



Northern Star Scouting

JANUARY 2026

Highlights and Happenings

Northern Star Scouting: <https://www.northernstar.org/>

Northern Star Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NorthernStarBSA/>

Northern Star Scouts BSA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NorthernStarScoutsBSA>

Northern Star Cub Scouts Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NorthernStarCubScouts>

Northern Star Venturing Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NSCVenturing>

Northland Scouting Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/northlandscouting/>

Scoutbook Questions? Email us at: scoutbookhelp@northernstar.org

Recruitment/Renewals/Unit Service:

All unit charters in Northern Star Scouting will expire on February 28, 2026.

NOW IS THE TIME TO REVIEW YOUR UNIT LEADERSHIP ROSTER

To renew your unit before it expires on February 28, now is the time to review your roster of adult leaders and:

- Make sure that you have the minimum required number of adults registered.
- Make sure that all of the required positions are filled: charter Organization Representative, Top unit leader, Committee Chair, (2) Members of the Committee, and for packs, at least one Den Leader.
- Make sure that the name and contact information for the Institutional Head is correct.
- Make sure that the adults serving in their required positions have current Youth Protection Training or the NEW Safeguarding Youth Training as of February 28, 2026.

Questions can be answered by your District Executive or District Director.

Complete information: Unit Leader Walk Through document is located at: www.northernstar.org/registration.

NEW SAFEGUARDING YOUTH TRAINING

- Better than ever, the new Safeguarding Youth Training is about more than just the rules. It provides concrete knowledge and tools to recognize and respond to bullying, cyber bullying, abuse, and neglect of today's youth.
- If your Youth Protection Training is current, you are considered trained until either your YPT expiration date or May 2026, whichever comes first.
- Here are the details on the training:
 - Duration: ~ 90 minutes
 - Available in English and Spanish
 - Access it through <https://my.scouting.org>
 - Requirements: Complete all lessons + score 80% or higher on the final test
 - Annual Refresher: 20-minute review and retest is required annually to stay current

- If you have questions on the new Safeguarding Youth Training course or requirements, please contact Lauren Johnson at laurenjohnsonscouts@gmail.com or Dave Arola at darola@northernstar.org.

VIP PINEWOOD DERBY CARS!

- Packs are encouraged to invite their local VIP (principal, mayor, etc) to participate in their Pinewood Derby!
- Packs can request a FREE pinewood derby kit for their VIP and color invite at: <https://scoutingevent.com/250-2526pwdcars>
- Orders open 12/1 and need to be placed by 1/15.

FREE RECRUITMENT MATERIALS AND FREE T-SHIRTS

- Are still available for order, but the links to the order forms have moved from GoScouting.org to Northernstar.org.
- The forms can be found on one of the "big six" tiles at the top. <https://www.northernstar.org/>

SAVE THE DATE!

NRA Instructor Training Courses

- If you are interested in becoming an NRA Certified Rifle Instructor or NRA Certified Shotgun Instructor, we are pleased to share openings in the course being offered June 5-7 at Stearns Scout Camp.
- The course is a full 3 days and provides Basic Instructor Training, and then the final training to certify individuals as NRA Rifle AND NRA Shotgun Instructors.
- All 3 courses, food and lodging are included in the fee of \$495.
- Register at: <https://scoutingevent.com/250-NRAShootingSpring26>.
- Space is limited. If you are interested, contact Bob Thielen at bthielen@northernstar.org.

