



Monthly Museum Newsletter

ISSUE 15



WORLD SCOUTING MUSEUM

MARCH 2026



Spring has Sprung at the World Scouting Museum

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RLH MERIT BADGE COLLEGE

WORLD SCOUTING MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP INFO

Curator Corner: Marching into Spring, Business Picks Up at the Museum

Hello Museum Family,

Spring brings Museum Tours to the World Scouting Museum and they typically increase the warmer the weather gets. This year we are expecting a BOOM in business with the debut of our newly made WV Tourism Co-Operative Advertising Ads. The Ads will direct tourist and guests to our website to book Tours, Merit Badge Classes, or Events.

The World Scouting Museum offers Museum Memberships, these allow you access to the Museum for free year round with a sustained donation. If you are interested in supporting us please scan the QR code to learn more about the different options available. All the money we raise is reinvested into the Museum.

Recently we have seen more and more visitors stop by the Museum on the way to the Summit. We truly appreciate all our guests, but are thrilled to see familiar faces at the Museum. If you are nearby and want to see some of our updates since the last National Scout Jamboree be sure

to reach out and let us know when you will be in town. We are happy to open for groups over the weekends but request notice in advance.

While we have made it to Spring, I expect it to be a quick dash to Summer and the Jamboree. We are focusing on increased Museum attendance this Summer and as of now do not plan to offer additional programming on-site outside of our normal offerings. We are looking at and working to add programming to events at the Summit before the Jamboree like High Adventure camps during one portion of the week. Stay tuned for any updates and announcements. Lastly, be sure to keep an eye out for our WV Tourism Co-Op ADS for the World Scouting Museum. You can view our newest Vertical Video AD by scanning the QR Code next to this article. We hope everyone has an amazing Spring and hope to see you at the Museum soon!

Yours in Scouting,
Alex Bennett
Museum Curator

In this issue you can expect:

P1- Curator Corner

P2- Scouting News

P2- Additions to the Goodman-Edson OA Gallery

P3- Museum Highlights & Staff Updates

P4- Combined Scouting Calendars

P6- Exhibit Spotlight of the Month

CHECK OUT OUR VERTICAL VIDEO AD!



Scouting America and the US Department of War - Changes to Citizenship Merit Badge Offerings and Announcement of Military Service Merit Badge

SCOUTING AMERICA STATEMENT CONCERNING DEPARTMENT OF WAR ANNOUNCEMENT.



On February 27, 2026 the US Department of War (formerly the US Dept of Defense) and Secretary of War Pete Hegseth announced that the War Department will continue its support of Scouting America, but made the support conditional upon its removal of diversity, equity, and inclusion from its programming and addition of other requirements to the Volunteer/Professional Non-Profit Organization which holds a US Congressional Charter. Regardless how you feel about the mandate from the Trump Administration I believe it is important to highlight a historic aspect of this recent turmoil. I cannot find or

point to any other Presidential Administrations since 1916, and the Congressional Charter signed by Woodrow Wilson that cemented the long-standing relationship between the US Government, the US Dept of War, and Scouting America, and this marks the first intervention of the US Government in Scout Programming. In addition to this new norm, a Military Service & Veterans Merit Badge will be added, and registration fees will be waived for military families. What has not changed is Scouting's foundational ideas: Leadership, Character, Duty to God, Duty to Country and Service. Learn more @ QRs

DEPT. OF WAR STATEMENT



REPORT FROM GOOGLE GEMINI ON THE US AND SCOUTING AMERICA



University of Scouting at WVSU was a SUCCESS!

The University of Scouting Merit Badge College at WVSU was a massive success! For this Buckskin Council event, I staffed the American Cultures Merit Badge. I used the University as a backdrop to discuss the differences between a typical American University and a Historically Black College University. We discussed the history of the campus, Sam and Mary Cabell, and the need for the original WV Colored Institute.

We also visited various sites on campus to show and illustrate the changes and evolution of the University, the history of the Divine Nine Fraternities and Sororities, and some of the most historic buildings and sites still at WVSU. It was a great day and I recieved some wonderful feedback from Scouts on how we tackled the subject.



Updates to the Goodman-Edson Gallery! New OA Patches debut soon!

Order of the Arrow patches have begun to be added in the Goodman-Edson OA Gallery at the World Scouting Museum after NOAC 2024. Currently, if you visit us, the Gallery is in a bit of a mess. Please excuse us while we add to this massive display. We have thousands of patches to add to the collection and expect it to take us a while to get them all added.

