

# Mountain Valley District April 2026 Newsletter

## Roundtable

Roundtable Thursday 4/2, 6:30 pm

[ZOOM](#)

District Elections, BALOO and iOLS, and more!

(Roundtable is the first Thursday of the month, 5-6x/yr)

## District Calendar







4/2	<a href="#">Roundtable</a> , 6:30 pm, Zoom
4/3	Scout offices closed - Good Friday
4/10 - 4/12	<a href="#">Wilderness First Aid</a>
4/16	<a href="#">MVD Committee Mtg - CANCELLED</a>
4/17 - 4/19	<a href="#">OA Section Leadership Seminar</a> , Billings
4/24 - 4/26	<a href="#">MT Council Convention</a> , Helena
5/2	<a href="#">Cub Scouts archery event</a> , 9 am
5/8	<a href="#">Cub Scout Jump Night at Jump Time</a> , 6 pm
5/15 - 5/17	<a href="#">MVD Spring Camporee</a> & OA Callout
5/22 - 5/25	<a href="#">Melita Island Work Weekend</a>
5/25	<a href="#">Memorial Day Parade</a> , 8:45 am
5/28	<a href="#">MVD Volunteer Celebration BBQ</a> , 6 pm (NOTE DATE CHANGE!)
5/29 - 5/31	<a href="#">OA Ordeal, K-M</a>
5/29 - 5/31	<a href="#">K-M Work Weekend</a>
6/12 - 6/18	<a href="#">NYLT</a>
6/18 - 6/21	<a href="#">Montana Expo - CANCELLED</a>

## Safety Moment

**Knife Safety!** Make sure all the Scouts in your Unit earn their Toten' Chip before using knives, then:

- Make sure Scout always have their Toten' Chip card on them
- Frequently inspect knives to make sure they're clean, sharp, and in good shape
- Choose the right tool - just because you have a knife doesn't mean it's the right tool for the job
- Create a safe space for using the knife - often called "the blood circle"
- Hold the knife correctly
- Be aware - look around before you start to make sure there's nothing (object or person!) in your way

## Announcements & Thanks

-  **THANK YOU** to Ethan St John for **orchestrating the 2026 MVD Pinewood Derby!** We had about 10-12 kids in attendance and the kids had a fantastic time. So much enthusiasm! Thanks also go to Greg Ellsworth, Alex Crawford, and Katie and Jason Daughenbaugh for volunteering at the event. We WILL be having an MVD PWD in 2027 so Pack leaders, keep that on your radar.
-  **Congratulations to Troop 679 for being selected as the winning troop for the Montana Council's Anniversary Month Contest!** Thanks, 679, for going the extra mile to spread awareness of Scouting in our community.
-  **Mark your calendars for the Volunteer Celebration BBQ on May 28!** Note date change! (we moved it due to Mumford and Sons concert on 6/4) We do so many things virtually these days. All Scouters are welcome to join us for some in-person fun to celebrate another great Scouting year and honor the people who made it happen. More info will be available [here](#).
-  **Fundraising opportunity for Troops/Crews:** Troop 649 traditionally cooks and serves burgers and hot dogs for the Murdoch's Shooting Expo at the Logan Gun Range, but they are unable to do so this year. If your unit would like to take their place and earn some money, please reach out to Paul at [rpwrogers@hotmail.com](mailto:rpwrogers@hotmail.com). The event is June 27.
-  **Cub Scouts is coming to Big Sky!** MVD just hosted a Rally Night at Big Sky Community Organization's BASE Community Center that garnered interest from 18 cubs!! The new Pack's leadership is hoping to start meeting by the end of April!
-  **Did you know that units can Geofence unit events online?** Let's say you're going to have a recruitment event. Email Renee at [renee.stephens@scouting.org](mailto:renee.stephens@scouting.org) or Alex at

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[alex.crawford@scouting.org](mailto:alex.crawford@scouting.org), and they will contact Council to get your event geofenced, so that targeted ads about Scouting will go to people in that geographical area at that moment. It's a great awareness and recruitment tool if you plan ahead!

