



2025 University of Scouting 035
Class Catalog

Ringgold United Methodist Church
7484 Nashville St, Ringgold, GA 30736

7:30am - Check-in
8:15am - Opening Ceremony
9:00am - Class Block 1
10:00am - Class Block 2
11:00am - Class Block 3
12:00am - LUNCH
1:00pm - Class Block 4
2:00pm - Class Block 5
3:00pm - Class Block 6
4:00pm - Closing Ceremony

Registration now open!
Visit www.scoutingevent.com/556-UofS to register

Scouting America
Cherokee Area Council (TN)









2025 University of Scouting Class Schedule

CUB SCOUTS		Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Lunch	Block 4	Block 5	Block 6
		Culture Club: Ways to Improve Cub Scout Parent & Family Experience	Successful Pack Committee Meetings and Getting More Parents Involved	Annual Pack Planning Meeting Best Practices		Scout Skills: Cub Scout First Aid	Scout Skills: Teaching Knife Safety to Cubs	Scout Skills: How to build an AOL crossover arrow
		Jared Pickens	Jennifer Green	Leslie Miller		Eric Pinkston Pinewood Derby, Software: Using GPRM & DerbyNet for Better Badgets, Awards, and Support	Tim Jackson Pinewood Derby Budgeting: Tools, Awards, Building, & Activities	Tim Jackson Hosting an Easy and Fun Rain Gutter Regatta
		Tim Jackson	Denise Shaw	Jesse Watlington		Nick Serpas Seeing is Believing: Impactful Lessons for Cub Scouts through STEAM-Oriented Activities	Nick Serpas STEM Electives and Activities: Lion - Wolf	Sara Williford STEM Electives and Activities: Bear - AOL
		Den Chiefs and Your Pack	Captivating Ceremonies	Songs and Cheers for Cub Scouts		Denise Shaw	Chris Biddle	Chris Biddle
		Beth Anne Biddle	Jesse Watlington	Sarah Hall		Denise Shaw What's the best camping option for my Pack: my own program or a Council event?		
		Travis and Allison Odom				Kyle Croft		
		Backpacking Hacks	Scoutmaster/SP L Relationship and Communication	Girls Just Wanna Have Fun Hiking		Adult Leadership Advanced Training Opportunities	National High Adventure Bases	Knots of Scouting and How to Tie Them
		Shawn Basil	Rusty Sewell	Eric Pinkston		Megan Raines	Shawn Basil	Cliff McCormick
		Eagle Boards of Review	Fun and Challenging Hikes Within 2 Hours	Successful Meal Planning		Starting and Supporting a Girl's Troop	Making Merit Badges Memorable	Cooking at Camporees and Events
		Mark Mullins	Don Gregg	Sarah Bybee		Genimar Holland	Rick Ryan	Sarah Bybee
		Patrol Method	Tools of the Trade: Axes, Knives, Saws, Sharpeners	Life to Eagle Seminar		Recruiting from a Troop Perspective	Range & Target Activities Overview	Order of the Arrow 101
		Rusty Sewell	Brent Gass	Mark Mullins		Rusty Sewell	Travis Odom	Bob Voegelé
		PLC and Annual Planning	Merit Badge and Eagle Accommodations	Implementing Outdoor Ethics in Scouts BSA		Getting Youth to Lead	Map/Orientation/Compass	Individual and Troop Awards You May Not Know About
		Cliff McCormick	Bob Crawford	Leslie Ertod		Brent Baker	Don Gregg	Megan Raines
			STEM for Troops and Crews	Appealing Leadership Opportunities in the OA		So You Are the New Scoutmaster	Scoutmaster Open Forum	
			Chris Biddle	Amanda Smith		Amanda Smith	Jonathan Raines	
		Bridging the Gap in an All-Girls Unit	What is a Commissioner and Why Are They in My Business?	Supplemental Fundraising Ideas		Dutch Oven Cooking and Cast Iron Care: How to Do It the RIGHT Way!	History of the Chatanooga Scouting Movement	Community Service: It's Not Just a Punishment!
		Eric Pinkston	Rob Miller	Steven Briggs		James Cragle	Phil Ledbetter	Eric Pinkston
		Managing Finances within the Pack and Troop	Trail of Traditions: Exploring Native American Influences in Scouting	Mastering Scoutbook: Simplify, Streamline, Succeed		Abilities – Not Disabilities: And the Least Restrictive Environment	The "ABCs" of Med Forms: We All Have to Fill Them Out!	Adult Achievement Awards: What's Available to Me?
		Grace Casagrande	Leslie Ertod	Ethan Dempsey		Beth Anne Biddle	Ellen Young	Kyle Croft
		Worm Drowning 101: Teaching Fishing Basics for Cubs	Worm Drowning 102: Teaching Fishing Basics for Scouts BSA	Adaptive Cooking for Cubs, Older Youth, and Adult Volunteers with Disabilities and Special Needs		Getting Scouts in the Water - and Beyond!	AOL to Troop Crossover: Facing the Challenges with Scout Retention	The Ultimate Hang: Introduction to Hammock Camping
		D.R. Meece	D.R. Meece	Beth Anne Biddle		Grace Casagrande	Steven Briggs	Randy Smith
		Duty to God: A Foundation for All Faiths in Scouting						The Hows and Whys of Being A Revert Scout
		Rial Sloan, II						Ellen Young
		Den Chief Training				Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST)		
		Megan Raines				Leslie Miller		
		Lodge Leadership Development (LLD) (part 1)				Lodge Leadership Development (LLD) (part 2)		
		Mark Hise				Mark Hise		
GENERAL STUDIES		Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Lunch	Block 4	Block 5	Block 6
		Culture Club: Ways to Improve Cub Scout Parent & Family Experience	Successful Pack Committee Meetings and Getting More Parents Involved	Annual Pack Planning Meeting Best Practices		Scout Skills: Cub Scout First Aid	Scout Skills: Teaching Knife Safety to Cubs	Scout Skills: How to build an AOL crossover arrow
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YOUTH		Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Lunch	Block 4	Block 5	Block 6

