TRAILHEAD
Leadership
Program
GREAT RIVERS SCOUTING
BUILDING STRONG LEADERS
FOR STRONG UNITS

TRAINED LEADERS
EXCELLENCE PROGRAMS

September 5, 2026

Scouting Adventure Center

9:30 – Noon

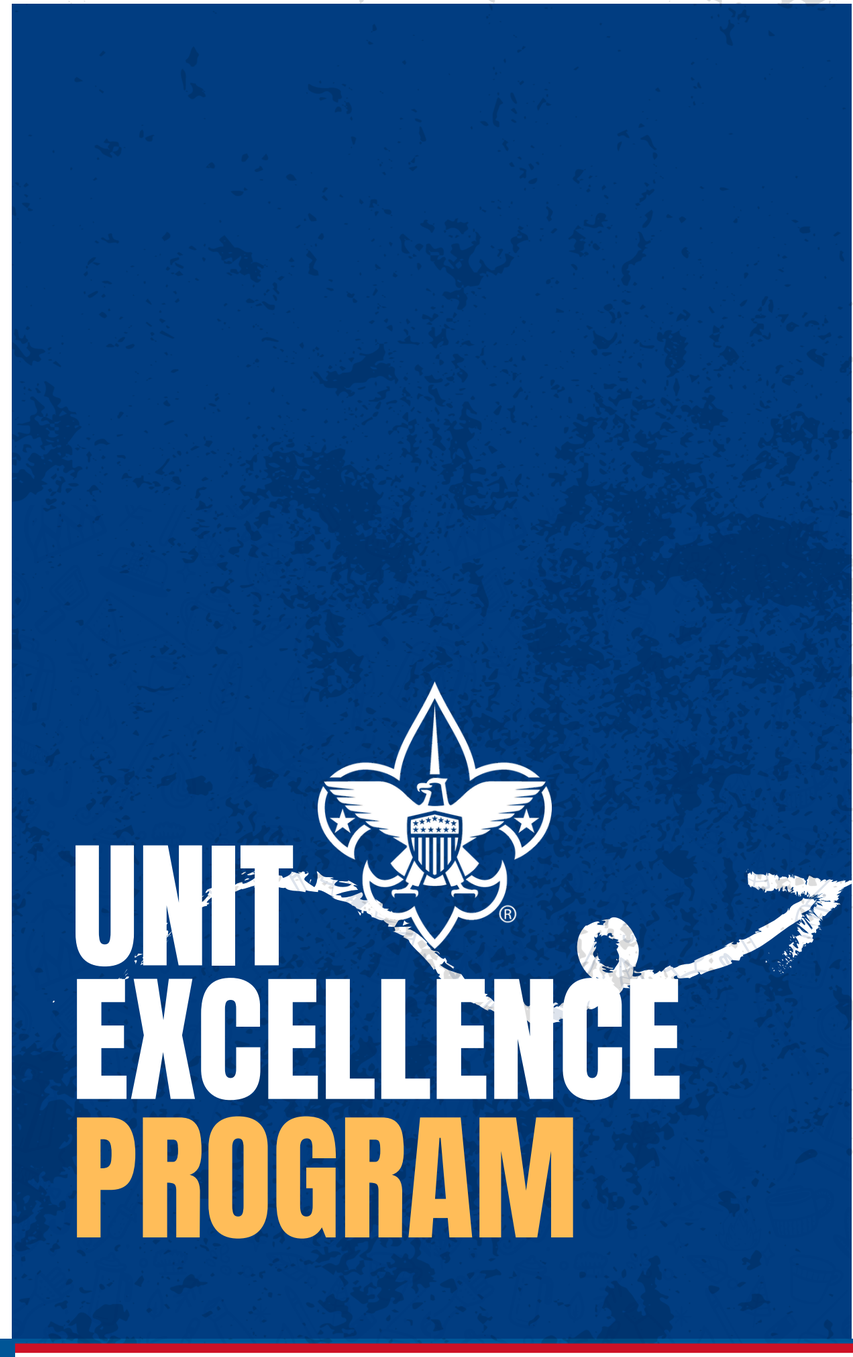


Scouting America
Great Rivers Council

5 STANDARDS

- PLANNING
- PROGRAM
- LEADERSHIP
- OUTREACH
- MEMBERSHIP





PART 1

- Foundational Knowledge
- Running Effective Meetings & Program Delivery
- Leadership & Program Support
- Safety & Outdoor Readiness



