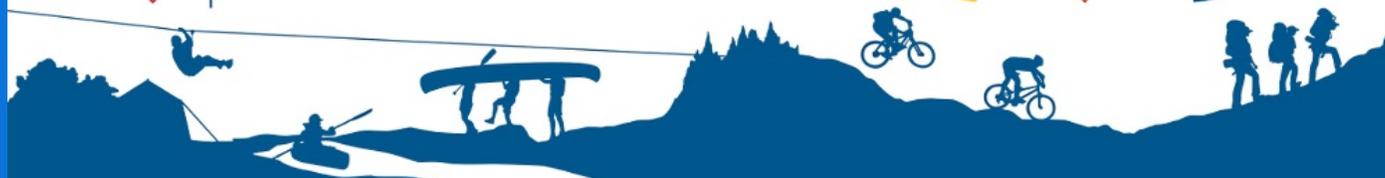




BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
GREAT SOUTHWEST COUNCIL



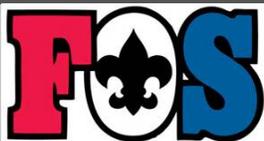
# Trailmarker

Great Southwest Council, Boy Scouts of America | [Council Website](#)

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## Support Scouting



### 2017 Friends of Scouting

Friends of Scouting is the largest fundraising effort conducted by the Great Southwest Council each year. As you may be aware, the Great Southwest Council is an independent, 501(c)(3) charity and is entirely self-funded. All registration fees paid annually for your membership is transferred to the National, BSA.

Friends of Scouting funds the Great Southwest Council's Service Center, the district executives and

December 12, 2016

## Great Southwest Council Service Center Holiday Hours

The Great Southwest Council Service Center will be closed the following days in observance of the upcoming holidays:

- Friday, December 23
- Monday, December 26
- Friday, December 30
- Monday, January 2

## Silver Beaver Awards Celebration and Annual Business Meeting

January 28, 2017  
11:00 am to 1:30 pm  
Tanoan Country Club



Sign up NOW by clicking [here](#).

The Great Southwest Council invites you to the Silver Beaver Awards Celebration and Council Annual Business Meeting on January 28, 2017 from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm.

The Silver Beaver Award is bestowed upon adult leaders who have implemented the Scouting program and performed community service through hard work, self-sacrifice, dedication, and many years of service. It is the highest recognition the Great Southwest Council may award individuals.

In addition to honoring the awardees shown below, this event includes: the Council Annual Business meeting, election and installation of 2017 Council officers, and other individual and district recognitions.

The event will be held at:  
Tanoan Country Club  
10801 Academy Rd NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87111

Guests will enjoy substantial hors d'oeuvres and non-alcoholic beverages. Attire will be business dress or Scout uniform.

Cost is \$25 per person by January 13, 2017 and \$35 per person after that date. You may purchase tickets no later than January 23 online at [gswcbsa.org](#), or by contacting the Scout Office.

Congratulations to the following recipients of the Silver Beaver award being presented at this event:

Michael Allen - Rio Grande District

## Quick Links

- [Council Website](#)
- [My \[dot\] Scouting Site](#)
- [National BSA Website](#)
- [Be A Scout Site](#)
- [Boys' Life Official Site](#)
- [Scout Shop Website](#)

## Calendar

Click the links below for more details.

### DECEMBER

14 [Program Committee Conference Call](#)  
5:30 PM

17 [Venturing Officer's Association](#)  
6:30 PM - Great Southwest Council Service Center

21 [Membership Committee Conference Call](#)  
7:00 PM

19 [Catholic Committee Retreat for Scouting](#)  
8:30 AM - Santa Maria de la Paz, Santa Fe

23 Christmas Holiday Service Center Closed

26 Christmas Holiday - Service Center Closed

30 New Years - Service Center Closed

Jan 2 New Years - Service Center Closed

other Council staff, membership growth resources, and much, much more. Contributions made to the annual Friends of Scouting campaign are fully tax-deductible.

