

CST 12 PROGRAM NOTES

January 2025

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Merit Badge Updates for 2025

The Scouts BSA Committee periodically reviews all Merit Badges and annually publish applicable updates. Please find the list of updated Merit Badges and changes as of January 1, 2025 [here](#). You can find also find a summary of the 2025 updates at the top of [this webpage](#).

Changes to the Guide to Advancement

The new version of the Guide to Advancement is available online. Most of the changes made were clarifications to reduce confusion and based on feedback from the field. Significant changes may be found in Section 1.0.3.0. Changes are effective on January 1, 2025. Refer to the updated document [here](#).

Revised Eagle Scout Application

An updated Eagle Scout application is available in Scouting America's website. Please find it on the following link [here](#).

BSA Lifeguard and Instructor Program Transition Informational Webinar

BSA Lifeguard and Instructor Program Transition Informational Webinar will be held on Thursday, January 16, 2026, at 8:00 pm ET. Signup for the webinar [here](#).

Find more events, activities, and training courses on the [CST 12 Calendar](#) or search the [National Program Calendar](#).

Guide to Safe Scouting: Updated Safety Afloat and Tow Sports Policies

The following updates have been made to the *Guide to Safe Scouting*:

1. Safety Afloat-Qualified Supervision: Added – "In addition, when swimming is in conjunction with towed activities or motorized watercraft a designated observer or designated lookout must be no less than 18 years of age and present on the watercraft."
2. Tow Sports – "The designated observer must be no less than 18 years of age and present on the watercraft."

CST 12 Conference

The fourth annual CST 12 Conference (formerly the Program Conference) will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2025, at Camp Sinoquipe (677 Boy Scout Road Fort Littleton, Pennsylvania 17223). Featured sessions include:

- Mental, Emotion, and Social Health (MESH) in Scouting
- Recruiting Members for Program Committees Workshop
- What's New in the Guide To Advancement
- NCAP Updates for 2025

Registration will open soon. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this event.

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<https://forms.gle/P6PyaHtS9aUhQdGfA>

Program Notes

Jamboree Fee Update: Deposit Waived and Payment Deadline Extended

There have been two important updates to the registration process for the 2026 National Scout Jamboree.

- The \$250 per-unit deposit has been waived (previously required upon registration).
- The first payment deadline has been extended from *February 2025* to *May 31, 2025*, which will now include the \$250 deposit per unit.

Staff Registration for the 2026 National Scout Jamboree

Staff Registration for the 2026 National Jamboree, signup [here](#).

2025 National Outdoor Conference

Join fellow Scouters and outdoor enthusiasts from across the country to learn new methods, share ideas, and check out the latest in outdoor gear and programs September 17-21, 2025, at the Philmont Scout Ranch. Be sure to sign up on the [2025 National Outdoor Conference website](#) to receive email alerts.

Hazardous Weather Training and “Trained” Leader Status Change

Hazardous Weather Training is valid for two years. Failure to renew *Hazardous Weather Training* will now remove a direct contact leader’s “trained” status. Once *Hazardous Weather* is retaken, the Scouter’s “trained” status will be renewed for two more years. It has been confirmed with both Scouting U and the member application department at the National Service Center this **will not** impact registration (except in mandatory training councils where it is council choice) nor positions where *Hazardous Weather* is not a required element of the position-specific training. Be aware, this change has already occurred and will negatively impact a council’s percentage of “trained” direct contact leaders until leaders renew their *Hazardous Weather* training. This important 30-minute course is only available online in the Learning Center of My.Scouting.

Five Things to Think About When Planning to Camp with Scouts in Cold Temperatures

Winter camping can be a magical experience for those with the right gear, the right plan, and the right state of mind. Whether your Scouts are veteran winter campers or newcomers to this whole spending-the-night-outside thing, [here](#) here are five things to think about before sending them out into the cold this winter.