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2025 University of Scouting (Scheduled Classes)

UofS201	9-9:55 AM		<p>Backpacking Hacks Shawn Basil</p> <p>This course offers simple, yet not always well-known, techniques to make life on the trail simpler, more comfortable, and perhaps less expensive. Areas will include pack fitting and accessorizing, trekking pole use, cooking, footwear fitting and "sockage", miscellaneous doo-dads, lightweight tricks, and on-trail techniques. Lessons are hard won from 42 years and over 12,000 miles as a Philmont Ranger, Artic Service Marine, Appalachian Trail Thru-hiker, National Outdoor Leadership School Instructor, and REI Sales Associate.</p>
UofS301	9-9:55 AM		<p>Bridging the Gap in an All-girls Unit Eric Pinkston</p> <p>This course is designed to help leaders of all-girls Packs find ways to encourage Scout retention and engagement in an all-girls Unit between AOL to Troop crossover.</p>
UofS104	9-11:55 AM		<p>Cub Scout Range Master Course Travis & Allison Odom</p> <p>In this 3-hour course you will learn what it takes to run the range for all 3 Cub Scout Range and Target Sport disciplines: bb, archery, and wrist rockets which will allow you to assist on the range during Council Cub Scout events. NOTE: This training will require all 3 morning sessions.</p>
UofS102	9-9:55 AM		<p>Cubmaster Open Forum Tim Jackson</p> <p>Whether you've been a Cubmaster for what seems like forever or if you're about to step into the role, we can all learn from each other's experiences. During this participant led session we'll discuss those variables today's Cubmasters work through during the program year.</p> <p>Prerequisites: Participants should submit at least 1 question for discussion during this session to jacksontimb@gmail.com by February 1st.</p>
UofS101	9-9:55 AM		<p>Culture Club: Ways to improve Cub Scout parent 7 family experience Jared Pickens</p> <p>Did you know your Cub Scout Pack has a unique identity and culture? Does that culture create a better experience for parents and families in your Unit? Does it create a barrier to success? Join us as we explore your specific Pack culture, the things that make your Pack great, and the things that may stand in the way of your success - and what you can do about it all!</p>
UofS403	9-11:55 AM		<p>Den Chief Training</p> <p>Scouts will learn to work well with Cub Scouts and the adult Den Leader as well as how to teach games, songs, and fun, and how to become a better youth leader.</p>










