

# Scouts in Action

## “25 of 250 Challenge Checklist



### How it works

- Scouts, Scouters, or units choose **any 25 items** from the official **Council 250 Menu** (below) between Jan 1–December 31, 2026.
- At least **5 must be service**, and **5 must be learning/civic engagement**.
- Participants **log service** in Scoutbook for Impact365 and **fill out the “25 of 250” completion form** on NCAC’s America 250 webpage.

### Recognition

- **Patch for purchase upon completion of the challenge.**
- **Unit streamer for units that complete the “25 of 250 Challenge.”**

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### The 2026 “Pick Any 25 of 250” Checklist (Scout or Unit)

**Tip: Items marked “(Scout)” are perfect for youth; “(Unit)” are ideal for Packs/Troops/Crews/Ships/Posts. Most can be done by either.**

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#### A) Recruitment & Growth

1.  (Unit) Grow your membership to have more Scouts at the end of 2026 than you did at the end of 2025.
2.  (Unit) Host a spring open house with hands-on stations and a Join QR.
3.  (Scout) Invite a friend to any meeting or outing.
4.  (Unit) Staff a school open house table with a knot-tying demo.
5.  (Unit) Run a “Bring-a-Buddy” month with a fun patch for buddies.
6.  (Unit) Put Join QR yard signs at your chartered org and park trailheads.

7.  (Unit) Offer a Try-Scouting Saturday (1 hour of skills + s'mores).
8.  (Unit) Deliver a flag ceremony at a local game and invite families to join.
9.  (Scout) Post a "Why I Scout" 60-second video to your unit channels using #myNCAC.
10.  (Unit) Create a one-page "How much does Scouting cost?" with aid info.
11.  (Unit) Schedule two den/troop school visits.
12.  (Unit) Host a Pinewood "Open Class" for non-Scouts.
13.  (Unit) Run an intro hike for prospective families (1-2 miles).
14.  (Unit) Bring a rope bridge or lashing demo to a community fair.
15.  (Unit) Add a translated flyer (top local languages).
16.  (Scout) Wear your uniform on school picture day (with permission).
17.  (Unit) Ask your chartered org's leader to personally invite five families.
18.  (Unit) Offer a gear bank for new families (loaner uniforms, tents).
19.  (Unit) Build a monthly recruiting KPI (e.g., 10 new inquiries).
20.  (Unit) Place join fliers at the library and community centers.
21.  (Unit) Set up a "Join at Camp" table at your next camporee/camp.
22.  (Scout) Share a join link in your school or team chat (with permission).
23.  (Unit) Hold a Family Skills Night (knives/knots/first aid) for guests.
24.  (Unit) Run a New Family Orientation Night each quarter.
25.  (Unit) Invite girls to your den or linked troop.
26.  (Unit) Offer a "late-joiner on-ramp" (catch-up plan).
27.  (Unit) Staff a table at youth sports opening day.
28.  (Unit) Create a prospect sign-up at every event (QR + 24-hour follow-up).
29.  (Unit) Host a parent coffee with veteran parents answering questions.
30.  (Unit) Launch a sibling participation ribbon at pack events.
31.  (Unit) Promote Exploring/Venturing/Sea Scouts to 14+ friends.
32.  (Unit) Feature a "new Scout spotlight" post each month using #myNCAC.

- 33.  (Scout) Give a 2-minute talk at school/faith group about your unit.
  - 34.  (Scout or Unit) Distribute Halloween Peer-to-Peer cards at school or to Trick-or-Treaters.
  - 35.  (Unit) Run a “Join before camp” incentive tied to summer camp signup.
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## **B) Attend NCAC Program Events**

