



 The cover of the "University of Scouting 2027" Attendee Preview Guide. It has a dark blue top section with the title "UNIVERSITY OF SCOUTING 2027" in large, white, distressed font, and "CROSSROADS OF AMERICA COUNCIL" in smaller, yellow, distressed font below it. The background is a light tan map texture. A circular logo in the center features a torch, an open book, and the text "UNIVERSITY OF SCOUTING" and "CROSSROADS OF AMERICA COUNCIL". To the left is a compass rose. Below the logo, the text "ATTENDEE PREVIEW GUIDE" is in blue, followed by "★ 1-23: CHOOSE YOUR PATH ★" in red. Below this, a table lists the date and location. At the bottom, it says "PREVIEW EDITION" and "Stronger leaders. Stronger Scouting." followed by "LEARN • CONNECT • LEAD".

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2027	BEECH GROVE HIGH SCHOOL
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★ PREVIEW EDITION ★

Stronger leaders. Stronger Scouting.

LEARN • CONNECT • LEAD

Preliminary course descriptions are included so you can start deciding what you want to learn.
The final class schedule will be announced later.

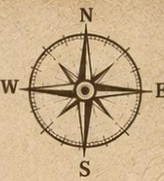


Registration opens
late September 2026

Start Here

University of Scouting is a one-day opportunity to learn practical skills, exchange ideas, and connect with other Scouters. This preview is organized by audience and program rather than by period because the final 2027 class schedule has not yet been released.

DATE	Saturday, January 23, 2027
EVENT DAY	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM ET
LOCATION	Beech Grove High School, 5330 Hornet Ave, Beech Grove, IN 46107
REGISTRATION	Opens late September 2026 at scoutingevent.com/160-2027UoS



SKIP + ALEX LANGE
INNOVATION
 CENTER

HOW TO READ THIS GUIDE

QUICK TIPS FOR USING THE ATTENDEE PREVIEW.

1

CHOOSE BY AUDIENCE

Browse by Cub leaders, troop/crew/ship leaders, general studies, faith, doctoral, or youth interests instead of by period.

2

WATCH THE BADGES

Look for markers throughout the guide: NEW, REVISED, HANDS-ON, COUNCIL CONNECTION, and YOUTH.

3

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES ARE SEPARATE

Cub Scout Adventure Zone is for Cub Scout youth; merit badge offerings are coming soon.

4

EXPECT REFINEMENT

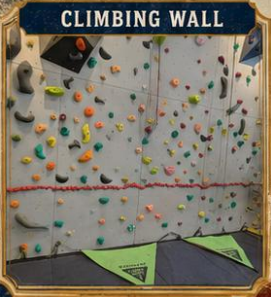
Titles, descriptions, instructors, room assignments, and availability remain preliminary until the final catalog is released.

5

BRING A QUESTION. LEAVE WITH A PLAN.

Use the preview to identify topics that can help with your next meeting, outing, recruiting effort, or leadership challenge.

