



Black Warrior Council, BSA Newsletter

January 2025

Important Dates & Events

January 1	Happy New Year! - OFFICE CLOSED
January 4	OA Indian Winter Work Day at Camp Horne
January 9	River District Committee Meeting, 5:30 River District Roundtable, 6:30 Mountain District Committee Meeting, 6:00 Mountain District Roundtable
January 10-12	OA Indian Winter
January 18-20	National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT), Weekend #1
January 20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
January 20	Inauguration Day
January 25	Merit Badge College - Shelton State Community College
Jan 31 - Feb 2	Leadership Development Weekend
February 2	Scout Sunday
Scout Week	Scout Week
February 9	River Cub Scout Roundtable, 1:00-2:15
February 13	River District Committee Meeting, 5:30 River District Roundtable, 6:30 Mountain District Committee Meeting, 6:00 Mountain District Roundtable
February 15-17	National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) Weekend #1
February 17	Presidents Day
February 21-23	OA Winter Fellowship
February 22	OA Annual Banquet
February 22	Cub Scouts Shooting Sports Day

Happy New Year!

As we close out 2024, we want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we've shared—and to express our deepest gratitude for your unwavering leadership and support.

Your dedication to the youth of Black Warrior Council has been instrumental in shaping the lives of countless Scouts. Whether through your time, skills, or financial contributions, you've empowered young people to develop confidence, resilience, and a commitment to service.

Thanks to you:

- Our Scouts provided over 25,000 community service hours.
- Over 957 merit badges were earned.
- We were one of only 20 councils nationwide that achieved their fundraising goal.
- We increased our membership by nearly 7%.

Your contributions extend far beyond the activities and programs; they plant the seeds for tomorrow's leaders. Together, we are helping Scouts build a brighter future for themselves and their communities.

As we look ahead to 2025, we are inspired by your commitment to this mission. Thank you for being an essential part of the Scouting family.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a new year filled with adventure, growth, and success.



Upcoming Events

OA Indian Winter Work Day OA Indian Winter

January will be a busy month for the Aracoma Lodge, Order of the Arrow. The weekend of January 10-12, the Section Indian Winter event will be held at Camp Horne, hosted by Aracoma Lodge. Visit the Aracoma [website](#) for more information. On Saturday, January 4th, a final work day will be held in preparation for this event. All Lodge members are encouraged to attend and help us assure that all is ready for Indian Winter!



National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) to be Offered January/February 2025

NYLT is essential training for developing a youth-led troop and a premier leadership program. We are pleased to announce that the Black Warrior Council will be offering this exceptional experience over two weekends (January 18-20 and February 15-17) Scouts BSA members (male and female) must be at least 13. They must have completed Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops and earned the First Class rank before attending NYLT.

Registration closes soon so act fast to get engaged!

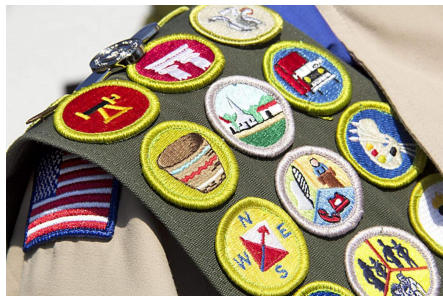


[Informational Flyer](#)

[Youth Online Application](#)

-OR-

[Youth Paper Application](#)



Merit Badge College

Saturday, January 25th

A great opportunity for Scouts to earn another merit badge as they progress toward the rank of Eagle is available at Merit Badge College. Registration is now open! This event will once again be held at Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa. The MB College will begin at 9:00 and end by 2:00 pm. Classes will be taught by adults experienced in the topic.

MB College



Leadership Development Weekend

January 31 - February 2

Leaders from across the Council are invited and encouraged to attend one of the four courses offered during the Leadership Development Weekend at Camp Horne.

- Wilderness First Aid
- BALOO
- Leave No Trace, Level 1
- IOLS

Ldrship Dev Weekend

Camp Horne Dining Hall to be Air Conditioned!

Thanks to a generous gift from the Pass Family and contributions from several others, we are thrilled to share an exciting update for Summer Camp 2025! **To make your camp experience even more enjoyable, we are adding air conditioning to our dining hall.**

Whether you're seeking a break from the summer heat or just looking forward to a more comfortable mealtime environment, our new cooling system will help ensure everyone stays refreshed and ready for adventure.

