SCOUT EXPO 2026

BEALE AFB

CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

1776 - 2026

April 10 – 12, 2026

LEADER'S GUIDE

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Updated October 6th, 2025

WELCOME

The Scout Expo 2026 planning committee would like to welcome you to Scout Expo 2026. This isn't just another gathering; it's the ultimate celebration of scouting, and it's happening to mark Americas 250th anniversary. Are you ready to be a part of it?

We have been working very hard to create a truly unique and exciting event for the Scouts of the Golden Empire Council, as well as for our invited friends from other nearby Councils. This guide is packed with important information that will help both Scouts and Scouters in your unit have a successful and fun experience at this big event. It's essential to remember that the Air Force has set very specific rules to make sure that everyone is safe and secure during the event. This starts with extra attention to how people will enter the venue and continues throughout the entire program.

The theme for this Scout Expo 2026 is a celebration of the 250th Birthday of America. This means we will focus on looking back at the past 250 years, honoring our history, and also thinking about what the next 250 years will bring. It's a great opportunity for everyone to learn about our country's journey and its future while enjoying the activities planned for the event.

It's important to keep in mind that this wonderful event was planned and organized by volunteers just like you. Planning something as large as this takes a lot of time and effort, often involving many hours of hard work. By keeping the spirit of Scouting alive, we can make this event truly special for everyone who attends. Volunteers play a crucial role in making sure everything runs smoothly, and their dedication helps create lasting memories for all Scouts and their families.

So, as you prepare for the Scout Expo, remember to embrace the excitement and the camaraderie that comes with being a part of this event. By working together and supporting each other, we can ensure that everyone has a fantastic time. Whether you're participating in activities, meeting new friends, or learning about our nation's history, this is a chance to celebrate and enjoy being a Scout. Let's make the most of this incredible opportunity and create an unforgettable experience for everyone involved!

Yours in Scouting,
Scout Expo 2026 Staff

General Information

Location: Beale Air Force Base near Marysville, California. Updated arrival information, a map and your assigned entry gate will be emailed to you a few weeks prior to the event.

Dates and Times:
Arrival: Friday, April 10, 2026:

- 1 PM onward for trailers or vehicles with gear, through the Wheatland Gate
- 3 to 9 PM for all attendees.

Departure:

- Sunday, April 12 by noon OR
- Saturday, April 11, 2026, after the Arena Show (approximately 10:30 PM).

Cost:

- Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts/adult: $65, includes commemorative patch, and Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday events.
- Cub Scouts/Adult: $50, including commemorative patch, and Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday events
- Siblings (Age 4-10), $35
- Staff: $50 includes commemorative patch (Meal Plan for charge of $35)
- T-shirt available for additional purchase of $12 (3X, 4X, 5X $3.00 extra)

Leadership: The Guide to Safe Scouting requires two deep leadership for all units--a minimum of 2 adult leaders with each unit during any activity. One adult must be registered and over 21 years old; the second must be 18 years or older.

Cub Scouts of all ranks can participate in family camping (including their non-Scout siblings) with their parent(s) or guardian(s). Parents or guardians do not have to be registered adult leaders, and BALOO training is not required since this is a Council coordinated event. Only Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts can camp as Dens, which requires two-deep registered adult leadership.

Important Note: Everyone attending Expo is expected to act in a respectful, Scout-like manner toward volunteer staff and base authorities. Failing to do so may be cause of expulsion from the event.