- 🛎️ **In celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence**, Scouting America is offering a Liberty in Action America 250 Challenge Patch. There's no formal tracking on Scoutbook, but unit leaders are free to help their Scouts earn the patch. [See here](#) for info.
- 🧵 **Do you need help sewing patches on uniforms or sashes?** Contact Sylvia Sparkman at The Sewing Shop, 406-586-3390, [sewingshopbz@gmail.com](mailto:sewingshopbz@gmail.com).

## Unit Spotlight

Troop 649

Troop 649 will be helping River Rock Church of the Nazarene host their community Easter Egg Hunt this weekend. The Scouts will set up the hunt, clean garbage from the playground, help the kids find eggs, and run a trading post. 🐰

Thank you Troop 649!

## District Committee

Katie Daughenbaugh, Chair

- It's that time of year when we acknowledge the hard work of our dedicated volunteers. Unit leaders, please nominate Scouters in your unit for the following. We will honor all of our volunteers at the Volunteer Celebration BBQ on 5/28!

### For Cub Scouts

[Den Leader Training Award](#)

[Cub Scout Training Award](#)

[Cubmaster Key](#)

[Unit Leader Award of Merit](#)

### For Scouts BSA

[Scouts BSA Training Award](#)

[Scoutmaster Key](#)

[Unit Leader Award of Merit](#)

[National Outdoor Challenge Award](#)

### For Venture Crews

[Venture Leaders Training Award](#)

[Advisor's Key](#)

[Unit Leader Award of Merit](#)

### For District Leaders

[District Committee Training Award](#)

[District Committee Key](#)

[District Award of Merit](#): we can award one of these per year; let us know if you'd like to nominate anyone!

**Applications are due to District Commissioner Chad Yoakam at**

**[mvdchadyoakam@gmail.com](mailto:mvdchadyoakam@gmail.com) by 4/17!**

## Commissioners

Chad Yoakam, District Commissioner

- Unit leaders: if your unit doesn't already have adult leaders in positions of training coordinator(s), roundtable representatives (2-3 per unit), advancement chairs and membership representatives, please consider doing so. If you have questions regarding what these positions entail, please contact Chad Yoakam - MVD District Commissioner - 406-220-1421 or [mvdchadyoakam@gmail.com](mailto:mvdchadyoakam@gmail.com).
- What keeps you up at night or causes strife in your life as a unit leader? We will be having an open forum on these topics, problems and issues at our May in-person roundtable to be held over the lunch hour on Saturday at our Spring MVD Camporee on May 16. Please forward your ideas, case studies, problems, issues and experiences to Chad Yoakam for compilation and preparation so we can learn from one another and help each other deal with the problems that come up from time to time in our units. This is open to leaders of

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Packs, Troops and the Venture crew. We hope to get our leaders participating in IOLS (and possibly BALOO) training involved in this roundtable in order to elevate our leadership in each unit.

## Membership

Betsy Eubanks, Chair

Did you know? We have awesome recruiting resources for all units - just reach out!

- **Pack-Meeting-in-a-Box**  
All the directions and activity materials for three pack meetings!
  - \* Be Prepared - Cubs will build a first aid kit and start their 6-essentials kit
  - \* Take Flight - building paper airplanes and other flying things and landing challenges
  - \* It Takes a Team - Bean Bags, Index Cards, and the "Death Star" make this a fabulously fun meeting that emphasizes teamwork.
- **For Troops/Crew**, there is an activity kit to help Scouts build some must haves for camping like waterproof matches and fire starters, and includes directions for some currently popular card games to play because fun and cards are a great part of camping too.

If you want the information about these things as well as directions on how to reserve them, email Betsy Eubanks at [eubanks.betsy@gmail.com](mailto:eubanks.betsy@gmail.com).

