

## MIDNIGHT SUN COUNCIL - January 2026 NEWS!



As a United Way agency members of the Midnight Sun Council have various resources at their disposal to help with food, shelter, and other needs. Here is the United Way's website: <https://unitedwaytv.com/>

[To see more upcoming events and activities, please visit our website](#)

### Midnight Sun Council News 16 January, 2026



### IMPORTANT DATES

See what's happening!  
([click here for complete calendar](#))

#### January 2026

Jan 17 - TV District Annual Meeting @ noon  
Jan 19 - Council Office and Scout Shop CLOSED in observance of MLK Jr. Day  
Jan 20 - Eagle Books due  
Jan 21 - Bush District Roundtable @ 6:15 pm  
Jan 21 - Bush District Meeting @ 6:45 pm  
Jan 27 - Eagle Board (by appointment only)

#### February 2026

Feb 5 - TV District Roundtable @ 6:30 pm  
Feb 7 - Annual Meeting @ 4:00 pm  
Feb 7 - Annual Dinner @ 6:00 pm  
Feb 16 - Council Office and Scout Shop CLOSED in observance of Presidents' Day  
Feb 17 - Eagle Books due  
Feb 18 - Bush District Roundtable @ 6:15 pm  
Feb 18 - Bush District Meeting @ 6:45 pm  
Feb 24 - Eagle Board (by appointment only)  
Feb 26 - TVD Commissioner @ 6:00 pm

### OUR NEWEST CSP HAS ARRIVED!!!



Caribou live in arctic and mountain tundra, and northern forests of North America, Russia and Scandinavia. Alaskan Caribou are distributed among 31 herds. Each herd has a separate calving area, but the different herds may mix together during the winter.

The average size of an adult bull is between 350 – 400 pounds while the average size for the female adults is between 175 – 225 pounds. The largest of the bulls will shed their antlers in late October while small bulls and non-pregnant cows will not shed theirs until late April. The pregnant cows will usually retain their antlers until the calves are born in either late May or early June.

### March 2026

Mar 5 - TV District Roundtable @ 6:30 pm  
Mar 7 - Klondike Derby  
Mar 18 - Bush District Roundtable @ 6:15 pm  
Mar 18 - Bush District Meeting @ 6:45 pm  
Mar 20-22 - wOAdstOak  
Mar 24 - Eagle Books due  
Mar 26 - TVD Commissioner @ 5:00 pm  
Mar 26 - TVD Committee meeting @ 5:00 pm  
Mar 28 - Kids Fishing Derby  
Mar 31 - Eagle Board (by appointment only)

## 2026 Eagle Scout and Volunteer Recognition Annual Dinner



The Midnight Sun Council has a proud tradition of bringing the best possible Scouting experience to the youth of our community.

In 2025, we served young people in the interior of Alaska with programs that build character, personal fitness, and citizenship. Each year the Midnight Sun Council recognizes the unselfish, grass-roots service of its volunteers at an annual dinner in their honor. In 2025, **9 scouts** have earned the coveted Eagle Scout rank, producing **1378 service hours** while demonstrating leadership skills.

The District Award of Merit award recognizes the selfless devotion to the Scouting program that our volunteers display. This is the highest award a District can bestow on a volunteer. While there are many deserving individuals, we

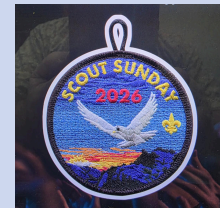
The caribou is also the totem of the Midnight Sun Council's Order of the Arrow Lodge (Toontuk -meaning barren ground caribou, from the Native Athabascan Language of Interior Alaska).

**Our newest Caribou CSP is now available for sale in the Scout Shop. The cost is \$7.50.**

Please visit or call the Council Office at 907-452-1976 to purchase.

**Yes, we can ship them.**

## Scout Sunday, Scout Sabbath and Scout Jumuah



Each year on **Feb. 8**, Scouting America celebrates its birthday. It's a date officially known as Scouting Anniversary Day, and it's the primary date to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting.