Registration—Online only - No on Site Registration

Questions: GECscoutexpo@gmail.com

Forms to Complete before Event—and Collected at Check-in

All units and families - Roster of participants (Attachment 1)

All youth participants - Release Form for a Minor to Use Firearms (Attachment 6), COPE and Climbing Release Agreement (Attachment 5)

All registered unit leaders and staff - current Safeguarding youth Protection and AB506 Training

All Cub Scout parents - review How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide, in front of the Cub Scout Handbook

All participants - youth and adult, including Staff—must present a Current **A/B Medical Form** (Attachment 2), Hold-Harmless/Release Agreement (Attachment 3 & 4)

Scout BSA, Venture & Sea Scout Sub-Camp Assignments

All Scout BSA, Venture & Sea Scout units are assigned campsite in a sub-camp depending on their district of residence:

Valley Forge	**Washington DC**	**Mount Vernon**
Three Rivers	Northern Rivers	Pioneer Express
American River	Placer	Southern Sierra
Out of Council	Yolano	Buttes
Venturing/Sea scouts		

Each sub-camp has a headquarters area staffed from Friday afternoon through Sunday noon. They will include first Aid, lost and found, and Expo communication services.

Sub-camps will hold a cracker-barrel Friday evening at their headquarters tent, for 1 adult and the SPL, President, Boatswain from each unit. Agenda: Disseminate information about the weekend's events and answer questions.

Each sub-camp will have a gateway competition with first, second, and third place awards. Interested units should build a gateway to the entrance of their encampment. Judging will take place on Saturday afternoon, and awards will be presented during the arena show.

Remember, no parking at campsites – all vehicles must be moved to designated parking area – Each unit is given 30 minutes to unload by campsite.

Cub Scout Information

All Cub Scouts will be in the Dragon's Lair Sub-Camp

Who can Attend: All registered Lion, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos, Arrow of Light Cub Scouts and their families, including non-Scout siblings, can attend.

Family Camping: Cub Scouts of all ranks can participate in family camping (including their non-Scout siblings) with their parent(s) or guardians. Parents do not have to be BSA registered adult leaders , and BALOO training is not required since this is a Council coordinated event. Each Cub Scout and each family member that will be attending must be registered for the Scout Expo event.

Den Camping: Only Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts can camp as dens, which requires two-deep registered adult leadership. Each Cub Scout and leader must be registered with Scouting America.

Dragon's Lair sub-camp headquarters area will be staffed from Friday afternoon through Sunday noon. It will include first Aid, lost and found, and Expo communication services.

There will be a Cracker Barrel on Friday evening at the headquarters tent for key adults, where staff will disseminate information for the weekend's events and answer questions.

Remember, NO parking at campsites – all vehicles must be moved to designated parking area –attendees are given 30 minutes to unload by campsite.

Checklist for Check-In

Have these documents out and ready to present when arriving at the gate. Participants wearing Scout uniforms will make this process easier.

__Drivers: Current vehicle registration, proof of insurance, driver's license

__Adults(18+): REAL ID state identification card/REAL ID driver's license, or a passport and a 2nd form of government ID, carried at all times

__Youth: State ID is recommended for all youth 14 and older and carried at all times.

__Each participant: Consent/Hold Harmless/Release of Liability and Medical forms

__Each group: Roster (including youth and adults)

Arrival and Parking

Upon arrival in Dragon Town, **Campers will drop equipment at the assigned area and immediately move vehicles to the assigned parking area**. Each group will send an adult to the sub-camp headquarters tent to register and pick up wristbands. Sub-camp staff will escort the representative to their assigned camp site. Groups will camp within the marked boundaries of their sites.

Attendees are encouraged to bring trailers or vehicles with gear to Beale as early as 1 PM Friday afternoon through the Wheatland Gate, since base security will inspect each one thoroughly. This will help speed up arrival for passenger-only vehicles later in the day.

We ask that you cooperate with Beale Air Force Base Security, Military Police, and Scout Expo volunteers while moving around the base. Safety is the highest priority during the event. Vehicles may only park in designated areas and should not be moved again until departure. Only pre-approved vehicles may be driven in the immediate program areas.

Water

Each unit is expected to bring sufficient water for drinking, cooking, and cleaning—a minimum of one gallon/person/day is recommended. Designated water supply areas are very limited and may be a distance from the sub-camp. Bringing large containers to carry water and wagons or hand trucks to transport them is recommended.

Fires

The Air Force and Expo Staff request no open fires. The Air Force allows use of propane stoves, with a 10 LB. A, B, C fire extinguisher available.