Foundational Knowledge



PROGRAM

- **Training**
  A minimum of 65% of unit leaders are fully trained for their position
- **Advancement**
  90% of Cub Scouts earn 8 Adventures (Packs) or 60% of Scouts BSA advancing in rank (Troops)
- **Outdoor Adventure**
  Our youth and leaders participate in Day Camp, Family Camp,and/or Summer Camp
- **Family Engagement**
  Our unit hosts at least two family-inclusive events per year *(e.g., family campouts, picnics, Blue & Gold, Courts of Honor, etc.)*
- **Community Engagement**
  Each youth participates in a minimum of two community engagement events per year *(e.g. parades, service projects, flag ceremony, etc.)*



UNIT EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

AIMs and Methods of Cub Scouting

- Character Development
- Citizenship
- Personal Fitness
- Leadership
- Living the Ideals
- Belonging to a Den
- Advancement
- Family Involvement
- Activities
- Serving the Neighborhood
- The Uniform



Advancement

<u>6 Primary Advancement</u>

- Bobcat
  - First Advancement Each Year
- AIM and Method Advancement
  - Micro-Volunteering
    - Each Den Leader plans one advancement adventure or activity during the year.
    - The Den Leader shares their meeting plan, materials, and ideas.
    - Other leaders can reuse and adapt the plan for their Scouts.



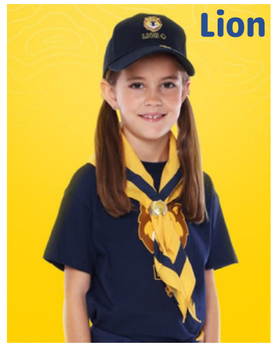
JOIN ROUNDTABLE TO LEARN THE SCOUTBOOK PROCESS

Uniforms and Standards

All Scouts are encouraged to wear a Class A uniform at Pack meetings and more formal events & ceremonies.

A Class B uniform is the casual activity uniform worn.