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UofS103	9-9:55 AM		<p>Den Chiefs and Your Pack Beth Anne Biddle What is a Den Chief and how can they help me? In this session we'll discuss the role of a Scouts BSA Den Chief and how they can interact with your Pack and Den.</p>
UofS303	9-9:55 AM		<p>Duty to God: A Foundation for All Faiths in Scouting Rial Sloan, II Discover how Scouting America's emphasis on reverence and spirituality creates an inclusive environment that respects and celebrates diverse beliefs.</p>
UofS213	9-9:55 AM		<p>Eagle Boards of Review Mark Mullins Who to contact? What to do and what NOT to do? Who can participate? Get all your questions answered to ensure a successful BOR process for your Scouts.</p>
UofS402	9-3:55 PM		<p>Lodge Leadership Development (LLD) Mark Hise Lodge Leadership Development is the primary training program for local lodges, providing lodge leadership with the skills needed to plan and run a successful lodge program.</p>
UofS302	9-9:55 AM		<p>Managing Finances within the Pack and Troop Grace Casagrande This course will discuss how to accurately manage and maintain proper records of pack/troop finances so you really know where the money goes and how much is left!</p>
UofS203	9-9:55 AM		<p>Patrol Method Rusty Sewell Join us in a discussion on what is really meant by "youth-led" and how to achieve it using the Patrol Method. We will cover how to implement or improve the Patrol Method in your Troop.</p>
UofS204	9-9:55 AM		<p>PLC and Annual Planning Clif McCormick Successful, youth-led program planning is critical to Scouting. However, the adult leader role as facilitator and moderator cannot be understated. Good planning, clear expectations and firm guidelines can make the difference between order and chaos. In this course we will learn and discuss ways to keep the youth engaged and in charge, while keeping things from going off the rails.</p>
UofS304	9-9:55 AM		<p>Worm Drowning 101: Teaching Fishing Basics for Cubs DR Meece Learn the ropes about how to teach fishing basics for Cubs, and the certifications you can get from BSA in fishing!</p>









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UofS107	10-10:55 AM		<p>Captivating Ceremonies Jesse Watlington How to party with a purpose with Cub Scout ceremonies and events.</p>
UofS207	10-10:55 AM		<p>Fun and Challenging Hikes within 2 Hours Travel Don Gregg Learn about great hikes to fun and interesting places - and all within a reasonable distance.</p>
UofS106	10-10:55 AM		<p>Leveraging Leadership with Mixed-age Den and Pack Meetings Denise Shaw Small Den? Small Pack? Short on Pack Leadership? Mixed-age Den and Pack meetings are the solution! Quality programming oriented around FUN and ACTIVITIES gives Cub Scouts an enriching Scouting experience with the added opportunities for near-peer learning and mentorship. This session will begin with general information and ideas followed by a hands-on workshop to strategize solutions to take back to your Pack.</p>
UofS209	10-10:55 AM		<p>Merit Badge and Eagle Accommodations Bob Crawford What can, and what cannot, be changed for Scouts with special needs. What is the correct process to request approval for accommodations?</p>
UofS205	10-10:55 AM		<p>STEM for Troops and Crews Learn about how Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) opportunities can be integrated into Troop/Crew activities, to provide fun and engaging ways to learn about STEM.</p>
UofS109	10-10:55 AM		<p>Successful Pack Committee Meetings (and getting more parents involved) Jennifer Green</p>
UofS214	10-10:55 AM		<p>The Scoutmaster - SPL Relationship and Communication Rusty Sewell The communication and rapport between the Scoutmaster and the Senior Patrol Leader frames the success of your Troop. Learn how to make it work for you.</p>
UofS208	10-10:55 AM		<p>Tools of the Trade: Axes, knives, Saws, Sharpeners Brent Gass Students will develop a greater appreciation for these humble tools, how to use them and what should be provided to Troops.</p>
UofS306	10-10:55 AM		<p>Trail of Traditions: Exploring Native American Influences in Scouting Leslie Elrod</p>









