



Scouting America™

Prairielands Council

2026-2027 Program Planning Calendar

Scouting America[™]

Prairielands Council



Camp Robert Drake

9994 Camp Drake Rd
Fairmount, IL 61841
Camp Phone: 217.427.5243



Raymond Lee Scout Service Center & Robeson Scout Shop

3301 Farber Drive, P.O. Box 6267
Champaign, Illinois 61826-6267
Phone: 217-356-7291
Fax: 217-356-7785
Website: www.prairielandbsa.org
Office Hours: Monday thru Friday
9AM to 5PM

Council Staff & Contact Information

Council Services

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Prairie Fire District

Lovetta Ash-Simpson, Dist. Director	Phone: 217-531-0217	lovetta.ash-simpson@scouting.org
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Many Trails District

Camp Robert Drake

Ian Galbreath, Caretaker	Phone: 217-714-8810	ian.galbreath@scouting.org
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August 2026

****All times are in Central Time****

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <i>Prairielands Council Merit Badge Skill Center 8AM to 4PM</i>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 <i>Sporting Clays Tour- nament—8:00AM— Olde Barn Sporting Clays</i>
9	10	11	12 <i>Prairie Fire Kickoff and Roundtable— 6PM</i>	13 <i>Many Trails Kickoff and Roundtable— 6:30PM</i>	14 <i>Popcorn Show and Sell Order Due</i>	15
16	17	18	19 <i>Membership Commit- tee Meeting—7PM</i>	20	21 <i>Popcorn Sales Start</i>	22
23	24 <i>Council Executive Committee Meeting— 6:30PM</i>	25	26	27 <i>ScoutReach Commit- tee Meeting—Noon</i>	28 <i>Show and Sell Pop- corn Pick-Up</i>	29
30	31					

School Night to Join Scouting

The months of August and September are when a majority of new youth join Scouting. Be ready to welcome these new Scouts and their parents (potential leaders!).

1. Schedule your School Night to Join Scouting on your school calendar and let your District Executive know the date.
2. Order your School Night promotion flyers your District Executive. Please give two weeks notice so flyers can be personalized for your Pack Recruitment Night.
3. Have a Pack Committee Meeting to plan your School Night including volunteer needs and leader recruitment strategies.
4. Confirm council & district training opportunities in order to get new leaders trained as quickly as possible.
5. Get ready for a great Scouting year!!



Popcorn Sales begin in September! This sale provides the funds for your Pack, Troop or Crew to operate throughout the year. Think big and set a unit goal for success. Challenge your Scouts to earn the money needed for a super fantastic program. Super prizes make it exciting and fun for your Scouts to sell and the top sellers council-wide are recognized with great prizes. See important dates on the calendar.

September 2026

****All times are in Central Time****

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 <i>Prairie Fire District Committee Meeting</i>	4	5
6	7 <i>Labor Day—Office Closed</i>	8	9	10 <i>Many Trails District Meeting—6:30PM</i>	11 <i>NYLT @ Camp Drake</i>	12
13 <i>Illini Lodge Meeting</i> <i>NYLT Camp Drake</i>	14 <i>Program Committee Meeting—7:00PM</i>	15	16 <i>Membership Commit- tee Meeting—7PM</i>	17	18 <i>Wood Badge @ Camp Drake</i>	19
20 <i>Wood Badge @ Camp Drake</i>	21	22	23	24 <i>ScoutReach Commit- tee Meeting—Noon</i>	25	26 <i>Cub Fun Day Prairie Fire District</i>
27	28 <i>Council Executive Board Meeting— 6:30PM</i>	29	30			



October offers a great deal of training opportunities for new and veteran leaders.

1. Make sure that all registered leaders have completed the new online BSA Youth Protection Training. This training is mandatory for the protection of our youth members AND our registered leaders. It only takes about an hour. New Leaders cannot be registered without completing Youth Protection Training. All leaders must take the New Youth Protection Training immediately. Any leader who is camping with a unit needs to be registered and have Youth Protection!
2. Position specific is available in several ways including on site unit training by your District Training Committee. Contact your Senior District Executive to arrange for a training team to come to your unit and get everyone prepared to run a top notch Scouting program.
3. Outdoor training for leaders is available through the Council Training Committee at Camp Drake. Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO) and Outdoor Leader Skills Training for Boy Scout leaders will all be held the weekend of October 17-18.



