



Scouting America™

Great Southwest - Yucca Council

January 2025

The ALBUQUERQUE office is open 9am-5pm on
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

The EL PASO office is open 10am-2pm
Monday through Friday.

Upcoming Events

2025, North Service Area (previously the Great Southwest Council)

1/25 Annual Awards Banquet
2/1-2/2 Scouting For Food
2/2 Scout Sunday
2/7-2/9 Klondike
2/8 Happy Birthday Scouting America
3/7 - 3/9 OA LLD
4/4 - 4/6 OA Section Conclave
4/12 Metro Area PWD
4/25-4/27 Camporee
5/3 Metro Spring Adventure Day
5/3 International Scouts Trash the Trash Day
5/10 International Jamboree on the Trail Day
5/16 - 5/18 OA Spring Conclave

2025, South Service Area (previously the Yucca Council)

1/18-19 Klondike
1/15 Pinewood Derby Build Day
2/8 Scouting for Food Donation Pick-up

2/8 Top Sellers Party
2/9 Scout Sunday
2/15 Annual Dinner
2/16 Scout Sunday at United Methodist Church
2/22 Pinewood Derby Build Day
3/1 Cub Klondike

2025, Gorham

6/8-6/14 Brownsea and NYLT
6/15-6/21 Week One and Zia Scouts
6/22-6/28 Week Two
6/29-7/3 Webelos Week in the Woods
7/6-7/12 Week Three

All Scouts are invited to all activities in either Service Area!

Great Southwest - Yucca Council Naming Poll

With the merger of the Great Southwest and Yucca Councils into a singular Council, we have an exciting opportunity to choose a new Council name. As you may recall, we had a contest open to our youth members to submit potential new names. The Council Key 3 have selected two finalists: High Desert Council and El Camino Real Council. We are opening the voting to every unit in the Council.

Each UNIT (Pack, Troop, Crew, or Post) will have one vote to choose our new name. Please discuss the two names at an upcoming unit meeting. Please have your unit select the one name they like the best. Then, any member from your Unit Key 3 (Committee Chair; Unit Leader, Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Crew Advisor, Post Advisor; or the Charter Organization Representative) may submit their vote one time on the Google form. If we receive multiple entries from your unit, only the first received from a Unit Key 3 will be counted.

The deadline to vote is January 17, 2025. We look forward to sharing the new name with you soon after that!

Here is the link:

<https://forms.gle/ioxq8Lk5p3qw6aL36>

Gorham Camp Staff – Your Dream Summer Job

Working at Gorham this summer will cultivate skills that build your resume:

- Oral Communication Skills
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Interpersonal and Leadership Skills
- Collaborative Skills
- Creativity

Depending on your positions, you may supervise between 7–15 others, engaging in decision-making, behavior management, and living ethics — all necessary leadership skills for today.

You will get paid a base salary with add-ons for experience, certifications, leadership roles, extra duties, etc.

We have openings in all departments (Aquatics, Nature/Ecology, Shooting sports, COPE/Climbing, Scoutcraft, Handicraft, Maintenance, and Food Service).

We are particularly interested in recruiting individuals over 21 years of age for Aquatics, Climbing, Shooting Sports, and All-Terrain Vehicle Experience directors. These positions require specialized training, which we will provide, and they come with a competitive salary.

If you are interested, please reach out to Mary at mary.mazza-andersen@scouting.org.

RECHARTERING UPDATE

With the New Year upon us, it's time to look at the projects of last year that need to be finished in the new year. Foremost on the mind of a Council Commissioner is unit renewal (the new term for the old recharter process). We've made good progress in the process that kicked off on November 1st. Almost 60% (51/89) of our units have started the process, and 1/3rd (31/89) of all units have been Posted, finishing the process. Our focus now is on the 40% of units that haven't started the process. That 40% represents 38 units. We'll be reaching out to the Key 3 of each of those units to see what we can do to help them get the process underway. As a reminder, here are the three key factors for achieving a quick and successful unit renewal:

1. Does your unit have someone filling the positions required for renewal? (see below for what those positions are for each type unit)
2. Have those individuals renewed their individual membership for 2025? As of 1/1/25, members in the required positions need to have renewed their membership for 2025.
3. Is their Youth Protection Training current?

If the answer to all three questions is "YES!", then completing unit renewal should be pretty easy! The first step in the online tool will check those items. After that, the tool asks the unit to verify the info on their Be A Scout 'pin', select a method of payment, and submit the package. Submitting the

annual charter agreement by email, snail mail, or dropping off a copy at the Scout Office will be the last step in the process that will allow your unit to be "Posted."