### **REMINDER!**

**If your unit wants Scout Sunday patches, please notify Linda at the Scout Shop so that she can order them. We will not be stocking them! Prepayment is required!**

It's also around this time when packs, troops, crews and ships can annually honor a Scout's "Duty to God," as Scouting America designates the Sunday that falls before February 8 as Scout Sunday. For 2026, the Scout Sunday is February 8th. Scout Sabbath and Scout Jumuah fall on the Friday before Scout Sunday. **That would be February 6th in 2026.**

Through a trio of faith-based celebrations known as Scout Sunday, Scout Sabbath and Scout Jumuah, young people in Scouting can give back to their religious communities. The exact dates may vary, but each one is an opportunity for Scouts to publicly demonstrate the 12th point of the Scout Law: A Scout is Reverent. It can be particularly meaningful when the Scout unit itself is chartered by a religious organization, and the Scouts and leaders of the unit use the occasion to recognize that support.

can only award a limited amount each year, based on the number of units we have, the honorees are chosen from the applications submitted from other volunteers who recognize their nominations as well deserving of the award.

Similarly, the Silver Beaver is the highest award that the Council can bestow on a volunteer. The honorees are chosen by fellow Silver Beaver recipients, after reviewing the applications that are turned in.

The Midnight Sun Council's Annual Meeting and Recognition Dinner are scheduled for **February 7, 2026**.

[Click here to view/download information and registration form](#)



### **The Eagle Class of 2025 will be recognized at the Annual Dinner on February 7th.**

An invitation to this Eagle Class will be sent out this week. If you are part of the 2025 Eagle class, please email Tasmine the following information by February 2nd:

- Information on your Eagle Scout project including total hours and any major donors.
- If you have already had your ceremony, please let us know who you gave your mentor pin to.

Email this information to [tasmine.bennett@scouting.org](mailto:tasmine.bennett@scouting.org) and remember copy a parent and Scoutmaster on the email.

## **2026 Fishing Derby!!**

What does that look like? It might mean an act as simple as wearing the full field uniform to worship services. It might mean participating in services by doing a reading, singing a song, or presenting religious emblems and awards to Scouts and Scouters. Or it might be something as grand as a service project to benefit a religious organization in the community.

## **World Scout Jamboree Registration is Open!**



The World Scout Jamboree is one of the most significant events in the global Scouting movement, bringing together thousands of young people from around the world to celebrate unity, adventure, and cultural exchange. The next one is July 30 - August 8, 2027, in Poland, and registration is now open for the USA Contingent! Want to learn more before you register? Check out the website: <https://wsj2027.us/>

Ready to sign up? Register now: [World Scout Jamboree Registration!](#)

Youth participants must be 14 - 17 during the time of the event. IST, or the International Service Team, is looking for anyone over 18 who wants to attend and help as staff or leadership for the programs at the World Scout Jamboree. If you're interested in being a unit leader or member of the Contingent Management Team, fill out [this interest form](#), but if you know you still want to go as an IST if you aren't chosen, then fill out your registration form now!

The cost will be \$6,000+ for unit leaders and participants (including travel) and approximately \$3,000 for IST and CMT (excluding travel), but the first deposit is due January 2026, so sign up now and start saving!

[World Scout Jamboree Registration](#)

## **Midnight Sun Council Alumni Committee**

## Kids Fishing Derby!

### At Lost Lake Scout Camp

- When – March 26<sup>th</sup> lines wet at 8:00am (late arrivals welcome) Weigh in 3pm – 4pm awards
- Who – open to everyone! Derby entry fee is \$25  
(17yo and under fee paid for by Rod's Alaskan Guide Service)
- Prizes for: Kids (17yo and under) 1st Place (Length of 5 fish) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (Length of 5 fish) and Biggest Fish (by Length) and 18yo and over same three categories
- Lunch option on site for a donation
- Call or email CJ at Clinton.Stewart@Scouting.Org or (907) 452-1976 to enter  
(18yo and over are required to have Alaska State fishing license)

SCAN TO ENTER!



Thank you to these organizations for their volunteers or Sponsorship!