CLIMBING WALL





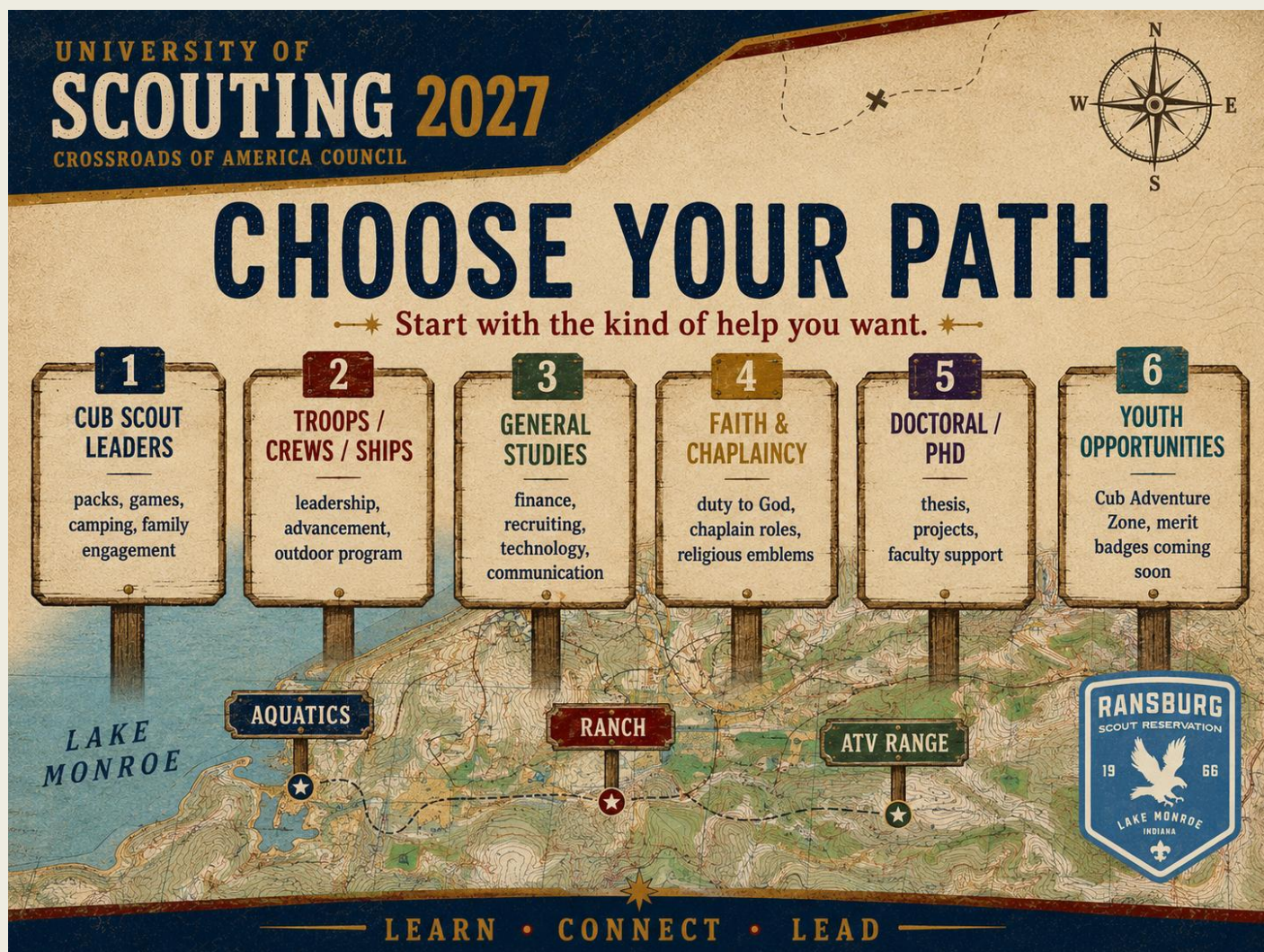
SKY TRAIL



LEARN • CONNECT • LEAD

Choose Your Path

No period-by-period chart yet. Instead, start with the kind of help you want and then jump to the program section that fits.



A few suggested learning paths

New Cub Scout volunteer: Unit Meetings for Beginners & Pack Volunteer Basics; Family Involvement in Cub Scouting; Parent Engagement and Leadership Recruitment; Cub Scout Games.

Scoutmaster or ASM: Strictly for Scoutmasters (& ASMs); SPL-Scoutmaster Partnership; First Class Emphasis; Crossover Is Not the Finish Line; Courage Before Confidence.

Unit communications & recruiting: Recruitment That Works; Scribe with a Smartphone; Social Media and Scouting; Photography Tips; Create Event Marketing with Free Online Tools.

Outdoor program builder: Plan the Adventure; Back Country Cooking; Canoe or Kayak Outing Planning; Maps, Compass & GPS; Ultralight Backpacking; Philmont Trek Preparation.

New for 2027 | **Cub Leaders** | **Youth** | **Troops / Crews / Ships** | **General Studies** | **Faith** | **Doctoral** |

Keep Learning After 1-23

New for 2027

This preview intentionally gives new and substantially revised courses extra visibility. Final titles may still be polished before registration opens.