- Pack t-shirt or Scouting-themed t-shirt
- comfortable shorts or pants













Running Effective Meetings & Program Delivery



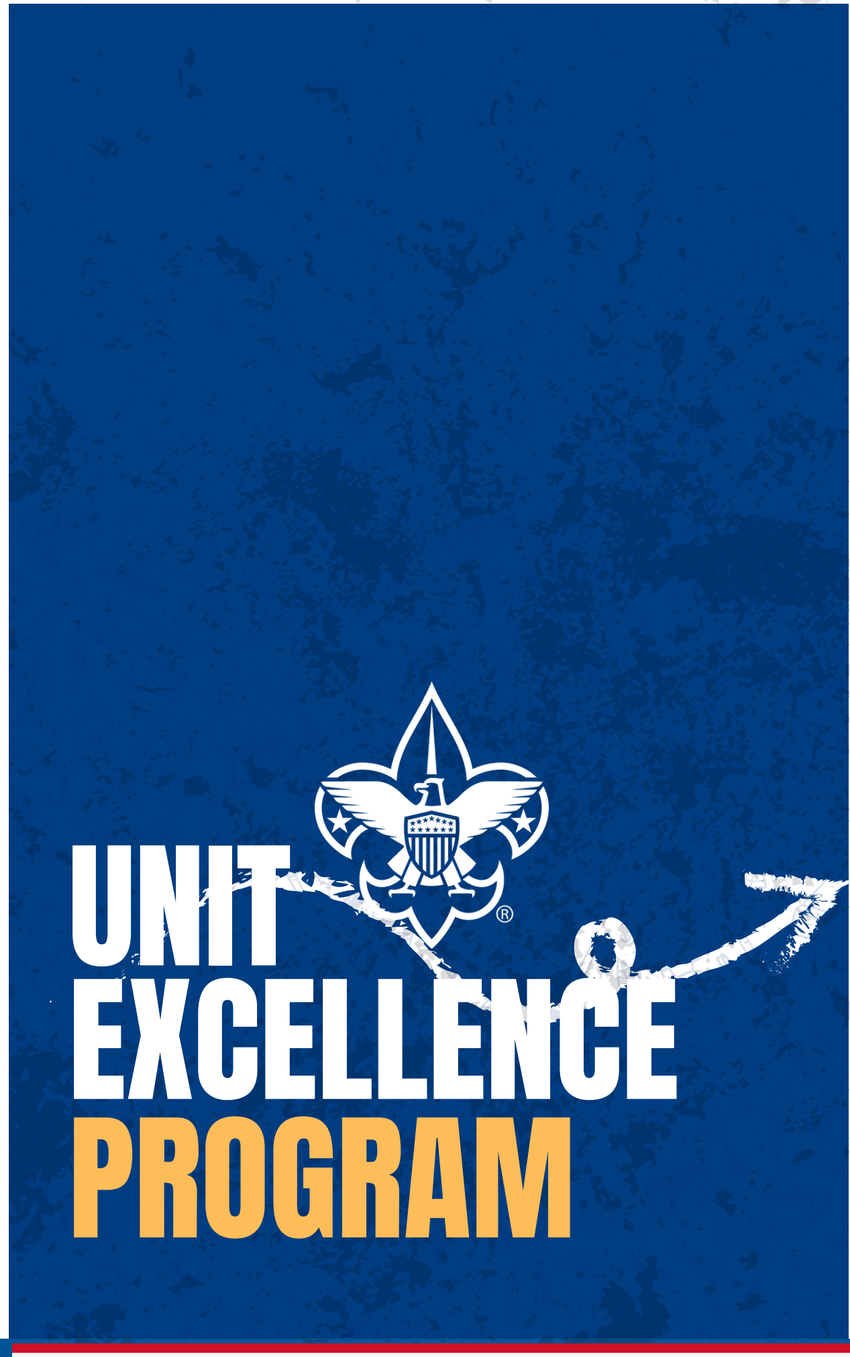
PLANNING

- **Unit Budget**
  Our budget was developed and approved by the Unit Committee and includes a fundraising plan utilizing Council approved product sales *(e.g. popcorn, Burgers' products)*

- **Annual Calendar**
  Our unit committee maintains and makes available to leaders and families at least a 6-month program and meeting calendar

- **Unit Renewal**
  Our unit renewed its charter on time.



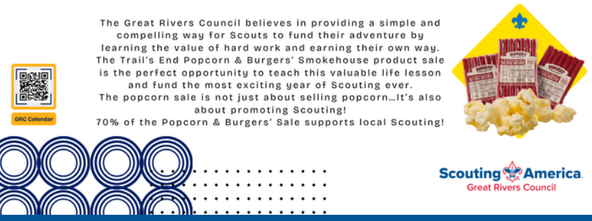


Unit Planning

- Assess Your Unit
- Build Your Annual Calendar
- Set Goals
- Assign Responsibilities
- Communicate & Review









Unit Planning

New Resources for Cub Packs

- GRC Unit Calendar Example – Canva Template
- 26. Rack Card – Unit Calendar – Canva Template
- 26. Adventures by Theme Cub Scout – Public View Link
- 26.GRC Unit Sample Budget – Excel – Make Copy
- GRC – Lead Card

Den Meeting

- Be Prepared
  - Assign one parent to each adventure
  - Assign one parent to be Quartermaster
- Start with a Purpose
- Keep Scouts Engaged
  - Hands-on Activities
- Focus on Advanacment
  - Each month - they should complete atleast one!
- End Strong

