

JANUARY 2025



# STC Chronicles

*South Texas Council Scouting Updates*



[Click HERE](#) to download a PDF of the newsletter.

## Quick Highlights

Click the events below for more information.

- January 23 - Camp Card Kick-off at the Council Service Center
- January 25 - Council Awards Reception at Del Mar College Oso Creek Campus
- Jan 31 - Feb 1 - Order of the Arrow Cub Scout Weekend at Camp Karankawa
- February 15- Scouts BSA Del Mar Merit Badge College Windward Campus
- February 15 - Council Coordinated Meeting at Del Mar College Windward Campus
- March 1 - Tammy Rands Eagle Scout Reception
- March 15 - Workday at Camp Karankawa
- March 21-23- Cub Family Campout at Camp Karankawa
- April 11-17 - Scout's BSA Push Cart Derby at Camp Karankawa
- April 25-26 - Cub Family Campout at Camp Huisache

## Scouting Forward

Dear South Texas Council Scouting Family,

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 25, 2025, the South Texas Council is holding its annual Council Award

Reception at Del Mar College Oso Creek Campus recognizing volunteers from across the council with the prestigious Silver Beaver Award, Vale La Pena Award, Whitney Young Award, Spurgeon Award, Council Duty to God Award, and Council Alumnus of the Year Award.

Recognition for the Council Extra Miler and Service Tenure awards will also be presented.

January is great time to ensure your Scout unit is preparing for a fun and adventurous summer filled with camping trips including summer camp, day camp, and high adventure treks. Keep Scouting fun, safe and available to everyone in your unit, let's make memories that impact a lifetime!

See you January 25th!

Yours in Service,  
Marty Sepulveda  
Eagle Scout, Scout Executive



**Scouting  
America**  
Prepared. For Life.®

## Lets Keep Scouting Safe!

**Reminder: Guide to Safe Scouting: Updated Safety Afloat and Tow Sports Policies**

The following updates have been made to the Guide to Safe Scouting:

- **Safety Afloat-Qualified Supervision: Added** – “In addition, when swimming is in conjunction with towed activities or motorized watercraft a designated observer or designated lookout must be no less than 18 years of age and present on the watercraft.”
- **Tow Sports** – “The designated observer must be no less than 18 years of age and present on the watercraft.”

When planning a day camp, short-term camp, long-term camp or unit activity, all programs must comply with the current Guide to Safe Scouting. This serves as our guide in organizing events and ensures that all activities align with age-appropriate guidelines and do not fall under the prohibited list. The Guide to Safe Scouting is updated from time to time, so it is important to refer to it prior to and during the planning process of any event. Over the last several years, there have been updates to the prohibited list, including the prohibition of caber tosses and other “Highland game” type activities. The prohibited list states: Shooting or throwing sports outside of BSA program literature and guidance. Examples of prohibited activities (with exceptions in italics) include:

- a. Anvil shooting, flintlocks, exploding targets, and devices regulated by the National Firearms Act
- b. Blow guns, boomerangs, and ballistae
- c. Homemade firearms and air cannons, potato cannons, and tennis ball cannons
- d. Throwing of shovels, torpedoes, spikes, stars, shotput, logs, hammers, and cabers
- e. Inappropriate ammunition such as pumpkins, hard slingshot ammo, and tracers
- f. Cannons
- g. Crossbows (*except at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve*)
- h. Reloading ammunition, and using reloaded ammunition (*except at Philmont Scout Ranch*)
- i. Spears, including atlatls, pole spears, and spear guns (*except at Philmont Scout Ranch*)

As outlined above, any shooting or throwing sport that is not part of the BSA program literature or guidance is prohibited. For questions about the Guide to Safe Scouting reach out to [heath.safety@scouting.org](mailto:heath.safety@scouting.org). For questions about outdoor programs or program planning reach out to [outdoorprograms@scouting.org](mailto:outdoorprograms@scouting.org).



## STC Membership Recruitment Update!



Congratulations to all the units with membership growth!

All Units with 10% or more growth will be recognized at the Council Awards Reception.