Smilin' Pumpkin at Camp Drake

Put on by the Order of the Arrow, Smilin' Pumpkin is a great fall family outing and a wonderful introduction to Camp Robert Drake. Lots of action in obstacle courses, archery, bb gun range, biking and much more. Fun for the entire family!! Don't miss out on those Smilin' pumpkins!



Order of the Arrow Fall Fellowship

The Order of the Arrow (OA) is Scouting's Camping Honor Society that focuses on service to others. The OA provides support to the maintenance of Camp Drake, offers programs to Cub Scout Packs and supports council events like Smilin' Pumpkin.

October 2026

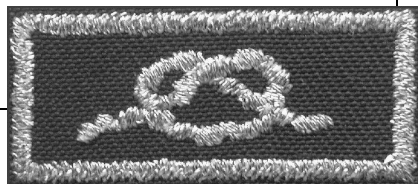
****All times are in Central Time****

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 <i>U of I Homecoming</i> Wood Badge @ Camp Drake
4 Wood Badge @ Camp Drake	5	6	7	8 <i>Many Trails District Meeting—6:30PM</i>	9 Council Fall Camporee	10
11 Council Fall Camporee	12	13	14 <i>Membership Commit- tee Meeting—6:30PM</i>	15	16 OA Fall Pow-Wow - Camp Drake	17 Smiling Pumpkin
18 OA Fall Pow-Wow - Camp Drake	19	20	21	22 <i>ScoutReach Commit- tee Meeting—Noon</i>	23 <i>Popcorn Orders Due!</i> IOLS/BALOO - Camp Drake	24
25	26 <i>Council Executive Committee Meeting— 6:30PM</i>	27	28	29	30	31



Honor Outstanding Leadership....

Council, district and unit leaders have the chance to nominate Scouters who set the bar of excellence high. Among several awards, the District Award of Merit is presented by the Districts. Volunteers can also be honored with the Silver Beaver Award, the highest honor a council can bestow on a Scouting volunteer.



All Council Offices and Camps will be closed on Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27 to allow staff to spend time with their families.



As the year end approaches....

- Attend the November Roundtable to pick up your Rechartering packet and get all the information you need to complete the rechartering process.
- Make sure all of your registered unit leaders are current with Youth Protection Training. The training is good for two years and if not current at the time of rechartering, leaders cannot re-register.
- Take a few minutes to enter your unit Community Service hours into My Scouting. This is an important measurement calculated into your unit Journey to Excellence score and serves as impressive information about Scouting to the community.

November 2026

****All times are in Central Time****

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 <i>Prairie Fire District Committee Meeting— 7:00PM</i>	6	7 <i>Lumberjack Day- Camp Drake</i>
8 <i>Lodge Leadership Development Mtg & Illini Lodge Meeting ILEAS</i>	9	10	11 Veterans Day <i>PF Roundtable and Commissioner Mtg— 7:00PM</i>	12 <i>Many Trails Adult Training—6:30PM</i>	13	14
15	16 <i>Program Committee Meeting—7:00PM</i>	17	18 <i>Membership Commit- tee Meeting—7PM</i>	19 <i>Scoutreach Cmte Meeting—Noon</i>	20 <i>Silver Beaver and District Award of Merit Nominations Due to Office</i>	21
22	23	24	25	26 Offices and Camps Closed Happy Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30 <i>Council Executive Board Meeting— 6:30PM</i>					



The Robeson Scout Shop

Located in the Raymond Lee Scout Service Center at 3301 Farber Drive, Champaign, IL 61822. Regular hours of operation are Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

The Scout Shop is a great place to pick up that perfect gift for that hard to shop for Scout or Scout Leader. At the Shop you can find knives, canteens, mess kits, gift cards, or any other great gift idea.