Pack Meeting

- Plan Around a Theme
- Make Advancemetn Focus
  - Recognition Cermonies for Youth and Adults
- Keep Families Engaged
- Include Fun and Energy
  - Partner with Campout, Hike, Pinewood, Holiday Party or other events
- End with Communication and Inspiration
  - Next month in review highlights

Pack Committee Meeting

- Review the Program Plan
  - Evaluate upcoming events
  - Identify Parents to help
- Monitor Finances and Fundraising
  - Review Budget
  - Show Bank Statments
  - Approve Spending
- Support Advancements and Membership
- Coordinate Volunteers and Resources
- Make Decisions and Communication

Den Management

- Know Your Scouts
- Maintain Advancement Records
- Communicate Consistently
- Deliver a Quality Program
- Develop Youth Leadership & Family Involvement

OUTREACH

- **Marketing**
  Our unit has at least one social media page with regular updates *(e.g. Instagram, Facebook, etc.)*
- **Communication**
  Our unit provides regular communication to families *(e.g., monthly newsletter, calendar updates, texting, or meeting recaps)*



UNIT EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

Communications & Atmosphere

- Create a Unit Communication Plan
  - Facebook Public Page
    - 3 Admins
  - Group Me - Text
  - Who is assigned to share information and when it comes out?







Leverage Program Resources

- By working together, Pack and Troop leaders can:
  - Support one another in planning and volunteer recruitment
  - Create a smoother transition from Cub Scouts to Scouts BSA
  - Share resources, knowledge, and best practices
  - Coordinate calendars and avoid scheduling conflicts
    - Blue & Gold Banquets
    - Holiday Parties
    - Service Projects
    - Community Events
    - Recruiting Events
    - Camping and Outdoor Activities
    - Community Center or Charter Organization Events

Leadership and Program Support



LEADERSHIP

- **Unit Commissioner**
  My unit has an assigned Unit Commissioner who maintains engaged connections and provides regular, proactive support to the unit
- **Membership Volunteer**
  My unit has a designated, registered New Member Coordinator to support recruitment and onboarding
- **Leaders**
  Our unit has Den leaders for each grade level represented (Packs) and key leadership positions filled (Troops)





UNIT EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

Involving Adults in Cub Scouting

- Ask for Specific Help
- Micro Volunteering
- Match Talents to Task
- Invite Adults into the Adventures
- Recognize and Appericate Volunteers

Family Talent Survey



Micro Volunteering

6 Primary Advancement

- Each Den Leader plans one advancement adventure or activity during the year.
- The Den Leader shares their meeting plan, materials, and ideas.
- Other leaders can reuse and adapt the plan for their Scouts.

New Member Coordinator

- Welcome and Engage New Families
- Improve Retention and Parent Involvement



Pack Structure



Committee Chair

Key 3



Cubmaster

Key 3



COR

Key 3



Treasurer

Committee Member



Advancement Chair

Committee Member



New Member Coordinator

Committee Member



Den Leader

Commitee

Denners and Den Chiefs

- Utilize a Denner
  - Assistant Cub Scout (leader in the den)
- Rotate Leadership Opportunites
- Recruit a Den Chief
  - Partnering with the Troop
- Strengthen the Pack-to-Troop Connection
- Let Youth Lead
  - Ceremonies, Skills, Games, and Mentoring

Understanding Youth Development

- Childern Develop at Different Rates
- Learning Should be Hands-On
- Positive Encourage Build Confidence
- Age-Appropriate Expecations Matter
- Relationships Drive Retention

Safety & Outdoor Readiness



Preparing Families for Outdoor Activities

- Set Expecations Early
- Promote the Outdoor Method
- Help Families Come Prepared
    - Packing List and Clothing Recommendations
- Review Safety Guidelines
- Encourage Parent Participation

Keeping Cub Scouting Safe

- Set Expecations Early
- Promote the Outdoor Method
- Help Families Come Prepared
    - Packing List and Clothing Recommendations
- Review Safety Guidelines
- Encourage Parent Participation