*(Attend or volunteer at these Council/District offerings.)*

- 36.  (Scout) Attend University of Scouting with your parent/leader (youth-friendly classes or as a helper).
- 37.  (Leader/Scout) Take/assist at NYLT Weekend if eligible.
- 38.  (Unit) Participate in a District Klondike/Camporee this winter/spring.
- 39.  (Unit) Join a District Day or Twilight Camp (Cub).
- 40.  (Unit) Visit Camp William B. Snyder for a program day or overnighter.
- 41.  (Unit) Watch an official NCAC camp webinar and share the plan with families.
- 42.  (Unit) Send a rep to the NCAC Annual Business Meeting (youth/Key-3 welcome as observers where appropriate).
- 43.  (Scout/Unit) Register for Camp Ross (Webelos/AOL) at Goshen.
- 44.  (Scout/Unit) Register for Bowman/Marriott/Olmsted (Scouts BSA) at Goshen.
- 45.  (Scout/Unit) Plan a Lenhok’sin High Adventure trek with crew/ship.
- 46.  (Unit) Attend a merit badge day hosted by Council/District.
- 47.  (Unit) Bring a color guard to open a District/Council event.
- 48.  (Scout) Support Fall Festival at Camp William B. Snyder (staff or participant).
- 49.  (Unit) Participate in a STEM Trek on the National Mall (self-guided).
- 50.  (Scout/Unit) Camp William B. Snyder Trading Post & Scout Shop to gear up.
- 51.  (Scout/Unit) Visit the Marriott Scout Service Center and National Capital Scout Shop gear up.
- 52.  (Scout/Unit) Visit the Springfield Scout Shop to gear up.
- 53.  (Unit) Join a district Roundtable (youth may present).
- 54.  (Scout) Take part in a district OA election/meeting (if eligible).

- 55.  (Leader for Unit) Complete BALOO/IOLS at a District training weekend.
  - 56.  (Unit) Attend a District service day (trail, park, or CO project).
  - 57.  (Unit) Do a camporee recruiting hour (invite friends for a tour).
  - 58.  (Unit) Attend the 250 Goshen Scout Reservation Visit
  - 59.  (Unit) Join Family Camp at Goshen or Snyder when offered.
  - 60.  (Unit) Register early for 2026–27 camp to secure sites.
  - 61.  (Unit) Attend the Great American Scouting Picnic
  - 62.  (Unit) Participate in a District recruiting expo or school night.
  - 63.  (Unit) Schedule bus/transport for Goshen if needed (promote it).
  - 64.  (Scout) Volunteer on camp staff (apply/interview).
  - 65.  (Unit) Submit a story to We Own Adventure (Council blog).
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#### C) Council Fundraising Events—Unit/Family Engagement

*(Attend, volunteer, or help promote; youth participation with leader/parent approval.)*

- 66.  (Unit) Provide a color guard for a Council event.
- 67.  (Scout) Volunteer at Gala check-in/auction setup (as needed).
- 68.  (Unit) Fill a table at the Gala with Chartered Org/community leaders.
- 69.  (Unit) Recruit a sponsor or donate a silent-auction item.
- 70.  (Scout) Record a 30-sec thank-you video for sponsors using #myNCAC.
- 71.  (Unit) Enter a team in the Clay Shoot.
- 72.  (Unit) Recruit a 5-person squad for the Clay Shoot.
- 73.  (Unit) Sell a foursome for the NCAC Golf Classic.
- 74.  (Unit) Attend the Whitney M. Young Awards Luncheon
- 75.  (Unit) Attend John Jenkins Good Scout Evening (Prince William).
- 76.  (Unit) Attend Loudoun County Good Scout event.
- 77.  (Unit) Attend the Maryland Good Scout Dinner (Montgomery County).

- 78.  (Unit) Attend an official Scout Day with a local team featured on [WeOwnAdventure.com/sports-adventures](https://www.weownadventure.com/sports-adventures)
  - 79.  (Unit) Host a Tech demo table at the Technology Good Scout Luncheon.
  - 80.  (Unit) Attend the Outstanding Eagle Scout Award Dinner
  - 81.  (Unit) Attend/volunteer at Scouting Salutes the Military.
  - 82.  (Unit) Invite military families to the event.
  - 83.  (Unit) Attend Innovators in Motion Good Scout event.
  - 84.  (Unit) Share event photos with a join link on social the same day using #myNCAC
  - 85.  (Unit) Follow-up 48 hours after any event with join Scouting invitations.
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#### D) Community Service & America Gives

