

Susquehanna District Newsletter

January 2026

Volume 2, Issue 1

Message from District Key 3 and Third Quarter Review

The purpose of this quarterly newsletter is to provide Scouts, leaders and parents easy access to the various events and an opportunity to highlight the great work and service our Scouts are doing within the District.



We are at an exciting time within our District and Council. Thanks to all of the units for doing an AMAZING job with Fall Recruitment and holding (and promoting) your unit open houses. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the Klondike and Camp Mack Open House, they will be great times!

The district committee members are always seeking feedback and would appreciate your input. Please reach out to any of the key three with your comments for improvement. The [Council Calendar](#), [District Webpage](#) and [Facebook](#) page are constantly being updated with activity, training and roundtable information.

2025 Year in Review and Highlights

- 45 District Scouts achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.
- Countless hours of community service given by scouts in the District.
- Close to 200 scouts and scouters attended the 2025 Klondike.
- Close to 80 scouts and friends attended the 2025 Camp Mack Open House.
- Over 500 people attended the October Cub O Rama at Camp Mack.
- Collected thousands pounds of food through the Scouting for Food Project.
- Positive membership growth for the District.
- District units piloting the co-ed troop program.

District Commissioner Update

The District Commissioner staff works to ensure that all units are successful and have all available resources to thrive. Commissioners provide support and information to unit leaders so they can deliver a high-quality program that attracts and retains youth and adults. Whether working with a pack, troop, crew, ship, club or post, commissioners are key to ensuring units have the necessary resources to provide a quality program for their youth.

See the [Commissioner Page](#) on the Council Website for resources and opportunities for training, **specifically the Commissioners College on March 7.**



Special Interest:

Roundtables are the first Thursday of each month.

Quick Calendar:

- Jan 30 – Feb 1 – Klondike
- Feb 13 – Trivia Night
- Feb 28 – Merit Badge College
- Apr 11 – Mack Open House
- Apr 11 – District Pinewood

Key District Contacts:

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Upcoming District Activities

The [District Activity Page](#) details all of the upcoming activities, including dates, locations, leader guides and registration.

- Susquehanna District Klondike Derby – January 30 – February 1 at Camp Mack. See flyer on page 6. [Leaders Guide](#) is available and units can register through [Tentaroo](#).
- Trivia Night at the Millersville VFW on February 13, featuring Kel Lee Entertainment. See flyer on page 7.
- 2026 Merit Badge College at St James Catholic Church in Lititz on February 28. Registration is now open and additional information can be found [HERE](#).
- Camp Mack Open House on April 11.
- Susquehanna District Pinewood Derby on April 11 at Camp Mack. Additional information will be available soon and posted on the [District Activity Page](#).
- Information on the District Recognition Dinner (June 2026) will be available soon and posted on the [District Activity Page](#).

Upcoming Training Courses

The District and Council Training Committees are constantly adding new training courses to the [Council Training Page](#) for both youth and adults. A few highlights are listed below:

- **National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)** will be held in Summer 2026 and is designed to train youth leaders of a unit with leadership skills they will be able to apply in Scouting and throughout the rest of their life.

Membership Resources

The [Membership Recruitment Resource](#) page on the council website has a variety of resources that can be used with your unit recruitment including the Scouting America Brand Center, School District Flyers, Social Media Resources and Recruitment Material including card templates to be used for various holidays.

Advancement Update

- Families and units – please share your Eagle Scout and unit service news with the District so that we can highlight the great work done by the Scouts in the Susquehanna District. Send the info to Chet Bowen.
- Landis Valley has a few opportunities for Scouts and units looking for service hours or Eagle projects. Reach out to Chet Bowen, bowen17@hotmail.com, for additional information.
- Changes have been made to the Eagle Scout Application. See information [here](#).

Order of the Arrow Update

The Lodge's family banquet will be held on Saturday, March 28 at the Donegal Presbyterian Church starting at 3 PM. The deadline to register is March 13, 2026. Register at www.padutchbsa.org/programs/order-of-the-arrow

OA dues for 2026 should have been paid by November 30, 2025. You can pay your dues on-line at www.padutchbsa.org/programs/order-of-the-arrow

Trivia Night on February 13

Join us for our Third Annual Trivia Night at the Millersville VFW on February 13, with trivia by Kel Lee Entertainment. Doors open 6 PM, with trivia from 6:30 – 8:00 PM. Play solo, bring a team or join a team at the event. You do not need to be a scout to attend, however the event is for 21+. Cost is \$10 per person to cover the cost of the room and trivia. Event night is bring your own food and there will be a cash bar.

For additional information see the flyer on page 7.