NEW 2027 Behavior Management Techniques for Scouts BSA, Crew & Ship Leaders NEW Older youth need different leadership responses than Cub Scouts. Discuss practical approaches for expectations, conflict, disengagement, disruptive behavior, peer dynamics, and adult intervention while protecting youth leadership and creating a safe environment where young people can grow.	NEW 2027 Courage Before Confidence NEW Confidence often comes after a young person attempts something difficult, not before. Explore how Scouting adults can create safe opportunities for youth to take appropriate risks, struggle, recover, and try again without rescuing them too quickly or turning failure into embarrassment.
NEW 2027 Create Event Marketing with Free Online Tools: Canva, Suno & AI NEW HANDS-ON Bring a laptop and an event you want to promote. Work through a simple marketing workflow using Canva, Suno, and practical AI tools to create a flyer or social graphic, draft supporting post text, and explore short music or video content. The session will also address copyright, responsible AI use, branding, and youth-safety considerations.	NEW 2027 Crossover Is Not the Finish Line: Keeping New Scouts and Parents Engaged NEW The first 90 days after crossover can shape whether a new Scout and family feel they belong. Explore first meetings, patrol placement, troop guides, the first campout, parent onboarding, communication, and intentional follow-up that helps new families understand and stay engaged with the troop program.
NEW 2027 Finding the Training You Need NEW COUNCIL CONNECTION Not sure where to go next to build your skills or solve a problem? This session helps participants navigate training and learning opportunities both inside and outside Scouting America. Explore resources such as online training, Scouting U, council courses, University of Scouting, Wood Badge, NYLT, and other organizations that can help expand your knowledge, including the American Red Cross, community organizations, and reputable online resources. Leave with a better understanding of where to look, how to evaluate useful resources, and what your next learning step could be.	NEW 2027 Flag Etiquette for Units, Courts of Honor, and Campouts NEW Review the flag practices unit leaders encounter most often, including posting colors, folding, ceremony planning, half-staff awareness, retirement basics, and common mistakes. The focus is on helping units conduct respectful, confident flag ceremonies in meetings, campouts, and special events.
NEW 2027 From Pack to Patrol: Crossover & New-Troop Parent Orientation NEW Help Arrow of Light families understand what changes, and what does not, when they move from a pack into a troop. This cross-program session will focus on preparing families for crossover, explaining the patrol method and youth leadership, setting parent expectations, and creating a smoother first few months in Scouts BSA.	NEW 2027 Patch Perfect: Sew It, Don't Stick It NEW HANDS-ON A practical, hands-on introduction to putting patches on uniforms, sashes, vests, jackets, and gear. Learn placement basics, pinning or clipping, thread choices, simple hand-sewing techniques, and how to make a clean, durable repair instead of relying on temporary adhesive shortcuts.
NEW 2027 Plan and Run a Bicycle Rodeo NEW HANDS-ON Learn how to build a family-friendly bicycle rodeo for a pack, recruiting event, school partnership, or community activity. The session will cover an age-appropriate event flow, bicycle and helmet checks, and simple skill stations for starting, stopping, turning, balance, hand signals, obstacle navigation, and safe-riding awareness.	NEW 2027 Spring Into Cub Scouting: Recruiting Families Before Summer NEW January is a good time to build a spring recruiting plan. Explore bring-a-friend ideas, school and community promotion, follow-up with interested families, welcoming new parents, and ways to connect spring recruitment to summer activities so new families quickly feel part of the pack.

NEW 2027

Thrifty Pack Events That Cubs Remember

NEW HANDS-ON

Big Cub Scout fun does not require a big budget. Explore low-cost event ideas using donated, recycled, or repurposed materials, including hands-on stations, simple races, challenges, crafts, service hooks, and family activities. The goal is to leave with ideas that are affordable, repeatable, and memorable.

NEW 2027

Beyond the Books: Library Resources to Support Your Scouting Program

NEW HANDS-ON COUNCIL CONNECTION

Public libraries offer much more than books. Explore free resources available through the Indianapolis Public Library and libraries across Indiana that can support unit activities, advancement, merit badges, research, and program planning. Participants will work through hands-on activities using library resources and learn practical ways to connect those resources to real Scouting needs.

NEW 2027

Scout Smarter: A Quick Tour of Free Library Resources

NEW COUNCIL CONNECTION

Discover free digital resources available through public libraries that can help Scouts and leaders find information, explore interests, complete advancement requirements, and plan engaging unit activities. This fast-paced tour will show you where to find useful resources and how to begin putting them to work in your Scouting program.

Revised returning courses

REVISED |

Maps, Compass & GPS

REVISED HANDS-ON

A revised navigation session connecting traditional map-and-compass skills with modern GPS tools. Review the fundamentals leaders and Scouts need to practice, common errors, and ways to teach navigation through activities instead of lecture alone.

REVISED |

Merit Badge Counseling in the Digital Age

REVISED

A revised look at the role of the Merit Badge Counselor when communication, records, research, and learning often happen digitally. Discuss strong counseling practices, appropriate communication, documentation, youth engagement, and how to keep the merit badge experience focused on learning rather than simply completing requirements.

Cub Scout Leader Courses

For den leaders, Cubmasters, pack committee members, parents and other adults supporting Cub Scout units. The Cub Scout Adventure Zone youth program is listed separately on the next section.

