

Jayhawk eBugler

APRIL 2026 ISSUE

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

www.jayhawkcouncil.org



DZIE-HAUK TONGA LODGE

ORDER OF THE ARROW

SECTION CONCLAVE

Arrowmen from across Section G6 are invited to gather for an unforgettable weekend of fellowship, training, and brotherhood at Section Conclave, April 10 – 12 at Theodore Naish Scout Reservation. This annual event brings together lodges from throughout Section G6 for a high-energy experience designed to strengthen leadership, deepen service, and celebrate the spirit of the Order of the Arrow.

Conclave is more than just a weekend—it's where Arrowmen unite. Participants will engage in dynamic training sessions, meaningful patch trading, lodge competitions, ceremonial showcases, and inspiring keynote moments. Whether you are a newly inducted member or a seasoned leader, Conclave offers something for everyone.

Throughout the weekend, members will build lasting friendships with fellow Arrowmen from across the section, exchange ideas that strengthen their home lodges, and recommit themselves to the OA's principles of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service.

Set against the backdrop of Camp Naish's outstanding facilities and scenic landscape, Section G6 Conclave promises to be a memorable gathering filled with energy, tradition, and purpose.

Mark your calendar for April 10 – 12 and prepare to experience the power of fellowship in action. We'll see you at Camp Naish! [More info here.](#)

SPRING FELLOWSHIP

The OA Spring Fellowship, being held on May 1 - 3, it is open to all members of the OA as well as those prospective members that have been elected by their troop or crew as Ordeal Candidates.

This event is a mixture of fun, fellowship, and candidates completing their Ordeal and Brotherhood levels as members of the Dzie-Hauk Tonga Lodge. [Register Today!](#)

SCOUT DAY AT THE K

Scout Day at the K returns Sunday, April 12 as the Kansas City Royals take on the Chicago White Sox in an early AL Central Division showdown. For more information or to order individual tickets, please contact the Heart of America Council [here.](#)

IT'S SUMMER CAMP TIME

Is your troop registered for Summer Camp? Don't forget to get registered for Merit Badges. There are many options to choose from. For your copy of the [2026 Camp Jayhawk Program Guide.](#)

Camp Jayhawk has something for every Scout. From a first time camper to an experienced camper. Mark your calendars with these important dates!

- June 7 - 13 Scouts BSA Session
- July 7 - 9 Merit Badge Immersion

There is so much more information about summer camps and Camp Jayhawk! [Jump on over and check it out!](#)

Some important dates to mark on your calendar:

- March 1: Merit Badge Registration Opens
- March 3: First Payment Due
- May 5: Final Payment Due
- May 5: M. Badge Registration Close
- May 5: Registration Close

NYLT 2026 COURSE

National Youth Leadership Training will take place May 24 - 29 at Falley Scout Reservation. Get your Scout registered today for this premier youth leadership training.

Registration is already open, don't delay [register](#) today! What are you waiting for? Want to save money? Save \$50 for the first 28 Scouts registered!

HIGHLAND GAMES: ARE YOU READY TO COMPETE?

Get ready for strength, spirit, and a whole lot of fun at the Annual Highland Games hosted by the Bison District! Join us April 17 – 19 at Camp Bromelsick in Lawrence, Ks for a weekend packed with exciting competitions, team challenges, and unforgettable Scout camaraderie. From thrilling feats of skill and endurance to high-energy contests, there's something for everyone to jump into and enjoy. Take a look at the Leader's Guide to get prepared.

Whether you're competing for bragging rights or cheering on your unit, the Highland Games promise adventure, laughter, and memories that will last all year. Registration is now open—rally your team and [sign up today!](#)

DINOTOPIA

CUB SCOUT CAMPS

Get ready to stomp, roar, and explore at Cub Scout Camp this summer. Scouts will journey back to a land where dinosaurs and humans live, learn, and play together in harmony. From fossil digs and prehistoric crafts to dino-sized games and outdoor adventures, every day will be packed with excitement, discovery, and larger-than-life fun. Scouts will build new friendships, test their bravery on epic quests, and uncover ancient secrets hidden around camp.

AKELA CAMP

This camp is a three-day, two-night adventure held at Camp Delaware in Falley Scout Reservation. Are you ready to explore the enchanting world of Dinotopia? Register as a group or bring the family for an unforgettable journey into this prehistoric paradise. There will be two sessions this year for this extraordinary camp.

Session One: [June 14 - 16](#)

Session Two: [June 27 - 29](#)

CUB SCOUT RESIDENT CAMP

Cub Scout Resident Camp is a four-day/three-night camping experience. It is open to youth in the second thru fifth grades and their leaders or parents. Cub Scout Resident Camp is open to earning four elective rank adventures along with other activities including BB, archery, fishing, nature hikes, swimming, as well as a campfire program.