Food

Each group is responsible for providing its own food for the event. On Saturday, vendors with burgers, hot dogs, snacks will be stationed at the flight line and Dragon town. Snack foods will be available at the Trading Posts in Dragon Town. and the flight line

On-line Trading Post

Scout Expo 2026 "Americas 250th Anniversary" sweatshirts, hats, flashlights, pens, and souvenirs will be available online. Online ordering will be open in late January until April 6th, Items can be picked up at the event or at the Council office after the event.
Ordering Link will follow at a later date

Trading Post & Scout Shop

At Scout Expo there will be Trading Posts in Dragon Town and at the Flight Line each stocked with Expo items, snacks, hot dogs and drinks.

The Golden Empire Council will have a Scout Shop where you can purchase most of the same items you would be able to purchase in our Council store. **Disclaimer:** all the money/proceeds go to the vendors and the scouts committee

All Expo registrations include an "Americas 250th Anniversary" Scout Expo patch

Items to Bring

Paperwork—outlined above for youth, adults, units and families.

Water—bottles, canteens, jugs, containers, already filled. Allow 1 gallon/person/day. Access to water on base is limited, warm/hot weather is likely, and shade is scarce.

Personal items—Scout uniform, warm jacket, rain gear, hat, extra clothes, hygiene kit, sunscreen, hiking/walking shoes, sunglasses, flashlight/lantern (battery or propane only), camera, spending money for Trading Post and vendors.

Arena Show—flashlight/lantern, blankets to sit on and for warmth. **NO CHAIRS!!**

Wagon, cart--may be good for hauling water, equipment.

For camping— U.S. and Unit flags on marching poles, food for all meals, patrol boxes, eating utensils, tent, sleeping bag, ground cloth, lawn chairs (not for arena show), shade structure/dining fly and patrol flag.

Items Not Allowed

Prohibited items: Electronic games, Weapons (i.e. firearms, mace, stun guns, and explosives). This includes firearms of persons in possession of a Carry Concealed Weapon License (CCWL), Alcohol or Drugs/Vapes (including marijuana even if its prescribed), Radios or walkie talkies, Electronic music devices (MP3 player or IPOD), Pets (with the exception of service animals), Laser pointers and laser emitting devices, RC Aircraft or Drones, Bikes, Skateboards, Rollerblades and scooters, Flammable items and Fireworks

Uniform

The Scout Expo staff encourage Scouts and Scouters to wear their unit class B T-shirt on Saturday and to the arena shows. Wear your field uniform to Scout's Own on Sunday morning.

Early and Regular Check-out Procedures

These procedures apply to all units checking out early (including Saturday night):

- Individuals leaving Expo early must make prior arrangements with the sub-camp leader, unit leader, and parent/guardian, including arrangements to meet parents at one of the entry gates with a Scout leader present.
- Parent signed up as "Drive Only" can pick up their child at the unit's campsite.
- When checking out, groups send a leader to the sub-camp headquarters. Sub-camp staff will check their campsite to ensure that "Leave No Trace" conditions have been met.
- Once campsite conditions are approved, sub-camp staff will issue Scout Expo patches to the group leader.

In Dragon Town (Available Program)

- **Action Alley:** Push your limits with rock climbing, inflatable obstacle courses, and high- energy challenges.
- **STEM Zone:** Explore the exciting world of science, technology, engineering, and math through hands-on fun.
- **Range Sports**: Aim high with archery and riffle shooting—safe, guided, and thrilling.
- **Interactive Games & Displays:** Dive into the core of Scouting with skill-building and engaging activities.
- **Pioneering & Outdoor Skills:** Watch and learn real-world survival techniques in action.
- **Community Connection:** Meet local heroes—military, police, and fire personnel—and see how Scouting makes a difference beyond the campsite.
- **Unit Booths:** Discover what other troops, packs, and crews are doing and maybe learn something new for your own adventures.
- **Merit Badge Midway:** Kickstart progress on merit badges in a dynamic, collaborative environment.