January 25 - Council Award's Reception

# COUNCIL AWARDS RECEPTION

## JAN 25 - DEL MAR OSO CREEK CAMPUS



Recognizing our amazing volunteers for the work and dedication in providing exceptional experiences for our youth is important to the South Texas Council. Everyone should make plans to attend this annual event celebrating the great work of our volunteers and friends.

The annual Council Awards Ceremony and Reception recognizes 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. The council Extra Miler Award for exceptional service to local council programs and services will also be presented. The reception will be held at the Del Mar College Oso Creek Campus, Tres Grace Community Room on January 25th at 3pm-5pm.

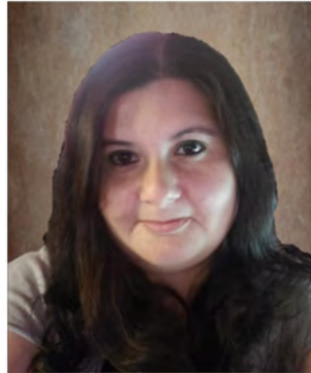
Don't forget to wear your Scout uniform and past award honorees should wear their appropriate award ribbons identifying their past recognition. This is a free event open to all Scouts, Scouters, and family members.

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.

## Congratulations to our 2024 Silver Beaver Award Recipients!



Mike Jones  
Phoenix District - Portland, Texas



Jacklyn Juarez  
Aztec District - Laredo, Texas



Kenneth "Jerry" Smith  
Council Executive Board - Alice, TX

[Click Here to RSVP](#)

## Camp Cards!

### An Easy Way to Earn Funds!

Is your unit looking for an easy fundraiser? Why not try the 2025 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.

On Thursday, January 23rd at the Council Service Center we will have a special Corpus Christi Area Camp Card Kickoff at 6:30PM. Representatives from several camp card vendors will be in attendance to share with us why they are partnering with Scouting. Door prizes will be given away and you can pick up your Camp Cards! Scout leaders and parents are welcomed to attend.

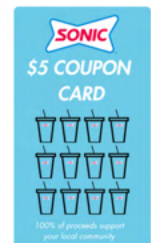
The sale begins February 1, 2024. These are special community cards for the Coastal Bend Area.



### Adventure More, Spend Less

We've partnered with SONIC Drive-In in the Coastal Bend area to give you a new way to fuel your adventure!

- Sell SONIC Drive-In \$5 coupon cards individually, with your friends, or as a unit. Discover the way that works best for you.
- Each card is sold for \$5 - \$3 is yours and \$2 goes to the council.
- Pick up cards at the Council office and start fundraising! After you're done selling, pay the \$2/card amount and keep the rest. If you want to order more, go for it!



[Click Here to RSVP](#)

# January Safety Moment - Campout Safety Checklist



## SUMMARY

Camping is a long-honored tradition for many families, including the BSA family. Timing, supplies, and location should be determined ahead of time so you can make the most of your camping experience. There might be some instances where you overthink or underestimate a camping trip, but there are also many ways to enjoy the adventure, fun, discovery, and teamwork involved. A campout safety checklist will help to ensure these aspects of camping are accomplished while keeping you safe.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Camping can be enjoyable in almost any area—from the backcountry to summer camp, as well as national high-adventure bases, to name a few. When you decide on a camping trip, you need to consider who, what, where, when, how, and why.

Here are a few items to check off on your Campout Safety Checklist:

- Documentation Needed—This includes medical records, guidebooks, and permission slips. A Scout leader can ensure your safety as well as his or her own when you are both better informed of any limitations, hazards, or permissions.
- Training—General training, such as Youth Protection training, CPR/first aid, and Hazardous Weather, or specific training, such as Trek Safety or Wilderness First Aid, gives you the confidence to know what to do in the event of an emergency.
- Planning—Planning is important. Become familiar with your campsite location and do some research about the weather, licensing/permit requirements, and project or activity guidelines so you can be prepared.
- Equipment—Plan for vehicles involved or tools necessary for your camping experience. Also consider trailer requirements and first-aid or emergency kits.
- Emergency Planning—A prepared Scout is a confident Scout. Keep a cellphone handy as well as a list of local authorities (fire department, police, hospitals, etc.) in case an emergency occurs, such as inclement weather or a lost Scout. If you are in the backcountry, canyons, or a remote location, coverage may be one to two hours away. A GPS tracking/messaging device is helpful in these locations.
- Program—Know your program. There should be age-appropriate activities, safety equipment, proper supervision, and a discussion on potential hazards.