[June 14 - 17](#)

WEBELOS RESIDENT CAMP

Webelos Resident Camp is a five-day/four-night camping experience that will allow your Webelos Scout to learn new things, meet new friends and experience fun in the outdoors. Open to all Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts.

[June 14 - 18](#)

FUN WITH FAMILY

Looking for something low key to do with the Family without breaking the budget? Fun with Family is a day camp experience open to all Cub Scouts, their adult leaders, guardians and/or siblings. Click [here](#) to learn more and get registered.

[June 20](#)

SAVE THE DATE

NOMINATIONS OPEN SOON

Shine the light on someone you know who's doing big things and making an impact! Nominations for 2026 Topeka's Top 20 Under 40 open April 6 and close May 20. [Nominate today!](#)



SOJADI DISTRICT DINNER

Sojadi threw a district dinner bash in February, and it was fantastic! Huge shoutout to all who showed up and to culinary maestros Don Bailey, Ken Roemer, and John Young for the good food. The auction was a hit, raking in over \$400 to support local leadership training! We gave high-fives to Casey Lerch and Carol Whittington for earning Trained Leader and Den Leader Training Knots. Cinet Karcher and Kevin Parker also earned their Scouter's Key knots, and the District Award of Merit went to Pam May from Pack 106. Big kudos to Pack 106 and Troop 157 for their recognition, too! In total, 42 folks joined the fun, including 5 of our 2025 Eagle Scouts!

SUNFLOWER DISTRICT DINNER

Please join us for the Sunflower District Dinner. We will present top volunteer awards, including the District Award of Merit, which is the highest award a volunteer can receive in the district. The Class of 2025 Eagle Scouts will also be specially recognized by the District.

Thanks to some local donors, there is no charge to attend the dinner, but, you must register to attend! Please [register](#) for dinner in order to help us recognize our volunteers and Eagle Scouts on Thursday, April 9, at the Second Presbyterian Church in Topeka starting at 6:00 PM.



LIBERTY IN ACTION PATCH

Celebrate history with the Liberty in Action Patch as part of Scouting America's America250 Anniversary Challenge from now to February 2027. Scouts will explore freedom, citizenship, and community through hands-on activities like researching founding ideals, showcasing civic spirit, and engaging in service projects. For more information go [here](#).

SCOUTING SAFETY MOMENT: SPRING WEATHER AWARENESS

Spring weather can change quickly. One minute it's sunny, and the next we may have thunderstorms, strong winds, or even hail. As Scouts and leaders, it's important to stay alert and prepared.

Always check the weather forecast before outdoor activities and have a backup plan if conditions change. If you hear thunder, remember: When thunder roars, go indoors. Move to a sturdy building or a vehicle and stay away from tall trees, open fields, and metal objects.

Watch for signs of severe weather like dark clouds, sudden temperature drops, or strong winds. Leaders should know where the nearest shelter is and make sure Scouts understand where to go if weather turns bad.

Being prepared, aware, and calm helps keep everyone safe so we can continue enjoying the outdoors.



EXPLORING: A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP & CAREER DISCOVERY

The Exploring program has evolved for nearly a century to meet the changing needs of older youth. What began in the 1930s as "Senior Scouts" — older boys focused on advanced outdoor skills and leadership — has grown into a dynamic, career-focused program that prepares young people for real-world success.

In 1949, the program officially became the Explorer division, expanding opportunities beyond traditional camping to include Sea and Air Explorers. A major transformation in 1959 reshaped Exploring around hands-on "Experiences" instead of rank advancement, emphasizing vocational skills, service, citizenship, social development, outdoor adventure, and fitness.

By 1969, Exploring fully embraced career exploration, forming Posts connected to industries such as law enforcement, fire and rescue, healthcare, aviation, and skilled trades. In 1971, the program became fully coeducational, opening the door for both young men and women to participate equally.

Today, Exploring operates as part of Learning for Life and continues to support the mission of Scouts BSA; developing character, leadership, and citizenship through real-world career experiences.

Exploring Highlights:

- Career-focused, hands-on learning
- Partnerships with community professionals
- Leadership development for teens
- Co-ed opportunities
- Industry-specific "Posts" guided by adult Advisors
- Exploring remains a powerful pathway for young people to discover their interests, build confidence, and gain meaningful experience that prepares them for the future.



2026 EAGLE SCOUTS



Congratulations to all the Scouts that has earned the rank of Eagle so far this year. We are all very proud of you!! Its not too late to earn this prestigious rank!!