Holiday & Inventory Hours

All Council Facilities will be closed The December 24th and 26th for the Christmas holiday. The Robeson Scout Shop will be closed for inventory December 28th through 31st. The business offices in the Raymond Lee Scout Service Center will be open for routine business. Please use the side door for entrance.



December Summer Camp EXPO!

Nothing chases away the winter blahs more than thinking about a Scout Summer. On Saturday, December 5th, we will reveal the new exciting things coming to council camping programs in 2026. Scouts BSA Leaders will meet at 9:00 am and Cub Scout Leaders at 10:30AM, to learn all about summer camping including program updates, deadlines and fees. Everything a unit will need to finalize plans for the 2025 Camp Drake experience.

December 2026

****All times are in Central Time****

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 <i>Popcorn Balance Due to Office</i>	5 <i>Camp Launch—ILEAS Illini Lodge Holiday Party—Camp Drake</i>
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 <i>Membership Committee Meeting—6:30PM</i>	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				<i>Offices and Camps Closed Merry Christmas</i>		
27	28	29	30	31		
	<i>Robeson Scout Shop Closed for Inventory Service Center Open for other business</i>					

Happy New Year 2026

2027 Klondike Derby

Prairielands Council's big outdoor winter event, the Klondike Derby, will be held on Saturday, January 30, 2027. Be prepared for winter weather and lots of fun at this annual event that features competition of Scout Skills and a camp-wide super race of Scouts and sleds! Klondike goes on, snow or no snow! Racers, start your sleds.



Annual Meetings to be Held

Each District and Prairielands Council will hold an Annual Business Meeting in the month of January. During these meetings the District/Council Nominating Committee will present a slate of leadership to be elected for the coming year.

Prairie Fire District: Thursday, January 7, 2027. Voting members include current District Committee Members and Chartered Organization Representatives from units within the Prairie Fire District.

Many Trails District: Thursday, January 7, 2027. Voting members include current District Committee Members and Chartered Organization Representatives from within Many Trails District.

Council Annual Meeting: Monday, January 25, 2027. Voting members include current Executive Board Members and Chartered Organization Representatives from all units in Prairielands Council. At this event District Award of Merit and Silver Beaver awards will be presented.

Illini Lodge Banquet

The Order of the Arrow will celebrate 2026 accomplishments at the annual OA Winter Banquet at the Beef House in Covington, Indiana on Saturday, January 2, 2027. Fantastic food, fellowship and fun are the order of the day. Don't miss this great celebration!



January 2027

****All times are in Central Time****

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Office Closed in observance of New Years Day</i>	2
3	4	5	6	7 <i>Prairie Fire Annual Meeting—7:00PM Many Trails Annual Meeting—7:00PM</i>	8	9 <i>OA—Illini Lodge Banquet—The Beef House Bloomington Bison</i>
10	11	12	13 <i>PF Roundtable and Commissioner Mtg—IFSI—7PM</i>	14	15	16
17	18 <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day—Offices Closed</i>	19 <i>Program Committee Meeting—7:00PM</i>	20 <i>Membership Committee Meeting—6:30PM</i>	21 <i>Scoutreach Committee Meeting—Noon</i>	22	23
24 <i>Pinewood 101—TBA—11AM to 2PM</i>	25 <i>Prairielands Council Annual Meeting—6:00PM</i>	26	27	28	29	30 <i>Klondike Derby Camp Drake</i>
31						

2027 Youth Achievement Recognition Dinner

The Youth Achievement Recognition Dinner will recognize Scouts for their significant achievements during the past year. The traditional recognition of Eagle Scouts continues; also the Venturing Summit Award recipients will be recognized along with other honors earned during 2026. The Youth Achievement Recognition Dinner will be held on Saturday February 6, 2027



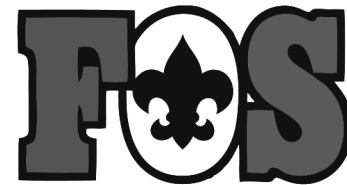
Candy Bar Sales

Camp Candy Bar Sales kick off on February 12, 2027. This council coordinated sale is designed for youth members to be able to earn their Camp fees or other Scouting activities for the coming summer. Sales are operated through each Pack, Troop or Crew.