*(Do service and log hours on the national America Gives portal.)*

- 86.  (Unit) Complete 250 hours of service during 2026.
- 87.  (Scout/Unit) Log your hours for any service in Scoutbook for Impact365.
- 88.  (Unit) Run a park or trail cleanup (weigh the trash).
- 89.  (Unit) Plant native pollinators at school/CO grounds.
- 90.  (Unit) Repair or repaint community benches/tables.
- 91.  (Scout) Lead a storm-drain stenciling patrol.
- 92.  (Unit) Build bird/bee houses for a park partner.
- 93.  (Unit) Remove invasive plants along a trail.
- 94.  (Unit) Host a food bank pack-out (aim for 250 family kits).
- 95.  (Unit) Scouting for Food: distribute door tags (Nov 7).
- 96.  (Unit) Scouting for Food: collect donations (Nov 14).
- 97.  (Unit) Run a coat drive for winter shelters.
- 98.  (Unit) Conduct a flag retirement ceremony for community.
- 99.  (Scout) Record veterans' oral histories (LOC VHP) with adults.
- 100.  (Unit) Build monofilament recycle bins at local ponds.

- 101.  (Unit) Host a first-aid day for the public.
  - 102.  (Unit) Partner with a senior center for yard/help days.
  - 103.  (Unit) Create ADA-friendly campsite improvements (ramps/signs).
  - 104.  (Unit) Paint/restore a historic marker (with permissions).
  - 105.  (Scout) Organize a bike cleanup on a greenway.
  - 106.  (Scout) Teach trash-in/trash-out mini-lesson at a park.
  - 107.  (Unit) Run a community gear repair (patch tents, fix zippers).
  - 108.  (Unit) Do a cemetery cleanup with respectful protocols.
  - 109.  (Unit) Create a public “learn knots” booth in the park.
  - 110.  (Unit) Assemble hygiene kits for shelters.
  - 111.  (Unit) Lead a storm prep & home safety class.
  - 112.  (Unit) Organize a blood drive (partner agency).
  - 113.  (Unit) Do a neighborhood litter pick after holidays.
  - 114.  (Unit) Host a “Thank-A-Teacher” service (snack cart/notes).
  - 115.  (Unit) Run a pet supplies drive for animal shelters.
  - 116.  (Unit) Share your America Gives confirmation screenshot with your unit.
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#### **E) America 250 Participation & History Learning**

*(Tie recruiting to the Semiquincentennial moments.)*

- 117.  (Scout) Submit an entry to America’s Field Trip (art/video/essay).
- 118.  (Scout/Unit) Record a story for Our American Story.
- 119.  (Unit) Hold a July 3 “Countdown” picnic and invite prospects.
- 120.  (Unit) Take part in “America Waves” flag-raising on July 4.
- 121.  (Unit) Do a July 5 Reflection Hike (journals + invite friends).
- 122.  (Scout) Visit a National Park with Revolutionary/founding ties.
- 123.  (Scout) Participate in Citizen Archivist transcription (Revolutionary records).

124.  (Unit) Watch a Smithsonian 250 talk or visit a related exhibit.
125.  (Unit) Host a Declaration reading at a campfire program.
126.  (Unit) Invite a local historian/tribal representative to speak.
127.  (Scout) Build a “250 years of…” mini-display (tech, trails, gear).
128.  (Unit) Create a town heritage walk with 5 stops.
129.  (Scout) Stream a White House “Story of America” video.
130.  (Unit) Make a “Then & Now” photo essay of local landmarks.
131.  (Unit) Participate in a state/county 250 event as volunteers.
132.  (Unit) Do a flag etiquette workshop for the public.
133.  (Scout) Lead a primary sources activity using Library of Congress tools.
134.  (Unit) Hold a “Voices of America” campfire of diverse readings.
135.  (Unit) Tour a local museum’s 250 display and invite prospects.
136.  (Unit) Create a time capsule to open in 2076.
137.  (Scout) Write letters to 2076 Scouts about your community.
138.  (Unit) Take a Historic Trails hike <https://ncascouting.org/activities/host-hikes/>.
139.  (Unit) March in a July 4 parade with Join QR banners.
140.  (Scout) Share a 1-minute America 250 reflection at meeting.
141.  (Unit) Do a Smithsonian online collections scavenger hunt.
142.  (Scout) Submit a story/photo to the Council blog (We Own Adventure).
143.  (Unit) Join an NPS service day connected to 250 prep.
144.  (Unit) Run a “250 Service Blitz” (one Saturday, multiple teams).
145.  (Unit) Host a community “What America Means to Me” gallery night.
146.  (Unit) Promote America Gives/Scouting America Impact365 at every service event you do.
147.  (Unit) Invite local press to your July 3–5 events (nonpartisan).
148.  (Unit) Share a 1-page America250 resources sheet with families.

