



STC Chronicles

South Texas Council Scouting Updates

Quick Highlights

- Dec 8-9** - OA Fellowship
- Dec 10** - Philmont Invitation Trek Meeting
- Dec 15** - Unit Recharter Due
- Dec 27-30** - BSA Winter Camp at Karankawa
- Dec 28** - Summer Camp Staff Interviews
- Jan 5-7** - Merit Badge Weekend @ Huisache
- Jan 12-14** - Webelos Scouting Adventures
- Jan 27** - Council Awards Reception
- Feb 8** - BSA's 115th Anniversary - Happy Birthday!
- Feb 17** - Council Coordinated Meeting
- Feb 17** - Merit Badge College @ Del Mar
- Feb 23-24** - OA Annual Banquet
- Feb 23-24** - Cub Scout Weekend @ Camp K
- March 2** - Eagle Scout Reception
- April 12-14** - Council Camporee!
- June 9-15 and June 16-22** - Karankawa's 80th Birthday Summer Camp!
- June 23-29** - NYLT



A PDF of the Newsletter
can be downloaded [here](#).

Do you know someone who does not receive the newsletter but wants to? Have them email their District Executive and ask to be added!

Are you Scouting Forward?

Recognizing our amazing volunteers for the work and dedication in providing exceptional experiences for our youth is important to me, our staff, and our executive board.

On January 27, 2024, the South Texas Council is holding its annual Council Award Reception recognizing volunteers from across the council with the prestigious Silver Beaver Award, Vale La Pena Award, Whitney Young Award, Spurgeon Award, and the new Duty to God Award. Recognition for the council Extra Miler and Service Tenure awards will also be presented.



The deadline to submit nominations for these awards has been extended to December 15th. It is important to note that council staff cannot nominate volunteers for the nationally recognized awards, nominations should come from you, volunteers nominating your peers.

Please give serious consideration to nominate a worthy peer and let's make the Council Awards Reception one to remember.

Marty Sepulveda
Eagle Scout Class of 1986
Scout Executive & CEO

New Council Program Fee

The South Texas Council has implemented a \$24 council program fee for all youth and adult members for the 2024 calendar year starting with recharter payments for 2024. This breaks down to \$2 per month.

This program fee replaces the \$6 insurance fee. The cost to operate Scouting in our Council over the past three years has grown and with the demise of the Family Friends of Scouting campaign across all districts the council finance committee and council leadership reluctantly increased the fee this coming year. The council held off increasing the fees last year in hopes that our Friends of Scouting campaigns would improve and return to pre-pandemic levels. Unfortunately, since 2019 the Family Friends of Scouting campaign went from \$32,555.00 to \$4,520.00 with only 12 individuals contributing.

The cost to maintain and operate Camp Huisache and Camp Karankawa continues to raise, one does not think of the cost associated with having great facilities available to conduct Scouting, but hidden costs include property and equipment insurance, water and gas expenses, electricity, trash service and supplies (including sanitation) to name a few of the operating expenses.

Less than 30% of STC units participate in popcorn sales and or attend our council summer camp. Both items can have a positive or negative impact on the council operating budget. Right now, they are having a negative impact.

Many councils across the country including our neighbors in the Alamo Area Council have implemented a council program fee for the reasons outlined above. Councils that have not implemented or increased their council program fee is due to high participation in Family Friends of Scouting, popcorn sales and local summer resident camp programs.

What can you do to impact potential increases in the council program fee? Please consider participating in next year's popcorn sale, attend local summer camps, and help with your district community Friends of Scouting campaign.

This is our council and the quality of program available is up to each of us at the unit to the board level.

Recharter Due December 15!

This year's recharter process remains unchanged from last year.

The unit key 3 (Charter Representative, Committee Chair or Unit leader or designee) has access to the recharter via the [internet advancement site](#). The same username and password for my.scouting can be used. Instructions and how to videos are available [here](#).



If you need additional help contact your unit or district commissioner. You can also call your District executive or Sam Jackson, the council registrar, at the council service center. The deadline is December 15th, and your unit will drop and have no access to Scoutbook after December 31st.

REMINDER: South Texas Council (STC) now requires all registered adults to maintain Youth Protection Training (YPT) compliance for their entire registration period. This is a local council policy. As it is currently possible for YPT to expire during that period, the STC new policy may require retaking YPT training even though a registered adult's current YPT completion certificate may not expire for several weeks or months but will expire before the next recharter registration. [Click here to learn more](#).