Understand Weather Safety Risks

- Monitor Weather Conditions
- Know When to Take Shelter
- Recognize Heat-Related Risks
- Prepare for Severe Weather
- Make Safety the Priority

Hazardous Weather Training

Pat 2 – Round Table

- Annual Planning
- Finance Basics
- Charter & Renewal
- Popcorn and Burger Fundraising
- Advancment/Den Leaders



MEMBERSHIP

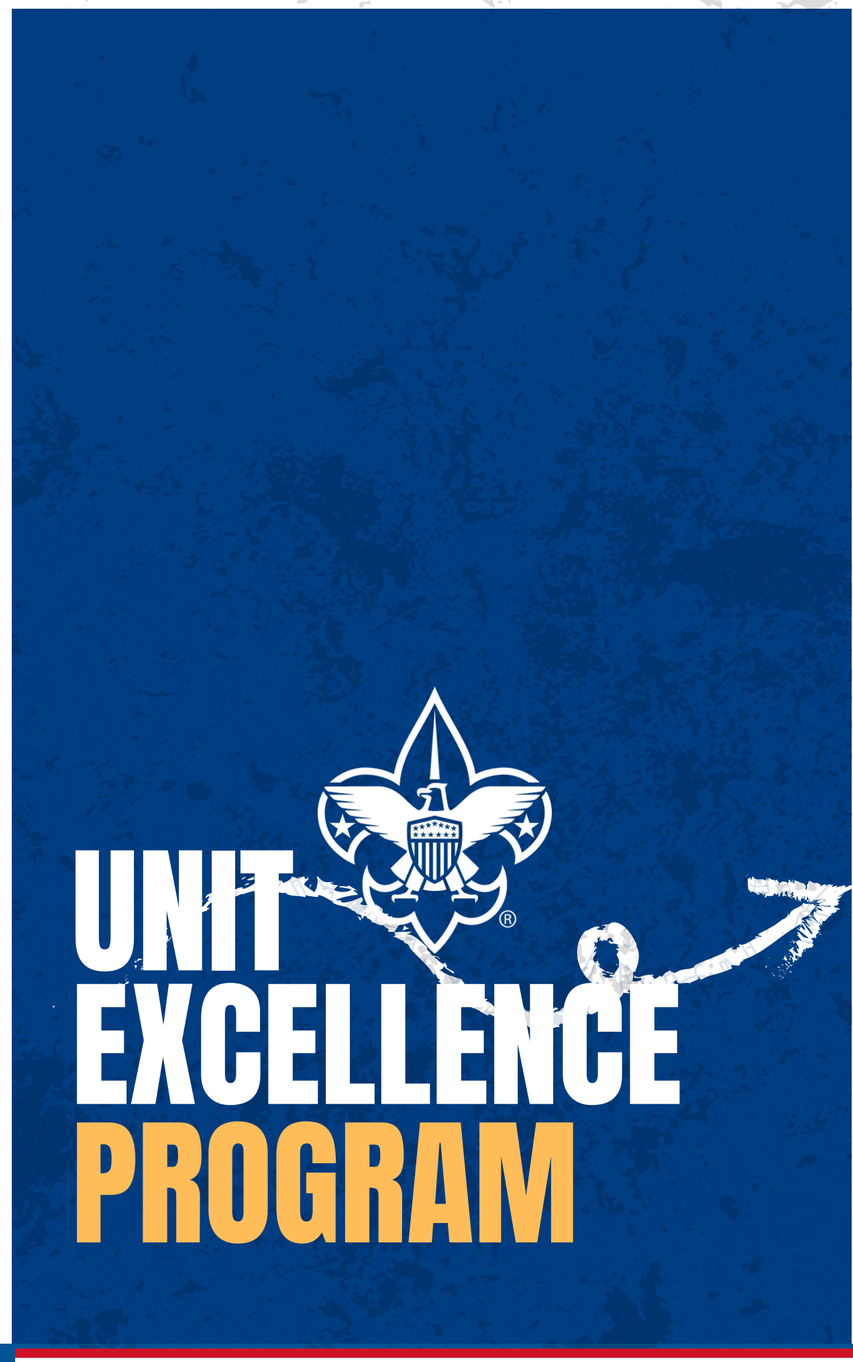
Membership

Increase in total members over the prior year and a commitment to year-round recruiting with a target size of a minimum 20 Cub Scouts per Pack and 12 Scouts per Troop

Fall Kick-Off Presentation

Join Night Template





LIMITED TIME OFFER

JOIN SCOUTS!

