



IN THIS ISSUE:

A Year of Scouting in Review and More Inside!

A Year in Review for the Pennsylvania Dutch Council

As we welcome the new year, we want to take a moment to reflect on 2025.

In 2025...

100 more youth were recruited in 2025 compared to 2024, resulting in an 18% increase in new families to the Scouting program.

Summer camp attendance had an overall increase across both Camp Mack and Camp Bashore.

Thousands of service hours were logged by our Scouts and volunteers serving their community and the Council.

We moved to a new office space to better accommodate the members of the Council in both Lancaster and Lebanon Counties.

We added a new staff member to focus on building awareness of the Scouting program and aid in membership efforts.

Scouting for Food brought in 155,000 lbs. of donations across both districts to be distributed to those in need.



SCOUT EXECUTIVE/CEO

Matt Klutzaritz

matt.klutzaritz@scouting.org

Quick Links Below

Click on each graphic below to go to that web page.



UPCOMING

Friends of Scouting, thanks to the continued generosity of Scouting families across the Council, saw a 15% increase in total funds raised to support quality and accessible Scouting programs.

The Fall Product Sale had 78 participating units, leading to an 18% total increase in sales to support Scouts and Unit programs.

In 2026...

We will continue looking for new opportunities and initiatives to introduce kids to our program.

We will meet the needs of all Scouting families by maintaining and improving facilities such as the camps and Council Service Center.

We will be rolling out a new, improved, and more user-friendly website to make finding what you need less of a hassle.

All our success this year, and our success moving forward, is a result of the efforts of our dedicated Scouts and volunteers. Thank you for all that you do, and let's make it a great 2026 in the PA Dutch Council!

COUNCIL SERVICE CENTER CLOSURES *(please plan in advance)*

The Council Offices **and** Scout Shop **WILL BE CLOSED:**

Monday, January 19th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day



2026 Klondike Derby Dates



Iron Forge District Klondike Derby, January 24th

Mark your calendars for the 2026 Iron Forge Klondike Derby which will take place at Camp Mack on January 24th! We will again have all 3 treks; Webelos/AOL, Scouts BSA, and Iron Will. The theme is Pioneers! The leader guide and registration link are live at [Iron Forge Activities](#). If you have questions or would like to help, our host & chairman, Jeff Sherk, can be reached at ifklondikejeff@gmail.com.



Susquehanna District Klondike Derby, January 30th-February 1st

Susquehanna Klondike Derby January 30-February 1, 2026 at Camp Mack. This year's theme is the Olympics! More information can be found on the [Susquehanna Activities](#) page.

2026 Spring Product Sale

Thank you to all of the units that completed our survey about this year's Spring Product Sale. From your feedback, we know that having an option for a spring sale is important to many units and to many Scouting families. We

are excited to announce a **SUPER EASY** sale that we know will help Scouting families looking to earn their way to summer camp. This year, we will be partnering with **Gertrude Hawk Chocolates!**



Why Gertrude Hawk?

- Well known quality products with comparable price range to our Popcorn and Nut Sale
- 25% commission for participating Scouts (i.e. Sell \$100 of candy, earn \$25 for camp)
- SUPER, SUPER easy
- Prize program for participating Scouts
- Online Selling Option
- Did we mention, SUPER, SUPER easy

Sign Up

- Sign up is easy. [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up!

Learn More

- Kick Off at Camp Mack on January 22nd at 7:00pm at the Training Center - Register to attend in person when you sign up or register to attend our [Zoom Session](#)
- Attend Roundtable in January
- Visit the [Spring Product Sale Fundraising page](#) on our website
- Check out the flier [HERE](#)

Why it's SUPER, SUPER easy

- Sale Kicks Off January 22
- Register for the sale, then pass out order forms and set up online sales
- Communicate with families about the sale and deadlines
- Scouts can use online sales locally (sell to neighbors online and deliver when the product comes in)
- Scouts can sell to friends and family anywhere (these orders the customer does have to pay for shipping)
- Collect all order forms and payment and turn in by February 25, 2026
 - You will turn in the actual order forms, no complicated tally sheets
 - No figuring out how many of each product for your unit
 - No online order system where you have to input your order
 - No prize system that you need to enter prizes into
 - Just complete the summary sheet with Scout name and sales total and hand in all of your order sheets with your payment
- Pick up product week of March 23
 - All product will be presorted for each of your Scouts so you won't have to sort it
 - All prizes will be included in the Scout's Order
 - Orders are then available for Easter

We also wanted to mention that our survey did express a lot of interest in us considering a Camp Card option for future spring sales. We will be exploring that in 2026.



Iron Forge District & Susquehanna District News

District Roundtable Meetings - January 2026

Roundtables are held on the first Thursday of each month from September through May, each District holds a Roundtable to provide leaders with information that will help units be successful.