CUB SCOUT LEADERS Backyard/Pack Camping Program & Standards Plan a Cub Scout camping experience that is fun, organized, and appropriate for the program. Review the planning questions leaders should ask, family communication, program ideas, equipment considerations, and where to find the current Scouting requirements and council guidance before an overnight event.	CUB SCOUT LEADERS Behavior Management Techniques for Cub Scout Leaders Cub Scout meetings are energetic by design. Explore practical ways to set expectations, redirect challenging behavior, keep activities moving, and create a positive environment where youth can participate successfully. Scenarios and leader discussion will keep the focus on tools you can use in your next den or pack meeting.
CUB SCOUT LEADERS Cub Scout Games HANDS-ON Add more movement, laughter, and purpose to den and pack meetings. Participants will collect ideas for gathering games, skill-building games, quick fillers, team challenges, and activities that can be adapted for different ages, spaces, and meeting goals.	CUB SCOUT LEADERS Cub Scout Skits, Run-Ons, and Cheers HANDS-ON Build a bigger bag of tricks for campfires, pack meetings, and celebrations. Explore age-appropriate skits, quick run-ons, cheers, audience participation, and simple ways to help Cub Scouts perform with confidence while keeping the program moving and fun.
CUB SCOUT LEADERS Family Involvement in Cub Scouting Cub Scouting works best when families understand how to participate. Explore ways to welcome parents and caregivers, share responsibility, communicate expectations, create family-friendly traditions, and involve adults without taking ownership away from youth experiences.	CUB SCOUT LEADERS From Pack to Patrol: Crossover & New-Troop Parent Orientation NEW Help Arrow of Light families understand what changes, and what does not, when they move from a pack into a troop. This cross-program session will focus on preparing families for crossover, explaining the patrol method and youth leadership, setting parent expectations, and creating a smoother first few months in Scouts BSA.
CUB SCOUT LEADERS Pack Committee Operations Plan Move beyond a list of committee positions and look at how a healthy pack actually gets work done. Explore meeting rhythm, annual planning, communication, delegation, volunteer support, and the small operating habits that make it easier for Cubmasters, den leaders, and committee members to work as one team.	CUB SCOUT LEADERS Parent Engagement and Leadership Recruitment Turn willing parents into active partners without making every conversation feel like a recruitment pitch. Learn practical ways to set expectations, make smaller asks, match people to meaningful roles, build a volunteer pipeline, and help families see how their involvement strengthens the Cub Scout experience.
CUB SCOUT LEADERS Plan and Run a Bicycle Rodeo NEW HANDS-ON Learn how to build a family-friendly bicycle rodeo for a pack, recruiting event, school partnership, or community activity. The session will cover an age-appropriate event flow, bicycle and helmet checks, and simple skill stations for starting, stopping, turning, balance, hand signals, obstacle navigation, and safe-riding awareness.	CUB SCOUT LEADERS Plan the Adventure: Trip Planning for Scouts and Leaders A good outing starts long before departure. Work through a practical planning framework for destination selection, permissions, transportation, communication, equipment, budgets, contingency planning, and age-appropriate program design that can be adapted to day trips or larger unit adventures.

CUB SCOUT LEADERS |

Scoutbook for Cub Scout Leaders

Bring your real Scoutbook questions. This working session will focus on common Cub Scout scenarios, troubleshooting, advancement tracking, roster questions, and the practical tasks leaders handle during the year rather than a general tour of the system.

CUB SCOUT LEADERS |

Spring Into Cub Scouting: Recruiting Families Before Summer**NEW**

January is a good time to build a spring recruiting plan. Explore bring-a-friend ideas, school and community promotion, follow-up with interested families, welcoming new parents, and ways to connect spring recruitment to summer activities so new families quickly feel part of the pack.

CUB SCOUT LEADERS |

Thrifty Pack Events That Cubs Remember**NEW HANDS-ON**

Big Cub Scout fun does not require a big budget. Explore low-cost event ideas using donated, recycled, or repurposed materials, including hands-on stations, simple races, challenges, crafts, service hooks, and family activities. The goal is to leave with ideas that are affordable, repeatable, and memorable.

CUB SCOUT LEADERS |

Unit Meetings for Beginners & Pack Volunteer Basics

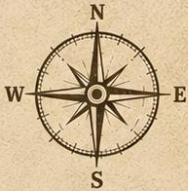
New to helping with a pack? Start here. This session will explain how pack and den meetings fit together, what common volunteer roles actually do, how to prepare for a meeting, and where new leaders can find the resources they need without feeling like they have to learn everything at once.

Bring one real pack challenge.

Choose a meeting, recruiting, behavior, family-engagement, or program-planning problem your pack is facing now. The best University of Scouting notes are the ones you can use at your very next pack or den meeting.

Youth Opportunities

UNIVERSITY OF SCOUTING 2027
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YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES AT UoS

Hands-on learning and opportunities for youth

CUB SCOUT ADVENTURE ZONE

For Cub Scout youth

A large classroom filled with hands-on activities, challenges, creating, experimenting, and fun.

Final activity lineup coming with the schedule.

MERIT BADGE OPPORTUNITIES

For Scouts BSA youth

A selection of Merit Badge courses will be announced soon.

Courses, prerequisites, and capacity coming later.

LEARN * CONNECT * LEAD

What families should expect

- Youth offerings will be clearly identified during registration so families can distinguish them from adult leader courses.
- Any prerequisites, supplies, age/rank guidance, or partial-completion expectations for Merit Badge sessions will be published with the final course information.
- Additional sessions may be identified as youth-appropriate only after the schedule and instructor plans are finalized.

