



Cherokee Area Council

Scouting  America 

A United Way Agency

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January 6, 2025

This Week's News *Scroll down for details*

1. OH District Banquet - January 30
2. Order of the Arrow Lodge Leadership Development - January 31-February 2
3. Wilderness First Aid - February 8-9
4. 2025 Guide to Advancement
5. **Training Reminder**

OH District Banquet

The Osage Hills District Banquet will be held Thursday, **January 30, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. at Father Lynch Hall, St John Catholic School.**



Please start to gather camping & hiking data and nominations for awards. **The deadline to submit data nominations is January 15, 2025.**

When submitting camping and hiking data please include the number of adults, number of youth, nights camped, and location or miles hiked and locations. If you use Scout Book, you can pull a report to submit.

Awards to consider include the [District Award of Merit](#), [Unit Leader Award of Merit](#) as well as those listed [here](#) and those listed [here](#).

If you have a volunteer to recognize who does not fit into any of the listed categories, please contact your unit commissioner with a description of the volunteer's work and why you think they should be recognized.

Council Calendar

Osage Hills District Roundtable

1st Thursday of the month, August through May

Grand Lake District Roundtable

2nd Thursday of the month, September through May

[Click here to see the full Council calendar](#)

Thursday, January 30, 2025
[OH District Banquet](#)

Fri.-Sun., Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 2025

[OA Lodge Leadership Development](#) - **RESCHEDULED**

Saturday, February 8, 2025

[Scouting for Food](#) - flyer distribution

Sat.-Sun., Feb. 8-9, 2025

[Wilderness First Aid](#) - **NOTE DATE CHANGE**

Sunday, February 9, 2025

[Scout Sunday](#)

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

[Executive Board Meeting](#)

Thank you for your commitment to Scouting. If you have any questions about awards reach out to me or your unit commissioner.

Yours in Scouting,
Summer Lamb
Osage Hills District Executive
918-812-7788



When: Friday, January 31, 7:00 PM to Sunday, February 2, 5:00 PM

Where: Camp McClintock, Dining Hall

Cost: NONE

All Lodge officers and their advisers are required to attend. Other Arrowmen are encouraged to attend to learn more about how the Lodge functions.

Wilderness and Remote First Aid

Washington County Red Cross is again offering Wilderness First Aid February 8-9, 2025



Wilderness First Aid is a 16-hour training course now required by Scouting America (formerly BSA) for Philmont and other backwoods activities. The course also offers enhanced content to meet OSHA's *Best Practices for Workplace First Aid Training Programs*. Wilderness and Remote First Aid training is also strongly suggested anytime a group is more than 20 minutes from Professional Medical help.

This course includes instruction, participant interaction, and many scenarios. Participants should be at least 14 years old; knowledge of First Aid and Current CPR is a prerequisite for this class.

Sat., February 15, 2025
[Scouting for Food](#) - food pickup

Monday, February 17, 2025
Scout Service Center closed

Thurs., February 27, 2025
[Friends of Scouting Annual Fundraiser](#)

Saturday, March 1, 2025
[Merit Badge Festival](#)

Saturday, March 8, 2025
[GL Pinewood Derby](#)

Saturday, March 8, 2025
[OH Pinewood Derby](#)

Tuesday, March 11, 2025
[Council Banquet](#)

Fri.-Sun., April 4-6, 2025
[Spring Camporee](#)

Tuesday, April 8, 2025
Executive Board Meeting

Fri.,-Sun., April 25-27, 2025
[OA Spring Fellowship & Ordeal](#)

Monday, May 26, 2025
Scout Service Center closed

Friday, May 30, 2025
[Scouting Golf Tournament](#)

Wed.-Thurs., Jun 4-5, 2025
[BALOO - Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation](#)

Wed.-Fri., June 4-6, 2025
[OH Cub Scout Day Camp](#)

Wed.-Fri., June 11-13, 2025
[GL Cub Scout Day Camp](#)

Friday, July 4, 2025
Scout Service Center closed

Thursday, August 7, 2025
[Popcorn Kickoff](#)

The cost for this course is \$65. We will have a short break for lunch, which is not included in the course pricing. Our location is near multiple fast-food restaurants or you could bring a sack lunch. A \$20.00 discount will be available for those who do not need the Wilderness and Remote First Aid Reference guides. If you would like the reference guides, PLEASE let us know at least 10 days in advance of the class.