We are currently kicking off the 2017 Friends of Scouting campaign, and would love to chat with you about renewing your annual gift for 2017. We need your help!

### Schedule Your Unit Friends of Scouting Presentation Today

Your District staff will be contacting you over the next few weeks to schedule your unit's Friends of Scouting presentation. These presentations are 10 minutes or less, and allow a member of your district's volunteer leadership to share their Scouting story and ask families to support the movement. Please visit with your fellow leaders and be ready with your unit's date and time for the presentation.

### What's In It For Us?

By supporting Friends of Scouting in your unit/ward and achieving your goal, you will receive 10% off Goham Scout Ranch/Day Camp fees, or free card and cloth rank advancements at the High Desert Scout Shop.

Your unit's goal is based on your total number of Scouts x \$145 x 90%.

If you have any questions, please take a moment to contact your [district executive](#).

### Use Your Smith's Rewards Card to Give Back to Scouting

Give back to Scouting with the gas and groceries you already purchase every week! Follow these simple instructions to enroll you Smith's Rewards Card and begin earning dividends to help grow Scouting in the Great Southwest Council. Enrollment in the Smith's Community Rewards program will not affect the fuel points you earn while shopping. Don't have a Smith's card? No problem! You can register a digital rewards card when you enroll at [www.smithscommunityrewards.com](http://www.smithscommunityrewards.com).

### Scoutingwire News



### The Official Blog of the Scouting Movement

Visit the Scoutingwire site any time for the latest news from around the

Joe Ballengee - Rio Grande District

Stephen Bartholomew - El Valle Manzano District

Kendall Crookston - Sandia District

Rick Higgins - El Valle Manzano District

Bill Moore - Sandia District

John Williamson - Sandia District

### Your Top Cub Scout Requirement Modification Questions Answered

The BSA recently announced that some Cub Scout adventure requirements that previously were mandatory will become optional, in a move intended to give Cub Scouters more control over their den program.



Please see below for answers to many questions received by the National Cub Scout committee.

**Q1.** Why were these modifications made?

**A1.** Extensive feedback from the field indicated that many dens were finding it difficult or impossible to complete the adventures required for advancement. In a survey conducted in September 2016, only 36 percent of the dens with eight boys in a den completed the adventures required to advance in rank by the end of the 2015-2016 program year.

**Q2.** Do dens have a choice about whether to use the modifications during this program year?

**A2.** Yes. A den may choose to continue with the previous adventure requirements or to use the modifications for some or all of its adventures.

**Q3.** Will the modifications be used with the current handbooks?

**A3.** Yes. The current handbooks provide a wealth of resource ideas to support each adventure. The detailed how-to information in the handbooks should continue to guide the "nuts and bolts" of den activities.

**Q4.** Will the National Service Center provide any additional new resources for advancement tracking?

**A4.** Yes. Downloadable revisions of "paw prints" and den tracking documents will be posted on the website, and a link will be provided soon at [scouting.org/programupdates](http://scouting.org/programupdates).

**Q5.** Will Cub Scouts still receive credit for work they have previously completed?

**A5.** Yes. Any completed requirements should be recognized and will count toward the rank advancement. No requirements need to be redone.

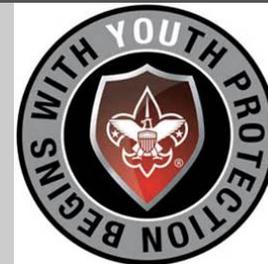
**Q6.** Do the modifications retain an emphasis on Scouting's outdoor program?

**A6.** Yes. Outdoor program continues to be the focus of at least one required adventure at each level as well as several elective adventures. Options for day programs rather than overnight camping are now extended to all, rather than only those packs whose chartered organizations do not permit Cub Scout camping.