Events and Programming



All Units and Leaders

FAMILY RENTALS/FAMILY CAMP

- A variety of family program and rental opportunities are available at our camps throughout the year.
- See all we have to offer: <https://camp.northernstar.org/Family-Rentals>

OPEN CLIMB AND ARCHERY AT BASE CAMP

- Great for a unit outing or just something fun to do as a family!
- Climbing/archery is open to youth 5 years of age and older.
- Held the second Tuesday of every month.
- It is required that youth are accompanied by an adult (18 years of age or older)
- Walk-ins are allowed, but pre-registration is preferred so we can plan how many staff to have available.
- For more information and registration:

<https://www.explorebasecamp.org/Article-Detail/openclimb>

UNIVERSITY OF SCOUTING EXTENSION TRAININGS

- Classes are once again being offered weekday evenings
- Several classes are currently listed and are free to take
- Registration/Information can be found at: <https://www.northernstar.org/news/enavigator/new-university-of-scouting-extension-classes>

- People with class ideas or who are interested in teaching a course should contact Rachel Thiemann at ExtensionUoS@gmail.com

WOOD BADGE BREAKFAST

- The annual Wood Badge Breakfast will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2026, at the Base Camp Team Building Center
- Fellowship starts at 9:00 a.m. with the breakfast and program running from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Early discounted pricing is \$15 and is free for prospective attendees for upcoming Wood Badge courses
- There will be a silent and live auction with proceeds supporting Northern Star Wood Badge and Grey Wolf NYLT courses
- To register please see the breakfast registration link at: <https://www.northernstar.org/training/wood-badge>

WEEKEND CAMPING SPECIAL EVENTS

- Our five metro area camps have created a special event schedule for all those who are camping with us in the coming months.
- To find out more information about what's happening at your camp

<https://camp.northernstar.org/Article-Detail/weekend-camping-opportunities-1>



Cub Scouts

CUB LEADER BASIC LEADER TRAINING

- Did you know that all Cub Leaders can become fully trained online?
- Visit our new web page called Navigating Training for New Leaders to learn about what makes a trained Cub Scout leader and for links to my.scouting.org where you can login and find online programs for your position in your "My Training" tab at <https://www.northernstar.org/training/navigating-leadership-training>
- Also, check out our new two-part series of instructor led online Cub Leader Training in our University of Scouting Extension program at: <https://scoutingevent.com/250-OnlineSessions202526>
- Questions on Leader Training? Contact Dave Arola at darola@northernstar.org or 612-261-2333.

WINTER BALOO TRAINING

- Our next BALOO training will be held January 10-11, at Phillippe Scout Camp
- Registration fee includes all meals and program materials
- Registration is open and can be found at: <https://scoutingevent.com/250-2026winterbaloo>

CUB LEADER UNIVERSITY

- We will once again be holding a day of Cub Leader Training for Adults with a Day camp for Youth K-6
- The event will be held at Base Camp on April 11, 2026
- Choose your own schedule from 20 different classes specifically designed for Cub Leaders while your K-6 kids participate in a special Day camp with games, climbing, and archery
- Additional information will be available in February at <https://www.northernstar.org/training/university-of-scouting>

CUB PACKS RESERVE YOUR WEEKEND FOR 2026 SUMMER CAMP

- Lock in Your 2026 Summer Cub Scout Summer Camp or Arrow of Light Camp

- From June 1st, 2025, through January 31st, 2026, your Pack can reserve its preferred weekend for Cub Scout Summer Camp with just a \$100 deposit.
- Learn More at: <https://camp.northernstar.org/Article-Detail/cub-scout-summer-camp-earlyregistration>

2026 DISCOVERY CAMPS

- Reservations OPEN January 12
- Day Camps at 6 locations for K-6 graders
- Overnight camp for 6 -9 graders
- Visit <https://camp.northernstar.org/Discovery> for more information.

2026 POLAR CUBS DAY CAMP

- Full day outdoor winter adventure for Cubs and their families
- Saturdays and Sundays January and February 2026
- More information: <https://camp.northernstar.org/Article-Detail/polar-cubs>



Northern Star Scouts BSA/Venturing and Leaders

2026 NORTH WIND & SNOW BASE WINTER CAMP

- Camp takes place weekends in January and February. Gear – Fun – Training and Advancements are all on the agenda.
- Gear/clothing/food/trained staff provided.
- Programs for ages 10-17
- \$25 deposit per Scout due upon registration
- Visit <https://camp.northernstar.org/Article-Detail/snow-base-and-north-wind> for more information.

