

# Monthly Museum Newsletter



WORLD  
SCOUTING  
MUSEUM

JANUARY 2026



## Curator Corner: Starting 2026 with a BANG! The Merit Badge College takes off!

Hello Museum Family,

**29 Merit Badges earned via the RLH Merit Badge College virtually from December to today!** This the most Merit

Badges we have completed in a year and 2026 just started! I have been slammed with appointments and working with Scouts from around the USA which has been amazing. I am thrilled to see the Merit Badge College flourish and help so many Scouts earn Merit Badges! To learn more about the Virtual RLH Merit Badge College please check out our website. There you can register for a Virtual class with me!

I have been asked to work the **Buckskin Council's** upcoming **Marshall University Merit Badge College on February 14, 2026, from 8A-4P.** There I will be counseling Scouting Heritage in the morning, and Mining in Society in the afternoon. Last year I helped with the council at another Merit Badge College here at WV State University and had a wonderful time and got to work with some wonderful Scouts!

Learn more about the day by scanning the QR code next to this article. I am sure we will have a wonderful day at the home of the Thundering Herd and hope to see you there.

Next week will be **Tourism and History Day** at the **West Virginia Legislature on January 28.** On January 27<sup>th</sup> I will be attending a lunch and learn and will be preparing for the Day at the Capitol afterward. **I will be out of the Museum on both January 27<sup>th</sup> and January 28<sup>th</sup> for those events, and we will be closed to the public.** I am very sorry for the inconvenience, but we are unable to stay open without our AmeriCorps member on those days, which we could not renew for this term due to changes in the program guidelines.

We have already had a busy year, and it will continue to get busier. If you can help us, please volunteer with the Museum this year! I need the help!!!!

*Yours in Scouting,*

*Alex Bennett*  
Museum Curator

In this issue  
you can expect:

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Museum Curator  
James Arriola

**P2-** Tourism and  
History Day  
Preview

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Highlights &  
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**P6-** Exhibit  
Spotlight of the  
Month

LEARN MORE  
ABOUT THE  
RLH MERIT  
BADGE  
COLLEGE



LEARN MORE  
ABOUT THE  
MARSHALL  
UNIVERSITY  
MBC ON 2/14



CHECK OUT  
THE  
MARSHALL  
UNIVERSITY  
MBC  
CATALOG



REGISTER  
FOR THE  
MARSHALL  
UNIVERSITY  
MERIT  
BADGE  
COLLEGE  
2/14/26  
8A-4P





## RIP James B. Arriola, Scouter and Former Curator of the Las Vegas International Scouting Museum

VIEW THE  
MEMORIAL  
SERVICE  
FOR JAMES  
ARRIOLA  
HELD BY  
THE LAS  
VEGAS AREA  
COUNCIL



It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of **James Brian Arriola**, one of the greatest and most generous people to have walked the face of the earth. James was born on February 14, 1971, in Las Vegas, Nevada, and left us prematurely on January 2, 2026, while hiking at Calico Basin in Red Rock Canyon.

James served Scouting in many roles, and one of his roles was as the Museum Curator of this Museum during its time in Las Vegas from 2003-2020. His instrumental work on the OA Collection is on display here at the World Scouting Museum today.

James served Scouting as a Cub Scout through Eagle Scout, and as a Scouter. He was recognized with the Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope, National Outstanding Eagle Scout Award, and OA Distinguished Service Award.

He is survived by his three children: Jason, Aiden, and Taylor of Las Vegas, NV, and the rest of his loving family, friends, and everyone here at the World Scouting Museum. We appreciate all of James's hard work that built the basis for our success today! **THANK YOU AND RIP, JAMES!**

A Celebration Of A Life Well Lived



James B. Arriola  
February 14, 1971 - January 2, 2026

January 18, 2026  
Las Vegas Area Council Scouting Resource Center



## WV Tourism and History Day at the State Capitol - JAN 28, 2026

This year, the WV Tourism and History Day will be held at the Capitol on January 28, 2026. The World Scouting Museum will be in attendance for the event to represent the organization to visitors, tourism/history professionals, legislators, educators, students, and many others on this important outreach day.

