

# Jayhawk eBugler

## Back 2 School Edition

AUGUST  
2026  
ISSUE

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

[www.jayhawkcouncil.org](http://www.jayhawkcouncil.org)

### OA FALL FELLOWSHIP

Dzie-Hauk Tonga Lodge will host their Fall Fellowship October 2-4 at Falley Scout Reservation.

The Order of the Arrow Fall Fellowship 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 year's event will be a mixture of fun, fellowship and candidates completing their Ordeal and Brotherhood levels as members of the Dzie-Hauk Tonga Lodge. Lodge and Chapter officer elections will take place on Saturday evening.

Registration will open soon!

### GET READY FOR THE ULTIMATE CUB SCOUT ADVENTURE!

Get ready for a day packed with adventure, fun, and unforgettable memories! Whether you're a brand-new Cub Scout experiencing Scouting for the first time or a returning Scout ready for another exciting adventure, Cub Adventure Day is the perfect opportunity to explore everything Scouting has to offer. New Cub Scouts Attend FREE!

Cub Adventure Day is designed to welcome newly recruited Cub Scouts and introduce them to the fun, adventure, and excitement of the Scouting program at no cost. Returning Cub Scouts, siblings, and parents are encouraged to join the adventure for just \$10 per person, which helps cover lunch and program supplies.

Date: Saturday, October 24, 2026  
Location: Falley Scout Reservation  
Time: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Bring your sense of adventure and get ready for a day filled with outdoor fun, new experiences, and Scouting excitement! Mark your calendars and save the date! We can't wait to see you at Cub Adventure Day!

Registration opens August 3! [Register Here.](#)



### 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](#).

Bison District: August 6  
Sunflower District: August 6  
Pony Express District: August 6  
Sojadi District: August 13

### YOUR SCOUTS BSA ADVENTURE STARTS HERE!

Get ready for an unforgettable weekend of adventure at Webelos Woods, September 25-27, 2026, at Falley Scout Reservation! This exciting camping experience is open to all Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts and is designed to give Scouts a firsthand look at what it's like to be part of a Scouts BSA troop.

Throughout the weekend, Scouts will camp alongside local troops, build new friendships, develop outdoor skills, and complete key adventures while experiencing the fun, teamwork, and leadership that await them in Scouts BSA. It's the perfect opportunity to connect with local troops and begin preparing for the next step in their Scouting journey.

Units and individual Scouts are welcome to attend. Register by September 3 to receive the early bird discount and save \$5 per person! For more information, contact Ashley Patrick or [register today](#) to reserve your spot at Falley Scout Reservation.

ARE YOU FOLLOWING  
JAYHAWK AREA COUNCIL?



### POPCORN KERNEL

There are several ways to promote popcorn sales. Would you like to maximize your commissions? If so, make sure that your Scouts are registered to use the Trails End Mobile App. Text APP to 62771 to get a link to download.

- FREE Credit card processing-Paid by Trail's End
- Real-time tracking and reporting of sales, inventory and storefront registrations
- Families can turn in cash payments via credit card

Be sure to attend your district's program kickoff if you missed out training on the 23rd!

**POPCORN TIME**

**Upcoming Dates**

|                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>8/25</b><br>Initial Pre-Order Due             |
| <b>9/10-11</b><br>Initial Pre-Order Distribution |

### BACK 2 SCHOOL

Let's get your recruitment date planned and communicate this to your District Executive for resources.

Have your Scouts wear their Pack or Troop T-Shirts or Uniforms to school the day of or the day before, to help promote your sign up night. Word of mouth is one of the best ways to enhance your recruitment efforts.

Together everyone achieves more!

### CLAY SHOOT FOR CHARACTER

Have you supported the range and target activities program by signing up your team to shoot? There is still time to get a team together and participate in the Annual Sporting Clay Invitational.

August 15, 9:00 am  
Ravenwood Lodge

Get your team [Registered Today!](#)



## SCOUTING SPOTLIGHT

Has your unit or district engaged in noteworthy activities that you would like to share with the broader Scouting community? We are eager to highlight the accomplishments of our Scouts. As you know, the newsletter serves to inform you 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
- You may submit up to 4 images
- A short blurb for your article
- **MOST IMPORTANTLY:** Deadline is always the 6<sup>th</sup> of the month

## VISIT THE SCOUT SHOP TODAY!



## FRIENDS OF SCOUTING

Donate to "Friends of Scouting" campaign to support programs of the Jayhawk Area Council to foster Citizenship, Character, and Service to Others for youth program development in the 11-county Northeast Kansas Region.

Give [online](#) today!

## ADVENTURE IS WAITING ARE YOU READY TO CLIMB?

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](mailto:kurt.garner@scouting.org)



The 2026–27 [NASA TechRise Student Challenge](#) offers students sixth to 12th grade an exciting opportunity to work on a real NASA-inspired engineering project while developing science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills. The free program includes educator information sessions, classroom resources, pacing guides, videos, and a virtual student field trip to support participation throughout the school year. Sixty winning teams nationwide will each receive \$1,500 to build their experiment, technical support from NASA TechRise advisors, and the opportunity to test their project on a NASA-sponsored flight.