Youth Leadership Beyond UoS: NYLT

For Scouts ready for a deeper youth-leadership experience, National Youth Leadership Training provides an active course focused on leading teams and strengthening unit leadership. Use the council page to learn about future course opportunities.

www.joinscoutsin.org/resources/training/national-youth-leadership-training



Troops, Crews & Ships

Courses for Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters, committee members, Venturing and Sea Scout leaders, advancement teams, outdoor-program leaders and adults coaching youth leadership.

TROOPS / CREWS / SHIPS Back Country Cooking: Freeze-dried and Beyond HANDS-ON Go beyond commercial backpacking meals. Explore lightweight meal planning, ingredient options, packaging, portions, preparation methods, food storage, and practical ways to create satisfying trail meals for weekend trips and longer adventures.	TROOPS / CREWS / SHIPS Behavior Management Techniques for Scouts BSA, Crew & Ship Leaders NEW Older youth need different leadership responses than Cub Scouts. Discuss practical approaches for expectations, conflict, disengagement, disruptive behavior, peer dynamics, and adult intervention while protecting youth leadership and creating a safe environment where young people can grow.
TROOPS / CREWS / SHIPS Conducting Troop Boards of Review; Purpose, Process, and Practice A Board of Review is more than a final checkpoint. Explore its purpose, how to create a respectful conversation with a Scout, what committee members should prepare for, common mistakes to avoid, and how boards can provide useful feedback about both the Scout experience and the troop program.	TROOPS / CREWS / SHIPS Courage Before Confidence NEW Confidence often comes after a young person attempts something difficult, not before. Explore how Scouting adults can create safe opportunities for youth to take appropriate risks, struggle, recover, and try again without rescuing them too quickly or turning failure into embarrassment.
TROOPS / CREWS / SHIPS Courts of Honor; Meaningful Recognition and Scout-Led Celebration Make Courts of Honor feel like a celebration of youth achievement rather than an adult-run awards meeting. Explore planning, ceremony flow, youth leadership, recognition, family involvement, traditions, and simple ways to create a program that is meaningful without becoming overly complicated.	TROOPS / CREWS / SHIPS Crossover Is Not the Finish Line: Keeping New Scouts and Parents Engaged NEW The first 90 days after crossover can shape whether a new Scout and family feel they belong. Explore first meetings, patrol placement, troop guides, the first campout, parent onboarding, communication, and intentional follow-up that helps new families understand and stay engaged with the troop program.
TROOPS / CREWS / SHIPS Eagle Project Workshop: From Proposal to Completion A practical workshop for understanding the path from an Eagle service project idea to a completed project. Work through planning, communication, proposal development, approvals, leadership, documentation, and common trouble spots. Final participant guidance will align with current Eagle Scout project requirements.	TROOPS / CREWS / SHIPS Firecrafter and Its Role COUNCIL CONNECTION Learn how Firecrafter fits into the Scouting experience in central Indiana and how its traditions, service, leadership opportunities, and program connections can support Scouts and units. This session is intended for leaders who want a clearer understanding of the organization and how youth can engage with it.
TROOPS / CREWS / SHIPS First Class Emphasis Build a troop program that naturally develops the skills Scouts need on the trail to First Class. Explore how meetings, campouts, older-Scout leadership, practice, and advancement can work together so skill development happens through the program rather than as a checklist exercise.	TROOPS / CREWS / SHIPS From Pack to Patrol: Crossover & New-Troop Parent Orientation NEW Help Arrow of Light families understand what changes, and what does not, when they move from a pack into a troop. This cross-program session will focus on preparing families for crossover, explaining the patrol method and youth leadership, setting parent expectations, and creating a smoother first few months in Scouts BSA.