Tourism and History Day are a big day at the Capitol for us. It helps get our cause in front of Legislators and other important figures in WV. We hope that you will join us that day at the Capitol for all the fun and to learn about the amazing Tourism and Heritage Sites available to you here in WV. We hope to see you there at the Capitol Rotunda next Wednesday!

SCAN HERE  
TO LEARN  
ABOUT  
TOURISM &  
HISTORY  
DAY




**LION FORGE**  
— ENTERTAINMENT —

**Scouting America**  
Scouting America and Lion Forge  
Entertainment form Original  
Content Partnership

Scouting America has formed a strategic partnership with Lion Forge Entertainment to produce and develop original content, focusing on premium scripted series, live-action feature films, documentary projects, and unscripted family programming.

Lion Forge Entertainment is one of the few Black-owned Entertainment Studios in North America and was founded by David Steward II in 2019. *Hair Love* won an Oscar for animated shorts and the company has gone on to win multiple Emmy Awards. They also made *A Dog's Perfect Christmas* starring Dennis Quaid for Netflix. We are excited to see how this partnership blossoms moving forward.

LEARN  
ABOUT LION  
FORGE ENT.  
FROM THEIR  
WEBSITE





## Museum Highlights & Staff Updates



### Help us fix the ACOV RV!

We recieved the ACOV RV but it has some damage to the fiberglass overhanging roof. We need to fix this damage to ensure there is no leaking during rain and snow. For now the issue area is covered with a tarp, but repairs need to be made. Please help us by donating to fix the ACOV RV.

Scan the QR Code to help us by donating anything you can so we can use the ACOV RV to the fullest!



### Merit Badge Spotlight: CYBERSECURITY

What is Cybersecurity, and how does it affect all Scouts? Learn more about this important aspect of daily life by earning the Cybersecurity Merit Badge with us here at the World Scouting Museum! One of the newest offerings from Scouting America is available now!

The World Scouting Museum is happy to offer this fun and educational Merit Badge to Scouts in person and virtually. **Learn more about our merit badge college online!**



### The World Scouting Museum has an Event Room for RENT!

Do you need a large space to hold a special event for your troop or pack? What about a personal or family event? We would be happy to have you at the World Scouting Museum. We have ample parking and also can support dinners via our stove, refrigerator, and other amenities.

**Call us today 681-215-4450**



### The World Scouting Museum is a volunteer service site for Scouts!

Are you looking to plan a service project for your GSUSA Silver or Gold Award? Are you looking to plan a service project to earn your Scouting America Eagle, Quartermaster, or Summit Rank? Other Scouting or School Service Hours are available. We are happy to have volunteers from any organization. Reach out to the Museum today to inquire about what ideas you have and how we can make them work!

**We NEED Volunteers!!!**



Scouting America



### Scouting America Partners with America250

On December 11 Scouting America announced that it had joined forces with the official U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission to commemorate the 250 years of American History. The goal of the partnership includes opportunities throughout the year, Scouts and their families will explore our nation's story, engage in impactful community projects, and reflect on the principles that have shaped our country. Here are some highlights from Scouting America's announcement:

This collaboration brings together Scouting America's 115-year tradition of preparing youth for lives of purpose with America250's mission to unite Americans around shared history and values. This partnership is more than a celebration—it's an opportunity for Scouts to connect deeply with the ideals that built our nation and to help write the next chapter of its story. Through service and leadership, we will inspire a new generation to carry forward the promise of America.

We are thrilled to see this intersection of Scouting and History here at the World Scouting Museum. We are working with the State of WV, the West Virginia Association of Museum's and the local councils to offer special America 250<sup>th</sup> content this year!