Troop	District	Scout
13	Bison	A. Fisk
10	Bison	A. Flanagan
193	Sunflower	K. Gillgannon
18	Bison	E. Kelly
13	Bison	I. Lawrenz
26	Bison	N. Prater

WOODBADGE/NYLT AUCTION UPDATES

Our Wood Badge/NYLT Auction Dinner was held on March 7. We had close to eighty people in attendance. Joe Kirkwood and his team put on a fabulous meal, and Chaz Havens did a phenomenal job as our auctioneer.

Thanks to the generosity of these donors we were able to raise over \$3,000 to benefit both Scholarship programs. We salute our donors for helping to make this happen and wish to congratulate all of our awesome volunteers for all of their hard work.

SCOUTS READ SACRED TEXTS WORLDWIDE

Scouting America is promoting "Scouts Read Sacred Texts," a global initiative encouraging Scouts and their families to engage in reflective reading of sacred texts in preparation for the 2026 National Day of Prayer on May 7. Organized by the National Religious Relationships Committee, this program emphasizes character development, literacy, and the Scout Oath's commitment to "duty to God," while respecting individual beliefs.

Key features include:

- A meaningful opportunity for Scouts to connect with their faith.
- Encouragement of about 15 minutes of reading at home or other suitable locations.
- Goals to foster reading, ethical development, and community engagement.



Last year, nearly 6,000 youth logged over 1,400 reading hours, highlighting the initiative's success and global involvement from various countries. Participation is open to all faiths and youth organizations, promoting shared reflection and respect. [For more information and registration.](#)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY COMMISSIONED DISTRICT EXECUTIVES

Congratulations to Caleb Gray and Nick Theisen, two of our District Executives, who recently traveled to National Service Center to participate in the very first Field 1 / Program 1 Commissioning Course. After completing this inaugural training, both successfully earned their Commission.

Their dedication to professional growth and commitment to strengthening Scouting in our communities is something we are incredibly proud of. Please join us in congratulating them on this outstanding accomplishment!



Commissioning #2602
National Service Center - Irving, Texas
Scouting U
Learn. Challenge. Lead.™

AMERICA 250 AT JAYHAWK AREA COUNCIL

After many teases at District Roundtables, we are very happy to announce our special America 250 set of adventures that we will be offering for all units in JAC to participate in. With a special round patch and 25 limited event patches to encircle it there are a lot of things for our Scouts and Scouters to look forward to earning this year.

The official rollout will be at your District Program Preview in May! We hope to see all of you there and can't wait to start seeing everyone build their patch sets.

Questions? Contact [Kurt](#) for more information about how your unit can participate.



Bison District has had a busy couple of months already this year and we wanted to share our appreciation to our hard-working volunteers!

Washburn Merit Badge University was a great success this year with 200 registered participants and over 50 Scouter and University Staff that helped lead our nearly 30 Merit Badges. Thank you to all who helped make this event happen, especially Shaun Schmidt our Event Coordinator and Lucky Hoang our Vice Chair of Program.

JAYHAWK AREA COUNCIL SCOUT SHOW AND PINWOOD DERBY

Our Scouts took over the West Ridge Mall with nearly 40 racers and over a 100 Scouts, Scouters and families from around our Council. A special thank you to Keith Roberts our District Commissioner, Mark Hall, Brenden Feldt, and Brian Wiggans for putting in a full, non-stop, day of work to make this event happen!

BISON DISTRICT DINNER

Our District Dinner was held March 12 with 50 Scouts, Scouters, and family members attending. A special thanks to Dale Kirmer for securing the event space and to Jessica Samuels for coordinating our dinner, as she did a fantastic job. Dave Evans graciously emceed our event for the night with the many of the District Committee assisting throughout. A special Congratulations to both Dale Kirmer and Mark Hall, who received the District Award of Merit.

GET READY FOR ADVENTURE!

Attention all thrill-seekers and those ready to conquer their fear of heights, the COPE High and Low Course is being built as we speak! Get set for an adrenaline-pumping summer camp adventure. Want your unit to join in the sky-high fun? Give [Kurt](#) a shout for all the details!



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 9:00 - 5:30 and on Saturdays from 9:00 - 1:00. Scout shop will be closed on Saturday's starting May 23. You can also call in an order to have shipped to you. Call (785) 354-0291.



GO TO JAYHAWKCOUNCIL.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS

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|-------------|---------------------------|
| APRIL 3 | OFFICE CLOSED—GOOD FRIDAY |
| APRIL 9 | SUNFLOWER DISTRICT DINNER |
| APRIL 10-12 | OA SECTION CONCLAVE |
| APRIL 17-19 | HIGHLAND GAMES |
| APRIL 24-26 | WILDERNESS FIRST AID |
| APRIL 25 | SOJADI CUB FAMILY CAMP |
| MAY 1-3 | OA SPRING FELLOWSHIP |