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UofS305	10-10:55 AM		What is a Commissioner and Why Are They in my Business? Rob Miller
UofS308	10-10:55 AM		Worm Drowning 102: Teaching Fishing Basics for Scouts BSA DR Meece Continue your education in teaching fishing basics at the Scouts BSA level and learn about applicable certifications!
UofS319	11-11:55 AM		Adaptive Cooking for Cubs, Older Youth, and Adult Volunteers with Disabilities and Special Needs Beth Anne Biddle Learn the tools and tricks for helping youth & adults safely succeed with indoor and outdoor cooking over campfire, in camp kitchens, and indoor cooking with some hands-on activities!
UofS108	11-11:55 AM		Annual Pack Planning Meeting Best Practices Leslie Miller A discussion around scheduling, organizing, planning, budgeting and executing a balanced program that will help your unit get kids in scouting and keep them in scouting. Discussions are geared for committee chairs, cub masters, den leaders or any parent wanting to help with Pack activities.
UofS227	11-11:55 AM		Appealing Leadership Opportunities in the OA Amand Smith Leadership opportunities within the Order of the Arrow are abundant and always available. Get your Arrowmen involved in shaping how their Chapters and Lodge reach new heights.
UofS211	11-11:55 AM		Girls Just Wanna Have Fun Hiking Eric Pinkston Backpacking with female youth presents unique circumstances which leaders of female units need to plan for before they hit the woods.
UofS215	11-11:55 AM		Implementing Outdoor Ethics in Scouts BSA Leslie Elrod Ensure that Scouts understand the Outdoor Code in every aspect of camping, including planning. From choosing gear, to using Leave No Trace, and expressing to others about Leaving No Trace, this course will go into depth into the Outdoor Code, respect for the outdoors, and having respect for others.
UofS202	11-11:55 AM		Life to Eagle Seminar Mark Mullins The right (and wrong) ways to guide Scouts on the final leg of their Advancement journey in Scouts BSA.









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UofS311	11-11:55 AM		<p>Mastering Scoutbook: Simplify, Streamline, Succeed Ethan Dempsey Learn the secrets to using Scoutbook and Scoutbook+ effectively to manage advancements, communicate with families, and simplify your Scouting experience. This session will equip you with tools and tips to save time and keep your Unit running smoothly.</p>
UofS105	11-11:55 AM		<p>Songs and Cheers for Cub Scouts Sarah Hall Cub Scouts have LOTS of energy! Sometimes the best way to connect with them and channel that enthusiasm is through a Den or Pack song. Add a few new pages to your songbook to keep things fresh and interesting for your Cubs at your next activity or event.</p>
UofS212	11-11:55 AM		<p>Successful Meal Planning Sarah Bybee Food service logistics with regard to outdoor activities.</p>
UofS110	11-11:55 AM		<p>Summertime Fun - Keeping Cubs Involved when School is OUT Jesse Watlington Everyone loves summer vacation! But for a Cub Scout Pack, the long break from school can really slow the momentum after a great year of Scouting. Let's go over some activities and techniques to keep Scouts engaged through the summer break, so they're excited to come back to a new Cub Scout year in the fall.</p>
UofS309	11-11:55 AM		<p>Supplemental Fundraising Ideas Steven Briggs This course will cover supplemental options for fundraising. It will help the leaders talk about the full plan for fundraising efforts for the Scout, Troop/Pack, and Council alike.</p>
UofS313	1-1:55 PM		<p>Abilities - Not Disabilities - And the Least Restrictive Environment Beth Anne Biddle This course is for Leaders of all Scouting programs to learn of ways to help youth and adult volunteers with special needs or disabilities become fully included and as independent as possible in their units and at our district & council events, by celebrating what can be done and how to set appropriate goals and expectations to help them increase their abilities!</p>
UofS206	1-1:55 PM		<p>Adult Leadership Advanced Training Opportunities Megan Raines More than just Wood Badge - come learn about the many different adult leader advanced training opportunities, to improve your leadership skills and enrich your Scouting experience.</p>
UofS312	1-1:55 PM		<p>Dutch Oven Cooking and Cast Iron Care: How to do it the RIGHT Way! James Cragle Cooking advice and care & cleaning tips for your Troop's cast iron cookware so it lasts for many decades.</p>