WANT TO SUPPORT US AND LOOK GOOD DOING IT? CHECK OUT OUR MERCH! SCAN HERE



COME TO THE NU MERIT BADGE COLLEGE

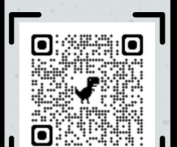
LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MARSHALL UNIVERSITY MBC

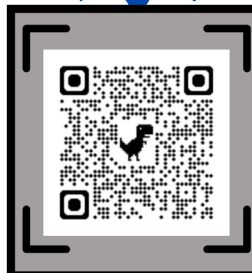


TO VIEW THE MERIT BADGE REQS SCAN HERE



BUY AUGGIE'S EATS ON AMAZON BY SCANNING THE QR CODE HERE





## 01

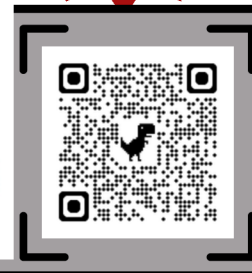
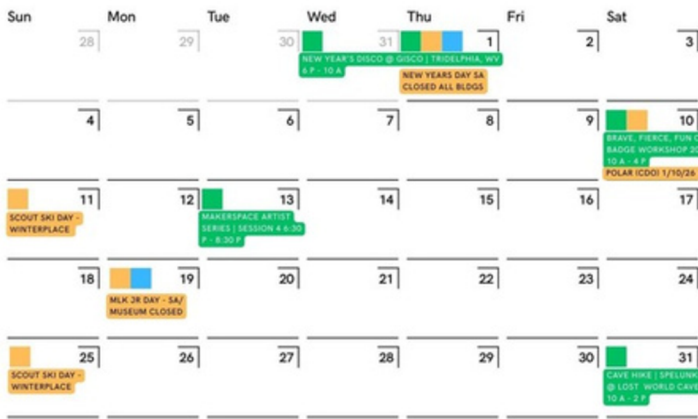
World Scouting Museum

## January

## 2026

### Monthly Combined Scouting Calendar

- NEW YEAR'S DISCO @ GISCO | TRIDELPHIA, WV 12/31/25 6PM - 1/1/26 10 AM
- BRAVE, FIERCE, FUN COOKIE BADGE WORKSHOP 2026 - CHARLESTON, WV 1/10/26 10 AM - 4 PM
- POLAR (CDO) @ WEHLE CENTER | CHARLESTON, WV 1/10/26 10 A - 12 P
- SCOUT SKI DAY @ WINTERPLACE 1/11/26
- MAKERSPACE ARTIST SERIES | SESSION 4 | CHARLESTON, WV 1/13/26 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
- SCOUT SKI DAY @ WINTERPLACE 1/25/26
- CAVE HIKE | SPELUNKING @ LOST WORLD CAVERNS - LEWISBURG, WV 1/31/26 10 AM - 2 PM
- HOLIDAYS: NEW YEAR'S DAY 1/1/26 MLK JR DAY 1/19/26
- Takhonek Lodge
- Black Diamond Council GSUSA
- World Scouting Museum
- Buckskin Council SA