## RESOURCES

- Age-Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting Activities
- Campout Safety Checklist
- Guide to Safe Scouting

February 15 - Del Mar Merit Badge College!

# 2025 DEL MAR SCOUT BSA MERIT BADGE COLLEGE

Over 20 Merit Badges to Choose From!!  
Classes may change due to Instructor Availability



**FEB 15, 2025**  
**\$30 PER SCOUT**

Contact [Francisco.Orozco@Scouting.org](mailto:Francisco.Orozco@Scouting.org) for more info

Architecture  
Aviation  
Citizenship in Society  
Communications  
Cooking  
Crime Prevention  
Dentistry  
Digital Technology  
Drafting  
Electricity  
Entrepreneurship  
Fingerprinting  
First Aid  
Geology  
Health Care Professions  
Home Repairs  
Law  
Movie Making  
Personal Management  
Public Speaking  
Search and Rescue  
Welding  
Woodwork

Scout BSA members and families, we are pleased to announce that the Merit Badge College @ Del Mar College Windward Campus is happening on February 15, 2025. You will get the opportunity to be taught by professors from Del Mar College!

## February 15th - Council Coordinated Meeting

The next meeting is February 15th at the Del Mar College Windward Campus.  
Gathering begins at 9:30 and the meeting will start at 10AM.  
All BSA registered adults are welcome! This quarter's theme is 'Blazing New Trails!'

Every three months the council hosts a coordinated meeting of all BSA registered adults in the South Texas Council. The meeting usually lasts between one-and-a-half to two hours and focuses on council health, finances, membership growth, and upcoming program events. Guest speakers are also part of the meeting program. There is an attendance (Burro) award given to the district with the most representation at the meeting. All registered BSA leaders at all levels 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.

Lunch is available to preorder.

[Click Here to RSVP](#)

## March 1, 2025 - 2024 Tammy Rands Eagle Scout Class



# 2024 TAMMY RANDS EAGLE SCOUT CLASS RECEPTION

## MARCH 1, 2025

### Honoring All 2024 Eagle Scouts

March 1, 2025

All 2024 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.

This is a Free Event – all are welcomed.

For more information contact Marty Sepulveda at [martin.sepulveda@scouting.org](mailto:martin.sepulveda@scouting.org)

[Click Here to RSVP](#)

Scouts BSA Push-Cart Derby!

# PUSHCART DERBY!

**APRIL 11-13**



[Click Here to Register Now!](#)

[Click HERE to Download the Leader's Guide](#)

Scouts BSA Summer Camp!

## SCOUTS BSA SUMMER CAMP AT CAMP KARANKAWA

Contact: [Francisco.Orozco@Scouting.org](mailto:Francisco.Orozco@Scouting.org)  
for more info

Over 50 Merit Badges to Choose From!  
14 Different Eagle Required Badges Offered!

- Archery
- Art
- Astronomy
- Basketry
- Camping
- Canoeing
- Chemistry
- Chess
- Collections
- Dog Care
- Insect Study
- Kayaking
- Leatherwork
- Life Saving
- Mammal Study
- Oceanography
- Orienteering
- Family Life
- Fire Safety
- First Aid
- Fishing
- Forestry
- Game Design
- Geology
- Golf
- Indian Lore



- American Heritage
- Personal Fitness
- Personal Management
- Emergency Prepares
- Environmental Science
- Citizenship in the Community
- Citizenship in the Nation
- Citizenship in the World
- Communications
- Disability Awareness
- Fingerprinting
- Pioneering
- Public Speaking
- Pulp and Paper
- Reptile and Amphibian Study
- Rifle Shooting
- Rowing
- Scouting Heritage
- Scholarship
- Shotgun
- Space Exploration
- Swimming
- Woodcarving
- Wilderness Survival
- ....and more to come!

Be a part of Karankawa Summer Camp! - Volunteer Merit Badge Counselors Needed! A limited number of paid staff positions are available.  
Contact [Francisco.Orozco@Scouting.org](mailto:Francisco.Orozco@Scouting.org) or [Chelise.Hyatt@Scouting.org](mailto:Chelise.Hyatt@Scouting.org) for more information.