## Range and Target Activities

Coby Dawson, Chair

- **Chad Yoakam** and **Coby Dawson** are now certified as **NRA Chief Range Safety Officers**. That means they now can train NRA Range Safety Officers. What can a Range Safety Officer do for Scouting? They can help and are needed at a Unit, District, or Council event with:
  - Rifle shooting
  - Shotgun shooting

- Muzzleloader shooting
- CATAPULTS
- Cowboy Action (K-M) only

NOT REQUIRED BUT NICE TO HAVE at any other event that involves Range and Target Activities: BB Gun, SlingShot, Atlatl (Coming soon), and throwing sports (tomahawk/knives).

If you are interested in becoming a NRA RSO please contact Coby at:

[coby.dawson.mtcouncilrata@gmail.com](mailto:coby.dawson.mtcouncilrata@gmail.com)

- We are also still seeking BB Gun/Archery Rangemasters for the District Cub events, if Interested please contact Coby; [coby.dawson.mtcouncilrata@gmail.com](mailto:coby.dawson.mtcouncilrata@gmail.com)



## Order of the Arrow

Andrew Liebmann, Chapter Advisor

- **OA volunteers to participate in the Call-Out ceremony at Spring Camporee on May 15 are needed!** There are speaking and non-speaking roles that need filled. Please reach out to Andrew if you'd like to help at [bloodcorba@earthlink.net](mailto:bloodcorba@earthlink.net).


## Cub Scout Activities

Team Update

-  **Join us for the Cub Scout JumpTime Jump Night on 5/8 from 6 - 8 pm.** All Cubs are invited to participate for a special rate. Friends and siblings are welcome! All Scouts that bring a friend will both get prizes and be entered to win more raffle prizes!
-  **The Cub Scout Archery event is ON!** Mark your calendars for Saturday May 2. We will share more information once it is available.


## Older Scout Activities

Jason Daughenbaugh, Chair

-  **Spring Camporee is May 15 - 17!** Details are currently being worked out but we are hot on the trail of a fun new location. More information will be provided soon.
- All units are asked to have a representative on

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the Camporee planning team. Contact Jason at [daughenbaugh@gmail.com](mailto:daughenbaugh@gmail.com) for more info. The first meeting to plan Spring Camporee is Wed, 4/1 at 7 pm via [Google Meet](#).

-  **Unique opportunity for MOHAB for all Scouts 14 and over June 28 - July 5!** For this week only, Scouts can register independent of a unit or a parent participant. All leadership will be provided. This is a great chance for Scouts who maybe weren't old enough the last time their unit did a high adventure camp, but who still want to participate. Or, did you do this recently and want to go again, though your unit isn't planning on it this year? See [here](#) to register. At least four Scouts from MVD are already registered!

## Training Update

Greg Ellsworth, Chair

- **Wilderness First Aid is April 10 - 12, 2026** and [registration](#) is open!
- **iOLS training will be offered at Spring Camporee, 5/15 - 5/17.** All Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters, and other leaders with direct contact with Scouts need this training!
- **BALOO training *may* be offered at Spring Camporee, 5/15-5/17.** Please come to Roundtable on 4/2 to discuss, or email Greg if you are interested in attending. We are trying to gauge interest. There needs to be at least one BALOO-trained leader at any overnight Cub Scout event. The more adults in your unit who are trained, the better!
- Questions please contact [greg.ellsworth.63@gmail.com](mailto:greg.ellsworth.63@gmail.com) or 406-600-3895

## Stay Connected

- Send activity photos or other information to share to [bozemanscoutshop@scouting.org](mailto:bozemanscoutshop@scouting.org)
- Website: <https://montanabsa.org/districts/mountain-valley/5/>
- Facebook: [Mountain Valley District-Montana Council](#)
- Instagram: [MVDMTBSA](#)