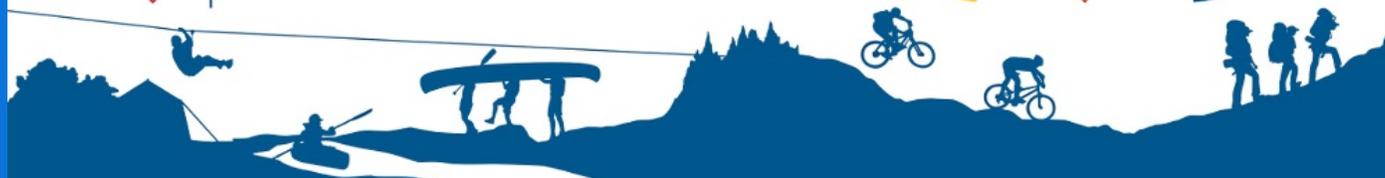




BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
GREAT SOUTHWEST COUNCIL



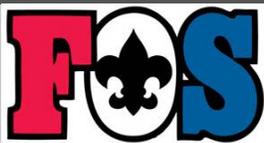
Trailmarker

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

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Support Scouting



Text Your 2017 Gift to Scouting Today

You can make your 2017 Friends of Scouting contribution via text message!

Text your name, unit type & number, and gift amount to (505) 404-1995. Example: John Smith P123 \$145

After sending your text, you will receive a web link to complete your gift securely online.

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

January 17, 2017

Founding Day of Scouting At The Legislature

February 8, 2017
NM State Capitol



Please join us in celebrating the Founding Day of Scouting on February 8, 2017 as we deliver the State of Scouting in New Mexico at the Legislature in Santa Fe.

Scouts will be helping to present the colors at the opening of the daily session in both the NM House and Senate with resolutions recognizing the contributions of Boy Scouts of American to our great state. A delegation also will present the state of Scouting in New Mexico to Governor Susana Martinez as well as present her with the Silver Beaver Award.

Also scheduled that day in the Rotunda, will be presentations by land, water, and wildlife groups from throughout the state that Scouts of all ages will enjoy. If your Pack or Troop would like a guided tour of the State Capitol, please call (505) 986-4589 to schedule it.

Please contact Randy Saunders at (505) 345-8603 for more information on the House and Senate Memorials.

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

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.

JANUARY

- 18
[Camping Committee Meeting](#)
6:30 PM - Great Southwest Council Service Center
- 18
[Membership Committee Meeting](#)
7 pm - Great Southwest Council Service Center
- 19
[Catholic Committee Retreat for Scouting](#)
8:30 AM - Santa Maria de la Paz, Santa Fe
- 23
[Training Committee Meeting](#)
6 PM - Great Southwest Council Service Center
- 28
[Silver Beaver Banquet and Annual Business Meeting](#)
11 AM - Tanoan Country Club

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 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 Gorham 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.

Scoutingwire News

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 today, 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

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

Wood Badge Association Business Dinner

Saturday, Feb 11, 2017, 5:30 pm
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
12701 Indian School Rd NE,
Albuquerque



Register NOW by clicking [here](#).

Cost
\$12.50 per person (13 and older)
\$5.00 for children (6 - 12 years old)
5 and under free!

Menu
Chicken with Swiss Cheese
Salad
Dessert

Scouting for Food Drive



Saturday, February 4, 2017
9am - 3pm
Smith's Food & Drug Stores

On Saturday, February 4th, 2017, Scouting units throughout the Great Southwest Council will help make a difference in the

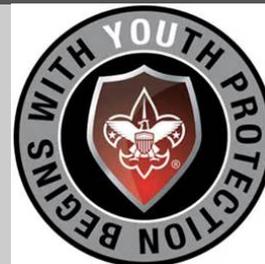
Save the Date!

Saturday, March 24 University of Scouting

The University of Scouting is one of the premier training opportunities available for Scouters. In conjunction with the Yucca & Conquistador Councils, the Great Southwest Council helps to put on this awesome training in Ruidoso, NM.