If you visit us during this process, please stay out of any marked areas that are being updated and away from any items that are to be added. We are working as fast as we can to get the display completed and totally reopened, but at this time, various parts of the Goodman-Edson Gallery will be closed or off-limits to guests at the Museum.

CHECK OUT THE VIRTUAL OA PATCH COLLECTION @ OUR WEBSITE





Help us fix the ACOV RV!

We received 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: American Cultures

What is American Culture? The Melting Pot of America blends to create our culture, learn about how different groups and religions work together to make America the beacon of the World. Learn how we all are added to the melting pot today!

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 at our website.**



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!!!



Aides to Scouting Podcast features World Scouting Museum Curator Alex Bennett

Recently I was invited to be a guest on the Aides to Scouting Podcast with Baden-Powell re-enactor Walker Chandler and his co-host Elliott Coker.

Available on Apple Podcasts, Facebook, and YouTube every Thursday the Aides to Scouting podcast dives into trending topics, fresh perspectives, and meaningful conversations.

From the timeless values of Lord Baden-Powell to interviews with the leaders shaping the future of the Scouting movement, be sure to check out the show live or on demand today.

During our conversation we spoke about how we have updated our Merit Badge College and added the virtual option, which has flourished since the end of 2025. Other topics we covered included various Scouting topics, the Museum Newsletter, the Museum Podcast, and how we are expanding to meet Scouts where they are. I enjoyed my time on the podcast and hope to see other members of the World Scouting Museum volunteers and Trustees as guests in the future.

Be sure to check out the video or listen to the podcast today and support the Aides to Scouting Podcast.



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



VIEW THE AIDES TO SCOUTING LINKS HERE:



VIEW OUR EPISODE OF THE PODCAST



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



SCAN HERE TO DONATE TO THE ACOV RV

TO VIEW THE MERIT BADGE REQS SCAN HERE

SCAN HERE TO LEARN ABOUT THE RLH MERIT BADGE COLLEGE



03



World Scouting Museum

March

2026

Monthly Combined Scouting Calendar

- TROOP CAMP SWISH AND 5'MORES - WHEELING, WV 2/27/26-3/1/26 6P-10A
- CAMPING-IN: LIVE VIA ZOOM 3/3 7P-8P
- GS DAY @ THE LEGISLATURE 2026 | CHARLESTON, WV 8A-2P
- MARSHALL UNIVERSITY AVIATION DAY 3/7
- MAKERSPACE ARTIST SERIES | SESSION 6 | CHARLESTON, WV 3/10 6:30P-3/10 8:30P
- COUNCIL RECOGNITION DINNER - CHRIST CHURCH UNITED METHODIST 3/14 6P-8P
- GIRL SCOUT DAY @ BOWDEN FISH HATCHERY - ELKINS, WV 3/14 10A
- GA AIA/ICE TRAINING - CAMP ARROWHEAD 3/20-3/22 UNIVERSITY OF SCOUTING - WV SU 3/21

- Takhonek Lodge
- World Scouting Museum
- Black Diamond GSUSA
- Buckskin Council SA