TROOPS / CREWS / SHIPS Maps, Compass & GPS REVISED HANDS-ON A revised navigation session connecting traditional map-and-compass skills with modern GPS tools. Review the fundamentals leaders and Scouts need to practice, common errors, and ways to teach navigation through activities instead of lecture alone.	TROOPS / CREWS / SHIPS Merit Badge Counseling in the Digital Age REVISED A revised look at the role of the Merit Badge Counselor when communication, records, research, and learning often happen digitally. Discuss strong counseling practices, appropriate communication, documentation, youth engagement, and how to keep the merit badge experience focused on learning rather than simply completing requirements.
TROOPS / CREWS / SHIPS Philmont Trek Preparation Start preparing before the crew reaches New Mexico. Explore the planning timeline, conditioning, crew development, equipment decisions, shakedown, travel considerations, and the habits that help a Philmont crew arrive ready to work together and enjoy the trek.	TROOPS / CREWS / SHIPS Planning a Canoe or Kayak Outing; Locations, Logistics, Safety, and Fun Turn a paddling idea into a realistic unit outing. Explore destination selection, trip length, transportation, equipment, participant preparation, weather and water considerations, safety planning, and ways to make the outing engaging for youth from start to finish.
TROOPS / CREWS / SHIPS Scoutbook for Troops, Crews & Ships Bring real questions and real scenarios. This workshop will focus on the tasks unit leaders and advancement teams commonly manage in Scoutbook, with troubleshooting and problem-solving rather than a basic feature tour.	TROOPS / CREWS / SHIPS Special Awards & Recognition Scouting includes many recognitions beyond rank advancement. Explore awards and recognition opportunities that leaders may overlook, where to find current requirements, and how thoughtful recognition can encourage service, participation, outdoor achievement, leadership, and continued growth.
TROOPS / CREWS / SHIPS SPL-Scoutmaster Partnership; Leading Together Strong youth-led troops depend on a healthy working relationship between the Senior Patrol Leader and Scoutmaster. Explore how adults can coach without taking over, how youth leaders can prepare and communicate, and how both roles can work together to build an effective Patrol Leaders Council and troop program.	TROOPS / CREWS / SHIPS Strictly for Scoutmasters (& ASMs) A focused conversation for Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters about the realities of leading a troop. Discuss youth leadership, coaching, adult boundaries, working with the committee, program quality, parent expectations, and the recurring challenges that do not always fit neatly into online training.
TROOPS / CREWS / SHIPS Ultralight Backpacking Explore how thoughtful gear selection and packing habits can reduce pack weight without giving up safety or comfort. Discuss the tradeoffs among weight, cost, durability, experience level, and trip conditions, with ideas that can be applied to both youth and adult backpackers.	TROOPS / CREWS / SHIPS Unlocking NYLT: Bringing Leadership Home COUNCIL CONNECTION NYLT is most valuable when the skills come home with the participant. Learn what youth experience at National Youth Leadership Training and how Scoutmasters, advisors, parents, and other adults can reinforce those leadership tools without turning youth leadership into an adult-managed exercise.
TROOPS / CREWS / SHIPS Year-Round Recruiting for Troops, Crews, and Ships Recruiting works better as an ongoing habit than a once-a-year campaign. Explore youth-to-youth invitations, community visibility, welcoming events, follow-up, family engagement, and ways to build a unit culture that is ready to receive new members throughout the year.	

General Studies

Broad-interest sessions for Scouters across programs. These courses focus on unit operations, communications, community resources, technology, finance, recruiting and inclusive leadership.

GENERAL STUDIES |

Create Event Marketing with Free Online Tools: Canva, Suno & AI

NEW HANDS-ON

Bring a laptop and an event you want to promote. Work through a simple marketing workflow using Canva, Suno, and practical AI tools to create a flyer or social graphic, draft supporting post text, and explore short music or video content. The session will also address copyright, responsible AI use, branding, and youth-safety considerations.

GENERAL STUDIES |

Digital Citizenship (how to responsibly use electronic devices)

Technology is part of everyday Scouting. Explore practical expectations for responsible device use, online behavior, privacy, communication, and digital judgment, with an emphasis on helping Scouts and adults make choices that support the values and goals of the program.

GENERAL STUDIES |

Finding the Training You Need

NEW COUNCIL CONNECTION

Not sure where to go next to build your skills or solve a problem? Explore learning opportunities inside and outside Scouting America, from online training, Scouting U, council courses, University of Scouting, Wood Badge and NYLT to the American Red Cross, community organizations, and reputable online resources. Leave with a clearer sense of where to look and what your next learning step could be.

GENERAL STUDIES |

Flag Etiquette for Units, Courts of Honor, and Campouts

NEW

Review the flag practices unit leaders encounter most often, including posting colors, folding, ceremony planning, half-staff awareness, retirement basics, and common mistakes. The focus is on helping units conduct respectful, confident flag ceremonies in meetings, campouts, and special events.

GENERAL STUDIES |

Beyond the Books: Library Resources to Support Your Scouting Program

NEW HANDS-ON COUNCIL CONNECTION

Public libraries offer much more than books. Explore free resources available through the Indianapolis Public Library and libraries across Indiana that can support unit activities, advancement, merit badges, research, and program planning. Participants will work through hands-on activities using library resources and learn practical ways to connect those resources to real Scouting needs.

GENERAL STUDIES |

Money Matters: Smart Budgeting and Finance for Your Unit

Build a unit budget that supports the program instead of reacting to expenses one event at a time. Explore annual planning, estimating costs, communicating with families, tracking income and expenses, financial controls, fundraising considerations, and practical ways to make program decisions with better information.

GENERAL STUDIES |

Partnering with Indiana DNR: Service, Education, and Outdoor Adventures

COUNCIL CONNECTION

Discover ways units can connect with Indiana Department of Natural Resources opportunities for outdoor learning, conservation, service, and adventure. The session will help leaders identify resources and ideas that can strengthen unit programming and connect Scouts with public lands and natural-resource education.