Teams of all experience levels are encouraged to participate. Kansas educators can also be inspired by Trail Ridge Middle School in Gardner, whose [winning experiment](#) was featured in the 2025–26 challenge. Educators are encouraged to pre-register for updates, request a free information session for their school or organization, and explore the many resources available to bring this exciting hands-on STEM opportunity to youth. To learn more about this exciting opportunity and pre register today visit [here](#).

## AIM HIGH. SOAR FAR. BECOME AN EAGLE SCOUT.

Every Scout begins the journey with a simple promise—to do their best. For some, that journey leads all the way to Scouting's highest rank: Eagle Scout. While earning Eagle is certainly an incredible achievement, new national research shows it's much more than a badge—it's a foundation for a lifetime of leadership, purpose, and service.

A nationwide study conducted by Scouting America and The Harris Poll found that Eagle Scouts are more likely to become leaders in their communities, volunteer their time, and develop strong personal values that last well into adulthood. They also report a greater sense of purpose, stronger relationships, higher levels of optimism, and are significantly less likely to experience loneliness than their non-Scout peers. Even more impressive, 99% of Eagle Scouts say Scouting had a positive influence on their lives.

The road to Eagle isn't easy—and that's exactly what makes it worthwhile. Every merit badge earned, leadership position held, campout attended, and service project completed helps build confidence, character, and resilience that extends far beyond Scouting. If you're a Scout, challenge yourself to keep climbing. Set your sights on Eagle and discover just how much you're capable of accomplishing. Parents and leaders, encourage your Scouts to stay the course. The journey may be demanding, but the rewards last a lifetime.

The path to Eagle doesn't just create great Scouts—it helps shape the leaders our communities need tomorrow. Check out the full study [here](#).

## TAKE A PIECE OF FALLEY HOME!

Show your Falley Scout Reservation pride wherever you go! Our Falley Scout Reservation magnets are just \$5—perfect for your refrigerator, toolbox, or camp trailer. Need a durable bottle for your next adventure? Pick up a Falley Scout Reservation Nalgene water bottle for \$20, built to keep up with every hike, campout, and outdoor adventure.

Both items are available now in the Scout Shop while supplies last. Stop by and grab yours before they're gone!





## 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.



Calling all Scouts with a passion for history, engineering, and trains! Don't miss the opportunity to earn the Railroading Merit Badge aboard the historic Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad on Saturday, September 26. This unique hands-on experience gives Scouts the chance to explore the fascinating world of railroads while learning how trains have shaped transportation, commerce, and communities throughout American history. Participants will gain valuable knowledge from experienced railroad professionals and enjoy an unforgettable day immersed in the sights and sounds of a working heritage railroad.

Registration is \$50 per Scout or adult, and camping is available the night of September 26 for those who would like to extend the adventure. If you're interested in camping, simply contact [Donald Lowe](#) for additional information.

Space is limited, and the September class is filling quickly, so don't wait to reserve your spot! [Register today!](#)

Whether you're a train enthusiast or simply looking for a memorable merit badge experience, this is one event you won't want to miss. All aboard!

### WHY YOU'LL LOVE THIS BADGE

- Experience a real historic railroad
- Learn how locomotives and rail systems operate
- Discover the important role railroads played in building America
- Meet railroad experts and see history in action

#### COMING NEXT MONTH...

Hidden Gems: Bugling Merit Badge



"The sounds that have guided Scouts for generations."



### 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.

Summer Hours M-F 9:00 - 5:30. We are excited to announce we will reopen on Saturday starting August 22, 9-1. You can also call in an order to have shipped to you. Call (785) 354-0291.

### HIDDEN GEM FUN FACT

The Railroading Merit Badge has been part of Scouting for more than a century. While trains may look different today than they did in the early 1900s, railroads continue to move millions of passengers and tons of freight across the United States every year. Earning this badge connects Scouts to one of America's most influential industries—and one of its most enduring adventures.

Upcoming Dates - for latest information - [www.jayhawkcouncil.org](http://www.jayhawkcouncil.org)

|            |                                        |
|------------|----------------------------------------|
| AUGUST 1-2 | C.O.P.E. WEEKEND                       |
| AUGUST 6   | BISON KICK-OFF                         |
| AUGUST 6   | PONY EXPRESS KICK-OFF                  |
| AUGUST 6   | SUNFLOWER KICK-OFF                     |
| AUGUST 13  | SOJADI KICK-OFF                        |
| AUGUST 15  | SPORTING CLAYS INVITATIONAL            |
| AUGUST 22  | SCOUT SHOP REOPENS SATURDAYS           |
| AUGUST 25  | POPCORN ORDERS DUE                     |
| AUGUST 29  | FUNDAMENTALS PART 2: CRAFT OF TRAINING |

