



Scissortail District Roundtable



**Raegan Rethard
Roundtable Commissioner
22 January 2026**

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Welcome to Roundtable

Pledge of Allegiance

Scout Oath

Scout Law

Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my best to be clean in my outdoor manners, be careful with fire, be considerate in the outdoors, and be conservation minded.

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Hot Topics

- Events, Updates, and Troop Resources
- Hot Topic—Using AI and Chat GPT in Scouting





Safety Minute—Cold Weather



SUMMARY

Beyond camping, a number of cold-weather activities present challenges to Scouts and leaders, such as alpine or cross-country skiing, ice skating, sledding, ice fishing, and snowshoeing. Essential ingredients for fun include skill training and an awareness of the hazards unique to these activities.

[Guide to Safe Scouting](#)



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Safety Minute—Cold Weather



KEY POINTS:

- Activities should be supervised by mature and conscientious adults.
- Participants should be aware of the potential dangers of any winter sport, and leaders should stress incident prevention by emphasizing proper technique.
- Help participants understand the need for using appropriate personal protective equipment such as helmets for sledding, snowboarding, and skiing.
- Winter sports are more physically demanding. Leaders and youth should be physically fit and capable to participate.
- Be sure equipment fits each person properly.
- During sledding, make sure the hill is safe and free of obstacles. Keep sledding paths and participant return paths separate from each other.
- Talk about and gain support for the basic rules for the activity ... before it begins.

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Recognition Corner—National Duty to God Award

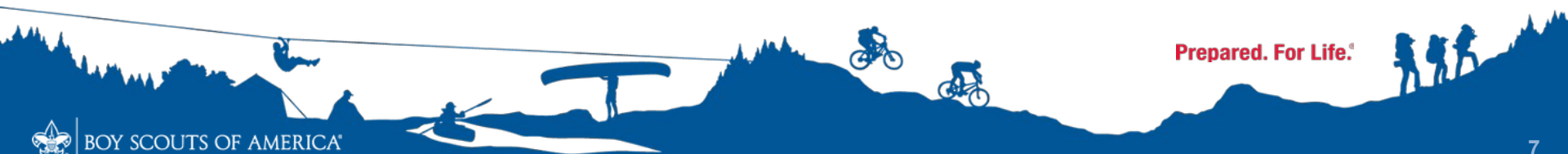


The National Duty to God Award created in 2016 recognizes adult individuals who have demonstrated an exemplary history of transformational leadership in supporting and promoting the spiritual foundation of Scouting. It acknowledges the unswerving dedication to faith, fellowship, and national service of those whose character embodies the moral principles and shared ideals of Scouting America. The award distinguishes persons who selflessly work to prepare youth for life by perpetuating the merit and legacy of a Scout's duty to their Creator. Nominations are open to candidates from all faiths and religious groups chartered by Scouting America.

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/National_Duty_to_God_Award.pdf



Recognition Corner—Adult Recognitions!



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Upcoming Spring



Fundamentals of Training (EDGE) 7 February, 18 April 8am-5pm GSC

Wilderness First Aid 21-22 February JNSR, 28-29 March JNSR, 11-12 April WRSR, 16-17 May CGT

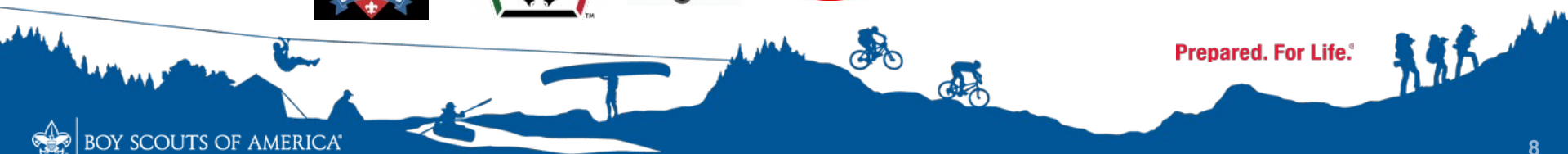
IOLS 7-8 March JNSR, 28-29 March CGT, 16-17 May WRSR

