



Vision

All youth have the character, confidence, and experience to improve the world.

Mission

Northern Star Scouting prepares youth in a safe and inclusive environment to be leaders and individuals of strong character.

Goals, Objectives, and Impact

Northern Star Scouting's strategic plan is centered on (1) strengthening core programs, (2) broadening our impact to community programs, and (3) providing the human and financial capital to serve as many young people as possible.

Partnerships

Joining in partnership with Northern Star Scouting, 706 Scouting units are chartered by 406 community organizations representing educational, religious, non-profit, civic, and business organizations (245 Cub Scout packs, 355 Scouts BSA troops, 38 Venturing crews, and 65 Explorer posts and 3 Explorer clubs).

Service Area

Northern Star Scouting serves 39 counties across southern, central and northeast Minnesota (Anoka, Blue Earth, Brown, Carlton, Carver, Chippewa, Chisago, Cook, Cottonwood, Dakota, Faribault, Freeborn, Hennepin, Isanti, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac Qui Parle, Lake, Le Sueur, Martin, McLeod, Meeker, Mower, Nicollet, Pine, Ramsey, Redwood, Renville, Rice, Scott, St. Louis, Sibley, Waseca, Washington, Watonwan, Wright, and Yellow Medicine, and portions of Stearns and Swift) and four in Wisconsin (Pierce, St. Croix, Polk, and Burnett).

Camps/Properties

Northern Star Scouting operates twelve camps in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Young people can choose from multiple programs at various camps, including day, introductory, high adventure, summer and winter weekend, and resident camps for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturers, Community Partners, and families.

Leadership and Staff

Northern Star Scouting is led by a volunteer board of directors with 73 members who come from education, business, other non-profits, and community organizations. Youth and volunteers are supported by 86 full-time paid staff and 12 part-time paid staff. Additionally, more than 400 seasonal employees deliver camping programs and outdoor adventure in the summer and winter months.

Budget

Northern Star Scouting operated its programs and properties on a 2026 budget of \$15.6 million.

Registration Assistance

There is a gap of approximately \$636,000 between what families can afford to pay (no youth is ever turned away), and the total registration fee revenue if everyone had paid the full fee. This is after restricted endowment and event income are applied. The remaining gap includes all programs of BSA Scouting, and annual gifts to help fill the gap are also restricted.

Scouting America

Northern Star Scouting supported more than 6,300 volunteers in Scouting America programs who developed and enriched the lives of 19,813 boys and girls, ages 5 through 20. We served 11,808 Cub Scouts, 5,726 Scouts BSA, 1,136 Venturers/Sea Scouts, and 1,143 Explorers.

Juvenile Diversion: The Juvenile Diversion program targets first-time non-violent youth offenders, as referred to us by law enforcement. In 2025 over 334 youth participated at one of four program sites.

Exploring: A work site-based program that provides young people ages 14-20 regular hands-on opportunities to learn about careers and trades from adult mentors who are professionals in the student's area of career interest. In 2025, 1,143 youth were served through 68 posts across the council, all sponsored by community/workplace partners.

Polaris: The Polaris program brings both traditional Scouting and Exploring programs to physically and developmentally challenged youth and adults (with cognitive challenges). In 2025, 747 individuals were served through 18 program sites.

Huron: Huron is a site-based Scouting program where Northern Star Scouting provides staff. Most often the sites are in lower income areas and in schools and immediately after the school day or at park and recreation locations. Most groups meet once every week throughout the year. In 2025 Huron served 3,813 youth through 33 program sites.

Community Scouting

Northern Star's Community Scouting programs reached new markets youth at Base Camp and other camps, for total youth served of 19,260. Scouting invites all people to get involved, mindful of the importance of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, socio-economic status, religion, physical ability and political belief. We create a positive and welcoming environment for all, valuing backgrounds and experiences that will grow and strengthen our movement and continue to make us a valued contributor to the communities we serve.

- **Total youth served in 2025: 39,073 across all programs**
- Over 5,000 Scouts BSA members attended an overnight summer camp.
- Fundraising goals were met and the budget was balanced.
- Successfully merged the Voyageurs Area Council (northern Minnesota) into Northern Star.
- Began planning for a merger with Twin Valley Council (southern Minnesota).