149.  (Unit) Close the year with a Council 250 Impact recap at Chartered Org meeting (hours, stories, new joins).
150.  (Scout) Help design a 250 patch or streamer for your unit.
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#### F) Camping & Outdoor Program

151.  (Scout) Camp at Goshen (weeklong).
152.  (Scout) Camp at Camp Snyder (overnight or program day).
153.  (Unit) Achieve one campout per month (or 10 nights/year).
154.  (Scout) Lead a cooking demo for recruits at camp.
155.  (Unit) Offer a family campout for new families.
156.  (Scout) Earn Camping MB (Scouts BSA) or outdoor activity loops (Cub).
157.  (Unit) Do a canoe/kayak cleanup day.
158.  (Scout) Complete a 5-mile hike and map it for others.
159.  (Unit) Plan a winter skills day (shelters, stoves, safety).
160.  (Scout) Lead a Leave No Trace mini-lesson.
161.  (Unit) Do a night orienteering activity.
162.  (Unit) Hike a historic trail with a guest family.
163.  (Unit) Invite Webelos/AOL to a troop campfire preview.
164.  (Unit) Promote Lenhok'sin to older youth & plan shakedown.
165.  (Scout) Build a backpacking checklist and teach it.
166.  (Unit) Host a bike skills outing (helmet fit, ABC check).
167.  (Unit) Run a fishing derby (catch-photo-release).
168.  (Scout) Learn astronomy and share a star talk.
169.  (Unit) Do a canoe safety intro with a guest lifeguard.
170.  (Unit) Invite prospects to a camp breakfast & tour.
171.  (Unit) Do a gear swap night (affordability + access).

- 172.  (Scout) Earn 50-Miler or segment of it (as feasible).
  - 173.  (Unit) Try a new campsite your unit has never visited.
  - 174.  (Unit) Post a camp highlight reel with Join QR using #myNCAC.
  - 175.  (Unit) Hold a “Camp is Calling” rally in May/June.
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#### G) STEM & Innovation

- 176.  (Scout) Earn the Inventing Merit Badge, Everyday Tech (Cub) or other innovative achievement.
  - 177.  (Unit) Host a drone mapping or rocketry demo day.
  - 178.  (Scout) Visit a STEM museum or lab tour and recount to unit.
  - 179.  (Unit) Complete a DC STEM Trek (abbreviated or full).
  - 180.  (Scout) Build a solar cooker and make a meal.
  - 181.  (Unit) Host a coding evening (Blockly/Python intro).
  - 182.  (Scout) Present a “then & now” technology timeline.
  - 183.  (Unit) Invite a STEM professional for career Q&A.
  - 184.  (Scout) Earn Electronics, Programming, or Robotics MB.
  - 185.  (Unit) Hold a makers’ fair (3D printing/laser cut demo).
  - 186.  (Unit) Do an innovation challenge (“fix a camp problem”).
  - 187.  (Scout) Build a telegraph or radio and send a message.
  - 188.  (Unit) Tour a tech company affiliated with your unit/parents/volunteers.
  - 189.  (Scout) Present a STEM safety talk (tools, PPE).
  - 190.  (Unit) Post STEM highlights to recruit older youth using #myNCAC.
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#### H) Leadership & Training

- 191.  (Scout) Complete ILST/ILSC/ILSS (as appropriate).
- 192.  (Leader) Complete BALOO/IOLS this year.
- 193.  (Leader) Attend University of Scouting.

