



Jayhawk eBugler

JULY 2026 ISSUE

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

www.jayhawkcouncil.org



CLAY SHOOTING FOR CHARACTER

Gather your team, take aim, and join us for a day of fun, fellowship, and friendly competition at the 2026 Sporting Clays Invitational! The Jayhawk Area Council Range and Target Activities Committee invites you to the Sporting Clays Invitational on Saturday, August 15, 2026, at Ravenwood Lodge, beginning at 9:00 AM.

Whether you're an experienced shooter or just looking for a great outdoor experience with friends, family, coworkers, or fellow Scouters, this event offers something for everyone. Participants will enjoy a challenging sporting clays course while supporting the growth and improvement of range and target activities at Falley Scout Reservation.

Proceeds from the event help fund important range improvements, equipment upgrades, and program enhancements that provide safe, exciting outdoor experiences for Scouts throughout the year.

Why Participate?

- Enjoy a fun and challenging day outdoors
- Support Scouting's range and target activities programs
- Compete with friends, coworkers, and fellow shooting enthusiasts
- Help improve facilities and equipment at Falley Scout Reservation
- Network with community leaders and supporters of Scouting

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Businesses and individuals can further support the event through a variety of sponsorship opportunities. Sponsors receive recognition while helping provide quality outdoor experiences that build character, confidence, and leadership in young people.

[Registration is now open](#), so don't wait! Gather your team and reserve your spot today.

POWER UP YOUR MERIT BADGES

Get ready for an unforgettable summer adventure at Merit Badge Immersion at Falley Scout Reservation! Join us July 7–9 for three days packed with hands-on learning, skill-building, and exciting merit badge opportunities including Art, Automotive Maintenance, Bird Study, Bugling, Disc Golf, Signs, Signals and Codes, and many more!

Whether you're working toward advancement or exploring new interests, this is the perfect chance to learn valuable skills and work toward your goals. [Get Registered NOW!](#)

BE A SCOUTING RECRUITER

Does your Scout have friends or family that's not currently involved in Scouting? Take some time to develop a list because Scouting is more fun when friends and family are involved!! Earn the Recruiter patch by inviting other families you may know and friends to join Scouting.

An invitation from a friend or family member goes a long way in helping to increase membership in your Pack, Troop, Crew or Post.



HOOKING SCOUTS ON SKILLS FOR LIFE

Become an Angling Educator to help young people enjoy fishing and the outdoors! This role introduces Cub Scouts and Scouts to fishing fundamentals, outdoor skills, and a love for nature. Fishing programs enhance camp experiences and support membership growth. Participants aged 14 and older can join the upcoming virtual course via Microsoft Teams, with both sessions required for completion. Space is limited register now to inspire future anglers!

Online Angling Educator course:

[July 15, 6:30 - 8:30 PM](#)

[July 22, 6:30 - 8:30 PM](#)

TURN SNACKS INTO SCOUTING ADVENTURES

Get ready, Jayhawk Area Council! The 2026 Sale Season is shaping up to be our biggest and best yet with Popcorn AND Meat Sticks! That's right—two great products mean more opportunities to sell, more ways to engage Scouts, and more funds to power an amazing year of Scouting adventures. Whether you're a seasoned Popcorn Kernel, a brand-new leader, or a parent looking to help your unit succeed, now is the time to get prepared for a fun, exciting, and profitable fundraising season.

Join us at the Ideal Year of Scouting Fair to learn valuable tips, tools, and strategies that will help your unit maximize its fundraising success. Discover how popcorn and meat stick sales can fund camping trips, summer camp, high-adventure experiences, advancements, equipment, and all the unforgettable memories that make Scouting special. Attend In Person or Virtually! Can't make it to the event in person? No problem! A virtual attendance option is available so every unit can participate and get the information they need.

Want to be fed? If you'd like to enjoy the provided meal, you'll need to attend in person. That's right—we can't send the food through the computer! 😊

Important: Commit Your Unit Today!