- [Iron Forge District Roundtable](#), January 8th at the **Cornwall United Methodist Church, 50 Freeman Dr, Lebanon, PA 17042 at 7 PM**. We hope to see you there! For more info, [Click Here](#).
 - **Hot topic:** Cold Weather
 - **Breakout Sessions:**
 - **Cub Scouts:** Communication Options
 - **Scouts BSA/Crews:** Cold Weather Camping
- [Susquehanna District Roundtable](#), January 8th at the **First Presbyterian Church of Strasburg, 7 PM**. For more info, [Click Here](#).
 - **Hot topic:** Youth Protection and General Safety
 - **Breakout Sessions:**
 - **Cub Scouts:** Conducting Safety Moments in the Pack
 - **Scouts BSA/Crews:** Favorite Troop Activities

See you there!

February 2026 Merit Badge College



The Council Merit Badge College will take place on February 28th! We have a new location for 2026, St James Catholic Church in Lititz. There are morning and afternoon sessions for 17 different merit badges. Registration closes on February 19th. Visit [2026 Council Merit Badge College](#) for full list of the badges offered, the prerequisites, and the link to register.

2026 Scout Expo

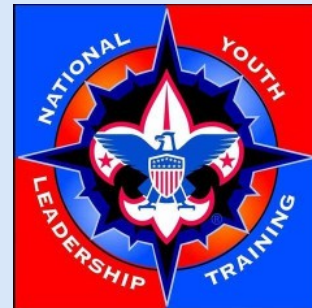
The 2026 Scout Expo (Mall Show) is right around the corner, and registration is now open! This year's event will run February 2nd–6th, from 6:00 p.m.–7:45 p.m. each night at the Lebanon Valley Mall. Units should plan to set up their Expo booth on Sunday, February 1st, from 3:00–5:00 p.m. Choose from “Back to the Future” themes: Western, Oldies, or Future for your booth! Theme areas are limited, and will be confirmed based on a first registered basis. For more information and to register visit [Iron Forge Activities](#).



2026 NYLT

Learn About the 2026 NYLT Course!

NYLT: National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) is an exciting, action-packed program designed to provide youth with leadership skills and experience that they can apply within their troops and in other situations requiring leadership of self and others. NYLT is a six-day course that emphasizes hands-on learning in a fun, engaging environment. Through a blend of activities, presentations, challenges, discussions, and games, participants will develop confidence and leadership abilities while working together as a team.



The 2026 Council NYLT Course will be held over 2 weekends in August. We are looking for Youth to join our staff. In order for a Youth to be eligible to staff NYLT they must have taken NYLT.

If you know a Scout who would be a great addition to our staff send their name and contact info to padnylt2026@gmail.com

To learn more visit [National Youth Leadership Training](#).

2026 Camp News And Resources



Had a Great Time at Camp Bashore's Summer Camp? Seize the Day—Register for 2026!

If your unit had an awesome experience at camp this summer, why not lock in the fun for next year? It's never too early to secure your spot for the 2026 season at Bashore Scout Reservation!

[CLICK HERE](#) to make your 2026 Summer Camp reservation at Camp Bashore.

[Visit the Bashore Webpage](#)

Ready for Another Stellar Summer?

Now's the perfect time to schedule your **summer camp promotion!** Packs that complete a promotion by March 31st, 2026 will receive **\$50 off their total camp fees**—a deal that's truly astronomical. Let's get your pack's countdown to camp started!



To schedule, reach out to **Ben Wohlberg** at campdirector@campmack524.org.

Do you know a Scout who shines as an instructor, loves helping younger kids, or practically lives in the great outdoors? We're recruiting staff for all program areas this upcoming season!

- **Counselors in Training begin at age 14**
- **Instructors ages 15–17**
- **Area Directors ages 18+**
- **Special needs: Aquatics Director (21+), Assistant Aquatics Director (18+), and Camp Commissioner (18+)**

Applications can be found [HERE](#)

We'll be holding in-person staff interviews on Saturdays during district Klondikes. Keep an eye out for our Camp Director at the trading post! If you know a Scout or Scouter who would make a great addition to our team, send them our way—we'd love to meet them!

Questions? Contact our Camp Director, Ben Wohlberg at campdirector@campmack524.org.

Friends of Camp Mack

Friends of Camp Mack, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the program and property of J. Edward Mack Scout Reservation. The objectives and purpose of the Friends of Camp Mack is to:

- Identify, grow, and coordinate a network of current and former staff members, campers, and supporters of the J. Edward Mack Scout Reservation – that would be YOU!
- Support camp property preservation and improvements via financial, material, and labor donations and fundraising efforts.
- Aid in the promotion of J. Edward Mack Scout Reservation programs through like donations.
- Sponsor social and service events open to supporters and the public that focus on supporting the J. Edward Mack Scout Reservation.



- Engage in other activities related to the maintenance, sustainability, preservation, and promotion of J. Edward Mack Scout Reservation.

If you would like to join our mission to preserve and maintain this special place, become a Friend of Camp Mack! To join, click [HERE](#).

