

## **Volunteer FAQ: Twin Valley Council Joining with Northern Star Scouting**

### **1. What is happening?**

Twin Valley Council is joining with Northern Star Scouting to form a single, unified council serving youth across parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin. This decision follows six months of careful discussion and planning by council leadership

### **2. Why is this change being made?**

Rising operational costs and reduced membership affect councils of all sizes. By partnering with Northern Star Scouting, we can share administrative and infrastructure expenses while keeping our focus on delivering and growing high-quality Scouting programs locally. This step strengthens Scouting's long-term sustainability across the state.

### **3. Will Scouting continue locally in my community?**

Yes. Scouting will continue to be delivered locally. Service to units, districts, and communities in Southern Minnesota will continue to be supported by local staff and volunteers.

### **4. What Changes will units or volunteers see?**

No changes are planned for local units because of this merger. Volunteers remain essential to the success of Scouting, and their roles and leadership are critical to serving youth in our communities.

### **5. Will camps or programs change?**

The combined council will operate 12 camps, including Camps Norseland and Cedar Point. Camps, programs, and activities will continue, with opportunities for expanded collaboration and shared program offerings.

### **6. What will change for Scouts?**

The goal will be to offer more programs together, at the same time pack and troop meetings, advancement, and activities will remain the same. Scouts and leaders can choose to wear the Northern Star shoulder strip, but there is no rush to do this.

### **7. What will change for volunteers?**

Day-to-day volunteering remains the same. Over time, volunteers may see improved support, shared resources, and expanded program opportunities as the councils work

together. The goal is to make volunteering easier and more impactful, not more complicated.

**8. Who will provide administrative support?**

Northern Star Scouting will support back-office functions such as accounting, finance, and management. This allows local staff and volunteers to focus more fully on program delivery, membership growth, and service to youth.

**9. How large is the new council?**

The combined council will serve 41 counties in Minnesota and four counties in Wisconsin and more than 40,000 youth in over 700 Scouting units under the leadership of nearly 6,500 volunteer leaders.

**10. Will local traditions and relationships continue?**

Yes. Local relationships, traditions, and community partnerships remain central to Scouting in Southern Minnesota. This partnership is designed to strengthen—not replace—the local Scouting experience.

**11. How does this benefit youth?**

By improving financial stability and operational efficiency, this merger ensures that Scouting can continue to thrive for generations to come—providing young people with leadership development, character growth, outdoor adventure, and service opportunities guided by the Scout Oath and Law.

**12. Who should I contact if I have questions?**

Volunteers are encouraged to reach out to their district leadership or the Mankato Service Center with questions. Additional updates will be shared as the transition continues.