Before the sale season begins, be sure to visit Trail's End and commit your unit to selling. Units that commit early can begin accessing valuable resources and open up opportunities for Storefront Sales, helping Scouts reach more customers and achieve their goals.

[Register today](#) and let's make this year's sale the biggest one yet!

Ideal Year of Scouting Fair

July 23
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Second Presbyterian Church
210 NW Menninger Rd
Topeka, KS 66617





DISTRICT KICKOFFS

We are excited to announce our District Program Kickoffs are approaching! Learn about programs for the upcoming 2026-2027 Scouting year. Be informed about the Membership Recruitment Plan and how to have a successful sign-up night in Fall 2026.

There will be promotional materials, membership recruitment materials, and general updates on district activities presented at this event. It would be beneficial if you communicate with your district executive your recruitment plans, so they can better assist you. We ask all Units to have at least two leaders attend to cover the respective program presentations.

For more information and to get registered click [here](#).



ADVENTURE IS WAITING – ARE YOU READY TO CLIMB?

The adventure is happening right now at Falley Scout Reservation! Our Bouldering Wall, Climbing Tower, Rappelling Program, and Project COPE Course are officially open and providing unforgettable experiences for Scouts of all ages. Whether you're taking your first steps up the climbing wall, conquering your fear of heights on the rappel tower, or building confidence and teamwork through COPE challenges, there's an adventure waiting for you. These programs do more than get Scouts outdoors—they develop leadership, communication, problem-solving skills, resilience, and self-confidence while creating memories that last a lifetime.

Looking for the ultimate challenge? Join us for our next Project COPE Weekend on August 1-2 for youth ages 13 and older. Participants will tackle exciting low and high course elements, strengthen teamwork skills, build trust, and push beyond their comfort zones in a safe and supportive environment. Challenge yourself. Support your team. Discover what you're capable of. Troops interested in scheduling a COPE experience are encouraged to reserve their date early as space is limited.

So gather your friends, patrol, crew, or troop and [register today](#). The climb to your next adventure starts here!



For more information or to reserve a weekend for your troop, contact:

Kurt Garner
 Jayhawk Area Council
 Phone: (785) 276-3349
 Email: kurt.garner@scouting.org

INNOVATION ON THE MOVE

In gratitude for the generous support of Lewis H. Humphreys Charitable Trust, Bank of America, N.A., the Jayhawk Area Council will launch Innovation on the Move, a mobile STEAM lab, to teach new skills and talents that will help inspire youth to “create” and “invent” utilizing STEAM concepts.

The mobile lab will provide hi-tech equipment, specially selected learning skills, and an awesome program with lots of challenges and fun competitions. In partnership with various community-based organizations and schools in Shawnee County, we look to provide direct programming to over 4,000 youth focused on the 3-8 grade levels in year one.



A PIECE OF HISTORY: AMERICA250 COLLECTOR PATCHES



Commemorate a historic milestone with the Jayhawk Area Council's exclusive America250 Council Patch Bundle! This special three-patch set honors the 250th anniversary of the United States and is a must-have for Scouts, Scouters, and patch collectors alike.

With only a limited number available, these patches are expected to become treasured collector's items. Whether you're adding them to your collection, displaying them proudly, or saving them as a keepsake of this once-in-a-generation celebration, now is the time to secure your set for only \$100!

Don't wait until they're gone! Visit the Jayhawk Scout Shop today and pick up your America 250 Council Patch Bundle while supplies last.



REGULAR VERSION



FRIENDS OF SCOUTING VERSION



**SPECIAL EDITION
 LIMITED QUANTITY
 OF 50**



TWO GREAT PROMOTIONS TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN YOUTH

As we begin preparing for the fall membership drive, we now have two great additional features to help youth and families choose to be a part of your great Scouting program.