BALOO 13-14 March JNSR, 2-3 May CGT

Cub Scout - Range Master Training 14 March, 16 May JNSR

Woodbadge 10-12 April and 25-26 April

Leave No Trace 24-26 April JNSR, 29-31 May WRSR





Upcoming Events—February

24 January **2026 Key Leaders' Conference** 9:00am-1:00pm



25 January **Southern Prairie Lodge Gala** 6:30pm OCU



6-8 February **Klondike Derby** WSR



7 February **Woodbadge Reunion Banquet**



12 February **Scissortail District Committee Meeting**



19 February **Scissortail District Eagle Boards of Review**



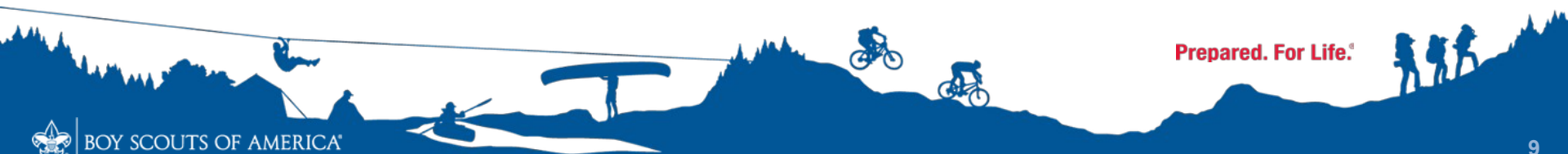
20-22 February **Top Shot** DHSR



26 February **Scissortail District Roundtable**



28 February **Eagle Merit Badge College 2026** 8:00am-3:30pm OSU-OKC



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Upcoming Merit Badge Classes Scissortail Series--Gaylord Scout Center

Space Exploration 9 February, Rocket Launch at Guthrie

Disc Golf 22 February, Lawton OK

Orienteering 21 March

Fire Safety 24 March

Weather 7 April

Pioneering 21 April

Railroading 24 April Oklahoma Railroad Museum

Kayaking 6 May Riversport

Digital Technology & Cybersecurity 17 July



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New Badge in the Test Lab

Psychology



Overview: This badge takes you on an exciting journey to understand how psychology impacts everyday life and leadership. You'll learn about famous psychologists and their contributions, create and perform a skit showing psychology in action, explore mental health and resilience, and track your own activities and emotions to see how they shape your well-being. Along the way, you'll practice empathy, reflect on the Scout Oath and Law, and even design your own pledge to inspire hope and support in your community. Finally, dive into career paths in psychology and discover what it takes to succeed in this fascinating field. Expand your mind, build resilience, and make a difference—start your Psychology Badge adventure today!

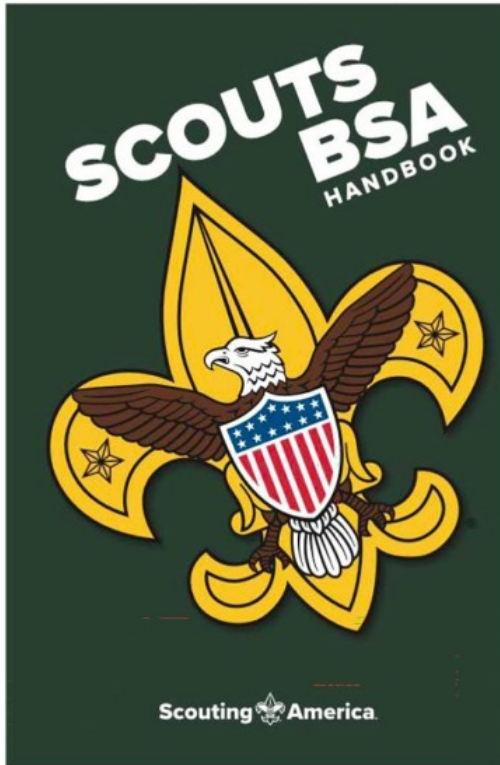
<https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/test-lab/psychology/>

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New Scouts BSA Unified Handbook



This is an optional resource and does not replace the current 14th Edition.

- There are no program changes. All requirements and materials remain the same.
- All content is consistent, with refreshed photos that represent all youth.

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The Range and Target Sports Manual Has Been Updated

Scouting America has released the 2026 edition of the Range and Target Activities Manual that is effective beginning Jan 1, 2026.

Substantive changes from the prior 2025 edition:

- Brand Alignment to current standards
- Participant Terminology: References to “shooter” have been replaced with “participant”
- Rifle and Shotgun Safety Briefings Clarified
- Range Safety Officer Ratios Changed
- Multigun Airsoft Program Discontinued
- Atlatl Program Addition

<https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/430-93825b-Range-and-Target-Activities-Manual-FINAL.pdf>



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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



The Venturing Ranger Award

The Venturing Ranger Award has been updated to add new interests and enhance safety.

There are changes to Hunting, Shooting Sports, and Snowmobiling requirements. Ranger requirements under the old program must be completed by 31 March 2026. Completed electives must be transferred over by the same date.

Changes include adding new career areas, diversity and history, removing outdated and unsafe requirements, updating language and technology references, and adding new programs and areas of interest.