Summit for Leaders of Troops with Female Scouts

After going through the Pilot program for combining boy and girl troops, National decided to enable a third option of family troop. Several current boy troops are looking at becoming a family troop. The pilot troops are in the process of changing their designation to family. The Council decided to have an event to facilitate these decisions and talk about best practices. The date for this Summit is February 21, 2026 at Mack Training Center from 9-4. Registration is on Tentaroo. There is no cost. Continental snacks and lunch are provided at no cost.

The agenda is fluid but will contain some, if not all, of the following topics. What I wished I had known before I had a pilot troop is one topic. How to recruit female scouts and female scouters who are willing to camp is an important topic as both the pilot troops and girl troops have had this problem. Boys vs. girls as distinct from boys with girls is another topic for this summit.

The target population for this summit are leaders from the pilot troops, leaders of girl troops, and new family troop leaders. Both female and male scouters are encouraged to come. This event is for scouters in PA Dutch Council from both Susquehanna and Iron Forge districts.

Roundtable Resources

Roundtables provide unit leaders with the skill to do and the will to do what is needed to ensure that every member of every unit has a great Scouting experience. Roundtables build upon the foundation provided by position-specific basic training and each leader's commitment to serving youth through Scouting. Our district is blessed to have a dedicated and creative Roundtable Staff. Everything that is modelled at Roundtable can be used at the unit level. If you are unable to attend in person, you can watch on Facebook Live.

Susquehanna District Roundtable is held the first Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church of Strasburg located at 101 S Decatur St, Strasburg. Upcoming Roundtable topics and links to past Roundtables can be found at the [Roundtable Link](#) on the District Website.

Upcoming Topics Include

Date	Safety Moment	Hot Topic	Scouts BSA Breakout	Cub Scout Breakout
January 8	Depression	Youth protection, general safety and incident reporting	Favorite troop activities	Conducting safety moments in the pack
February 5	Winter activity safety	Planning for successful events	Youth safety leadership position	AOL to troop transition
March 5	Homesickness	Unit fundraising	Anxious parents and camping	Getting Cubs to camp
April 2	Campfire behavior	Policy update and forum on pilot experience of co-ed scouting	Small unit dynamics/ILST in a box	To be determined

Friends of Scouting

Investing in the **physical, mental, and moral development** of today's youth isn't just about supporting them – it's about shaping the future of our community. Thanks to Scouters like you, **1,086 Scouts** in the Susquehanna District received support last year, making a real difference in their lives.

Join us in building an even brighter future – one Scout at a time. All donations stay local and are greatly appreciated – every dollar truly helps! Your gift will allow us to empower young boys and girls in positive and meaningful ways that last a lifetime.

We ask if you would consider making a donation this year to our Friends of Scouting campaign. Thank you if you have already made a contribution! Click [here](#) to make a pledge or contribution online.

Commissioner Unit Award of Excellence

The Commissioners within the PA Dutch Council have put together a program to recognize units for their efforts. To be awarded the Commissioners Unit Award of Excellence, a unit must meet minimum standards in 6 of the 9 areas below. The evaluation period will run from January 1 through November 30th and data will be drawn from the Unit Connections area in My.Scouting.org. For additional information click [HERE](#).

- KEY LEADERS TRAINED: Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Crew Advisor and Committee Chair
- SIZE: Pack-20, Troop-12, Crew-7.
- GROWTH: Positive growth or super unit status
- ADVANCEMENT: 30% Rank advancement (crew leadership trained)
- OUTDOOR ACTIVITY: One pack outdoor activity, one troop long term camp or one crew tier 3 activity
- ROUNDTABLE ATTENDANCE: Unit participates in 6 out of 9 Roundtables (live streaming counts)
- RETENTION: At least 62%.
- SAFEGUARDING YOUTH TRAINING: 100% of adult leaders trained and certified, including the Chartered Organizational Representative
- SERVICE PROJECT: One documented unit service project in a calendar year.

Susquehanna District Committee Looking for Volunteers

We all know that volunteering within a Pack or Troop in Scouting America can be an amazing experience. Getting to see the youth of the organization grow in independence, scouting skills and leadership is why many of us continue to volunteer. Scouting is definitely more than an hour per week of your time, but it is the volunteers that develop and help to deliver the program to the youth. Just like in the units, the District Committee has opening for volunteers interested in working at fundraising, product sales, unit growth and activities. Currently we are looking for volunteers to fill the positions on Finance, Fall Popcorn Sale, Spring Product Sale, Membership, Activities and Social Media.