Council Service Center Holiday Office Hours:

December 22 -26 Closed for Christmas.

December 27-28 Open 10:00am - 1pm

December 29 - January 1st Closed for New Years.

*The Holloway Scout Shop will be closed from December 22nd thru January 1st.

Camp Cards

An Easy Way to Earn Funds!

Is your unit looking for an easy fundraiser? Why not try the 2024 Camp Card Sale? Your unit can earn 50% commission on every card sold. No upfront deposit or cost to sell, simply sign up and check out the number of cards your unit wants to sell.

The sale begins February 1, 2024. These are special community cards for the Coastal Bend Area.

[For more information click here.](#)



Popcorn

The 2023 Popcorn season Top Unit Totals:

Sea Breeze Pack 259 - \$37,227
 Sea Breeze Pack 226 - \$34,120
 Sea Breeze Pack 65B - \$12,676
 Sea Breeze Pack 949 - \$19,272
 LaSalle Pack 364 - \$17,786
 LaSalle Troop 364 - \$17,696
 Sea Breeze Troop 226 - \$13,376
 Phoenix Troop 349 - \$12,134
 LaSalle Pack 108 - \$10,779
 Sea Breeze Pack 65G - \$10,550



Great Job Everyone!

Scouting For Food Update:

We had a very successful food drive with almost 6,000 pounds of food gathered. Great Job!

Corpus Christi collected 3,244 pounds of food.
 Aztec collected 2,600 pounds of food.



Thank you to all that collected!

Nominate a Deserving Scouting Volunteer

Council Awards Nominations – Deadline Extended to December 15th

The **Silver Beaver** is a national award presented by the local council. It is the highest honor the South Texas Council may bestow upon a volunteer.

Nominations for the Silver Beaver awards consist of three parts:

- Noteworthy service of exceptional character to non-Scouting youth
- Exceptional service to the Boy Scouts of America (unit, district, council)
- Service or standing within the community or community organization.

Nominations cannot be made for posthumous awards. Additionally, the award is limited to adults 21 years of age or older.

[Click here for Silver Beaver Nomination Form.](#)

Vale La Pena Award – Outstanding Service to Hispanic Youth.

[Click here for the nomination form](#)

Whitney Young Award – Outstanding Service to Rural or Urban Youth.

[Click here for the nomination form](#)

Spurgeon Award – Outstanding Service to the Exploring Program (individual or Organization).

[Click here for the nomination form](#)

Council Duty to God Award - The Council Duty to God Award was created to recognize registered Scouters who have demonstrated an exemplary history of transformational leadership in supporting and promoting the spiritual foundation of Scouting at the local Council level. [Click here for the nomination form.](#)

Award nominations should be emailed to Marty Sepulveda at martin.sepulveda@scouting.org or mail to the South Texas Council, [700 Everhart Rd., Building A, Corpus Christi, TX 78411.](#)

December Safety Moment

Safety Around Campfires

Campfires are a powerful part of the outdoor experience. They can be lively with laughter, storytelling, and fellowship. The campfire can also be a time of reflection, learning, and great peace. Safe behavior around a campfire ensures a good time can be had by all while mitigating the inherent danger of the fire. Here are some helpful reminders on behavior that can make your next campfire a positive and safe experience.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Smart behaviors around a campfire

- Fires are useful, but they can be dangerous. Always respect a fire by showing smart behaviors.
- Stay outside of the campfire ring. Do not touch any part of the fire ring once the fire has been lit.
- Don't run, jump, or play around campfires. Understand that fires can cause injuries. "Once it's in, it stays in." Don't pull anything out of the campfire.

Maintain a safe campfire and campsite

- Always consider the campfire's surroundings. Ensure the campfire is the appropriate distance between the seating areas and tents.
- Verify federal and local regulations regarding fire bans and policies.

Cooking or roasting over a campfire

- Never swing, flick, or throw hot or burning food. If your food burns or catches fire, remain calm.
- Maintain a safe distance while cooking. Use a skewer long enough to keep your body outside the fire ring or containment area.
- Be careful with sharp skewers and keep the tip pointed in a safe direction. In the dark, others may not see the skewer. Prevent injury to others by being responsible. Maintain spacing with others around the fire.