[Click here or on image do view/download flyer](#)

click following link to register:

<https://pci.jotform.com/form/250066748881062>

## 2025 Midnight Sun Council SALES CAMPAIGN (Discount Cards)

**The Discount Card Sales Campaign still has cards that need to be sold!**

There are over 200 cards still not checked out at the Council Office as well as over 200 cards unsold yet held by various Units. These cards are good through September 2026! Come in, sign out the cards and help fund your Scouting Adventure!



The Midnight Sun Council (MSC) has established an executive board level Alumni Committee that directs Alumni actions within the council.

Affiliate groups fall under the umbrella of the Alumni Committee.

Current MSC affiliates include:

National Eagle Scout Association Chapter, Order of the Arrow Alliance, Lost Lake Camp Alumni and MSC Alumni Group.

Since we are a small council, the alumni committee is currently coordinating and organizing all affiliate activities.

The MSC National Eagle Scout Association Chapter presented the first Eagle Scout Project of the Year at the December Distinguished Citizen banquet. Nes Van Dyke from Troop 20 was the 2025 winner. An original oil painting depicting an Eagle and \$250 dollar scholarship was presented.

Midnight Sun Scouting Alumni has established a Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61584124181824>

If you would like to stay in touch with the council newsletter and group activities postings, there is a SIGN-UP button on the page.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61584124181824>

If you have questions, the committee has established an email contact:

[midnight.sun.scouting.alumni@gmail.com](mailto:midnight.sun.scouting.alumni@gmail.com)

## 2026 Fund the Adventure Campaign Kick off!

This year our theme will celebrate great achievements along with the 250 th year for the United States! This year's we will celebrate historic milestones through our nation's history. Everyone's campaign will begin during the Revolutionary War time frame. As your "Time Traveling team or Unit" secures donations then your team will unlock year specific details and milestones for your measure. Milestone information that may or may not be depicted on this year's special "FUND THE ADVENTURE" patch bordered in Red White and Blue!



The Board Campaign kick off will be February 7th at the annual meeting. Unit campaign officially kicks off February 7 th as well. However, Units are already scheduling FOS presentations beginning in February. If you want to schedule a meeting let us know at round table or contact CJ or Tasmine to schedule a presentation.

[Clinton.Stewart@Scouting.Org](mailto:Clinton.Stewart@Scouting.Org) or  
[Tasmine.Bennett@Scouting.Org](mailto:Tasmine.Bennett@Scouting.Org)

CLICK ON IMAGES OR LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION

### FROM THE REGISTRAR

Unit recharter time has started. If you have not already received the paperwork for your unit, please stop by the Council office and pickup your unit's packet. As a reminder, even if you do your unit's recharter online and either pay at the Council or online the charter paperwork your unit received must be turned into the Council office. Thank you.

Anyone that has dropped from lapse (S/R) and is reregistering should do it manually through the council!

That is the only way to maintain one member ID number and history. If they register through OLR or through BeAScout, the system is going to treat them like a new member and assign them a new member ID number and new profile.

### SCOUT SHOP NEWS



*The new OA Lodge Flap has arrived.  
The cost is \$10.*

*Please visit or call the Council Office  
at 907-452-1976 to purchase.  
Yes, we can ship them.*

Effective Monday January 12, Scouting America will officially update the "Indian Lore" Merit Badge to "American Indian Culture".



This update reflects a long-standing effort to ensure greater respect, accuracy, and

For any questions, contact Linda at the Scout Office.

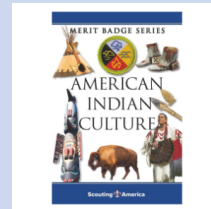
---

**Ship 907** is working on the requirements for the Apprentice rank and on the small boat handler's award.

If interested in joining the Ship, their next meeting will be February 9th at the Council office starting at 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

---

authentic engagement with Native American histories and cultures.



### What's Changing:

The below changes were developed in consultation with Native American communities and advocates, with the goal of improving educational value while moving away from outdated practices, stereotypes, and cultural misappropriation.

**New Name:** The badge has been renamed American Indian Culture to better reflect specific tribal identities rather than a generalized term.

**More Authentic Learning:** Updated requirements focus on distinct cultural areas, individual tribes, tribal governments, languages, and contemporary Native American life.

