. Chaz will continue to support training as the 2027 Wood Badge Scoutmaster. We would also like to say a big thank you to Dick Carter for serving as Scoutmaster for the 2025 Wood Badge Course.



WASHBURN TECH

Dave Myers and Chaz Havens worked tirelessly to guarantee a fantastic Merit Badge University at Washburn Tech where we had over a hundred Scouts attend. Jayhawk Area Council and Bison District is very appreciative of all of their time and effort in bringing together a great crew of Merit Badge Counselors.

SCARE-O-REE

A huge shout out to Tony Wingert of Pack 186; his hard-working crew of Troop 7, 59, 175, 183, 186; and our special crew members from Pack 175 and 186! Our first time event was a huge success and a lot of fun. Join all of them next year as we expand this event into two weekends!

READY FOR NYLT?

National Youth Leadership Training is the premier training course for Scouts BSA and Venturing youth. It provides the skills that youth leaders need to be successful in Scouting roles and in life.

The NYLT course centers around the concepts of what a leader must *BE*, what they must *KNOW*, and what they must *DO*. The key elements are then taught with a clear focus on *HOW TO*. The skills come alive during the week as the patrol goes on a quest for the meaning of leadership.

The deadline to apply for a \$200 NYLT scholarship is coming up fast on February 23! Two scholarship recipients will be selected and recognized at the Wood Badge & NYLT Banquet, so be sure your Scout applies in time.

This year's youth staff is hard at work preparing an incredible six-day NYLT experience that will take place May 24 - 29, 2026 at Falley Scout Reservation, Parents of past participants consistently share how much NYLT has strengthened their Scout's confidence, leadership skills, and enthusiasm for Scouting.

The first 28 Scouts to register will receive a \$50 discount, so early registration is strongly encouraged. NYLT delivers outstanding leadership development, and getting signed up early ensures your Scout can take full advantage of the opportunity. For full details on why Scouts should attend NYLT, visit: www.jayhawkcouncil.org/training/nylt

Space is limited and course fills up fast so [register](#) now!

ATTENTION ALL DIRECT CONTACT LEADERS

As we move over into the winter months and start seeing inclement weather, this is a great time to update your Hazardous Weather Training. This is required training for ALL Direct Contact Leaders and must be renewed every two years.

Training can be done when you are available because it is exclusively online. Simply log into my.scouting.org and visit the training section to take the course.

Many Scouting programs take place in the outdoors. This training discusses how to manage risks from the weather to our Scouting families. Let's be proactive and get 100% trained by January 20.

NRA BASIC RANGE SAFETY OFFICER COURSE

Scouting America Jayhawk Area Council seeks to develop new certified range safety officers who possess the knowledge, skills and attitudes essential to organizing, conducting, supervising and safely operating target and range activities. This course is designed to prepare experienced shooters to perform the basic duties of a Range Safety Officer (RSO). RSO's ensure that the users of a range follow range regulations in order to reduce property damage and personal injury. Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 21, 2026, from 8:00 to 5:00, and head over to Falley Scout Reservation! This course is your golden ticket to mastering the art of being an RSO, ensuring everyone plays by the rules and keeps things safe. The adventure costs just \$60, so don't miss your shot—[sign up today!](#)

Questions? Please Contact John Gray: bufsr374@gmail.com or 402.852.6854

Upcoming Dates-

- Jan 10 OA Winter Banquet
- Jan 23 - 25 Council Klondike
- Jan 23 Unit Recharter Due
- Jan 30 - Feb 1 NYLT Staff Development
- Feb 1 - 7 Scout Anniversary Week
- Feb 7 Council Annual Recognition Dinner
- Feb 7 Washburn Merit Badge University
- Feb 11 Topeka Distinguished Citizen Dinner
- Feb 21 Range Safety Officer Course
- March 4 Emporia Friends of Scouting Breakfast
- March 7 Wood Badge/NYLT Dinner Auction



Scout Shop Corner

For up to date information on Scout Shop Follow us:



The Jayhawk Area Council Scout Shop located at 1020 SE Monroe in downtown Topeka invites you to stop in and make a purchase or two for your Scout. Lots of new items coming in weekly!! We carry uniforms, t-shirts, accessories, camping equipment, and much more for the new Scout all the way to the Eagle Scout.

Open M-F 9-5:30 PM Saturdays 9-1 PM. You can also call in an order to have shipped to you. Call (785) 354-0291.