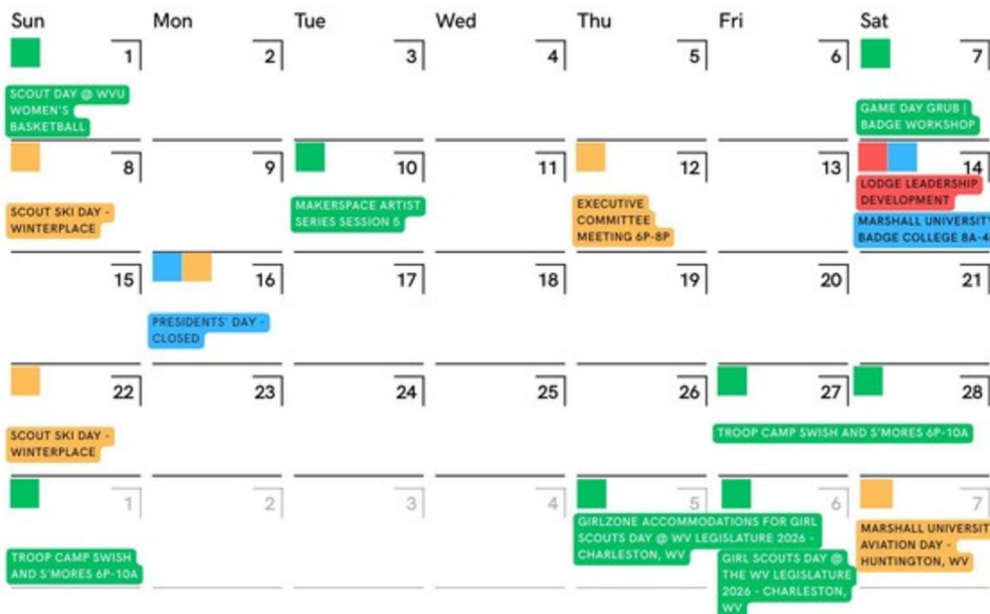
### 02 Monthly Combined Scouting Calendar

World Scouting Museum

## February

## 2026

- SCOUT DAY @ WVU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL - HOPE COLISEUM MORGANTOWN, WV 2/1/26 12P-2P
- GAME DAY GRUB | BADGE WORKSHOP 2026 - CHARLESTON, WV 2/7/26 10A-2P
- SCOUT SKI DAY - @ WINTERPLACE 2/8/26 & 2/22/26
- MAKERSPACE ARTIST SERIES SESSION 5 - CHARLESTON, WV 2/10/26 6:30P-8:30P
- MARSHALL U. MERIT BADGE COLLEGE - HUNTINGTON, WV 2/14/26 8A-4P
- LODGE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT - SCOUT CTR, CHARLESTON, WV 2/14/26
- TROOP CAMP SWISH AND S'MORES - WHEELING, WV 2/27/26-3/1/26 6P-10A
- Takhonek Lodge
- Black Diamond Council GSUSA
- World Scouting Museum
- Buckskin Council SA



### Jan-Feb 2026 Combined Scouting Council and Museum Calendar:

Please see above for the combined calendar of the local Scouting Councils and the World Scouting Museum for the remaining month and next month. Scan the QR Codes or click on this page in the email to view the larger calendars on our website!



**WORLD SCOUTING MUSEUM**

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 Charleston, WV 25311

IF VIEWING BY EMAIL  
 CLICK HERE FOR LARGER CALENDAR

IF VIEWING BY EMAIL  
 CLICK HERE FOR LARGER CALENDAR



# Open Submission

for Newsletter Articles



We would like to feature at least 1 story from a Scout or Scoutmaster from around the World every month. Tell us about an awesome trip you took, or maybe another important memory you have from Scouting.

**No Deadlines,  
Submit when  
you can to:**

[wsmwvcurator@gmail.com](mailto:wsmwvcurator@gmail.com)

## Request of Newsletter Article Submissions:

We are looking for Scouts and Leaders to share their Scouting stories with us for our newsletter. We are hoping to have these articles from 200-500 words and will do our very best to post the ones we can. If you attend a National Scouting Event, a World Scouting Event, or even a Local Scouting Event we would love to share your story. Please reach out to [wsmwvcurator@gmail.com](mailto:wsmwvcurator@gmail.com) for more information and to send us your story for the newsletter.