[More information on campfire safety can be found here.](#)

National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)

June 23-29, 2024
Camp Karankawa

National Youth Leadership Training is an exciting, action-packed program designed for councils to provide youth members with leadership skills and experience they can use in their home units and in other situations demanding leadership of self and others.

The NYLT course centers around the concepts of what a leader must BE, what they must KNOW, and what they must DO. The key elements are then taught with a clear focus on HOW TO. The skills come alive during the week as the patrol goes on a Quest for the Meaning of Leadership.



NYLT is a six-day course. Content is delivered in a troop and patrol outdoor setting with an emphasis on immediate application of learning in a fun environment. Interconnecting concepts and work processes are introduced early, built upon, and assisted by the use of memory aids, which allow participants to understand and employ the leadership skills much faster.

In order to attend a NYLT course, a youth must have the following qualifications by the beginning of the course:

- Must be a registered member of a Scouting unit.
- Must have a current BSA Health and Medical Record form parts A, B, and C.
- As of March 1, 2019, Scouts BSA members (male and female) must be at least 13. They must have completed Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops. Scouts are required to earn the First Class rank before attending NYLT.
- Venturers and Sea Scouts (male and female) must be at least 14, or 13, have completed the eighth grade, and fall within the maximum age allowance for their program. They must have completed Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews or Ships. It is recommended that they have had at least one year of camping experience. While NYLT is not an outdoor skills course, it is important that each participant have basic camping and outdoor cooking experience.
- Have a unit leader recommendation.

Fee: \$300 per participant. [Click here to register online.](#)

For more information about NYLT contact Francisco Orozco, staff advisor, at 361-816-3868 or francisco.orozco@scouting.org.

National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE)

National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience is an exciting program that enhances leadership skills and expands upon the team-building and ethical decision-making skills learned in National Youth Leadership Training. NAYLE emphasizes leadership, teamwork, and selfless service, using the core elements of NYLT to help youth strengthen these skills. The NAYLE

course is now available at all four national high-adventure bases. The material presented is basically the same at all four venues but is specific to the unique environment of each site.

NAYLE a special experience. Scouts will live in a patrol setting and use their leadership skills to resolve exciting and challenging situations.

NAYLE will equip youth leaders to be better unit leaders, NYLT staff members, and/or superior camp staff members. It will help guide their journey to become true servant leaders, able to develop the members of any team they lead. NAYLE provides life skills for now and the future.

To be able to participate in NAYLE, participants must meet the following requirements:

- Successful completion of Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops or Crews (ILST or ILSC) and National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT).
- Be in top physical condition; a BSA Annual Health and Medical Record Parts A-B-C is required. Participants must meet BMI requirements as listed on Part C, and be able to hike 3 miles with a 35 pound pack.
- Be 14 years of age (or 13 years of age and completed the 8th grade) and not yet 18 (for Scouts) or 21 (for Venture Scouts.)
- Hold a unit leadership position.

Philmont NAYLE

Philmont offers participants an unforgettable backcountry experience where they use their NAYLE leadership skills to resolve exciting and challenging issues. Participants are introduced to and have an opportunity to build upon the legacy of Waite Phillips, the benefactor of Philmont Scout Ranch.

[Click here to visit the Philmont NAYLE webpage.](#)

For more information, contact Ryan Parr at bulydawgz@gmail.com

Be A Part of the 80th Anniversary Karankawa Summer Camp Staff!

All areas wanted. Contact James Rangel at James.Rangel@scouting.org or Francisco Orozco at Francisco.Orozco@scouting.org for more information.



Events

December 10 - Philmont Invitation Trek Meeting

Whether you are planning a trip to Philmont or simply want to learn more about this High-Adventure Scout Ranch, come join us at 3PM in the Council Office for a very special Philmont Breakdown, led by our new Council Philmont Ambassador, Bryan Haney. BSA youth and adults...this meeting is for everyone!

[Click here to register for this free event.](#)



December 27-30 - Karankawa Scouts BSA WINTER CAMP!

Space is COLD, and so is Winter Camp! Our theme for this year is "SPACE", so bring your Moon Boots, Space Suit, and Tricorder, and get ready to join us for an 'Out of this World' adventure!