SAFETY MOMENT: "BUDDY SYSTEM AND AWARENESS"

In Scouting, safety starts with always using the buddy system. Whether hiking, swimming, or exploring a new area, never go alone — your buddy is your first line of support if something goes wrong. Always keep an eye out for each other, check in regularly, and speak up if you notice someone looking tired, lost, or hurt.

Remember: Two is one, one is none — staying together means staying safe!

ATTEND THE DZIE-HAUK TONGA LODGE WINTER BANQUET

All Order of the Arrow members and families are invited to come January 10, to the Dzie-Hauk Tonga Winter Banquet. We will once again be at the Mater Dei Parish Hall located at 1114 SW 10th Street in Topeka, KS. Social hour starts at 5:00 and dinner starts at 6:00 along with our silent auction. Program starts shortly after. We are still looking for donations for the silent auction, [click for more details](#).

Join us as we present our annual awards recognizing key members for their service and welcome the new Lodge officers as they officially take up office. In addition to the banquet, a Lodge Leadership Development session will begin at 10:00 and the Lodge Executive Committee will meet at 2:00. Come for a day of training and stay for food and fellowship.

Please sure to register and we will see you at Winter Banquet!

[Get Registered now!](#)

ANNUAL ORDER OF THE ARROW DUES NOTICE

If you or your Scout has been inducted into the Order of the Arrow (OA), it is now time to renew your annual membership. Your annual dues support the efforts of your local Dzie-Hauk Tonga Lodge as well as the National Order of the Arrow. The lodge's portion supplements the overall cost of the fellowships and winter banquet to ensure all can participate. The lodge provides support for camp development at Falley Scout Reservation and the summer camp program by providing an OA Coordinator on the camp staff. The number of paid members in the Dzie-Hauk Tonga Lodge determines how many Vigil Honor and Founders Award recipients we can select annually so it is important that we have all our inducted members current in their dues.

You have two payment options for your dues. You can pay the annual fee of just \$20.00 or you can choose the Arrow Pass option. For \$100.00, you not only cover your dues, but you also become automatically registered for the winter banquet and both fellowships (general member) – a savings of 15% over paying for each individually.

You can go [here](#) and choose which option you want to do. You can also renew your dues as a part of registering for the OA Winter Banquet. Finally, you can also renew your dues by mailing in a check to or stopping by the Jayhawk Area Council Service Center at 1020 SE Monroe Street, Topeka, KS 66612.

The Dzie-Hauk Tonga Lodge has lots of great things planned for 2026. Be sure to be a part of it by renewing your dues and re-engaging with the OA!



CUB ADVENTURE DAY WINNER

A colossal thank you to everyone who unleashed their inner Picasso at our Cub Adventure Day coloring contest! You've fueled the dino-sized buzz for our upcoming Dinotopia Cub Adventure Summer Camp. Hats off to all who cast their votes and a roaring congrats to L. Casey from Pack 246 for snagging the most votes! 🦖🌟

COUNCIL DINNER ON THE HORIZON!

Council Recognition Dinner is just around the corner on Saturday, February 7, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. The dinner will be held at a new location, Bishop Professional Development Center, located at 3601 SW 31st Street, Topeka, KS 66614. Dinner attendees are encouraged to park in the South Parking Lot and enter the building at the South Doors directly in front of them. We will have greeters available to welcome you and guide you towards the Registration area.

During our Recognition Dinner, we will celebrate our achievements throughout the past year as well as look forward to the future of Scouting. We invite you to come and recognize our Eagle Scout Class of 2025 as well as their class honoree. In addition to celebrating our two Silver Beaver Recipients, we will also be presenting some other awards and highlighting our accomplishments from 2025.

[Register Now!](#)

MERIT BADGE TIME!

Join us for our 2026 Washburn Merit Badge University, which will be held on February 7, at Washburn University. This event is hosted by the Bison District but is open to all registered Scouts.

Scouts BSA members will have the opportunity to work on over 20 Merit Badges being offered, including several Eagle Required Merit Badges. We are still finalizing our Merit Badge Counselors so stay tuned for updates!

Those looking to finish their Trifecta are encouraged to register early and will be able to take a PM class as well. Registration opens January 9 so be ready!