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UofS314	1-1:55 PM		<p>Getting Scouts in the Water - and Beyond! Grace Casagrande A course on helping units figure ways to get Scouts safely in the water and even into boats, and the differences with Troop vs Pack requirements.</p>
UofS218	1-1:55 PM		<p>Getting Youth to Lead Brent Baker You've heard of Train the Trainer...how about Lead the Leader? Leadership is a skill - just like knots, cooking, or first aid - and Scouts learn best by doing. Come discuss some strategies to encourage, support, and develop youth leadership in your Troop.</p>
UofS401	1-3:55 PM		<p>Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST) Leslie Miller The purpose of the ILST course is to teach Scouts with leadership positions about their new roles and how to most effectively reach success in that role. It is intended to help Scouts in leadership positions within their troop understand their responsibilities and to equip them with organizational and leadership skills to fulfill those responsibilities.</p>
UofS112	1-1:55 PM		<p>Pinewood Derby Software: Using GPRM & DerbyNet for better brackets, awards, and support. Nick Serpas Did you know there was free software available to host and run your Pack's next Pinewood Derby or Outlaw race? In this session we'll go over different software available to units. (This class pairs well with Pinewood Derby Budgeting: Tools, Awards, Building, & Activities) Prerequisites: A laptop, tablet, or other internet capable device is recommended.</p>
UofS222	1-1:55 PM		<p>Recruiting from a Troop Perspective Recruiting is the lifeblood of a Scout Troop. Where will we find these Scouts? How do we reach them? How do we convince them to join, and then retain them?</p>
UofS111	1-1:55 PM		<p>Scout Skills: Cub Scout First Aid Eric Pinkston Brush up on your First Aid basics before that next Adventure</p>
UofS113	1-1:55 PM		<p>Seeing is Believing: Impactful Lessons for Cub Scouts through STEAM-oriented Activities Denise Shaw STEM + the ARTS = STEAM. STEAM oriented activities help Cub Scouts to develop their creativity, problem solving abilities and collaboration with other Cubs, all while increasing engagement and motivation. In this interactive workshop, learn how to tap into your own ranges of interests as a means of delivering Cub Scouts program content that will have a lasting impact on your youth.</p>
UofS228	1-1:55 PM		<p>So, you are the new Scoutmaster? Amanda Smith Join an experienced Scoutmaster as we discuss training, tools, and techniques that will help you as a new Scoutmaster.</p>










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UofS220	1-1:55 PM		<p>Starting and Supporting a Troop for Girls Genimar Holland Female leaders share their experiences with the audience in the openness of a panel format, to help us answer questions that people who are leading or helping form a female troop may have about the whole ordeal.</p>
UofS114	1-1:55 PM		<p>What's the best camping option for my Pack?: my own program or a Council event? Kyle Croft An annual Cub Scout camping trip is often a highlight of your pack's program year. As a leader you have options, you can create your own adventures, or you can take advantage of a Council-run event with a ready-made program for your Scouts. In this session we'll discuss the pros and cons of both options.</p>
UofS317	2-2:55 PM		<p>AOL to Troop Crossover: Facing the Challenges with Scout Retention Steven Briggs This course will address ways to improve Scout retention between Cub Scouts to Scouts BSA, and also discuss ways to prepare the Scouts, parents, and leaders for this transition.</p>
UofS315	2-2:55 PM		<p>History of the Chattanooga Scouting Movement Phil Ledbetter Celebrate 115 years of Scouting in the Chattanooga area! This course explores the Cherokee Area Council's humble beginnings and its growth into a leading youth movement through engaging presentations and displays.</p>
UofS217	2-2:55 PM		<p>Making Merit Badges Memorable Rick Ryan Come learn how to keep Scouts excited about Merit Badges, and find ways to surprise your Scouts and hold their interest while ensuring they complete every requirement.</p>
UofS216	2-2:55 PM		<p>Map / Orienteering / Compass Skills Don Gregg Do you get lost between your living room and kitchen? Want to learn how to use a compass and map, along with basic orienteering skills? This is the course for you!</p>
UofS219	2-2:55 PM		<p>National High Adventure Bases Shawn Basil Discover the opportunities that await Scouts and Venturers at Scouting America's four National High Adventure Bases. Learn more about our newest Base at Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia with opportunities to whitewater raft, climb, zipline, backpack, ATV, and shoot targets at 1000 yards. Paddle the lakes of the Minnesota/Canadian frontier with Northern Tier. Sail, fish, snorkel, SCUBA dive, and paddle at Florida Sea Base. And backpack, climb, ride horseback, build trail, and much more at Scouting America's flagship Base at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. This course will include trek types, lengths, and current pricing.</p>









