

Mountain Valley District August 2026 Newsletter

District Calendar

8/6	Cub Scout Kick-Off , 6:30 pm, Zoom
8/7-8/9	OA Section Induction Experience , K-M
8/12	OA Lodge Call , 7:30 pm, Zoom
8/13	Tech Training , 6 pm, Teams
8/20	Scouts BSA Kick-Off , 7:30 pm, Zoom
8/21-8/23	OA Ordeal , Melita Island
8/22	MT Council Commissioner Summit , Zoom
9/9	OA Lodge Call , 7:30 pm, Zoom
9/11-9/12	IOLS and BALOO training, Helena
9/13	Cub Scout Scavenger Hunt Hike , 1 pm, Hyalite Canyon
9/17	MVD Committee Meeting , 6:30 pm, Zoom
9/18-9/19	IOLS and BALOO training , Melita Island
8/29	Rotary Ride to support HRDC youth programs
10/2-10/3	IOLS and BALOO training , Billings
10/2-10/4	MVD Fall Camporee with IOLS training

Safety Moment

We all know everyone was disappointed when Pie in the Face was banned from Scouting. Well guess what, it's back, with [new guidelines](#) in the Guide to Safe Scouting. Follow these rules to pie safely:

- Supervision: Trustworthy adults must supervise and set the example for safety.
- Assessment: Activities are assessed for risk during planning and guidelines have been consulted.
- Fitness and Skill: Make sure everyone is physically qualified to participate.
- Equipment and environment: Make sure you have what you need to pie a face safely, like a first aid kit or ways to rinse out eyes if needed.

Announcements & Thanks

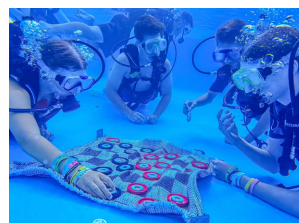
- **Scout Shop hours** (1902 W. Dickerson Ste 104):
 - **Monday/Wednesday:** 12:30 pm - 5:30 pm until 9/13, then variable or closed until 10/24

- **Tuesday/Thursday:** 9 am - 2 pm
- **Friday:** closed

- **Unit popcorn kits** are available for pickup in the Scout Shop during store hours.
- **The Rotary Ride to support HRDC** youth programs is Saturday, August 29. Scouts are invited to participate or volunteer. Sign up [here](#).
- **Please welcome Montana Council's new registrar, Allie Wilson.** Allie is originally from the deserts of Arizona, she is now living her childhood dream in the mountains of Montana. As an avid outdoorswoman and hunter, she has a deep appreciation for conservation, wildlife, and the lessons that nature teaches. Her passion for Scouting America comes from a desire to help young people build confidence, leadership, resilience, and a lifelong love of the outdoors. She is honored to serve the council and support the next generation of Scouts as they develop the skills and character to succeed in life. She can be reached at registrar@scoutingmontana.org
- **Scouting America now offers a registration fee waiver for military families.** See [here](#) for more information.
- Join Scouting America for an update on the change to the technology tools available to Scouters in Scouting America via an online Teams meeting on 8/13 at 6 pm. Click [here](#) to join.
- **Unit leaders, remember there are "in a box" meetings you can check out from the Scout Shop to use as a recruiting event or just for fun.** These are fantastic resources that require little to no effort on your part! See [here](#), then scroll down to "in-a-box recruiting".
- **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

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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.



Unit Spotlight

Montana Contingent, National Jamboree

National Jamboree was a hit. Here's a report from Keith Nathan, who attended the epic event: "The National Scout Jamboree is being held at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia from July 22-31. Over 12,000 Scouts and Scouters from across the USA are in attendance, including 14 Scouts (3 from MVD) and 2 leaders from Montana Council. The Montana contingent toured Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. before arriving and setting up camp at the Summit. I had the pleasure of escorting the entire Montana group around the 10,600 acres of the Summit on July 27. They enjoyed the archery and shotgun activities followed by a stop for a milkshake at the new Lily's Sweet Shop. Too many activities at the Jamboree to list, but here are some photos of Scouts enjoying themselves. "



Membership

Betsy Eubanks, Chair

Fall is RECRUITING Time!

Exciting things are happening in Scouting America! According to the National Kick-off Webinar, searches for people looking to find out more about Scouting are up 28% from last year. While some of this is successful marketing efforts paying off by Scouting America, I have no doubt it is also because parents are finding out that children need outdoor, character, leadership, real-people activities and Scouting is just the thing.

Your unit can do their part to help recruit, but this is time sensitive. Fall recruitment planning is now. We have two Kick-off events to get your unit jumpstarted for recruiting, and it is paramount that you have as many people as possible from your unit attend. This means Unit Leaders, Committee Chairs, and parents. Emails have gone out to leaders about these meetings. All the information is on the MVD Calendar, but here are quick links:

- **Cub Scout Kickoff Event**
 - August 4, 6:30 pm
 - [Here are the details](#) including the ZOOM link
- **Scouts BSA Kickoff Event**
 - August 20, 7:30 pm
 - [Here are the details](#) including the ZOOM link

Please reach out to me or Renee if you have questions or need assistance!

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Order of the Arrow

Andrew Liebmann, Chapter Advisor

- 🏹 Please remind your units of the OA Ordeal at Melita Island on 8/21 - 8/23! See [here](#) to register.

Advancement

Mike O'Donnell, Chair

- Did you know there are [two new merit badges](#) for Scouts BSA? These include Wildland Fire Management and Competitive Video Gaming. In addition to these, our local Scout Shop has all 142 merit badges in stock.
- 🦅 **Eagle Scouts:** Montana Council is looking for information about your Eagle project to feature on their website. Please consider submitting your information [here](#).

Cub Scout Activities

Team Update

- 🦋 Join us for a Cub Scout Scavenger Hunt Hike up Hyalite Canyon on Sunday, 9/13, from 1 - 4 pm. This is a great opportunity for Cubs to get outside with their families, and is a great time to bring a friend. See [here](#) to register.

Older Scout Activities

Jason Daughenbaugh, Chair

- 🍷 **Fall Camporee is October 2 - 4**, and will include fishing and more in the Ruby River Valley. Details are coming soon!
- Other Camporee Tentative dates:
 - **Winter:** February 26-28, 2027
 - **Spring:** May 14-16, 2027
 - Let us know ASAP if you know of issues with these dates as they will be finalized soon!

Training Update

Greg Ellsworth, Chair

- 👁️ **iOLS training will be offered at Fall Camporee, 10/2 - 10/4.** All Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters, 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](#)