TOPEKA SCARECROWS HOCKEY

Some units have already taken advantage of this opportunity, but Topeka's new Hockey Team is looking for Scouts to help with Color Guards in December, January, and February. If interested please email:

kurt.garner@scouting.org



SCOUTING AMERICA OFFERS FAMILY TROOP OPTION

The family troop model became available as a third option to all chartering organizations on December 15, 2025. This is in addition to a boy-only or girl-only troop. This option was piloted in select councils and received positive reactions overall by those involved.

This is not a mandate for troops to convert to a family option nor is it expected for linked troops (gender specific troops with same chartering organization) to merge. Each troop along with their chartering organization needs to make the decision that is in the best interests of the youth, families, and community they serve.

The Jayhawk Area Council commissioner staff is being briefed on how to assist your troop with this conversation. There is a Family Troop Decision Guide and a Family Troop Best Practices Guide to assist you with your discussions. It is extremely important to have an engaged discussion as recommended in these materials. This is not and should not be a light decision. If your troop decides to convert to a family troop, the Intent to Convert form MUST be completed and submitted to the Jayhawk Area Council office. Cheryl Collins, our registrar, has specific instructions as to what she needs to do in My.Scouting to complete the conversion. Without the Intent to Convert form, she cannot make any changes.

If you have any questions, please contact your unit commissioner, district commissioner or district executive for assistance.

SCOUTING AMERICA INTRODUCES NEW UNIFIED SCOUTS BSA HANDBOOK

Based on significant feedback from youth and volunteers, Scouting America is pleased to announce the release of a unified Scouts BSA Handbook designed for all youth who are part of the Scouts BSA program.

This handbook does not replace the current 14th Edition of the Scouts BSA Handbook, and this unified version has no major program changes. It is simply a single, unified version of the handbook that can be used by boys or girls in Scouts BSA. The text remains the same, but photos now reflect all youth in Scouts BSA. Leaders, youth, and units spoke about their desire for this unified version, and they listened.

Since there are no changes to the requirements, the Jayhawk Scout Shop will continue to sell the gender-specific handbooks while supplies last. We anticipate the new handbooks to reach our store late January/ early February depending on the supply of current handbooks the national supply center has in stock. They will send out the new ones once they exhaust the current inventory.

THANK YOU FOR AN AMAZING YEAR!

With 2026 upon us, it is a great time to look back at some of the accomplishments your Jayhawk Area Council has had over the past year.

Over 350 new Scouts and families came out to Falley Scout Reservation to have their first Cub Scout experience at our annual Cub Adventure Day. This was provided at no charge for the Scout and the family members paid a small fee to cover lunch. All new Scouts that registered before October 31, received at no charge their new Scout handbook helping set the path to advancements. We continue to expand the number of packs, troops, crews and posts finishing the year with an increase of almost 5%!

To date, we have just shy of 40 Eagle Scouts with more finishing up their boards of review before the end of year. We had one Venturing Scout who completed the very challenging Summit Award. The 2025 Class of Eagle Scouts will be recognized at our council banquet in February. Overall, we have seen close to a 6% increase in Scouts earning advancements.

Our annual National Youth Leader Training (NYLT) and our biennial Wood Badge course trained 30 youth and adult leaders respectively in effective leadership skills. Our courses continue to be of the highest level of quality both in participants and staff. The Wood Badge/NYLT banquet through its auction supplements the registration costs for these courses making it affordable for anyone to attend.

Falley Scout Reservation has seen increases in overall attendance with close to 2,500 weekend visitors this year in addition to our summer camp season. Camp was used almost every weekend of 2025 by someone. The campmaster corps and the camp maintenance was busy serving our guests and keeping our camp in the great shape our visitors come to expect. Our Range and Target Activities committee continues to expand opportunities for our Scouts to take part in fun and educational activities. We are revitalizing our ropes course (COPE) and climbing tower with a new committee, new emphasis and upgraded facilities.

We have a lot to be thankful for. So much more than can be included in one article. Thanks to the over 600 volunteers that help provide the Scouting program to our close to 1,200 youth every day. Thanks to the almost 70 chartering organizations that provide local meeting locations for our Scouts. Thanks to the many supporters, both individuals and companies, of our special events and annual giving campaign (Friends of Scouting) that choose to invest in the success of this great Scouting program.

On behalf of the Jayhawk Area Council staff, we wish you a great holiday season and look forward to an outstanding 2026.

Yours in Scouting,