And when you join, you can show your pride as a Friend of Camp Mack with some awesome merchandise! Click [HERE](#) to check out our Friends of Camp Mack store and place your order today. All proceeds from the sale of Friends of Camp Mack merchandise will go directly to support the camp.

We hope you'll consider joining our great cause and consider joining us for some of our upcoming FOCM Friday Service Days at Camp Mack! We'll perform service projects of varying skill levels around Camp Mack on the listed days and lunch will be included!

- Friday February 6, 2026 - 8 AM to 3 PM

If you are able to attend one of our upcoming days, please email ericshesha@friendsofcampmack.org to let us know so we can plan accordingly!

To learn more about The Friends of Camp Mack, visit our website at www.friendsofcampmack.org

Sign-Up To Be A Campmaster!



CAMPMASTER CORPS

The Pennsylvania Dutch Council is fortunate to have a dedicated group of registered and trained Scouters who volunteer their time as **Campmasters**.

Serving as the friendly face of camp for the weekend, **Campmasters provide a warm welcome to visiting Units and groups, and lend a hand wherever needed to help things run smoothly.** Their presence not only enhances the experience for Scouts and leaders but also gives our hardworking Camp Rangers the opportunity to focus on camp improvement projects—or take some well-earned personal time.

Becoming a Campmaster is a rewarding way to give back to Scouting while enjoying the beauty of our camps. Here's what you can look forward to:

- Spend weekends at Camp Mack, Camp Bashore, or both
- Provide cheerful service to Scout Units and other groups at camp

- Welcome and check-in/out Units and groups
- Enjoy fellowship and fun!
- Supply groups with tools for service projects
- Attend a Campmaster training session to be successful in your role
- Create your own schedule

Campmaster Lodging

Each camp has a fully equipped cabin just for Campmasters—with a kitchen, bathroom, bedrooms, TV, and heat in the winter—so you'll be comfortable while you serve.

Sign-Up Now!

Interested in joining the Campmaster team? Visit the [Council Campmaster page](#) to learn more.

To sign up or to ask questions, reach out to Matt Stewart at wallaby38@gmail.com or 717-587-8409.

Upcoming Events

January 2026

- **January 24:** Iron Forge District Klondike Derby. More information coming soon at [Iron Forge Activities](#).
- **January 30-February 1:** Susquehanna District Klondike Derby. More information coming soon at [Susquehanna Activities](#).

February 2026

- **February 2-6:** Scout Expo at the Lebanon Valley Mall. More information available at [Iron Forge Activities](#)
- **February 21:** Leaders of Female Scouts Summit Register [HERE](#)
- **February 28:** Council Merit Badge College. More information will be available soon [on our website](#).

March 2026

- **March 14:** Iron Forge District Pinewood Derby*

April

- **April 11:** Camp Mack Open House
- **April 11:** Iron Forge District Merit Badge College at Bashore*

***More info coming soon!**

To find out about additional events, please click on the Council Calendar button below.

PA DUTCH COUNCIL CALENDAR

Friends of Scouting 2025 - Scouting America!

FRIENDS OF SCOUTING 2025

The Pennsylvania Dutch Council
Announces the Limited Edition
SCOUTING AMERICA
Council Shoulder Patch



Individuals and families contributing \$250 or more to the 2025 Annual Friends of Scouting Campaign will receive this exclusive CSP.

Your support helps sustain quality programming and ensures unforgettable Scouting adventures for generations to come. Limited quantities available.

To donate, scan the QR Code or go to:
www.padutchbsa.org/fundraising/friends-of-scouting



Friends of Scouting Annual Campaign

WE ARE...
"SCOUTING AMERICA"

To make automatic payments using your bank account or credit card, please contact Lauren Bowen at lauren.bowen@scouting.org or call 717-553-4210.



DONATE HERE

Order of the Arrow - Wunita Gokhos Lodge

Upcoming Events:

- January 2026 Lodge Executive Meeting .
Training Center Camp Mack
- Lodge Family Banquet March 26
Donegal Presbyterian Church, Mt. Joy.
Registration deadline March 8



[Click Here](#) for additional details about upcoming events, service opportunities, registration link, and current newsletter.



Scout Shop

Pennsylvania Dutch Council, BSA

General Information

In-Store shopping hours are:

Monday to Friday 10:30 am - 4:30 pm

Scout Shop Associates and Support Staff will be available by appointment
Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 10:30 am.

Can't make it into the store? Call 717.553.4200 or email **BOTH**
tanya.hanna@scouting.org AND robin.kotzmoyer@scouting.org

DID YOU KNOW... Your order can be filled and shipped directly to your home or business. A shipping and handling fee will be applied to your purchase.
A credit card is required for payment.

3% Credit Card Processing Fees
Apply To The Following Transactions:

- Registrations
- Fall and spring product fundraisers
- Camp related events or training programs
- Replenishment of unit accounts



Thank you for understanding that as a nonprofit **we** cannot continue to incur these additional banking surcharges associated with credit card transactions.

PADutchScouts.ORG

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