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UofS116	2-2:55 PM		Pinewood Derby Budgeting: Tools, Awards, Building, & Activities Nick Serpas
UofS221	2-2:55 PM		Range & Target Activities Overview Travis Odom The rules have changed. Come learn what it takes and what you can (and can't) do with your troops.
UofS115	2-2:55 PM		Scout Skills: Teaching Knife Safety to Cub Scouts Tim Jackson In this hands-on session Leaders will see the new Bear - AOL Knife Safety electives through their Scout's eyes, and will be better prepared to teach these skills to their Cubs.
UofS229	2-2:55 PM		Scoutmaster Open Forum Jonathan Raines We will have an open dialogue to discuss our challenges, as well as best practices and what is working for our Troops, in order to learn from and help one another.
UofS117	2-2:55 PM		STEM Electives & Activities: Lion - Wolf Chris Biddle We will cover rank electives and some "just for fun" activities for Lions - Wolves as well as any current Nova information our council may be offering.
UofS316	2-2:55 PM		The ABC's of Med Forms: We All Have to Fill Them Out! Ellen Young Learn the hows and whys of appropriately filling out the medical forms required for events so you breeze through check in with your Scouts!
UofS320	3-3:55 PM		Adult Achievement Awards: What's Available to Me? Kyle Croft Explore the various awards available to adult registered leaders in Scouting America for Scouts BSA and Cubs, and the differences in how you can qualify for these awards (merit vs. nomination).
UofS318	3-3:55 PM		Community Service: It's Not Just a Punishment! Eric Pinkston This course is designed to help Pack and Troop Leaders discover, organize, execute worthwhile community service projects in their area, and encourage engagement among the Scouts to foster a service-oriented mindset.
UofS224	3-3:55 PM		Cooking at Camporees and Events Sarah Bybee Planning, ideas, and organizational tactics to make your event a success.

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UofS119	3-3:55 PM		<p>Hosting an Easy and Fun Rain Gutter Regata Sara Williford What if we told you that your Pack could set up and run a 2nd derby this year without a huge investment in time or your annual budget? Rain Gutter Regattas are a great supplemental activity to any Cub Scout program, and it's a great attention-grabbing activity during fall recruitment.</p>
UofS226	3-3:55 PM		<p>Individual and Troop Awards You May Not Know About It's not just merit badges and rank advancements - there are many other awards for individuals and troops to strive for in Scouts BSA.</p>
UofS223	3-3:55 PM		<p>Knots of Scouting and How to Tie Them Clif McCormick An introduction to the basic knots any troop leader should know, along with demonstrations of their practical use and hints on how to remember them.</p>
UofS225	3-3:55 PM		<p>Order of the Arrow 101 An introduction to Scouting's Honor Society, the Order of the Arrow. This course will cover essential information about the organization.</p>
UofS118	3-3:55 PM		<p>Scout Skills: How to Build an AOL Crossover Arrow Tim Jackson There's lots of great training on how to be a Den leader, but one thing none of us is ready for is building arrows for our AOL Scouts. In this session we'll assemble a class arrow and discuss some tips and options on how to make arrows for your own Den.</p>
UofS120	3-3:55 PM		<p>STEM Electives & Activities: Bear - AOL Chris Biddle We will cover rank electives and some "just for fun" activities for Bears - Arrow of Light as well as any current Nova information our council may be offering.</p>
UofS310	3-3:55 PM		<p>The Hows and Whys of Being a Reverent Scout Come hear Chaplain Ellen's class that she offers at Skymont each week during camp on 'What It Means To Be a Reverent/Interdenominational Chaplain's Aide' and learn the reasons as to why we have a Duty to God in Scouting, as well as how to fulfill that duty.</p>
UofS307	3-3:55 PM		<p>The Ultimate Hang: Introduction to Hammock Camping Randy Smith Cast your sling under the stars learn the basics to get started with hammock camping safely and comfortably!</p>