**Q7.** Do age/grade level guidelines and tenure requirements continue?

**A7.** Yes. Program levels correspond to school grades: Tigers for first grade, Wolves for second grade, Bears for third grade, Webelos for fourth grade, Arrow of Light for fifth grade. Tenure continues as in the recent past for Webelos ("Be an active

### Youth Protection



### Recharter Time is the Perfect Time to Update your Youth Protection Training

Current Youth Protection training is required for all adult leaders to remain registered in Scouting.

Why not go ahead and update your Youth Protection training right now? This way you know you're all set come recharter time at the end of the year.

Additionally, we are encouraging all Scouting units to conduct Youth Protection training with Scouts and Parents at a meeting this month.

Cub Scouts and parents should view "It Happened to Me." A facilitators guide is available as well as additional info at [this link](#).

Boy Scouts and parents should view "A Time to Tell." A facilitators guide is available as well as additional info at [this link](#).

### My.Scouting Tips

My.Scouting.Org is an awesome resource with many great tools. Below are some of the great things you can do at [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org)

### Take Training

There are many required and supplemental trainings available at [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org). You can take Youth Protection training, but there is so much more. Cub Scout leaders can take all required trainings to be considered "trained" for their position. Boy Scout and Venturing leaders can take supplemental trainings such as Weather Hazards, Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat - all from the comfort of your home!

## How to Experience the Wilderness Adventure of a Lifetime

Are you ready to thrive in subzero temperatures and trek across the winter wilderness? What about paddle across acres of meandering rivers while reveling in the natural beauty of the Great North Woods?

If you said yes, you're in luck because Northern Tier is offering a lottery that will give you a chance to visit the Northern Tier High-Adventure Base for 2018 summer reservations and 2017-2018 Okpik winter reservations.

- Read more to see how to sign up for a Northern Tier Adventure by clicking [here](#).

## 6 Secrets for Recruiting Scouting Volunteers

The number one challenge faced by leaders of youth-serving organizations is having too little help from other parents. But why do some organizations seem to have no shortage of volunteers, and meetings and campouts always run smoothly?

Read on for the 6 tips provided by John Hovanesian, M.D. from the Orange County Council by clicking [here](#).

## 5 Gift Ideas for the MVP Scouter

Any Scout can tell you the importance of dedicated Scouters. They always seem to have just the answer. They're always there when you need them, offering a helping hand. They always manage to keep it together, even when camping plans run amuck. How can we ever repay these MVP Scouters? We may never know, but read on for 5 of our best ideas

[Click here](#) for the gift ideas.

## Scoutbook - Online Record Keeping for your Unit



## Tracking the Scouting Experience from Tiger to Eagle Scout

From the first knot tied to final hours of service performed, the Scouting experience is a journey like no other. Scoutbook ensures not a moment is missed - tracking advancement, milestone achievements and all the fun along

member of your Webelos den for at least six months since completing the fourth grade or at least six months since becoming ten years old.").

You can check out all of the modified requirements and more details at [scouting.org/programupdates](http://scouting.org/programupdates).

## Free Placemats for your Pack's Blue & Gold Banquet

The Great Southwest Council is offering free placemats for your Pack to use at your Blue & Gold banquet. The placemat will include some games for your Cub Scouts as well as information about summer camp opportunities.



To order your Pack's placemats, please use the order form available by clicking [here](#).

## BSA Adult Applications - When are They Required?

The biggest delay your unit will likely face in getting new members registered is because of issues with adult applications. We wanted to share some of the common issues we face, as well as answer some frequently asked questions related to adult registrations and applications.



### Adult application requirements:

The best thing you can do to ensure smooth processing of a new adult (or one who is changing position) is to review each application for the following:

- Background Check Authorization/Disclosure form - this form is located on the page facing the full adult application. It informs the applicant about the criminal background checks conducted by the Boy Scouts of America, and requires the applicant's signature and date.
- Applicant Social Security number and date of birth - these two key pieces of data are used to conduct the criminal background check and are mandatory.
- Applicant initials and signature - the newest adult applications provided by the Boy Scouts of America have places for four initials and a signature by the applicant. All MUST be initialed and the application MUST be signed by the applicant in order for us to process the application.
- Approval signatures by Committee Chair and Chartered Organization Representative (or Institutional Head) - all adults, whether new or changing position, must submit an adult application and the application must be approved by the unit Committee Chair and the unit's chartered organization.
- Background information (right column of the application) - this area of the application is often left incomplete or blank. Without this information provided, the application will have to be rejected.