Military Family Fee Waiver: Military families understand commitment, resilience, leadership, and service—values that closely align with the mission of Scouting America. To help make Scouting more accessible for military-connected youth, Scouting America is proud to offer the Military Family Fee Waiver Program, which covers 100% of the \$85 national youth registration fee for each registered child of eligible active-duty, National Guard, and Reserve service members. Through funding secured by the National Council, this benefit is available for both new Scout registrations and renewal registrations due after June 1, 2026. Families must complete registration or renewal through the online registration system, where eligibility verification is built into the process. Military families often face unique responsibilities and transitions, and Scouting provides youth with consistency, friendship, leadership opportunities, and a strong sense of community.

Fall 2026 Pilot Program: The Jayhawk Area Council has been selected as a part of a pilot program by Scouting America where we will be able to register new youth joining this fall for \$45.00 instead of the current \$85.00. The registration fees will be valid until February 2027 at which time the full registration fee will be due. Basically, this allows you to get new families to join at a “try it out” fee, begin participating and by February, they will have a chance to earn their own way via your fundraising efforts. We know that when you get someone to join your unit, you keep them involved with your quality programs. It is our premise that a reduced entry fee makes it easier for you to get families to commit to joining. For those that qualify for KanCare, they will be able to join for free.

There are some restrictions. This only applies to new Scouts that join in August, September and October. The family will be required to register online rather than paper applications as the discounts and adjusted expiration date are embedded into that program for our council. Cheryl, our registrar, cannot provide that option for paper applications. Her only option will be the full fee for a year’s membership. Be sure to check out the Membership Section on the [Resources](#) tab or [Program Resources](#) article on the council website for screenshots and other assistance.

THE EAGLE ADVANTAGE

What impact does earning the Eagle Scout rank have later in life? According to the new Eagle Scout Study (2026), the answer is significant. Scouting America partnered with The Harris Poll to survey more than 3,100 adults, revealing that Eagle Scouts continue to stand out as leaders, citizens, and community contributors long after their Scouting journey ends.

The study found that 74% of Eagle Scouts serve in leadership roles at work, more than double the rate of non-Scouts. Eagle Scouts are also nearly three times more likely to lead in their communities. Beyond leadership, Eagle Scouts demonstrate exceptional character, with 99% willing to return a lost wallet and 98% willing to intervene in a bullying situation.

The benefits extend beyond service and leadership. Eagle Scouts report higher levels of gratitude, purpose, and overall well-being while experiencing lower rates of loneliness and fear. These findings reinforce what generations of families and volunteers have known for years—Scouting prepares young people for success in life. To learn more and view the complete study, visit [here](#).

DID YOU KNOW?



CHANGES TO REGISTRATION RENEWALS COMING IN 2027 AND 2028

You spoke up and the National Council heard you. Over the next two years, registration renewal will once again be tied to the annual recharter process. This will happen in stages as we cycle those who are renewing at different times throughout the year to a coordinated month. Our pilot program participation will help us move more quickly to this. After February 2027, those whose membership comes due for renewal will be pro-rated to February 2028.

Unit re-charters will also be pro-rated to shift to a February renewal date. Then, in February 2028, everything will be synced and your unit will renew your members as a part of your rechartering process once again. This was how we used to conduct rechartering and renewal of members. We look forward to simplifying the rechartering process again. [More information here](#).

BUILDING TOMORROW'S CITIZENS TODAY



"We hold these truths to be self-evident..."

These words, written nearly 250 years ago in the Declaration of Independence, helped launch a nation founded on liberty, opportunity, and civic responsibility. Today, Scouts can explore these enduring ideals through the American Heritage and Citizenship in the Nation merit badges, gaining a deeper understanding of our nation's history and their role as active citizens.

These badges help Scouts discover the people, events, and ideals that built our nation while gaining a deeper understanding of citizenship, government, and public service. Through research, discussions, visits, and community engagement, Scouts learn how America's past continues to influence its present and future.

As we celebrate 250 years of American history, these merit badges encourage Scouts to appreciate our nation's heritage, understand their responsibilities as citizens, and prepare to become active leaders in their communities. Together, they remind us that the story of America is still being written—and today's Scouts will help shape the next chapter.

Discover the past. Understand the present. Lead the future.