Registration is now open. [Click here to learn more!](#)

January 5-7 - Merit Badge Weekend at Camp Huisache

Merit Badge Counselors are needed to teach classes. If you are available, please reach out to alexandra.manrique@scouting.org

January 12-14 - Webelos Scouting Adventure

If you're in a troop or a cub scout pack, you need to read this.

Pack leaders, if you have Webelos/ Arrow of Light scouts, are your families prepared and familiar with the Scout BSA program? If you're in a Scouts BSA unit, have you started thinking about inviting AOL scouts to your troop meetings and crossover plans?

We want every Arrow of Light scout to cross over to a Scout BSA troop. We want to help and would like to invite all to our Webelos Scouting Adventure at Camp Karankawa.

The weekend is geared towards introducing Webelos/ AOL scouts and families to the Scout BSA program. Scouts will be able to earn some AOL advancement and learn about the Scout BSA program. Families and leaders will be taught about the fundamentals of the Scout BSA program and what their role is in a Scout BSA unit. We will answer any questions any parents and leaders may have.

We want to provide resources to all our scouting families.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Contact Robert Mealer at robertmealer37@gmail.com or Francisco.orozco@scouting.org

February 17 - Council Coordinated Meeting

Every three months the council hosts a coordinated meeting of all BSA registered adults in the South Texas district. The meeting usually lasts between one to two hours and focuses on council health, finances, membership growth, and upcoming events. All registered BSA leaders are encouraged to attend. It is a great opportunity

to meet new people, ask questions, and stay updated on the growth and future of the South Texas Council.

The next Council Coordinated Meeting will be held at Del Mar College Windward Campus. Gathering begins at 9:30 and the meeting will start at 10AM.

February 17 - Del Mar Merit Badge College

Scout BSA members and families, we are pleased to announce that the Merit Badge College @ Del Mar College Windward Campus is happening on February 17, 2024. You will get the opportunity to be taught by professors from Del Mar College. [Click here to register now!](#)

February 23-24 - Cub Scout Weekend at Camp Karankawa!

Whether you are an experienced camper or just getting started, this weekend is for you. Come spend one glorious night under the stars at beautiful Camp Karankawa located on Lake Corpus Christi.

March 2 - Eagle Scout Reception

All 2023 Eagle Scouts from across the council are invited to attend and join in the celebration and the recognition of the top 10 Eagle Scout Service Projects. The highlight of the ceremony is the awarding of the South Texas Council's Glenn A. and Melinda W. Adams Service Project of the Year Award.

The reception will be at 3pm at Del Mar College. This is a free event, and all are welcomed. Registration is required for program planning and will be opened soon.

April 12-14 - Council Camporee @ McGloin Ranch

The 2024 Council Camporee will be held at the McGloin Ranch near Old San Patricio on April 12-14 and will have an Irish theme. Troops, Crews, Ships, and Explorers - we hope everyone will be able to attend!

June - Scouts BSA Summer Camp

Check the leader's guide [here](#).
Click [here](#) for early registration.

June 23-29, 2024 - NYLT Camp Karankawa

Fee: \$300 per participant. [Click here to register.](#)

For more information about NYLT contact Francisco Orozco, staff advisor, at 361-816-3868 or francisco.orozco@scouting.org.

Karankawa Karankawa

80 Years Old

September 20-22, 2024

Council wide celebration. A weekend full of activities for all ages and programs. More details in the coming months.

Camp Karankawa turns 80 years old in 2024!

Join us for an extra-special fun-filled summer at camp as we celebrate Karankawa's 80th Birthday!

A place above the hill is turning 80 years in 2024, preparation has already started. A celebration event is being planned and summer camp will be celebrating the 80yrs of Camp Karankawa. You do not want to miss out, keep your eye out for more information regarding Camp Karankawa's 80th birthday!



District Events

Aztec District

December 12 - District Meeting

December 16 - Wreathes Across America,

10am at the City Cemetery: Scouts and Scouting Families will help lay wreathes on Veteran graves after ceremony/presentation.

December 27-30 - Winter Camp at Karankawa!

January 5-7 - Merit Badge Weekend at Camp Huisache

MB Counselors needed to teach classes. If available, reach out to alexandra.manrique@scouting.org

January 9 - District Meeting

January 27 - Council Awards Reception

February 13 - District Meeting

February 15 - WBCA Youth Parade

February 17 - Council Coordinated Meeting

Sea Breeze District

December 7 - Round table for all leaders.