*We are looking for submissions! Please reach out. - Alex*

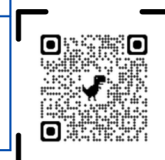


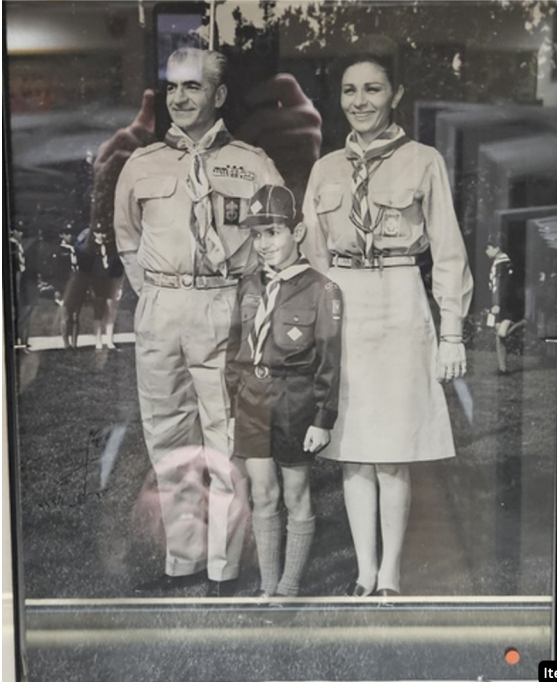
**WORLD SCOUTING  
MUSEUM**

CHECK OUT THE DAISY DOLL  
AND STEVE SCOUT PODCAST

[www.worldscoutingmuseum.org](http://www.worldscoutingmuseum.org)  
[wsmwvcurator@gmail.com](mailto:wsmwvcurator@gmail.com)

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO LISTEN TO  
THE NEWEST EPISODE NOW:





Items from the 1979 World Scout Jamboree at the World Scouting Museum



CHECK OUT  
DAISY DOLL  
& STEVE'S  
SCOUTS  
DEEP DIVE  
PODCAST.  
AVAILABLE  
AT THE QR  
CODE HERE:



## Exhibit Spotlight of the Month: The Failed 1979 World Scout Jamboree in Iran

World Scout Jamborees can be a dream for most Scouts to attend, but what would you do if you were getting ready and the event was cancelled? Scheduled to be held 15-23 July 1979 in Nishapur, Iran, at the Omar Khayyám Scout Park, the 15th World Scout Jamboree was to follow the successful 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Pacific Jamboree that was held there in the Summer of 1977.

Starting on 7 January 1978 and lasting until 11 February 1979, the Iranian or Islamic Revolution ultimately ended with the overthrow of the Pahlavi Dynasty in 1979. The revolution replaced the Imperial State of Iran with the Islamic Republic of Iran. This caused the upcoming 15<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree to be thrown into peril as Iran was the Host Country.

With a new government in power and political upheaval in the region, the decision was made to cancel the Jamboree. This would be devastating for many Scouts planning to visit Iran, the home of "The Stone Badge". Written by Ebrahim Sadri, the book was a re-imagining of Scoutcraft for Scouts and Associations located in desert areas where there is little wood.

At the time, Iran was a mecca for Scouting in the Middle East and considered one of the strongest Scout organizations in the world. The Shah was a strong supporter of Scouting and saw that the World Jamboree would be held in Iran. All the while the Kingdom planned the upcoming Jamboree, discontent was running wild among the population. With the launching of the White Revolution, a program designed to modernize Iran and reform land ownership in 1963, the Iranian Clergy and landowners realized their power would erode, and helped to fuel the protests.

One key event, the Cinema Rex fire in August 1978, was started by 4 Islamic Extremist Militants dousing the Cinema in airplane fuel. The problem was that most Iranians believed that SAVAK, or the Iranian Secret Police, started the fire, not the Islamic Militants. This caused widespread outrage and discontent that allowed Khomeini to build popular support, leading to the overthrow of the Shah and cancellation of the 15<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree. Please visit our Exhibit Spotlight page on our website, listen to our podcast, or watch our YouTube video to learn more about Iran Scouting and the events leading to the failed 15<sup>th</sup> WSJ.

TO VIEW  
EXHIBIT  
SPOTLIGHT  
PAGE SCAN  
QR CODE  
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**WORLD SCOUTING  
MUSEUM**

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YOUTUBE  
VIDEO #1



YOUTUBE  
VIDEO #2