### When is an adult application required:

*New adult applications must be submitted any time you have a new leader serving in your unit, or a currently registered BSA leader being added to your unit. **Additionally, an adult application must be submitted for any leader changing positions within your unit.*** PLEASE NOTE - this is Boy Scouts of America policy. The staff of the Great Southwest Council are not authorized to adjust or make exceptions to a National, BSA policy.

To take online trainings, please follow these steps:  
- navigate to <http://my.scouting.org>  
- log in to your account  
- in the upper left corner, click home  
- click "my dashboard"  
- click "training center"

## Print Membership Cards

Your unit's Key 3 (Unit leader, Committee Chair, and Chartered Organization Representative) have the ability to generate and print membership cards for anyone registered in your unit. No need to call the Council Service Center - this functionality is there any time you need it!

- after logging into [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org)...  
- click "menu" in the upper left corner  
- click the ">" next to your unit's information  
- click member manager  
- below "Roster Details" click one of the options  
- click the rectangle icon with a fleur-de-lis below the words "Roster by Person"

## So Much More!!

Stay tuned to the next Trailmarker newsletter for another group of tips, tricks, and tools to help you make the most of [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org)

the way.

Click [here](#) to watch a video of how Scoutbook can improve your Scouting experience.

For more details, visit [www.scoutbook.com](http://www.scoutbook.com)

*When don't you need a new adult application to be submitted:  
The following three positions never require an adult application*

1. Tiger Adult Partners
2. Lion Adult Partners
3. Institutional Heads

*Additionally, a leader who is remaining in the same position in the same unit does not need to submit a new application to continue in the same role.*

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## Unit Fundraising Policies

While we strongly encourage all units to participate in the annual popcorn sale to fund your programs, we recognize that your unit may decide to try an alternative. This is allowed but there are certain requirements.



1. Your unit must complete and submit a unit money-earning application. The application can be found [here](#). Page 2 of the money-earning application has a lot of great answers to many FAQs.
2. No product sales efforts will be approved during the popcorn sales period - August 1 through October 31.
3. Popcorn supplied by another vendor besides the Council-sponsored provider will not be approved for resale by Scouting units.
4. Any contracts signed to sell products or participate in a fundraiser may not be signed on behalf of the Great Southwest Council and/or the Boy Scouts of America. The individual signing the contract is solely responsible.
5. The Scout uniform is only approved to be worn when participating in the Council-sponsored popcorn sale. Scouts are not permitted to wear their uniform when selling any other products.
6. Scout units are not permitted to directly solicit donations to fund their programs.

As you will see while reviewing the unit money-earning application, these policies are set by the National Boy Scouts of America and the Great Southwest Council is required to enforce said policies. Should you have any questions, please contact Scout Executive [Chris Shelby](#).

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## It's Recharter Time!

Each year, Scouting units go through the annual rechartering process. Recharter is the process where a Scout unit renews its charter as an official part of the Boy Scouts of America. This involves:

- updating your unit's roster (including adding/subtracting members, updating contact information for individuals or your unit's chartering organization)
- paying registration fees for each youth and adult member to the national Boy Scouts of America organization
- paying for group insurance coverage

If your unit has not yet received its recharter packet, you can do so by contacting your [District Executive](#).

Please note - all recharterers are due in by December 15, 2016.



**What is Journey to Excellence, and Why Should**

## **You Care?**

You think you're making all the right moves for your Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts or Venturers, but do you really know?

With the BSA's Journey to Excellence scorecards in hand, you can answer that question with a satisfying yes.