December 27-30 - Winter Camp at Karankawa!

January 4 - Round Table for all leaders.

January 9 - Commissioners Meeting.

January 31 - District Committee Meeting

February 8 - Round Table for all leaders.

February 17 - Council Coordinated Meeting

February 24 - District Pinewood Derby

February 28 - District Committee Meeting

La Salle District

December 14 - District Committee Meeting
December 27-30 - Winter Camp at Karankawa!
January 11 - District Committee Meeting
February 8 - District Committee Meeting
February 17 - Council Coordinated Meeting
February 24 - District Pinewood Derby

Phoenix District -

December 27-30 - Winter Camp at Karankawa!
January 18 - District Meeting
February 10 - Council Coordinated Meeting
February 15 - District Meeting
February 17 - Merit Badge College @ Del Mar College
February 23-24 - Order of the Arrow Annual Banquet
February 23-24 - Cub Scout weekend

Venado District -

December 14 - District Roundtable Meeting 6-9PM
December 27-30 - Winter Camp at Karankawa!
January 11 - District Roundtable Meeting 6-9PM
January 22 - Venado District Banquet 6-7:30PM
February 8 - District Roundtable Meeting 6-9PM
February 17 - Council Coordinated Meeting



Order of the Arrow News

The Order of the Arrow will be having a fellowship on December 8-9th. Candidates can complete their Ordeal, reaffirm their commitment to service with the Brotherhood challenge, and help recognize the newest Vigil honor members.

You can register for the event and pay your 2024 lodge dues [here](#).

What is a Cub Scout Day Camp?

Cub Scout Day Camps are facilitated by local councils. They are offered as a three or five day event and provide opportunities to make new friends, earn new adventures, and participate in special activities.

Individuals who serve as camp director, program director or staff adviser must be nationally certified by taking the National Camping School Day Camp Administration training.



Does your District have a Day Camp?

It's time to start planning for the 2024 camping year!
Theme: Outdoor Adventures!

We need day camp certified leaders in each district for next year's day camps.

If you are interested in getting trained, please contact Alexandra Manrique at alexandra.manrique@scouting.org

Cub Scout Day Camp Training Dates:

March 2-3, 2024 at Camp Strake – Sam Houston Area Council

March 23-24, 2024 at Camp James Ray – Circle Ten Council

Have you filled out your Unit Money-Earning Application?

The Money-Earning Application is a helpful guide for Units as they plan customized fundraising projects. All units must submit their application at least two weeks before committing to their money-earning projects.

Click [here](#) to download the Unit Money-Earning Application

More information on Money-Earning Guidelines can be found [here](#).

Woodbadge

October 4-6, 2024

November 2-3, 2024

Camp Karankawa

Wood Badge is an advanced national leadership course open only to Scouting volunteers and professionals. Scouters from Cub Scouting, Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts, Explorers, and district & council Scouters -- all are encouraged to attend.

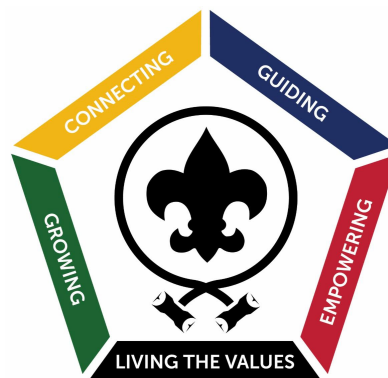
The training focuses on enhancing listening skills, conflict resolution, leadership styles, team development, coaching & mentoring, project planning, and more! This multi-day course is taught through a series of presentations, games, discussions, activities, and other engaging learning methods.

The course will help you better understand how all the Scouting programs tie together. It will provide you with many useful leadership tools to help enable our youth to have the best possible Scouting experience. There is no better time to attend a Wood Badge course and make a difference in your unit than right now!

Fee: \$325 Before August 31, \$350 After August 31.

For more information, please contact:

David Hebert at David.Hebert@scouting.org or Jennifer Swan at jswan0529@gmail.com



Council Program Calendar

Click [here](#) for the latest council and district event calendar updates.

Be informed!