- 194.  (Scout) Attend NYLT or apply for staff.
  - 195.  (Unit) Run a new-parent orientation monthly (20 min).
  - 196.  (Unit) Create job cards for youth leadership positions.
  - 197.  (Scout) Teach a meeting-opening skill (5 minutes).
  - 198.  (Unit) Mentor a new den or new patrol for 90 days.
  - 199.  (Scout) Lead a service project team (plan, recruit, run).
  - 200.  (Leader) Take an online position-specific course.
  - 201.  (Unit) Host a youth speakers' bootcamp.
  - 202.  (Unit) Practice safety talks at every meeting.
  - 203.  (Scout) Coach a younger Scout on a requirement.
  - 204.  (Unit) Hold a PLC planning retreat (youth-led).
  - 205.  (Unit) Present a year plan to your Chartered Org and invite new families.
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#### **I) Order of the Arrow & Service Leadership**

- 206.  (Scout) Ensure your OA election is scheduled and held.
  - 207.  (Scout) Complete your Ordeal if elected/called out.
  - 208.  (Scout) Attend a lodge/chapter meeting.
  - 209.  (Scout) Work an OA service weekend (camp improvement).
  - 210.  (Scout) Serve as ceremonies/color guard at a public event.
  - 211.  (Scout) Help run a unit OA election.
  - 212.  (Scout) Staff a camporee via OA support.
  - 213.  (Scout) Contribute a lodge history story (photo + caption).
  - 214.  (Scout) Recruit a new member mentor in chapter.
  - 215.  (Scout) Earn Brotherhood and continue cheerful service.
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## **J) Digital Storytelling & Media**

- 216.  (Scout) Post a reel after every major outing using #myNCAC.
  - 217.  (Unit) Maintain a “Join Us” landing page with a calendar & how to join.
  - 218.  (Scout) Write a We Own Adventure article with photos.
  - 219.  (Unit) Create a Link in Bio (Join/Calendar).
  - 220.  (Unit) Publish joining event invitation for an open house at local school.
  - 221.  (Scout) Make a 30-sec “Camp is Calling” teaser in May/June using #myNCAC.
  - 222.  (Unit) Share live updates from NCAC special events with Join QR.
  - 223.  (Scout) Interview a new Scout about why they joined (with consent).
  - 224.  (Unit) Post Scouting for Food reminders & thank-yous.
  - 225.  (Unit) Publish a year-end highlight video (include how to join) using #myNCAC.
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## **K) Community Connections**

- 226.  (Unit) Offer transportation carpools for new families.
- 227.  (Unit) Run a sensory-friendly meeting with a quiet corner.
- 228.  (Unit) Provide translated handouts (top languages).
- 229.  (Unit) Establish a uniform/gear closet.
- 230.  (Unit) Share financial aid & campership info at sign-ups.
- 231.  (Unit) Host a “New American Families” welcome night.
- 232.  (Unit) Invite military families to a “Scouting & Service” night.
- 233.  (Unit) Partner with a faith community for a Scout Sunday/Friday/Sabbath service & invite neighbors.
- 234.  (Unit) Run a girls-only recruiting hour with women leaders visible.
- 235.  (Unit) Visit a title-one school with join materials & unit scholarships.
- 236.  (Unit) Offer loaner sleeping bags/pads for first campout.
- 237.  (Unit) Make meeting spaces accessible (seating, lighting).
- 238.  (Unit) Invite a community disability advocate to advise your program.

- 239.  (Unit) Conduct a family needs survey (transport, costs, times).
- 240.  (Unit) Host a “gear check & fit night” for comfort & safety.
- 241.  (Unit) Provide childcare corner at recruiting nights.
- 242.  (Unit) Bring healthy snacks mindful of allergies/culture.
- 243.  (Unit) Invite youth met at activities to join Scouting.
- 244.  (Unit) Invite ESOL/immersion classes to a Try-Scouting hour.
- 245.  (Unit) Translate your Join page (Spanish/Amharic or local need).

#### Seasonal Growth Sprints & “July 3–5” Moments

- 246.  (Unit) February “New Year, New Skills” open house—cold-weather demo.
- 247.  (Unit) March STEM/History Trek + spring day-camp invites.
- 248.  (Unit) May “Camp is Calling” family rally—register for Goshen/Snyder.
- 249.  (Unit) July 3–5 America 250: do the countdown, waves, reflection—invite prospects.
- 250.  (Unit) November Scouting for Food—treat BOTH Saturdays as recruiting days (thank-you door cards with Join QR).