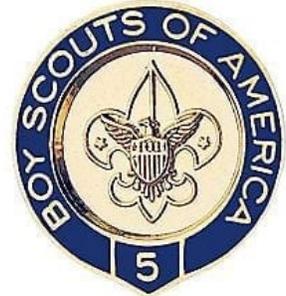


The District Committee meets once per month (last Thursday of each month). If you would like additional information on the Committee or any of the positions listed above, please reach out to Chet Bowen, bowen17@hotmail.com.

District Nominations and Awards

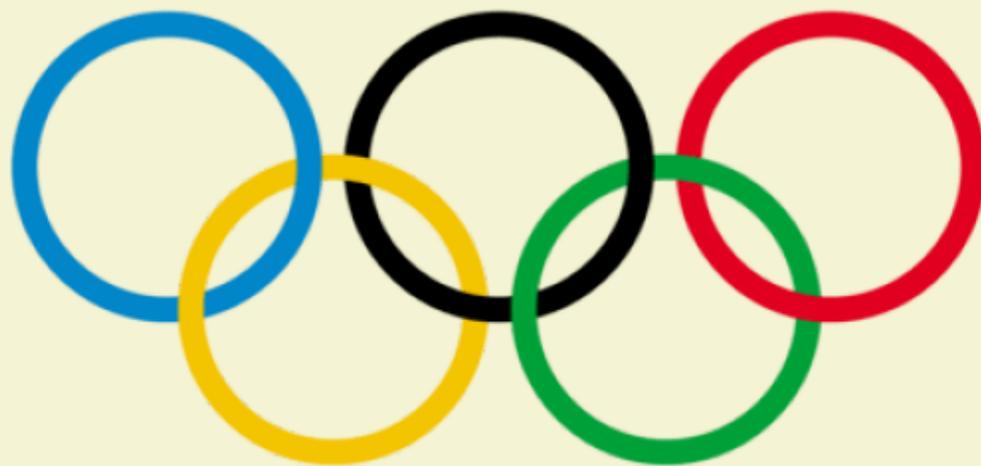
Every year around June we celebrate the achievements of our Scouts and Leaders at our District Dinner. We are still finalizing a date and location, but it is not too early to start to think about nominating your unit leaders for the following awards. Details will be shared shortly on the nomination process and timelines to submit.

- **District Award of Merit** –The District Award of Merit is a great way to recognize those Scouters that go above and beyond in their service to others, and the Scouting movement locally. It is the highest honor the District can bestow on one of its members. [Click here for the District Award of Merit Nomination.](#)
- **Scoutmaster of the Year** – if your Scoutmaster is doing an amazing job with your unit, consider nominating them for the District’s Scoutmaster of the Year Award. Nomination forms will be available soon.
- **Cubmaster of the Year** - if your Cubmaster is doing an amazing job with your unit, consider nominating them for the District’s Cubmaster of the Year Award. Nomination forms will be available soon.
- **Committee Member of the Year** - if one of your Committee Members is doing an great job with your unit, consider nominating them for the District’s Committee Member of the Year Award. Nomination forms will be available soon.
- **Spark Plug Awards** - Every unit has a person that provides the “spark” that keeps the Scouting program on track, whether or not they are serving in a registered position. The adult leadership of your unit may nominate one person each year to be recognized at the at the District Recognition Dinner by presenting them the Spark Plug Award. [Click here for Spark Plug Award Application.](#)
- **Scouter Training Award** - Available for registered leaders in any program. Tenure, training, and performance requirements are indicated on each application. [Click here for Scouting Training Award application.](#)
- **Veteran Service Award** - Presented for 5 years of service as a registered volunteer, and for each subsequent 5 years. [Click here for Veteran Service Award Application.](#) You may apply for this award for yourself.



SUSQUEHANNA DISTRICT

2026 KLONDIKE DERBY



**START PREPARING FOR THE
OLYMPIC THEMED KLONDIKE**

**LEADER GUIDE AVAILABLE BY NOVEMBER 1
AT QR CODE BELOW**

**JAN 30 - FEB 1
2026** |



The Pennsylvania Dutch Council Invites you to

Trivia Night



Bring your Valentine

FEBRUARY 13 FROM 6-8:30 PM

TRIVIA FROM 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Millersville VFW
219 Walnut Hill Rd
Millersville PA 17551

Cost is \$10 per person to cover cost of trivia (pay at door with cash or check). Event is bring your own food (from home or your favorite restaurant). Drinks available for purchase from VFW bar (cash bar).

Event is only for 21+
PLAY SOLO OR FORM A TEAM WITH FRIENDS OR YOUR UNIT
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY - DO NOT NEED TO BE A SCOUT TO
ATTEND

More information- Chet Bowen, bowen17@hotmail.com