2027 Prairielands Training College

PTC is a great event held for Volunteers as a supplemental training to help improve the program in their unit. PTC will be held on Saturday February 6, 2027



Did you know: The \$85 annual Scouting registration fee goes directly to the national office of the Boy Scouts of America. If a Scout unit collects dues, that money stays with the unit to help pay for supplies, advancements and other activities. None of that money goes to help the Prairielands Council.

Friends of Scouting (FOS) is the annual giving campaign of the Prairielands Council. The FOS campaign provides 25% of the Council budget every year. That means a quarter of every dollar in the council budget comes from the generosity of Scouting families, alumni and community supporters. Without this funding, our council could not provide the resources necessary to provide a quality, adventure-filled scouting program.

Your generous tax-deductible gift to the Prairielands Council, which provides direct funding for Scouting's life-changing programs that program fees alone do not cover, is a statement about your belief in Scouting and helping young people grow into successful adults.

February 2027

****All times are in Central Time****

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 <i>Prairielands Training College—9:00AM Youth Achievement Dinner—6:00PM</i>
7 Scout Sunday <i>Illini Lodge Meeting and UVT</i>	8	9	10	11 <i>Many Trails District Meeting—6:30PM</i>	12 Candy Bar Sales Start 	13
14 Methodist Scout Sunday	15 President's Day Offices Closed	16	17 <i>Membership Commit- tee Meeting—6:30PM</i>	18	19	20
21	22 <i>Council Executive Committee Meeting— 6:30PM</i>	23	24	25 <i>ScoutReach Commit- tee Meeting—Noon</i>	26	27
28						

Camp Drake Work Days

Camp Drake, Saturday, March 20, 2027, Saturday, April 17, 2027, & Saturday, May 8, 2027

During the Spring at Camp Drake, the Council holds work days that allow us to prepare camp for the summer season. During this days we pick up sticks and logs around camp, cut down trees, split firewood, have small building projects, and much more. This is a great way for Scouts to earn some service project hours for rank advancement.



Trail Tromp

Camp Drake, Saturday, April 3, 2027

It's time to put on your hiking boots and come out to hike the Onaquispasippi Trail! Hike the trail and discover the hidden treasures around the perimeter of Camp Drake.

March 2027

****All times are in Central Time****

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 <i>Prairie Fire District Committee Meeting— 7:00PM</i>	5	6
7 <i>Illini Lodge Meeting</i>	8	9	10 <i>PF Roundtable and Commissioner Mtg— 7:00PM</i>	11 <i>Many Trails District Meeting—7:00PM</i>	12	13
14	15	16	17 <i>Membership Commit- tee Meeting—6:30PM</i>	18	19	20 <i>Tool Time Work Day Camp Drake—9AM</i>
21	22 <i>Program Committee Meeting—7:00PM</i>	23	24	25 <i>Scoutreach Commit- tee Meeting—Noon</i>	26 <i>Good Friday Council Offices Closed</i>	27
28 	29 <i>Council Executive Board Meeting— 6:30PM</i>	30				



Camp Fees Deadlines

Scouts BSA Resident Camp fees are due to the Council Service Center by Friday, April 23, 2027.
Cub Scout Resident Camp fees are due to the Council Service Center by Friday, May 7, 2027.



National Youth Leader Training Conference

NYLT is a leadership development course designed to give youth leaders a step up on peer leadership. The two weekend course will give participants the skills and tools they need to successfully lead in their Troop or Crew and use those same skills throughout their personal and professional life. The course is conducted by Prairielands Council and held at Camp Robert Drake.



Council Pintwood Derby

The Council will hold it's annual Pintwood Derby on **Wednesday, May 26, 2027**. This event has been held at Triptych in Savoy and is fun for our over 21 year old Scouts. There are 3 classes to race: No Rules, Scout Rules, and Show

Hope to see you there!