If you have any questions about the process, please contact the Council Registrar, Kathy Ferdig, kathy.ferdig@scouting.org; or the Council Commissioner, Dale Balmer, at dbalmer8@comcast.net

Here are the required positions for each type unit:

- Pack: COR*, Committee Chair, Cubmaster, two Committee Members, and one Den Leader (must be a Den Leader, not an Assistant)
- Troop: COR*, Committee Chair, Scoutmaster, two Committee Members
- Crew: COR*, Committee Chair, Crew Advisor, two Committee Members

*COR can also be Committee Chair OR a Committee Member; cannot be both. No other mandatory positions can hold multiple positions

Advancement

Welcome to 2025 and Advancement changes you need to know about!

Scouting America is constantly morphing and National has updated our Guide to Advancement (GTA) for 2025! This resource impacts every age and program. When you open the new GTA, be sure the Green Cover has 2025 printed on it. Sometimes computers think it's funny to show us a prior version that they saved.

This site shows many Advancement resources including the most recent Eagle Workbook (Feb 2023), the Eagle Application (Dec 2024), and all the Merit Badges with their updates (Jan 2025). The GTA is first.

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/resources/>

The link below takes you to a list of the specific Merit Badge changes that went into effect Jan 1, 2025. During the year, Merit Badges are updated. As of Jan. 1, any Scout just beginning that MB will need to use the new requirements. If a Scout started the MB before Jan. 1, they may use the old or new requirements.

[Merit Badge Requirement Updates \(Effective January 1, 2025\)](#)

GSW-Yucca Council, North Section (formerly GSWC)
Find your Advancement Chair by where you live:

Farmington, Aztec, Bloomfield – Johnna Downing,
johnnadowning@yahoo.com

Durango, Bayfield, Ignacio, Pagosa Springs, Cortez – Julie Harris,
harrisfamilydgo@gmail.com

Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Taos, Raton, Cimmaron, Angel Fire – Tim
Neal, timrneal@gmail.com

West ABQ, Rio Rancho, Corrales, Los Lunas, Belen, Gallup –
Stephen Bartholomew, life2eaglehelp@yahoo.com

East ABQ, East Mountains, Tijeras, Edgewood – Mike Cutter,
Michael.cutter@msn.com

If you are not sure – contact Lois Caipen, Locaipen@aol.com.

Merit Badge Counselors

Merit badge counselors will have no program fee. They will pay only the national registration fee, which as of now is \$25.

However, they will need to turn in their applications directly to the Council office. If they try to sign up online, they will be charged the adult program fee.

COMMEMORATIVE NYLT CSP PATCH FUNDRAISER

2" x 5"



GHOSTED
ELEMENT
2024

\$10 for pick-up at Yucca Council Office or \$12 with shipping.



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO
PURCHASE OR VISIT
scoutingevent.com/573-90372
SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED.

All proceeds from this fundraiser go toward the
Conquistador, Great Southwest, and Yucca 2025 NYLT course.

New Council Committee!

The Council is in the process of organizing a Council Committee for Scouts with Special Needs. If you would like to join this committee, please email Mary at mary.mazza-andersen@scouting.org.

Upcoming Events!

Council Events



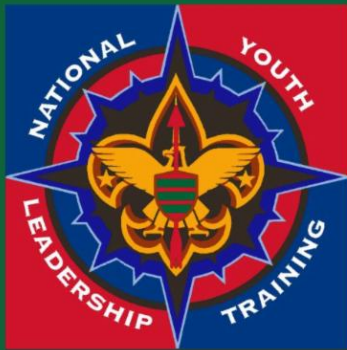
GREAT SOUTHWEST
COUNCIL

June
8-14
2025



 **BROWNSA 22**





CONQUISTADOR - GREAT SOUTHWEST - YUCCA

NYLT

TODAY'S YOUTH. TOMORROW'S LEADERS!

JUNE 8TH - 14TH, 2025
AT GORHAM SCOUT RANCH
\$300 PER PARTICIPANT



TO REGISTER
SCAN
THIS QR
CODE

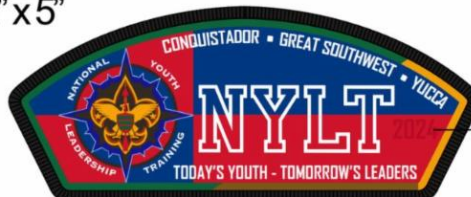
SEND YOUR YOUTH TO AN EXCITING, ACTION-PACKED SIX-DAY COURSE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE SCOUTING YOUTH MEMBERS WITH LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE THEY CAN USE IN THEIR HOME UNITS AND IN OTHER SITUATIONS DEMANDING LEADERSHIP OF SELF AND OTHERS.

NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING CENTERS AROUND THE CONCEPTS OF WHAT A LEADER MUST BE, WHAT A LEADER MUST KNOW, AND WHAT A LEADER MUST DO. THROUGH ACTIVITIES, PRESENTATIONS, CHALLENGES, DISCUSSIONS, AND AUDIO-VISUAL SUPPORT, NYLT PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ENGAGED IN A UNIFIED APPROACH TO LEADERSHIP THAT WILL GIVE THEM THE SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE TO LEAD WELL AND PUT INTO ACTION THE BEST SCOUTING HAS TO OFFER.

TO ATTEND A NYLT COURSE, A YOUTH MUST BE AT LEAST 13 YEARS OLD, HAVE COMPLETED THE FIRST CLASS RANK AND HAVE A RECOMMENDATION FROM THEIR UNIT LEADER.



2"x5"



GHOSTED
ELEMENT
2024

\$10
for pick-up at
Yucca Council
Office
\$12
with shipping

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO PURCHASE A COMMEMORATIVE 2024 NYLT CSP AND HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR THE 2025 COURSE! SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE COURSE DIRECTOR, JASON RUBY, AT 915-203-3291 OR JTRUBY@SWILP.COM, OR VISIT WWW.SCOUTINGEVENT.COM/573-NYLT25

Philmont Trek 2026



Philmont Scout
Ranch is one of
four high
adventure
bases!



JUNE
8-20

**BOOK NOW
COST IS \$1500/PERSON**

**SPACE IS LIMITED TO 5 YOUTH AND 3
ADULTS
LET US KNOW BY 4/20/25 IF YOUR UNIT
WOULD LIKE TO FILL THIS SPOT**



Southern Service Area

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

JANUARY

1/4- STATE 47 MARATHON
1/18-BSA TROOP KLONDIKE

FEBRUARY

1-SCOUTING FOR FOOD
5-ROUNDTABLE FOR ALL
8-SCOUTING FOR FOOD
8-HAPPY BIRTHDAY SCOUTING
8-TOP SELLER PARTY
15-COUNCIL BANQUET
22-PWD BUILD DAY

MARCH

3/1 - CUB KLONDIKE
5-ROUNDTABLE
3/8 - IOLS/BALOO
3/15 - BUG SCUFFLE
3/22 - MBU EXPRESS
3/22 - BATAAN DEATH MARCH
3/25- INFLUENTIAL WOMEN BREAKFAST

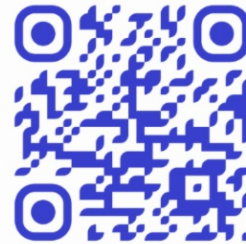
REGISTER NOW FOR NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR BSA TROOPS!

JUNE 8TH-JUNE 14TH 2025

2026 SAVE THE DATE

JULY 22- JULY 31
NATIONAL JAMBOREE
BGSCOUTING23@GMAIL.COM

JUNE 8- JUNE 20 2026
COUNCIL PHILMONT TREK
MWSCOUT007@GMAIL.COM



BSA Klondike

Save the date January 18th, 2025

Registration open soon! Register as a unit!

GET THOSE SLEDS BUILT NOW!



YUCCA COUNCIL

presents

ANNUAL

Dinner

**Silver Beaver Awards
James E West Awards
Vale La Pena Awards**

**Join us in Celebrating the Future of Yucca
Council.**

*Save the date
February 15th, 2025
Farm & Ranch Museum*





Northern Service Area

Gorham Scout Ranch

KLONDIKE DERBY



FEBRUARY 7 - 9, 2025

Gorham Scout Ranch - Chimayo NM

Since 1949, BSA units have been conducting “Klondike Derbies” to give their Scouts a chance to test their Scoutcraft skills, strengthen their patrols and have fun with Scouts from other Troops. Get those sleds prepped, dig out your cold weather gear and bring your Patrol to Gorham Scout Ranch for a fun and frosty weekend!

SCOUT SKILLS | PATROL METHOD | TEAM BUILDING

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.gswcbsa.org/content/121959/Klondike>



Scouting America
Great Southwest - Yucca Council



High Desert Scout Shop

THE Scouting America STRIP HAS ARRIVED!

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UNIFORM SHIRT
AND GET A FREE
SCOUTING AMERICA STRIP
TO SEW ON YOUR NEW SHIRT!



Available Online + In-Store



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YEAR-END CLEARANCE

UP TO

60% OFF*

In-Store + Online

HUNDREDS OF PRODUCTS



STARTING AT \$ 13.50 / HR.

NOW HIRING **SALES ASSOCIATE**

- Flexible part-time hours
- Work with fellow Scouters
- 25% employee discounts
- Be a part of the Scout Shop team

Apply now! Ask a Scout Shop Associate for details

Merit Badge Sponsors

Please join us in thanking and supporting our Merit Badge Sponsors!!!

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Jiffy Lube
TLC Plumbing & Utility

Great Southwest - Yucca Council | 5841 Office Blvd NE | Albuquerque, NM 87109 US

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