<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2025/12/10/venturing-ranger-award-has-been-updated-to-add-new-interests-enhance-safety/>





Merit Badges Have Been Updated for 2026



Over 80 merit badges have updates ranging from minor clarifications to substantial content changes. Some badges have new requirements added, while others have been reorganized or updated to reflect current practices and knowledge.

Key Updates Include:

Updated Career Exploration Requirements--Many merit badges now feature expanded career exploration options that help Scouts research real-world job opportunities, understand education requirements, and explore how Scouting skills connect to future careers or hobbies. These updated requirements encourage Scouts to think about how their interests might shape their future.

Enhanced Safety and Outdoor Ethics--Several badges now include important discussions about Leave No Trace principles and the Outdoor Code, helping Scouts understand their responsibility to protect natural areas during their adventures.

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Merit Badges Have Been Updated for 2026



Modernized Content and Skills--Merit badges have been updated to reflect current technology, safety practices, and knowledge. For example, Radio now covers cell phones, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and RFID technology. Digital Technology includes QR codes and barcodes

Safety expands to cover online safety, safeguarding youth, and travel safety Traffic Safety addresses distracted driving and modern vehicle safety features.

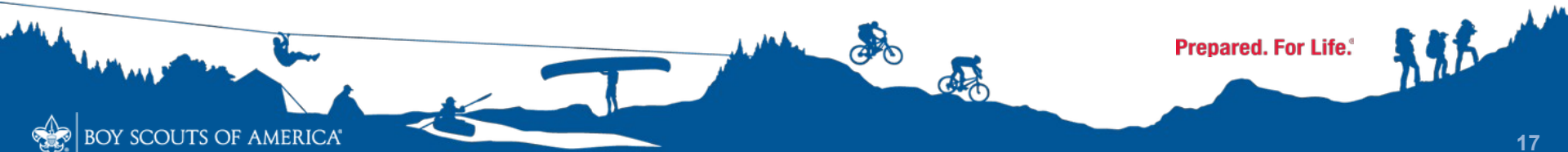
Clearer Requirements--Many badges feature reorganized or clarified requirements to make them easier to understand and complete.

https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Major-Requirement-Changes-as-of-1_1_2026.pdf



Hot Topic—Using AI and Chat GPT in Scouting

--Jason Rinaldo



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Using AI as a Planning Assistant in Scouting

Smarter planning

Less burnout

Same Scout values

Why This Matters

- • Planning takes time
- • Requirements are spread out
- • Burnout is real for volunteers
- AI reduces busywork so leaders can lead

What AI Is (and Is Not)

- AI IS:
 - A planning assistant
 - A brainstorming partner
 - A time-saver

- AI IS NOT:
 - A replacement for judgment
 - A policy authority
 - A substitute for youth leadership

Use Case: Meeting Planning

Build a meeting agenda for a regular scout meeting for me, using the BSA Patrol Method, please.

Got it. Here's a **clean, no-fluff Scout meeting agenda** that actually uses the **BSA Patrol Method** instead of just saying it does. This assumes a **60–90 minute** regular troop meeting and puts **youth leadership in charge**, not adults hovering in the background.

BSA Patrol Method–Focused Troop Meeting Agenda

Pre-Meeting (10–15 minutes)

Who runs it: Patrol Leaders

Purpose: Get Scouts engaged *before* the formal meeting starts.

- Patrols gather at assigned areas
- Informal skill practice, game, or challenge
 - Knot relay
 - First aid scenario
 - Gear inspection challenge
- SPL circulates, checks readiness
- Adults observe only

👉 *This is where energy gets burned off so the meeting doesn't derail later.*

Opening Ceremony (5 minutes)

Who runs it: SPL / Assigned Patrol



+ Ask anything



Example Meeting Output

- • Opening & announcements
- • Skill instruction
- • Patrol competition
- • Reflection & closing

- Fully adjustable in seconds
 - Don't like it?
 - Ask for something different!

Use Case: Campout Planning

Below is what you can realistically **complete or make progress on** during that trip (camp at Camp Doris + hike Mount Scott + Visitor Center / ID time + trail meal on lightweight stoves).

Rank requirements you can complete on this trip

Scout rank

Mostly conference / basics; not really "Mount Scott-specific." (We can ignore unless you've got brand-new Scouts.)