[Click HERE to Register Now!](#)

## Order of the Arrow News

The Order of the Arrow May Fellowship is on May 204, 2025. [Click HERE to register for the event.](#)

OA elections are still available, please contact your local chapter or one of our lodge advisors.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the lodge advisor Sharon Swize (ssswize@gmail.com) or Staff Advisor Francisco Orozco (francisco.orozco@scouting.)

Make sure your OA dues are up to date. You can pay them online at:

<https://mycouncil.southtexasbsa.org/Event/OA-Dues-2024>

[Click here to get the latest news from OA Today!](#)



## Journey to Excellence



Journey to Excellence (JTE) is Scouting America's performance recognition program designed to encourage continuous improvement in delivering quality Scouting programs. It provides a framework for units to set, track, and achieve goals across key areas such as leadership development, outdoor activities, advancement, and community service. By striving for JTE recognition, units ensure they are offering engaging, well-rounded programs that foster personal growth and leadership in youth. Achieving JTE benchmarks helps units attract and retain members, build strong leadership teams, and strengthen their overall impact.

[Click Here For More Information](#)

## Holloway Scout Shop News and Deals!

**Champ Camp 2.0**  
Saturday Jan 18th  
Kenedy Conference Room  
9:30am - Noon  
Sponsored by  
Holloway Scout Shop

\*Choose your own template  
\*Design and cut your own car  
\*Get advice from top experts

Photo Credit



2025 Scout Sunday Emblem

Now available at  
Holloway Scout Shop

\$3.99



115 Years of Scouting World  
Crest Ring

Now available at  
Holloway Scout Shop

\$2.99

[Click HERE to visit the Holloway Scout Shop Website](#)



Did you know that Camp Karankawa and Camp Huisache are available for Unit Weekend Camping throughout the year?

CAMP USAGE FEES LIST and RESERVATION INFORMATION can be found [HERE](#).



## National Jamboree

### Mark your calendars for The BSA's Premier Event!

The **2026 National Jamboree** at the Summit Bechtel Reserve will be held on July 22-31, 2026

## What is Jamboree?

Jamboree is more than a destination. It's the adventure of lifetime. And there is simply nothing else like it on the planet.

What's a Jamboree? It's not camp. National Jamboree is 360-degrees of fun, friends and fellowship with hands-on adventure that takes you places you never thought you'd go and challenge you to try things you never thought you could.

It's the beginning of your own heroes' journey that will challenge you to go farther than you ever thought possible. You'll reach deeper and lift yourself higher to become the best version of yourself.



Are you interested in becoming a part of the 2026 National Jamboree Council Contingent Leadership? Adults interested in leading and helping with the local Council Contingent please [please fill out THIS form](#) and return it to the council service center at 700 Everhart or email it to [martin.sepulveda@scouting.org](mailto:martin.sepulveda@scouting.org). Limited opportunities available. Apply by January 15th.

There are also positions available on the National Jamboree Staff. [Click HERE for more information.](#)

National Youth Leadership Training - Save the Date!



[Click HERE to Register Now!](#)

International Camporee - Save the Date!

A promotional graphic for Scouting America's International Camporee. At the top, the Scouting America logo is centered above the text "Scouting America" in blue. Below this, "INTERNATIONAL" is written in a grey, sans-serif font. The word "CAMPOREE" is the largest element, in a bold, black, sans-serif font. To its right, "@Camp Karankawa" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. Below "CAMPOREE", "CAMPAMENTO INTERNACIONAL" is written in a red, sans-serif font. The background is light blue. On the left and right sides, there are flags of Mexico and the United States. In the center, there are several polaroid-style photographs showing scouts in various activities: one is climbing a rope, another is smiling, one is working at a table, and another is hanging from a rope. At the bottom, there is a red banner with white text: "SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2025 | MATHIS, TEXAS" and "12-14 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2025 | MATHIS, TEXAS". To the right of the banner is a QR code. Below the banner, there is a line of text: "Scan the QR Code for more information on Camp Karankawa." and "Escanea el código QR para más información sobre el Camp Karankawa." in a smaller font.