

Mountain Valley District May 2026 Newsletter

Roundtable

No May Roundtable, see you at the [MVD Volunteer Celebration BBQ](#) on 5/28!

District Calendar

5/2	Cub Scouts archery event , 9 am
5/7	No May Roundtable
5/8	Cub Scout Jump Night at Jump Time , 6 pm
5/15 - 5/17	MVD Spring Camporee & OA Callout
5/22 - 5/25	Melita Island Work Weekend
5/25	Memorial Day Parade , 8:45 am
5/28	MVD Volunteer Celebration BBQ , 6 pm
5/29 - 5/31	OA Ordeal, K-M
5/29 - 5/31	K-M Work Weekend
6/12 - 6/18	NYLT

Safety Moment

Create a Camping Safety Checklist each time you head out on an adventure with your unit!


- Documentation: Make sure you have and have reviewed health forms for all participants, including adults
- Training: Make sure all participating adults have proper training: SYT, Hazardous Weather, Trek Safely or Wilderness First Aid, and preferably iOLS/BALOO
- Planning: Review camp location, any required permits, and weather
- Equipment: Make sure you bring appropriate equipment for a fun outing, including a first aid kit
- Emergency Planning: Think through what you will do in the event of an emergency. How will you contact authorities for help if needed?
- Program: Make sure you know your program! Do you have age-appropriate activities, safety equipment, supervision, and a way to inform everyone of potential hazards?

Announcements & Thanks

- 🎉 **Congratulations to Drew and Nicole Burkenpas** on the birth of their third child, Charlie Scott, on 4/14.
- 🙌 **Congratulations to Keith Nathan for receiving the Chairman's Award at Montana Council Convention on 4/25.** Keith has always gone above and beyond in service to Scouting, including 676 and 679 Unit Commissioner, Montana Council Training Chair, MVD photographer, and so much more. If you see Keith, congratulate him!
- 🗓️ **Mark your calendars for the Volunteer Celebration BBQ on May 28 at the Daughenbaugh's!** 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. Information available [here](#).
- 🧑‍🎓 **Hark, there is a Safeguarding Youth Training Refresher Course!!** You are eligible to take this 20 min refresher training instead of the 90 min training if you've taken the 90 min training before; your SYT has been expired for less than 7 days; and you get an 80% or greater on the quiz on the first attempt. If these criteria are not met you will be re-routed to the full 90 min training. Log on to your my.scouting.org account and under "my training", search "refresher" in the course catalog.
- 🎉 **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.
- 🏆 **Scoutbook functions used by Merit Badge**

Mountain Valley District May 2026 Newsletter

Counselors or unit leaders regarding Merit Badge counselor-related connections has migrated from “old” Scoutbook to Scoutbook Plus. See [here](#) for helpful info on how to use Scoutbook Plus as a Merit Badge Counselor.

-  Any unit needing WFA field guides for their unit or leaders, reach out to Mike at mpotlo@gmail.com to arrange for a drop-off. Field guides will be offered at a discounted rate of \$25 each or 5 for \$100 until gone.

Unit Spotlight

Troop 676

Troop 676 recently went on a backpacking trip to Spanish Peak cabin, where six of their newest Scouts experienced backpacking for the first time. These new Scouts earned their Toten’ Chip, Firem’n Chit, and Scout Rank, and ALL who went had an excellent adventure.



District Committee

Katie Daughenbaugh, Chair

Montana Council Convention was held April 24 - 26 in Helena. Convention is a great opportunity to make new friends and visit old ones, receive additional training, learn new things, and acknowledge the hard work of Scouters across our Council. **A highlight this year was a talk given by Glen Pounder, Scouting America’s Executive Vice President and Chief Safeguarding Officer.** Mr. Pounder shared his professional experience in law enforcement protecting children, and how he has translated that experience to Scouting. He acknowledges that protecting kids should remain a work in progress - we must always aim to do

better. The new SYT training is one of the initiatives he led to do just that. He is also working to make safety rules make sense, including adding back some activities into the Guide to Safe Scouting, such as water guns and laser tag. If you are interested in learning more about Mr. Pounder, see [here](#).

Commissioners

Chad Yoakam, District Commissioner

- **Everyone is invited to a Roundtable Luncheon at Spring Camporee, Saturday, May 16 at noon.** Cub Scout, Scouts BSA, and Venturing adult leaders are all encouraged to participate. We will discuss common issues that keep unit leaders up at night, as well as enjoy fellowship with each other! See here for the exact location.
- **BALOO and iOLS training will be offered at Spring Camporee, which makes coming to the Roundtable Luncheon even easier!**

Membership

Betsy Eubanks, Chair

My goal as Membership Chair of MVD is to make it easier for Units to recruit Scouts so we get more Scouts. Towards that goal, the Spring Theme of “Ask-a-Friend” events was pushed out. If you have not looked at the resources, please do! Not only are there resources for you, but we also have a District Jump Time Recruiting Event. Here are some direct links, but all of this (and more) is on Montana Council Website:

- [Powerhouse Recruiting: Ask-a-Friend Events Article](#)
- [May 8 Jump Time “Jump into Scouting” Night](#)
- [Ask-a-Friend Meeting Video](#)
- [Be Prepared Pack Meeting in a Box Video \(full resources under Screen Boosted Scouting\)](#)
- [“2 is 1, 1 is None” Unit Activity for Troops & Crews Video](#)

The reflection part of this article is that maybe these resources are not all that useful. So far, units are

Mountain Valley District May 2026 Newsletter

not using them. If you can email me with any insight into what would be helpful to you, I would appreciate it. My only conclusion so far is that Units are happy with their recruiting activities and don't need District help. Please email me!

Eubanks.betsy@gmail.com.

Order of the Arrow

Andrew Liebmann, Chapter Advisor

-  **OA volunteers to participate in the Call-Out ceremony at Spring Camporee on May 16 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.



Advancement

Mike O'Donnell, Chair

-  MVD is experiencing a flurry of Eagle Boards of Review this spring. Hooray! We like to send a District Representative to every Eagle Court of Honor. We do our best to keep track of all of our Eagles and when their ceremonies are scheduled, but we worry that with the high volume, some might slip through the cracks! If you just had a Scout reach Eagle in your unit, please send details of their Court of Honor to Mike at mpotlo@gmail.com.



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 May 2!** [Register here.](#)



Older Scout Activities

Jason Daughenbaugh, Chair

-  **The Prospectors of Sage Hollow Spring Camporee is May 15 - 17!** Stake your claim and strike it rich at the Sage Hollow Prospectors Camporee, where Mining Outfits will navigate the historic Bozeman Trail, master frontier skills at "the diggings," and compete to haul away the mother lode! We have a GREAT [new location](#) off Trail Creek Road. Registration is OPEN [here](#).
-  **Do you have a Scout looking for an Eagle project?** Farm to School of Park County in Livingston is looking to add a 3-bin compost system to their garden that functions as an educational space and grows thousands of pounds of food for the local school system and community resource center. Reach out to Averie at averie@f2spsc.org, (406) 219-8586.

Training Update

Greg Ellsworth, Chair

-  **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! (requires staying overnight!)
-  **BALOO training will be offered at Spring Camporee, 5/15-5/17.** All Cubmasters, Assistant Cubmasters, and other leaders with direct contact with Scouts need this training! (requires staying overnight!)
- Please contact Greg at greg.ellsworth.63@gmail.com or 406-600-3895 to let him know if you plan to attend either training.

Stay Connected

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