**Updated Pamphlet Content:** The new pamphlet highlights unique tribal cultures, traditional practices, and where tribes live today, providing a more respectful and informative experience. It also aligns with Scouting America's broader commitment to inclusivity and cultural awareness.

Please note that while the merit badge name has changed, the curriculum and requirements included in the merit badge pamphlet **remains unchanged** and continues to offer valuable information for Scouts.

This updated name adds new layers of authenticity and respect. This is Scouting America's commitment in action: to create learning experiences that respect and celebrate this heritage.

**The renamed American Indian Culture (previously Indian Lore) Merit Badge is available now in the Scout Shop.**



## Calling all Arrowman of Toontuk Lodge!!

On Saturday, January 10, Toontuk Lodge held their Winter Banquet. It was held at the Elk's Lodge.

The guest speaker was Michael O'Brien. Mr. O'Brien is an attorney who earned his Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor. He gave a talk at the dinner on "What service means to me?" Thank you, Mr. O'Brien.

The Winter Banquet is a time to recognize our members for their service, our new Vigil, new Brotherhood and new Ordeal members. Our new Lodge officers are sworn in at this event, also.

**New Officers:**

Lincoln Miller – Lodge Chief

Sam Lentz – Vice Chief

Nes Van Dyke – Secretary

Oskar Cooper - Treasurer

**Vigil Honor:**

Lincoln Miller and Matt Cooper

**Arrowman of the Year:**

Nes Van Dyke and Dave Minto

**Founder's Award:**

Trevor Gilman and Matt Cooper

Toontuk's next lodge meeting will be February 12th at 7 p.m. at the Midnight Sun Council office.





## Scouting America Introduces Safeguarding Youth Parents' Guide Video

As Scouting America continues to invest in prevention efforts, we have recently introduced [this Parents' Guide video](#), which will also be sent directly to the parents of new members.

With this new asset, we aim to share key aspects of our Safeguarding approach with new parents while encouraging them to take the full [Safeguarding Youth Training](#) and join the journey with their child.

This video doesn't replace the written Parent Guides but instead acknowledges that people absorb information in different formats. Please watch it, share it with your parents and volunteers, and encourage them to share it with their own networks.

Watch the video here: [Scouting America Safeguarding Youth Training - Parents Video](#)

---

**Reminder:** *The Midnight Sun Council requires all registered adults to complete their safeguarding youth training on an annual basis.*

## Scouting America Launches Enhanced Safeguarding Youth Training

Scouting America has unveiled a new comprehensive Safeguarding Youth Training (SYT) program, reinforcing its unwavering commitment to creating the safest possible environment for young people. This updated training represents a significant step forward in Scouting America's multi-layered approach to youth protection.

The new training is mandatory for all registered adult volunteers and has been developed with insights from leading experts in child safety, law enforcement, and child psychology. It incorporates the latest strategies for recognizing, responding to, and preventing various forms of abuse, including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse.

After the new Safeguarding Youth Training is taken, National requires a yearly refresher course.

### **Key Features of the Updated Training:**

**Comprehensive Focus:** Our new Safeguarding Youth Training (formerly Youth Protection Training) program reflects the more comprehensive nature of the training and its focus on safeguarding youth from all threats.

**Inclusive Content:** The training covers a wide range of topics, ensuring volunteers are well-informed about potential risks and best practices for youth protection.

**Annual Refresher Courses:** Recognizing the ongoing need for education and awareness, Scouting America will now require annual refresher courses, estimated to take 15-20 minutes, to keep youth protection knowledge current.

**Alignment with Best Practices:** Scouting America regularly consults with experts to ensure its policies and training reflect the most up-to-date knowledge and prevention techniques in the field of youth safety.

**Focus on Prevention:** The training emphasizes proactive measures to prevent abuse and create a culture of safety within Scouting.

**For the Midnight Sun Council, your existing Youth Protection Training remains valid until May 31, 2026, at which point the new Safeguarding Youth Training will be required.**

Scouting America's proactive approach to youth safety underscores its dedication to providing a secure and enriching environment where young people can learn, grow, and thrive. The launch of this enhanced Safeguarding Youth Training demonstrates a continuous effort to adapt and improve safety measures, ensuring the well-being of all Scouts remains the top priority.

