



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Northern Star Scouting Announces Retirement of CEO/Scout Executive John Andrews

**[Fort Snelling, MN]** – Northern Star Scouting announces that John R. Andrews, CEO and Scout Executive, will retire in 2025 after a 42-year career in Scouting. Andrews' leadership has helped shape one of the largest and most dynamic Scouting councils in the country, positively impacting hundreds of thousands of young people across Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

“For the past 25 years, I have been honored to serve as a leader in Northern Star Scouting,” said Andrews. “Retirement age has arrived, and now the team must consider the future and select a new leader. As we celebrate the 20-year anniversary of the merger of two metro-based councils, our strategic focus and momentum has positioned us to take Northern Star Scouting to the next level of vitality and impact on behalf of youth in our communities—to the next twenty!”

Under Andrews' leadership, Northern Star Scouting has expanded its range of programming, currently serving more than 42,000 youth annually with the support of approximately 6,000 dedicated volunteers. The council has also developed innovative facilities and spaces, including Base Camp at Fort Snelling, which has provided leadership and team-building experiences to more than 500,000 young people since its opening in 2010.

“John has had an immeasurable impact on Northern Star Scouting and the broader Scouting movement,” said John G. Patterson, Board President. “Through his leadership, we have expanded our program offerings, strengthened our financial sustainability, increased our engagement with diverse communities, and ensured that Scouting will remain relevant and impactful for generations of boys and girls to come. We are thankful for John's tireless commitment to Scouting and we wish him the best.”

### Leadership Transition and Search for New CEO

Northern Star Scouting has established a CEO Succession Task Force to oversee the leadership transition as several other key strategic projects are underway. Chaired by Past President and Board Member William Brody, this group will lead the selection process for the

next CEO. The Task Force has engaged Ballinger | Leafblad, an executive search firm exclusively focused on the non-profit sector, to conduct the search. More updates will be shared as the process moves forward. Andrews will continue to lead the organization until the successor is in place.

As Andrews prepares for retirement, he remains confident in the organization's trajectory. "Change is a constant, but what has not changed is that we shape children's lives positively and we work to enlist the whole community in the same endeavor. Scouting's vision is everyone's vision: All young people will have the character, confidence, and experience to improve the world."

John and his family will continue to reside in the region and remain involved in Scouting and the broader community.

**For media inquiries, please contact:**

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## **About Northern Star Scouting**

Northern Star Scouting serves youth across 30 counties in central and northeastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Locally incorporated and governed, with a strong legacy of leadership and innovation, Northern Star Scouting remains a leader in the national Scouting movement, providing life-changing experiences that equip young people with the skills and values to succeed. With an operating budget of \$14.5 million, Northern Star provides a diverse array of programming across its geography, including the operation of ten camps comprising nearly 7,500 acres of outdoor classroom. [www.northernstar.org](http://www.northernstar.org)

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

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

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