Tenderfoot (most of this trip is perfect for Tenderfoot)

Camping / Outdoor Ethics

- 1a Show camping/personal gear + how to pack/carry it. Scouting A...
- 1b Camp at least one night; sleep in a tent you helped pitch. Scouting America
- 1c Explain how you demonstrated Outdoor Code + Leave No Trace. Scouting America

Cooking

- 2a Help prep one meal on the campout + explain shared duty. Scouting America
- 2b Demonstrate safe cleaning method for meal gear. Scouting America
- 2c Explain why eating together as a patrol matters. Scouting America

First Aid + Nature

- 4a First aid items list (cuts, blisters, burns, stings/ticks, snakebite, etc.). Scouting America
- 4b Identify hazardous plants in the local area + treatment for exposure. Scouting America
- 4c Injury prevention for hazards covered above. Scouting America
- 4d Build a personal first aid kit + explain each item. Scouting America

Hiking

- 5a Buddy system (use it on the outing). Scouting America

+ Ask anything



Use Case: Risk & Safety Thinking

Can you help me identify risks and any safety considerations I should discuss with Scouts and their parents for this hike?

Absolutely. This is one of those moments where being **direct and upfront** actually builds trust with parents and keeps Scouts safer on trail.

Below is a **plain-spoken risk & safety briefing** tailored specifically to hiking **Mount Scott** in the **Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge**—written so you can use it **verbatim** with Scouts *and* as a parent handout.

Mount Scott Hike

Risks & Safety Considerations to Review with Scouts and Parents

1. Heat & Weather Exposure (High Risk)

Reality: The Wichita Mountains are exposed, rocky, and unforgiving in warm weather.

Risks

- Heat exhaustion / heat stroke
- Dehydration
- Sunburn
- Sudden weather changes (wind, storms)

Mitigations

- Mandatory water: **at least 2 liters per Scout**
- Hats, sunscreen, lightweight long sleeves encouraged
- Frequent water breaks (every 20–30 minutes)
- Adult leaders monitor Scouts for:
 - Dizziness



+ Ask anything



Use Case: Planning Documents

Can you put this into several word documents that I can use as handouts to my youth leadership and any adults?

Done. I split this into **three clean, purpose-built Word handouts**, each written for the audience that actually needs the information (no wasted words, no mixed messaging).

Downloads

- [Youth Leadership Safety Brief](#)
For SPL, ASPL, Patrol Leaders — focuses on responsibility, buddy control, pacing, and speaking up.
- [Adult Leader Safety & Emergency Guide](#)
For Scoutmaster/ASMs — risks, mitigations, turn-around authority, and a simple emergency action plan.
- [Parent Safety Overview](#)
For parents — realistic risks, what you're doing to manage them, and how they can help prepare their Scout.

How I'd recommend using these

- **Youth brief:** Review at the PLC the week before the trip
- **Adult guide:** Carry printed copies or have it on phones
- **Parent handout:** Email as a PDF *and* have copies at the departure meeting

If you want, I can:

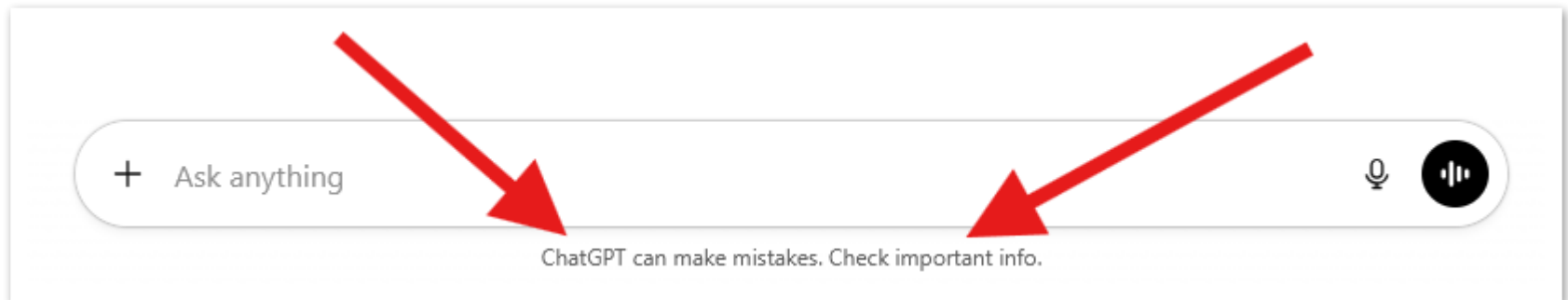
- Add **troop branding/logo**
- Convert these into a **single packet with a cover page**
- Add a **signature/acknowledgement page** for parents
- Tailor one version specifically for **new Scouts (10-11 yr olds)**

+ Ask anything



Guardrails for Leaders

- No personal or medical data
- Verify against official policies
- Use as draft guidance only
- Never replace youth leadership



Final Takeaway

- AI doesn't change Scouting.
- It helps us spend more time doing it.



The District Executive's Minute



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**Next Meeting Thursday, February 26th
6:30pm.**



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Questions and Open Discussion



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