Stay tuned to coming Trailmarkers for more info.

Youth Protection



Cyber Safety

Today's youth are spending more time than ever using digital media for education, research, socializing, and fun. To help families and volunteers keep youth safe while online, the Boy Scouts of America introduced the **Cyber Chip**. In developing this tool, the BSA teamed up with content expert NetSmartz(r), part of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (r) and training expert for many law enforcement agencies.

NetSmartz (r) has created a Scouting portal showcasing Cyber Chip resources, including grade-specific videos, for each level. [Check it out here](#).

Topics include cyberbullying, cell phone use, texting, blogging, gaming, and identity theft.

Bullying Awareness

The idea that a Scout should treat others as he or she wants to be treated - a Scout is kind - is woven throughout the programs and literature of the Boy Scouts of America. When a Scout follows the principles of

The Official Blog of the Scouting Movement

Visit the Scoutingwire site any time for the latest news from around the United States by visiting www.scoutingwire.org

How the New Venturing Website Was Designed By Actual Venturers

Have you checked out Venturing.org recently? If not, you're in for a surprise because the website is now completely revamped and optimized to fit the Venturing experience. Even better, the site redesign was entirely youth-driven!

- Read more about the new venturing.org site by clicking [here](#).

Scout Saves Father During "Terrifying" Life-Threatening Situation

Seeing a family member experience a life-threatening situation would be enough to make most people lose their composure, but many Scouts are trained specifically on how to respond in an emergency.

Read more about a heroic Scout by clicking [here](#).

What the National Park Service Alliance Means for Scouting

The alliance between Scouting and the National Park Service is a natural kinship. After all, "some of the best Scouting happens in National Park Service sites," according to Scouting expert Bryan Wendell.

The Memorandum of Understanding that seals the bond between the two groups was recently renewed in an effort to continue educating young people about camping, the outdoors and the environment-so let the Scouting adventures live on!

[Click here](#) for more details and to read the MOU.

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

fight to end hunger in our community.

Scouting for Food is the leading service event for Boy Scouts of America and the Great Southwest Council. In partnership with Roadrunner Food Bank and Smith's Food & Drug stores, Scouts will be seeking donations at all Albuquerque and Rio Rancho Smith's Supermarket locations between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM.

If you are unable to get out to one of the stores, you can text your donation on February 4, 2017 to (505) 933-7732 and it will be credited to the Scouting for Food drive. Please remember that every \$1.00 donated purchases five meals for a hungry family in our community.

To sign your unit up or for more information, please contact Bryan Nigg at 505-270-7411 or Felipe Rael at 505-980-5922. Don't miss out on this GREAT service opportunity!

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.

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 Scout Oath and Law, bullying and hazing situations should never occur.

The fact sheets below will help with bullying awareness and direct you to resources provided by the BSA and other entities we work with to protect children.

[A Scout is Kind Newsletter](#)

[Bullying - What is Bullying?](#)

[Bullying Prevention Guide](#)

[Creating a Bullying-Free Culture in Scouting](#)

[What to Do if Your Child is Being Bullied](#)

[Prevention of Cyberbullying in Scouting](#)

[Reporting Suspected or Observed Bullying](#)

[Providing Support to Scouts Who are Bullied](#)

[The Bully](#)

[Prevention of Bullying in Scouting - Unit Discussions](#)

[Myths About Bullying](#)

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

Take Training

There are many required and supplemental trainings available at 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

experience is a journey like no other. Scoutbook ensures not a moment is missed - tracking advancement, milestone achievements and all the fun along the way.

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

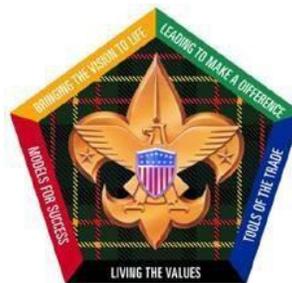
For more details, visit www.scoutbook.com

the same role.

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](#).



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

your home!

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...
- 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

- 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](#).

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.



Prepared. For Life.®

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

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