Here's what you can look forward to:

- Comfortable Mealtimes: Enjoy your meals in a cool, relaxing setting, no matter how high the temperatures climb outside.
- Enhanced Camp Experience: A cooler space to gather, connect, and recharge during your busy camp schedule.

We can't wait to welcome you to this upgraded facility next summer. Be sure to share this exciting news with your fellow Scouts and leaders as you prepare for an unforgettable camp experience. If you have any questions or would like to know more about what's in store for Summer Camp 2025, feel free to reach out to us. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to improve and innovate!



Scout Sunday

The Boy Scouts of America allows chartered organizations to celebrate Scout Sunday on any day in February that best serves the chartering partner. Some organizations choose the Sunday that falls before February 8 (Scouting Anniversary Day) as the date to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting. For others, Scout Sunday is celebrated on the second Sunday in February. It is permissible for a local church to celebrate on the day most acceptable to the pastor and congregation.



District News

River District (Tuscaloosa, Bibb, and Pickens Counties)

District Director: Roland Lewis [email](#)

- Our District Meeting will be held at the Leroy McAbee Scout Service Center on Thursday, November 14th beginning at 5:30. Our Scouts BSA Roundtable will follow at 6:30.
- There is an exciting district event coming soon. Be sure to plan to participate in the Cub-O-Ree to be held November 1-3rd.

Mountain District (Walker, Marion, Winston, Lamar, and Marion Counties)

District Executive: Darren Hix [email](#)

- Our District Meeting will be held in the Drummond Building on Thursday, November 14th beginning at 6:00. Our leaders' Roundtable will follow.
- A fall Mountain District Camporee will be held December 6-8 at Camp O'Rear!

Prairie District (Marengo, Hale, Greene, and Sumter Counties)
District Program Specialist: Greg Whitis [email](#)



Be Sure CURRENT Merit Badge Requirements are Being Used

As merit badge counselors work with Scouts, please be sure that the **current** merit badge requirements are being followed. Use this [link](#) to the BSA National webpage that always maintains the most current version.

To access requirement updates that will take effect January 1, 2025, click [here](#).



2026 National Jamboree

July 22-31, 2026 Summit Bechtel Reserve

Planning for a National Jamboree starts early and it is important our Council knows the interest from our Scouts and leaders. Every unit leader will be receiving an email soon to solicit feedback related to Jamboree. Please help us plan effectively by responding to this email (a brief survey will be attached).

Leaders are encouraged to make your unit's Scouts, parents, and other leaders aware of the National Jamboree website (button to the right). They will be able to learn more about a National Jamboree and the benefits of participating.

Locally, a National Jamboree committee will be developing plans for a contingent from our Council. Jamboree fees and a payment schedule will be announced soon. **Leader applications** for our local Council contingent will be distributed by the end of January. **Staff Registration** is now open. Staff members will register individually and council approval is required. The staff registration link can be found on the Jamboree website (button to the right to access).



National
Jamboree

**Need a Nice Facility for a Unit Gathering or Event?
Need a Nice Facility for a Group Outside of Scouting?**

The Black Warrior Council can provide several facilities that may be just what you need! Visit the Council [website](#) for guidelines, cost, and reservation information for each of our facilities.



Camp Horne

13633 Keenes Mill Road
Cottondale, AL 35453



Camp O'Rear

2180 Curry Highway
Jasper, AL 35501



White Bluff Scout Reservation

Located on Hwy 43, just north of
Demopolis



Board Room at the Leroy McAbee Scout Service Center

2700 Jack Warner Parkway NE
Tuscaloosa, AL 35404



Eagle Plaza at the Leroy McAbee Scout Service Center

2700 Jack Warner Parkway NE
Tuscaloosa, AL 35404



Leroy McAbee Scout Service Center

2700 Jack Warner Parkway, N.E. Tuscaloosa, AL 35404

Office: (205) 554-1680 Fax: (205) 554-7830

Website: <https://www.bwc-bsa.org>

Services:

- Scout Shop
- Properties Management
- Membership & Unit Support
- Professional Office for Council Staff

Hours of Operation

Monday - Thursday, 8:30 - 5:00

Friday, 8:30-4:00



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