GENERAL STUDIES |

Patch Perfect: Sew It, Don't Stick It

NEW HANDS-ON

A practical, hands-on introduction to putting patches on uniforms, sashes, vests, jackets, and gear. Learn placement basics, pinning or clipping, thread choices, simple hand-sewing techniques, and how to make a clean, durable repair instead of relying on temporary adhesive shortcuts.

GENERAL STUDIES |

Photography Tips

HANDS-ON

Improve the photos you take at meetings, campouts, ceremonies, and events without needing expensive equipment. Explore framing, light, action shots, group photos, phone-camera techniques, and simple habits that make unit photos more useful for memories, newsletters, recruiting, and storytelling.

GENERAL STUDIES |

Recruitment That Works: Practical Ways to Grow Scouting in Your Unit

Move past generic recruiting advice and focus on actions units can actually use. Explore community visibility, invitation strategies, event design, follow-up, family onboarding, and how a strong program and welcoming culture work together to support sustainable membership growth.

GENERAL STUDIES |

Scouting with Neurodivergent Youth

Build a more successful program for youth who process, communicate, learn, or respond differently. Explore practical strategies for structure, communication, sensory needs, transitions, behavior, and participation while keeping expectations respectful and focused on helping each Scout grow.

GENERAL STUDIES |

Social Media and Scouting: What's Appropriate? What's Effective?

Social media can help a unit communicate and recruit, but it also creates questions about audience, privacy, tone, permissions, and content. Discuss what effective unit communication looks like online and how to avoid common problems while keeping posts useful, appropriate, and aligned with Scouting expectations.

GENERAL STUDIES |

Scribe with a Smartphone: Using Photos & Videos to Tell Your Unit's Story

Use the camera already in your pocket to document and share the story of your unit. Learn simple approaches to composition, short video, event coverage, organizing media, and selecting content that communicates adventure and impact while respecting privacy, permissions, and good judgment.

GENERAL STUDIES |

Scout Smarter: A Quick Tour of Free Library Resources**NEW COUNCIL CONNECTION**

Discover free digital resources available through public libraries that can help Scouts and leaders find information, explore interests, complete advancement requirements, and plan engaging unit activities. This fast-paced tour will show you where to find useful resources and how to begin putting them to work in your Scouting program.

UNIVERSITY OF SCOUTING 2027
CROSSROADS OF AMERICA COUNCIL

FINDING THE TRAINING YOU NEED

Scouting growth does not happen in just one place.

- 1 START WITH YOUR QUESTION**
What skill, challenge, or idea are you trying to strengthen?
- 2 SCOUTING LEARNING**
University of Scouting, Scouting U, roundtable, and council courses can help you build practical knowledge.
- 3 LEADERSHIP GROWTH**
Wood Badge, NYLT, and advanced experiences help leaders and youth grow in confidence and perspective.
- 4 OUTSIDE RESOURCES**
American Red Cross, Hoosier Wilderness Club, community experts, and reputable online resources can deepen your knowledge.
- 5 BRING IT BACK TO YOUR UNIT**
Choose one next step and turn new learning into better program for youth.

CAMP KIKTHAWENUND
19 K 26
FRANKTON INDIANA

LEARN * CONNECT * LEAD

Faith & Chaplaincy

The faith-course lineup is being reworked for 2027. The topics below remain in the planning workbook, but titles, scope and descriptions should be treated as working content until the final faith curriculum is approved.

FAITH & CHAPLAINCY Catholic Religious Emblems Counselor Training A working session for adults supporting Catholic religious emblems. The course is expected to address the counselor role, program resources, and how to help youth progress through the approved emblem experience. Final details will follow the 2027 faith-program review.	FAITH & CHAPLAINCY Chaplains - When Times Get Tough A conversation for chaplains and other Scouting leaders about supporting people during difficult moments. Topics are expected to include presence, listening, knowing the limits of the volunteer role, connecting families with appropriate resources, and serving a diverse Scouting community. Final content is under development.
FAITH & CHAPLAINCY Cub Scouts - Duty to God Explore practical ways Cub Scout leaders can support the Duty to God element of the program while respecting the beliefs and traditions of families. This working description will be refined as the 2027 faith curriculum is finalized.	FAITH & CHAPLAINCY The Duties of the Religious Emblems Coordinator Learn the purpose of the Religious Emblems Coordinator role, how leaders can help families discover faith-specific emblem programs, and where to locate current approved resources. The 2027 faith-course structure is being refreshed, so final scope may change.
FAITH & CHAPLAINCY The Unit Scout Chaplain & The Unit Scout Chaplain Aide Explore how the adult Unit Chaplain and youth Chaplain Aide roles can support reflection, service, respect, and the spiritual dimension of Scouting. The session will clarify how the two roles work together and where leaders can find appropriate resources. Final 2027 content is under revision.	FAITH & CHAPLAINCY World Religious Overview Build broader awareness of the faith traditions represented in Scouting and how leaders can support respectful participation in a diverse program. The 2027 course will focus on understanding, inclusion, and practical leadership considerations; final content is still being developed.