GREY WOLF NYLT NOMINATIONS FOR 2026

- Informational letters about the nomination process for youth to attend Grey Wolf NYLT will be sent to all Scoutmasters and Crew Advisors by the first week of January.
- The deadline for all nominations is February 28th
- Additional information on the Grey Wolf NYLT program can be found at: <https://www.northernstar.org/training/grey-wolf>

2026 SCOUTS BSA SUMMER CAMP

- Reservations are OPEN for any Troop or Crew that have a current 2025 reservation.
- This priority registration period ends May 1st at which time all open campsites are available.

MANY POINT & TOMAHAWK ALL-STAR PROGRAM

- Can't make it to camp with your Troop or Crew?
- Looking for more camping opportunities?
- Join the All-Star Troops at Tomahawk or Many Point this summer.
- This provisional program allows you to do anything you would do if you came with your troop or crew, all while meeting new friends.
- Visit www.manypoint.org or www.camptomahawk.org for more information.

MERIT BADGE OPPORTUNITIES

Here are some of the upcoming Merit Badge Opportunities we are offering with community partners:

- Snow Sports (Wild Mountain), Saturday January 1/17/26
- Snow Sports (Afton Alps), Saturdays January 1/10/26 and 2/28/26
- Reptile and Amphibian Study (Sustainable Safari), Saturday 1/10/26

- Veterinary Medicine (Sustainable Safari), Saturday 1/17/26
- Nature (Sustainable Safari), Saturday 1/24/26
- Sustainability (Sustainable Safari), Saturday 1/31/26

<https://www.northernstar.org/activities/merit-badge-opportunities>

KLONDIKE DERBY 2026

- Klondike Derby is a great event to get your Scouts outside during the winter months. Program typically involves a competition-based rotation where units can put their skills to the test against other units from around Northern Star Scouting. The 2026 events will be held January 24, 2026 at Andersen Scout Camp and February 21, 2026 at Rum River Scout Camp.
- Registration for the 2026 Klondike Derby Series is open! Join your fellow Troops, Crews, and Ships from across Northern Star Scouting for a Saturday of competition, Scout skills, and fellowship during one of the Klondike Derby events!

[Northern Star Scouting - 2026 Northern Star Scouting Klondike Derby](#)

BEARGREASE DERBY 2026

- Saturday February 28, 2026, at the Cloquet Forestry Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Scouts have been reenacting the historic John Beargrease Race across Northern Minnesota for many years! Instead of delivering the mail, racers will compete and demonstrate their proficiency in Scouting Skills –with an emphasis of having fun! Scouts form teams and then select a team name to be entered in the Derby.
- Registration coming soon <https://scoutingevent.com/250-beargrease26>

NATIONAL JAMBOREE

- **Make the Jamboree Your Summer. Your Story. Your Jamboree.**
- **The countdown is on!** Spots are limited, don't miss your chance to be part of Scouting's biggest event as we celebrate America's 250th birthday!
- Join Northern Star Council in 2026 for an unforgettable adventure.
- Our journey kicks off with a four-day tour of Washington, D.C., where you'll experience over 20 iconic sites—from the National Air and Space Museum to monuments, memorials, and more.
- Then, travel to **Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia** for **10 days** at the **National Scout Jamboree**, Scouting's premier event.
- Join tens of thousands of Scouts from across the country for high-adventure activities, stadium shows, shooting sports, rock climbing and more!

Register here: <https://scoutingevent.com/250-2026Jamboree>

 **Trip Dates:** July 18–31, 2026

 **Estimated Cost:** \$3,800 per person

 Includes transportation, meals, and lodging

 Flexible payment plans and fundraising opportunities available

WORLD JAMBOREE IN 2027

- For Scouts and Participants interested in attending the World Scout Jamboree with the U.S. Contingent in 2027, registration is now open.
- Please review the requirements and apply on the U.S. Contingent Website.
- Please note that all adults interested in being a participant should sign up for newsletter updates as adult interviews won't be considered until 2nd Quarter of 2026!
- For more information and to register: <https://wsj2027.us/>