Dragon's Lair (Cub Scout Activities)

Each youth will receive a Dragon Guide on arrival, filled with games and challenges. The personal decoder will allow campers to translate signs and clues to hidden truths among the target and range, craft, recycling, obstacle course, climbing, and other activities. Families and packs should bring their own banner, and Viking costumes are optional (without weapons of any kind).

Flight Line

Beale Air Force Base is home to the U-2 spy plane, will have simulators, and Aircraft static displays. Special exhibits will feature BSA's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) emphasis.

Arena Show

Scouts Got Talent: Do you have a talent? We are looking for singers, musicians, magicians, jugglers, skits or ????? Sign up to be part of the Friday night show featuring Scouts and Adults. Entries can be individuals, units or teams. Be part of the fun on Friday Night, April 10, 2026!

Opening Ceremonies: Bring your whole unit to the opening ceremonies on Saturday morning. Bring your unit flags, USA flags, patrol and den flags! This will be a spirited way to get the program started.

Saturday Night Arena Show: You won't want to miss Artist and Performer David Garibaldi. He was a big hit at Expo 2018! He will return with a great show for all of us.

A blanket or ground cloth will be useful to cushion your area. No chairs are allowed at the show, but there will be seating for those with handicaps. Performances that excite and inspire will be featured on the flight line stage.

Fun Run

What better way to start the day! Sign-up all-day Saturday in Dragon Town, for Sunday morning run.

Sunday Morning Services

On Sunday April 12th we will host a non-denominational religious service at the main arena.

SEE YOU AT Scout Expo 2026!

Schedule for Scout Expo 2026

Friday, April 10th, 2026

1:00 PM	Early arrival for trailers and gear
3:00-9:00 PM	Check-in for all groups in assigned sub-camps
9:00 PM	Scouts Got Talent show at Arena Stage
10:30-11:00 PM	Cracker barrel for leaders/youth leaders/Parents in sub-camps
11:00 PM	Taps, lights out, quiet until Reveille. Scouts remain in sub-camps.

Saturday, April 11, 2026

6:00 AM	Staff Reveille
7:00 AM	Camp Reveille
7:00-8:00 AM	Breakfast preparation and clean up in sub-camp areas
8:30 AM	Flags, opening ceremony at Arena Stage
9:00-Noon	Action Alley, Community Showcase, Flight Line, Ranges, Dragon's Lair, Merit Badge Midway all open
Noon-1:00 PM	Lunch preparation/cleanup or purchase food from vendors
1:00-5:30 PM	Action Alley, Community Showcase, Flight Line, Ranges, Dragon's Lair, Merit Badge Midway all open
5:30-7:00 PM	Dinner preparation/cleanup/free time, sub-camp and Staff areas
7:15-7:30 PM	Closing flags ceremony in each camp
8:00-10:00 PM	Arena Show at Arena Stage
10:00 PM	Return to sub-camps
10:30 PM	Early Check out
11:00 PM	Taps, lights out, quiet until Reveille. Scouts remain in sub-camps.

Sunday, April 12, 2026

6:45 AM	Check-in for 5K run
7:00-7:30 AM	5 K Run
7:00 AM	Reveille
7:00-8:30 AM	Breakfast preparation and clean-up in sub-camp areas
9:00 AM	Interfaith Service
11:30 AM	Strike camp/campsite inspections/Check-out after inspection

Attachments

Attachment 1: Roster of participants
Attachment 2: A/B Medical Form
Attachment 3: Hold-Harmless/Release Agreement (Adult Form)
Attachment 4: Hold-Harmless/Release Agreement (Youth Form)
Attachment 5: Cope and Climbing Release Form
Attachment 6: Release Form for a Minor to Use Firearms
Attachment 7: Cub Scout Flyer
Attachment 8: Scout BSA, Venture & Sea Scout Flyer
Attachment 9: Scout Expo Registration Information PowerPoint