FINE SWINGS, GREAT FRIENDS, AND A FANTASTIC FINISH AT THE 2026 GOLF CLASSIC!

On Monday, June 15th the Jayhawk Area Council hosted the 2026 Golf Classic at Cypress Ridge Golf Course. It was a beautiful day on the greens with approximately 80 players partaking in the fun to support for Scouting in the 11-county Northeast Kansas region. Make sure to check out our Facebook page to view photos from the day.

A special thanks to Torgeson Electric, our Special Sponsor, as well as Garner Remodeling, Certus Structural Engineers, BOK Financial, Only Tens, LLC, Brandon Aldridge – State Farm Insurance, Tim O'Shea, CoreFirst Bank & Trust, Topeka Lodging Association, Foulston Siefkin LLC, Irene Haws, Brenden Feldt, John Kotulak, 3 teams from a local women's golf league, KTWU and our silent auction and hole sponsors. The annual Golf Classic is typically held the 2nd week in June each year. Date/Time/Location to be announced. Make sure to join in on the fun in 2027!

SAFETY MOMENT: BEAT THE HEAT THIS SUMMER

Summer is one of the most exciting times in Scouting, but warmer temperatures can quickly turn an outdoor adventure into a safety concern. Whether you're attending Cub Camp, Summer Camp, a day hike, or a community event, staying hydrated and recognizing the signs of heat-related illness is essential.

Remember the "H2O Rule"

Drink water before you feel thirsty.
Take frequent water breaks throughout the day.
Avoid excessive sugary or caffeinated drinks.
Encourage Scouts to carry a water bottle and refill it often.

If someone experiences these symptoms, move them to a shaded or air-conditioned area, provide water, and seek medical attention if symptoms worsen.

Be Prepared

Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing.
Use sunscreen and reapply as directed.
Take breaks in the shade.
Follow the buddy system and look out for one another.

A successful Scouting adventure is a safe Scouting adventure. By planning ahead and staying aware of the effects of heat, we can ensure everyone enjoys a fun and memorable summer outdoors. Stay hydrated. Stay protected. Stay Scout Strong.

SHOP TO SUPPORT SCOUTING

Did you know that you can support Scouting just by shopping at Dillons? Sign in to your account on the Dillons app, go to Rewards and select Jayhawk Area Council under Community Rewards.

WHY FRIENDS OF SCOUTING CAMPAIGN IS NECESSARY

No matter how big or small the donation, Friends of Scouting keeps Scouting an affordable, effective youth development program. It funds the council's infrastructure, or general operating portion of the budget, and provides a support system for the more than 2,500 youth, 1,000 volunteers and 55 chartered organizations. Our goal is to maintain and refine current programs while continuing to expand Scouting's reach to even more families.

All proceeds stay local to grow the Scouting movement in our region. Donations may be made in monthly, quarterly, semi-monthly or in a one-time payment.

[Donate Today!](#)

Watch for symptoms of heat exhaustion:

Heavy sweating
Dizziness or headache
Nausea
Muscle cramps
Fatigue or weakness



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.

Just a Reminder! Scout Shop is CLOSED on Saturday's for the summer

Open M-F 9:00 - 5:30. You can also call in an order to have shipped to you. Call (785) 354-0291.

Upcoming Dates - for latest information - www.jayhawkcouncil.org

JULY 3	OFFICES CLOSED INDEPENDENCE DAY
JULY 7 - 9	MERIT BADGE IMMERSION
JULY 15 & 22	ONLINE ANGLING EDUCATOR COURSE
JULY 23	IDEAL YEAR OF SCOUTING FAIR
JULY 30	DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS DINNER
AUGUST 1 - 2	COPE
AUGUST 6	SUNFLOWER PROGRAM KICKOFF
AUGUST 6	BISON PROGRAM KICKOFF
AUGUST 6	PONY EXPRESS PROGRAM KICKOFF
AUGUST 13	SOJADI PROGRAM KICKOFF
AUGUST 15	SPORTING CLAYS INVITATIONAL