04



World Scouting Museum

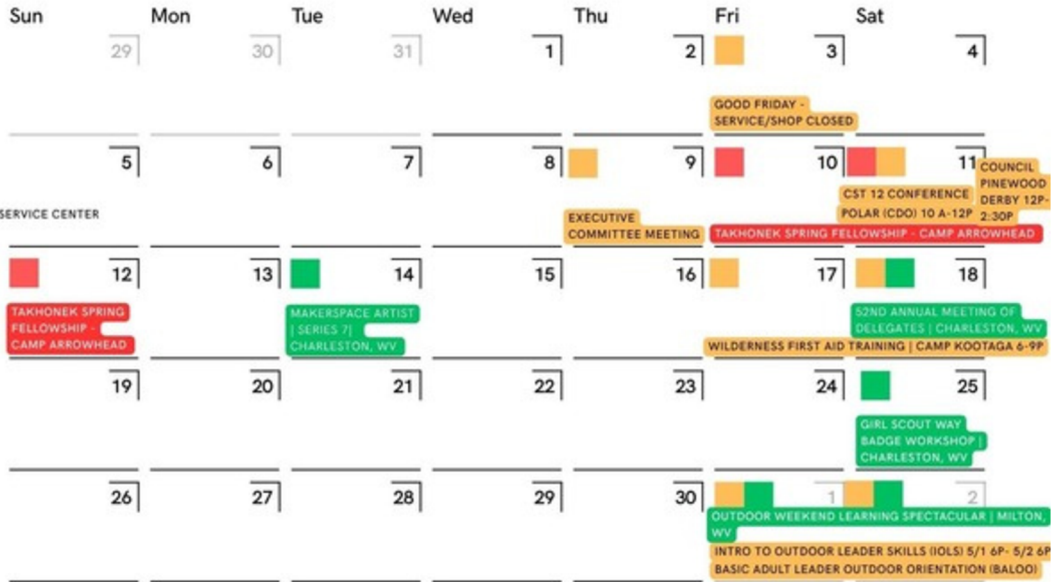
April

2026

Monthly Combined Scouting Calendar

- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 4/9/26 6P-8P SCOUT SERVICE CENTER
- TAKHONEK SPRING FELLOWSHIP 4/10-4/12 | CAMP ARROWHEAD
- CST 12 CONFERENCE 4/11 | CAMP SINOQUIPE POLAR (FORMERLY CDO) 4/11 10A-12P | SCOUT SERVICE CENTER
- COUNCIL PINWOOD DERBY 4/11 12P-2:30P | SCOUT SERVICE CENTER
- MAKERSPACE ARTIST SERIES | SESSION 7 | CHARLESTON, WV 4/14 6:30P-3/10 8:30P
- WILDERNESS FIRST AID TRAINING | CAMP KOOTAGA 4/17 6P- 4/18 9P
- 82ND ANNUAL MEETING OF DELEGATES | CHARLESTON, WV 4/18 9A-2P
- GIRL SCOUT WAY BADGE WORKSHOP | CHARLESTON, WV 10A-2P

- Takhonek Lodge
- World Scouting Museum
- Black Diamond GSUSA
- Buckskin Council SA



March-April 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!

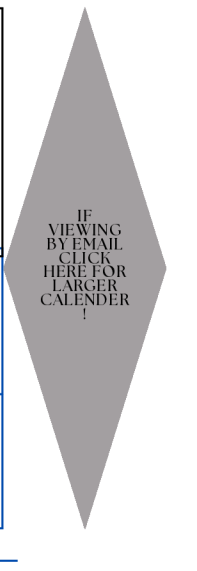
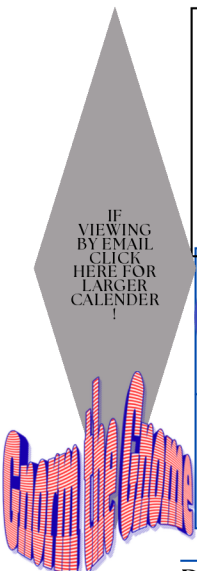


WORLD SCOUTING MUSEUM

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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

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 for more information and to send us your story for the newsletter.

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

 <p>WORLD SCOUTING MUSEUM</p>	<p>CHECK OUT THE DAISY DOLL AND STEVE SCOUT PODCAST</p>
<p>www.worldscoutingmuseum.org wsmwvcurator@gmail.com</p>	<p>SCAN THIS QR CODE TO LISTEN TO THE NEWEST EPISODE NOW:</p> 