---

## Join Our Northern Lights High Adventure Staff for 2026!

Are you over 18, passionate about the outdoors, and eager for a summer filled with adventure? The Midnight Sun Council is excited to announce staffing opportunities for our Northern Lights High Adventure program! We're looking for dedicated individuals with experience in trekking, canoeing, and wilderness guiding. If you hold special certifications in these areas, we want to hear from you!

This is a rewarding opportunity to immerse yourself in the breathtaking Alaskan wilderness while guiding scouts through incredible outdoor experiences. However, we want to be upfront: this role will involve hard work, long days, and modest pay. You will be challenged both physically and mentally, but the fulfillment that comes from teaching and leading young adventurers is truly unparalleled.

Working with the Northern Lights High Adventure program means you'll be part of a supportive team, creating memories that last a lifetime—not just for the scouts, but for you as well. This is your chance to explore some of the most stunning landscapes Alaska has to offer while making a real impact on the lives of young people.

If you're ready to embrace the challenge and adventure of a lifetime, apply to be part of our Northern Lights High Adventure staff this summer!

To apply, please fill out the form below:

[High Adventure Staff application](#)

You can email your application to Stephen Smith at [stephen.smith@scouting.org](mailto:stephen.smith@scouting.org) or send it via mail to Midnight Sun Council, Attn: Stephen Smith, 1400 Gillam Way, Fairbanks, AK 99701

We look forward to your application and hope to see you this summer!

---

**NORTHERN LIGHTS HIGH ADVENTURE TREKS! CLICK HERE  
AND BOOK YOURS NOW!!**



## BOOK YOUR 2026 TREK NOW!

Our Alaska High Adventure website is currently undergoing some changes and updates. Therefore it might not open for you or just partly open up. We apologize for any inconvenience this might cause.

For questions please contact the Council office at 907-452-1976 or find us on Facebook [@NorthernLightsHighAdventureBase](#)

## CONGRATULATIONS to all our 2025 Eagle Scouts



### **Gabriel Tate**

*Troop 1001 B*  
**Rotary of Fairbanks**

### **Liam Danek Smurda**

**Noah Kai Lucas**  
**Wednesday Raven Van Dyke**  
*Troop 1020 Co-ed*  
**Goldstream Lions**

### **Armor Anderson**

**Will Mingus**  
**Peter Joseph Mondelli**  
**Edgar Nichols**  
*Troop 1138 B*  
**Tanana Lodge #3**

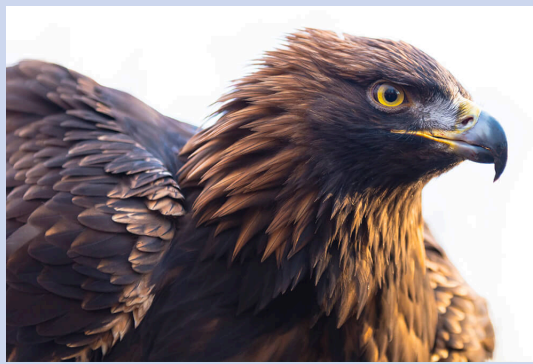
*Trail to Eagle workbook*

*Midnight Sun Council Eagle  
Scout Candidate Checklist*

### **Mary Burke**

*Troop 1138 G*  
**Tanana Lodge #3**

## THANK YOU! to our 2026 Golden Eagle Sponsors



Alaskan Outdoor Council

Rod's Alaskan Guide Service



Thank you iPLOW for plowing our office parking lot!

DONATE /  
SUPPORT

Pick.  
Click.  
Give.



Midnight Sun Council | (907) 452-1976 | 1400 Gillam Way, Fairbanks, AK 99701 |  
[www.midnightsunbsa.org](http://www.midnightsunbsa.org)

CONTACT US

Visit the Midnight Sun Council website for updates and more news and information!



Join our Newsletter

Midnight Sun Council | 1400 Gilliam Way | Fairbanks, AK 99701 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!