Fall 2026 Special

- Join Scouting in August, September, or October
- **$45 National Registration Fee** for NEW youth members
- Membership runs through **February 2027**
- Military family fee waiver is also available

Call to Action

👉 **Join Today:** BeAScout.org

📅 Don’t miss this limited-time fall offer!

📞 Questions? Great Rivers Council - 573.449.2561



Outdoor Fun & Adventure



Build confidence, leadership & teamwork

Scouting America Great Rivers Council

AMERICA 250

MILITARY FAMILY FEE WAIVER

Scouting America is committed to expanding access to Scouting for military-connected youth.

ELIGIBILITY

Youth in families with current service in:

Active Duty • Reserve • National Guard • Coast Guard

FEE COVERAGE

National Youth Registration Fee — Waived

Reduced to **$0** after verification and code application.

HOW IT WORKS

1. Visit BeAScout.org to join Scouts
2. Fee appears at checkout
3. Select **“Get Military Discount Code”**
4. Complete verification process to receive code
5. Enter code at checkout
6. **National fee reduced to $0**





Scouting America
Great Rivers Council

TO ALL VETERANS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

AND ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY

ARMOR UP FOR LIFE

DISCOUNTED SCOUTING MEMBERSHIP FEES

Complete a short questionnaire by scanning the QR code below to receive a discount code for **50% off your adult registration membership fees.**

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

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Scouting U
Learn. Challenge. Lead.™

Required Course Numbers

- SCO_450 WELCOME (2:02)
- SCO_451 AIMS AND METHODS OF CUB SCOUTING (6:17)
- SCO_452 BOBCAT (7:08)
- SCO_453 ADVANCEMENT (10:25)
- SCO_454 CUB SCOUT UNIFORMS (4:49)
- SCO_455 CONDUCTING A CUB SCOUT DEN MEETING (8:14)
- SCO_456 RESOURCES (5:14)
- SCO_457 DEN MANAGEMENT (5:27)
- SCO_458 CONDUCTING A CUB SCOUT PACK MEETING (12:05)
- SCO_459 CONDUCTING A PACK COMMITTEE MEETING (9:00)
- SCO_460 PREPARING FAMILIES FOR OUTDOOR (5:19)
- SCO_461 KEEPING CUB SCOUTING SAFE (4:35)
- SCO_462 INVOLVING ADULTS IN CUB SCOUTING (8:46)
- SCO_463 PACK STRUCTURE (8:02)
- SCO_464 DENNERS AND DEN CHIEFS (7:54)
- SCO_465 CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (7:28)
- SCO_466 CONTINUE THE JOURNEY (4:09)
- SCO_467 PACK FINANCE (7:46)
- SCO_468 ANNUAL PROGRAM PLANNING (17:34)
- SCO_469 ANNUAL CHARTER RENEWAL (6:36)



Upcoming Session Topics

Trailblazing: Advancement and Scoutbook 101
The Trail Guide: Retaining Scouts and Keeping Families Engaged
The PR Compass: Marketing Your Unit
Pioneering Local Outreach and Academic Partnerships
BeAScout & Online Registration
Building an Effective Unit Calendar
Adult Leader Microvolunteering
Recruiting & Retaining Adult Volunteers
Visibility 101: Making Your Unit Known
Conducting a Successful Join Night
Building a Strong Unit Committee
Unit Assessments and Goal Setting (Unit Excellence Workshop)

Feedback Form