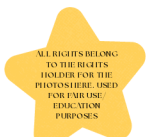
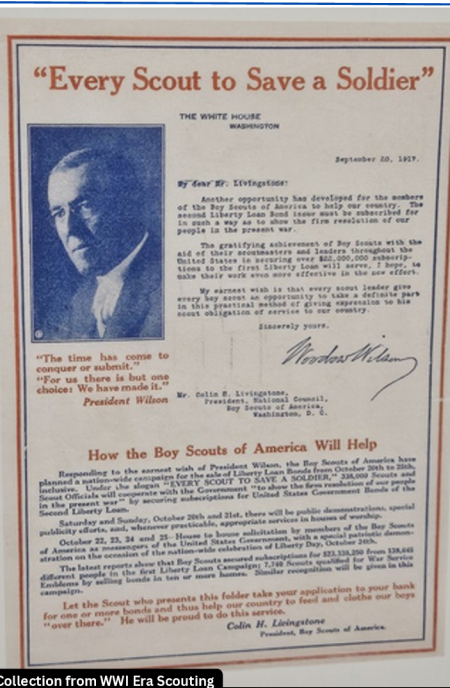
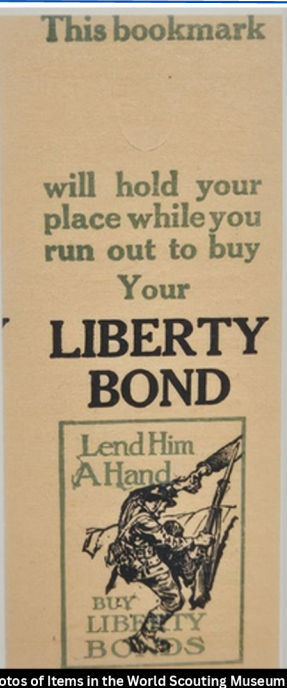
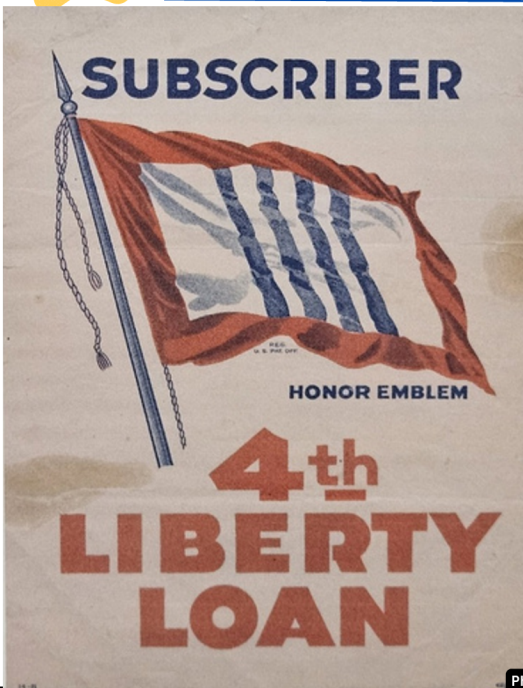


Exhibit Spotlight of the Month



Photos of Items in the World Scouting Museum Collection from WWI Era Scouting

Exhibit Spotlight of the Month: Scouting's Patriotism During WWI - War Bonds, War Savings Stamps, War Gardens, and Resource Collection for the War Effort

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



April 6, 2026, marks the 109th Anniversary of the US joining WWI, and in conjunction with the 250th birthday, we thought this month we should shine the Exhibit Spotlight on Scouting's Patriotism during that conflict. This moment in Scouting history was a bit more complex, much like any period of American history that includes war, with support on both sides for and against utilizing Boy Scouts for the war effort.

Ultimately, the Boy Scouts found a good balance in terms of helping the war effort here at home in several ways. To raise money, Scouts sold Liberty Loans during 5 different Liberty Loan Campaigns from 1917 to 1919, earning Liberty Loan or War Service Medals and Bars. Some Scouts earned the 1919 Victory Liberty Loan Token also for their service that was salvaged from captured German cannons!

War Savings Thrift Stamps were another way Scouts helped the US Government to raise money for the War effort, selling for 25¢ each with the goal of buying a total of 16 totaling \$5 over time and earned 4% interest compounded quarterly. Scouts

who participated in this effort were awarded the War Savings Stamps Achievement Award, but Scouts selling at least \$250 in War Savings Stamps to 25 or more individuals were awarded the BSA WWI War Saving Service "Ace" Medals.

Another way that Scouting helped the War Effort was through Gardening. The need for increased food production to send overseas for Soldiers and Allies was great, so Scouting stepped up to help feed the world. In April 1917, the BSA launched a Gardening Campaign with the slogan, "Every Scout to Feed a Soldier." The goal was that each Scout would start a garden of his own and conserve food. If a Scout cannot start their own garden, they were encouraged to assist someone with a garden. Scouts who started a garden were called Grub Scouts and were also encouraged to get at least 10 or more people in the community involved in the campaign. Scouts who participated in the Gardening Campaign were awarded the Grub Scout Pin and Gardening Medals for their efforts.

We have run out of space! Please visit our Exhibit Spotlight page for the completed story.



GRUB SCOUT



GARDENING MEDAL

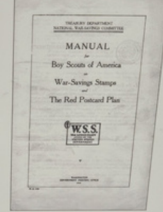
TO VIEW EXHIBIT SPOTLIGHT PAGE SCAN QR CODE HERE:



THRIFT STAMP



WAR SAVINGS STAMPS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



TREASURY MANUAL

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YOUTUBE VIDEO #1