A Scout is Reverent.

Support every family with respect.

Use these sessions to ask practical questions about Duty to God, chaplain roles, religious emblems, and supporting a diverse Scouting community. Final 2027 faith-course scope will be published with the catalog.

Doctoral / PhD Program

For University of Scouting degree candidates working on advanced projects and thesis requirements. These sessions are part of the ongoing degree pathway rather than stand-alone general-interest classes.

DOCTORAL / PHD |

Thesis/Project Development

Start turning an idea into a workable doctoral thesis or project. Explore topic selection, scope, purpose, planning, and how to shape a project that is useful to Scouting and realistic to complete within the University of Scouting degree process.

DOCTORAL / PHD |

Thesis Workshop

Bring a working thesis or project and make progress. This session is intended for doctoral candidates who want structured time to clarify their topic, organize material, strengthen the plan, and get feedback before moving toward completion.

DOCTORAL / PHD |

The Doctors Are In

A discussion and support session for University of Scouting doctoral candidates. Participants can bring questions about progress, projects, thesis work, expectations, and next steps while connecting with experienced faculty and other candidates.

Keep building on what you have learned.

Turn an idea, challenge, or experience into something useful to Scouting.

UNIVERSITY OF SCOUTING 2027

CROSSROADS OF AMERICA COUNCIL



KEEP LEARNING AFTER 1-23.

Scouting  America.
Crossroads of America Council

CONTINUE THE ADVENTURE.

Crossroads of America Council is made up of seven districts. Each is locally connected and dedicated to supporting Scouting in our communities.

STAY CONNECTED. KEEP GROWING.

Many districts host monthly Roundtables, a great way for adult leaders, committee members, and parents to share ideas, get program updates, and connect with other Scouters.

OUR SEVEN DISTRICTS

- ★ WABASH VALLEY
- ★ FIVE CREEKS
- ★ MONON
- ★ PATHFINDER
- ★ FALL CREEK
- ★ WHITE RIVER
- ★ BEAR CREEK

Check your district for current Roundtable details.

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Crossroads of America Council Events Calendar

University of Scouting is one day in a full year of council activities. Use the council calendar to find training, outdoor programs, district events, camp opportunities and other ways to keep the momentum going.

www.joinscoutsin.org/activities-and-events/events-calendar



Wood Badge

Advanced leadership development for adult Scouters. Wood Badge combines Scouting experience with leadership and team-development concepts that participants can apply in their units and beyond. Check the council page for the next available course.

www.joinscoutsin.org/resources/training/wood-badge



National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)

NYLT develops youth leadership through an active Scouting environment. Units can use the council page to learn about the program, participant qualifications, and upcoming course opportunities.

www.joinscoutsin.org/resources/training/national-youth-leadership-training



University of Scouting Updates

The council University of Scouting page is the best place to watch for final event information, course releases, and updates as January approaches.

www.joinscoutsin.org/resources/training/university-of-scouting



A Scout is Helpful.

Share a useful class with another leader. Bring a new volunteer with you. Connect someone in your unit with the training or resource that solves the problem they are facing.

UNIVERSITY OF SCOUTING 2027

CROSSROADS OF AMERICA COUNCIL

TRAINED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Learning here helps you build better programs for youth.

1

GROW YOUR SKILLS

Practical ideas, resources, and techniques you can use right away.

2

DISCOVER NEW IDEAS

Explore fresh approaches for program, leadership, and unit support.

3

BUILD CONFIDENCE

Learn from experienced Scouters and leave better prepared to lead.

4

BRING IT BACK

Turn one day of learning into stronger experiences for youth and families.

★ LEARN • CONNECT • LEAD ★

Plan for January 23

The final schedule is still coming, but you can start now by identifying the courses and program areas you do not want to miss.

2027 University of Scouting

Saturday, January 23, 2027 | 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM ET

Beech Grove High School
5330 Hornet Ave
Beech Grove, IN 46107

Registration opens late September 2026.

scoutingevent.com/160-2027UoS

Questions / course suggestions: university@cac.in.us



Registration

Before registration opens

- Mark the courses in this preview that interest you most.
- Watch the University of Scouting page for the final schedule and any course changes.
- If you are bringing youth, watch for the Merit Badge announcement and any published prerequisites.
- Share the guide with another leader whose role or interests are different from yours. A broader team can bring more ideas back to the unit.

ONE DATE. MANY PATHS. TAKE SOMETHING USEFUL HOME.

University of Scouting is most valuable when the ideas from the day show up in the next den meeting, troop meeting, committee conversation, outing, recruiting event, or leadership decision.

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