For More Information

www.northernstar.org or call 612-261-2300.



YOUTH MEMBERSHIP

- In 2025 we had a total of 461 Scouts earn the Eagle Scout rank including 50 girls.
- 773 Webelos earned the Arrow of Light.
- Three youth earned the Venturing Summit Award.
- In 2019, Scouting programs were opened to serve both boys and girls. Today 20% of Cub Scouts, 16% of Scouts BSA, 35% of Venturers, and 44% of Explorers are girls.

VOLUNTEERS

- 310 adult leaders participated in our two in-person University of Scouting events and 554 registered for our online University of Scouting classes ranging from leadership training, unit program planning, to outdoor cooking.
- 82 Scouting volunteers attended Wood Badge, an advanced leadership training course for volunteers.
- 1,953 unit visits were logged by our volunteer commissioner corps providing service and support to our units.

RESOURCES

- \$863,000 was spent on camp maintenance including facility improvements, utility repairs and equipment replacement at ten camp properties.
- Awarded \$233,000 in academic scholarships.
- Provided \$165,000 in camp scholarships for youth.
- Scouts in Northern Star Council sold over \$2.45 million of popcorn, a 4% growth in total sales, returning \$1.72 million dollars to local Scouting programs.
- The Annual Fundraising Campaign exceeded its goal of \$2,660,000.
- Donors have committed over \$20M towards the Make Your Mark Endowment Campaign, securing the long-term future of Scouting.
- A \$300,000 grant was secured from the American Camp Association to expand our Outdoor Learning Center pilot over the next three years.

PROGRAMS

- The Totanhan Nakaha Lodge of the Order of the Arrow had 351 new inductions and 1,938 members in 2025, and grew in membership. The Lodge contributed \$7,182 in Capital and Endowment and 9,000 hours of service to council camps.
- 310 youth participated in one of five sessions of Grey Wolf: a week-long council-led National Youth Leadership Training course.
- The Fort Snelling Wreath Clean Up had over 825 people who supported this Good Turn at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.
- Over 1,042 Cub youth and their families attended a Fall Campout to mark the beginning of the Scouting year.
- 1,492 Cub Scouts and their families ventured into the cold while tubing, kick sledding, and learning about winter camping at Polar Cubs Day Camp!

PROGRAMS

- 873 Scouts successfully spent a day or night outside in winter weather conditions (and enjoyed it!) due to the expert training and equipment at our Scouts BSA winter camps.
- 839 female Scouts attended Many Point and Tomahawk, an 8% increase over 2024.
- 2,005 Cubs, or 30% of our Cub membership, attended overnight summer camp, the fifth consecutive year of this percentage high nationally.
- Discovery Day Camp programs were expanded to include the Duluth area with 1,279 youth participating in our Discovery Day Camp programs – a 14% increase.
- Adventure Classroom served 1,560 youth at 20 schools.
- 406 Law Enforcement Explorers and 160 adults participated in the Law Enforcement Exploring Conference.
- 131 Fire Fighting Explorers and 62 adults from 14 posts participated in the annual Governors Fire Prevention Day Competition.
- Our recruitment campaign resulted in 5M impressions across Google and Meta channels – driving traffic toward our Go Scouting website. From there, we had nearly 3.5K clicks to learn more about signing up for Scouting.
- We created eight new recruitment-focused videos to host on our YouTube page. This resulted in 85,000+ views and requests from the National office to use our marketing collateral.
- 150 Scouts and Scouters collected prairie flower seeds via the Conservation Service Day to assist the National Park Service re-flowering up to 50 acres of prairie.
- Over 100 attendees gathered at Camp Horace Johnson and Adventure Base for Webelos Action Camp to prepare them for the adventures that lie ahead in Scouts BSA.
- 10 new community partnerships resulted in 24 unique opportunities for Scouts to participate in and earn 22 different merit badges. 430 Scouts earned a merit badge in 2025 through these partnerships.
- 12,000 individuals visited our booth at the State Fair, staffed by nearly 100 volunteers. This is the highest number of participants we've served since before 2019.

Top Merit Badges Earned

Swimming • Environmental Science •
Communication • Citizenship in the World •
Camping • First Aid • Kayaking • Personal
Fitness • Citizenship in the Nation • Cooking •
Family Life • Personal Management