The course will be held in Bartlesville. Participants must attend both classes to complete the course. Completing the course also requires passing a 25-question test requiring an 80% or better and satisfactory completion of all skills.

The class will start at 8:30 am each day and be completed before 6:30 pm each day.

The class will be limited to the first 24 participants.

For further information and to sign up email [Charles Lewis](mailto:Charles.Lewis). **Registration will end on January 22nd.**

2025 Guide to Advancement

The Guide to Advancement has been updated. You can find the 2025 version at



<https://www.scouting.org/resources/guide-to-advancement/>

During a quick look at the 2025 Guide this morning, I identified the following changes:

- **Active Service** - The text regarding alternatives to the third test (GTA 4.2.3.1) has been shortened significantly with an increased emphasis on participation in Scouting.
- **Group-Online Merit Badge Instruction** (GTA 5.0.8.0) - The text clarifies group instruction and mentions generative AI.
- **Unit Leader's Role in Merit Badge Process** (GTA 7.0.0.3) - Strengthens the unit leader's role in counseling Scouts

Tuesday, August 12, 2025
Executive Board Meeting

Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025
[Scout-o-Rama](#)

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025
[Sky Trail Adventure Challenge](#)

Fri.-Sun., Sept. 26-28, 2025
[Fall Camporee](#)

Monday, October 6, 2025
[Online Unit Rechartering Opens](#)

Saturday, October 11, 2025
[OH Cub-o-Ree](#)

Tuesday, October 14, 2025
Executive Board Meeting

Fri.-Sun., Oct. 17-19, 2025
[OA Fall Fellowship & Ordeal](#)

Fri.-Sat., Nov. 14-15, 2025
[OA Vigil Weekend](#)

Wed.-Fri., Nov. 26-28, 2025
Scout Service Center closed

Tuesday, December 9, 2025
Executive Board & Annual Business Meeting

Wed.-Fri., Dec. 24-26, 2025
Scout Service Center closed

Sat.-Tues., Dec. 27-30, 2025
[Winter Camp](#)

about merit badge counselors.

- **Merit Badge Fundraising** (GTA 7.0.4.10) - Merit badge instruction must not be used as a fundraiser.
- **Group Merit Badge Instruction** (GTA 7.0.4.12) - A new section was added with guidelines about aspects that are good, of concern or to be avoided.
- **Recording Boards of Review** (GTA 8.0.1.2) - Recording boards of review, either voice or video, is never appropriate.
- **Eagle Reference Letters** (GTA 9.0.1.3) - The number of references changed from six to four with all four now being general references. There are no specific references for employer, education, etc. Parents and relatives are not to write reference letters. The unit leader and committee chair do not write letters for the Scout.
- **Collecting Eagle Reference Letters** (GTA 9.0.1.7) - The Scout is now responsible for requesting references. Councils choose the method and where the letters are to be submitted.
- **Advancement for Members with Special Needs** (GTA chapter 10) - This has been significantly rewritten.

The above list is **NOT** a comprehensive description of all the changes in the 2025 Guide to Advancement. They were the ones that jumped out at me as I took a quick look.

Ben Abbott
Training Chair
Osage Hills District

Training Reminder

Mandatory Hazardous Weather Training and yearly Youth Protection Training.

Hazardous Weather Training was made mandatory in 2017; however, it has not been reflected in the training reports. Effective the week of December 2, 2024, this training will be reflected in those reports.

This initiative is part of the National Service Center's ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of all Scouting America's members and youth.

The training will equip you with the necessary knowledge and skills to manage adverse weather conditions, enhancing our preparedness and response capabilities during Scouting activities.

Please review the [S.A.F.E. checklist](#) for all activities and visit the [Health and Safety website](#) to learn more about safety training.

Philip Wright
Cherokee Area Council Scout Executive

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Cherokee Area Council | 520 S. Quapaw | Bartlesville, OK 74003 US

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