Journey to Excellence, often shortened to JTE, is a self-evaluation tool that lets unit leaders see, quantitatively, how well their unit is meeting the goals of Scouting. Think of it as a progress report. You can check in regularly to make sure you're delivering the best possible program for our Scouts and Venturers.

The process is simple, and the benefits are tangible. Here's a quick guide.

### **1. Learn why JTE is worth your time.**

JTE scorecards offer these benefits:

1. A framework for planning the year with standards based on what successful units do to continually improve.
2. A method for evaluating your unit in tangible ways (number of campouts, number of youth advancing, etc.)
3. Guidance in areas where you might do better and early warning of potential problems.
4. Specific guidelines and standards of what is considered good performance.
5. Recognition for good Scouting: bronze, silver or gold.
6. Benchmarking to get ideas and tips from other good units.

### **2. Download the JTE scorecard.**

At the beginning of each calendar year, print out the latest JTE scorecard from this website. There are scorecards for the following Scouting entities:

- Cub Scout packs
- Boy Scout troops
- Venturing crews
- Varsity teams
- Sea Scout ships
- Exploring posts
- Districts
- Exploring districts
- Councils

### **3. Introduce the scorecard to your unit committee.**

Ask them to fill in the sections corresponding to their function in the unit: finance, membership, program, leadership.

This is where tracking workbooks, available here, come in handy. The JTE scorecards work best when several Scouters participate in tracking.

### **4. Review your progress on this year's scorecard.**

At the end of the year and at regular intervals throughout the year, monitor your progress as you go for gold in JTE.

You can try a "thorns, roses and buds" approach or look at things you want to "start, stop and continue."

Either way, learn where you aren't maximizing your JTE points and find specific improvements. Appoint a volunteer to hold the unit accountable for those changes.

### **5. Look at next year's scorecard.**

The BSA releases scorecards early, meaning you have time to plan ahead so you can meet your goals. Always best to Be Prepared.

### **6. Complete your scorecard and turn it in.**

On Dec. 31 of each year, JTE scorecards are due to your unit commissioner, district executive or council representative.

Units that plan ahead aren't surprised by their score; they're expecting it.

Like a marathon runner checking his watch after each mile, a unit should check its scorecard regularly to aim for gold.

Find all the Journey to Excellence information you need at this site.

## Join the Gorham Scout Ranch Staff Today

Looking for a way to earn money this summer while having fun? Is one week of summer camp not enough? Let Gorham Scout Ranch be your home this summer! A camp staff position at Gorham Scout Ranch is an experience that you will always remember.



For more information about being on the Gorham Scout Ranch staff and available positions, [click here](#).

To download this year's staff application, [click here](#).

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## Wood Badge 2017

It's time to sign up for the 2017 Wood Badge Course!

September 8-10, 2017 AND  
September 15-17, 2017  
Gorham Scout Ranch



What is Wood Badge?

Wood Badge is advanced leadership training provided by experienced Scouters from throughout the Great Southwest Council. This amazing six day experience will challenge you but more importantly inspire you. Please [click here](#) to learn more about the benefits of Wood Badge.

For more information about this year's course and to sign up, please [click here](#).

For questions about this year's course, please contact Course Director [Jeremy Conlin](#).

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## Campbell Scout Ranch is OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

Campbell Scout Ranch is the newest property of the Great Southwest Council. Offering primitive camping and opportunities for district activities, we are excited about the opening of this great camp.



CAMPBELL SCOUT RANCH

There is no water, electricity or restroom facilities on this site. Water and portable toilets will need to be provided by the property user.

To use Campbell Scout Ranch, you will need to fill out and submit a camp use form. The form is available by clicking [here](#).

To see photos of the site, please visit [www.gswcbsa.org/campbell](http://www.gswcbsa.org/campbell).

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PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO FORWARD THIS EMAIL TO LEADERS AND PARENTS IN YOUR UNIT BY CLICKING THE Forward this email LINK BELOW.

If you wish to be removed from this mailing list, please click "SafeUnsubscribe" below.



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***Thank you for your service to the youth of our community!***

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