Adult Training

Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO) will be conducted in April for all Cub Scout Leaders wanting to gain a basic understanding of providing a quality outdoor program for Cub Scout families.

Outdoor Leader Skills Training is required for Boy Scout leaders to be certified as completely trained. **The event will take place Friday, April 14 and Saturday, April 15.**

April 2027

****All times are in Central Time****

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 <i>Trail Tromp Camp Drake—9AM</i>
4	5	6	7	8 <i>Many Trails Calendar Planning Meeting— 6:30PM</i>	9 Council Spring Camporee	10
11 Council Spring Camporee <i>Illini Lodge Meeting</i>	12	13	14 <i>PF Roundtable and Commissioner Mtg— 7:00PM</i>	15	16 IOLS/BALOO Camp Drake	17 <i>Tool Time—Drake</i>
18	19	20	21 <i>Membership Commit- tee Meeting—6:30PM</i>	22 <i>Scoutreach Commit- tee Meeting—Noon</i>	23 <i>Summer Camp Fee Due</i> National Youth Leader Training Camp Drake	24
25 NYLT Camp Drake	26 <i>Council Executive Committee Meeting— 6:30PM</i>	27	28	29	30 Illini Spring Fel- lowship—Camp Drake	



Remember to honor our Veterans this Memorial Day with Community Service. Many Packs, Troops and Crews provide a flag ceremony at a community memorial service; participate in a Memorial Day parade or help veteran organizations in putting American flags on veterans' graves. Later enjoy your holiday weekend with family at Camp Robert Drake. The council camp is open all weekend for safe family camping. Contact the Council Service Center to reserve your site.

Happy Mother's Day

Sunday, May 9th



Illini Lodge Spring Fellowship

The Order of the Arrow (OA) is Scouting's Camping Honor Society that focuses on service to others. The OA provides countless hours of service to Camp Drake maintenance and upkeep. The Spring Fellowship includes work projects to prepare the camp for the summer season.... And lots of fun! See you April 30—May 2nd!



May 2027

****All times are in Central Time****

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 OA Illini Spring Fellowship Camp Drake	
2 Illini Spring Fellowship—Camp Drake	3	4	5	6 Prairie Fire District Committee Meeting— 7:00PM	7 Cub Scout Summer Camp fees due	8 Tool Time Work Day—Camp Drake
9 Happy Mother's Day	10 Program Committee Meeting—7:00PM	11	12	13 Many Trails District Meeting—6:30PM	14 National Youth Leader Training Camp Drake	
16 NYLT Camp Drake	17 Council Executive Board Meeting— 6:30PM	18	19 Membership Commit- tee Meeting—6:30PM	20	21	22
23	24 Memorial Day Offices Closed	25	26 Council Pintwood Derby—6PM	27 ScoutReach Commit- tee Meeting—Noon	28	29
30	31					

Summer Camp Fun



June 2027

****All times are in Central Time****

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 <i>Day Camp—Camp Drake</i>	5
				<i>Summer Camp Staff Training</i>		
6 <i>Illini Lodge Meeting Camp Drake—6PM</i>	7	8	9	10 <i>ScoutReach Day Camp</i>	11	12
<i>Summer Camp Staff Training Week</i>						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<i>Scouts BSA Summer Camp Week 1—Camp Drake</i>						
<i>Happy Father's Day</i>					<i>Council Office Closed Juneteenth</i>	
20	21 <i>Council Executive Board Mtg— 6:00PM</i>	22	23	24	25	26
<i>Scouts BSA Summer Camp Week 2—Camp Drake</i>						
27	28	29	30			
<i>Cub Scout Adventure Week —Camp Drake</i>						

More Summer Camp Fun



July 2027

****All times are in Central Time****

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
Cub Scout Adventure Week 1—Blue Session—Camp Drake						
4 Happy 4th of July	5 Office Closed for 4th Holiday	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Council Popcorn Training	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31