



Date: July 27, 2026

To: National Marine Corps League Commandant
National Marine Corps League Board of Trustees

From: National Marine Corps League Scout Committee Chair

Subject: **2026 National Marine Corps League Report**

Marines and Associates,

This report will discuss the activities of the National Scout Committee during the previous twelve months.

Our committee is comprised of:

- | | | |
|------------------|--|------------|
| • Joe Uribe | juribe@mcleague.org | Ex-Officio |
| • Bill Kropa | N3evz@rcn.com | Chair |
| • Rich Walsh | rich@walsh-ss.com | Vice Chair |
| • Dave Masunas | masunasfam@qtlakes.com | |
| • Charles Minton | ssgtcdminton@yahoo.com | |
| • Steve Bosshard | stevebosshard@aol.com | |

This report contains the following sections:

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1. Purpose of the Committee

The mission of the National Scout Committee (NSC) is to advance the Marine Corps League's (MCL) overarching goals by fostering Americanism and patriotic volunteerism



across generations. We achieve this by collaborating with Divisions, Departments, and Detachments to:

- Recognize America's youth who have achieved the highest ranks in Scouting.
- Honor regular and associate members who qualify for the Scouting America Community Organization Square Knot Award.
- Recommend deserving youth for the Hero Medal.
- Partner with local Scouting units to identify meaningful community service projects that support our Veterans.

2. 2025 Good Citizenship Certificates

Our primary operational focus remains presenting Good Citizenship Certificates to deserving youth. As of this report, we have proudly presented 1,674 certificates this year.

Special congratulations go out to the Central Division (405 certificates) and the Department of Pennsylvania (213 certificates) for leading the nation in presentations.

Note: For a detailed breakdown of certificate presentations by Division and Department, please refer to Appendix A.

3. NSC Initiatives

A. Social Media Outreach

We continue to aggressively expand awareness of the Good Citizenship Certificate program nationwide. The NSC maintains an active presence on prominent digital platforms, including the *Scouts BSA Female Troops Volunteers* and *Boy Scout Volunteers* Facebook groups. By sharing program information and direct links to the National MCL web page, we have generated substantial engagement and inquiries. Facebook remains a highly effective tool for identifying local Scout districts and troops to expand our reach.

B. NSC Newsletter

To bridge communication gaps, the NSC established an annual newsletter distributed to Scout Coordinators at all levels. This publication highlights Detachment successes, provides program updates, and addresses frequently asked questions.

- See *Attachment B: NSC Newsletter – July 27, 2026*.

C. National Contact Database

Inter-organizational communication remains one of our primary hurdles. The NSC frequently receives event support requests from across the country—and occasionally from abroad—making it time-consuming to identify the appropriate local point of contact. To streamline this process, the NSC developed a comprehensive contact list spanning National, Division, Department, and Detachment levels.



- See Attachment C: MCL NSC Contact List (Note: Contact information has been removed for security purposes).

D. Detachment Support

The NSC continues to provide hands-on guidance to Detachments nationwide, helping them build and sustain localized Scouting programs that fit their operational capacity.

4. Community Service Award Program

In early 2020, the Board of Trustees approved the MCL's participation in Scouting America's Community Service Award program. This prestigious square knot is worn on the Scouting uniform and features an Eagle, Globe, and Anchor device to denote our organization.

It is available to MCL members and associates in good standing who are also registered adult leaders within Scouting America Councils, Districts, or units, subject to approval by both the NSC and Scouting America. Detailed criteria are available on the National webpage.



The NSC is proud to formally recognize the following Marines who successfully met all requirements and were approved for the award this year:

- **Claude Jay Rutan**
 - Date Awarded: **16 July 2026**
 - Detachment: **Northampton County Detachment #298**
 - Department: **Department of Pennsylvania**
 - Scouting Affiliation: **Chartered Organization Representative, Troop 31, Northampton District, Minsi Trails Council, and is a member of the National Eagle Scout Association**
- **Stuart Blair (7/16/2026)**
 - Date Awarded: **16 July 2026**
 - Detachment: **Baltimore Detachment #565**
 - Department: **Department of Maryland, Department Scout Representative**
 - Scouting Affiliation: **Chartered Organization Representative, Troop 729, Gunpowder Falls District, Baltimore Area Council**

With these new presentations, there have been **11 recipients** to date. The primary objective of this initiative is to showcase the MCL within the broader community, demonstrating a unique avenue for Marine veterans to continue serving both our youth and our nation.



5. Maximizing Strategic Value Across Scouting's Premier National Events

The dual alignment of NSC Chair Bill Kropa attending both the Scouting America National Annual Meeting and the National Scout Jamboree creates a seamless loop of high-level policy influence and direct local execution for the MCL

The National Annual Meeting: Influencing Top-Tier Leadership

- Forging Institutional Alliances: By attending the annual meeting alongside Scouting America's national executive board, key commissioners, and council professionals, Bill cements the MCL's position as a vital national charter partner.
- Shaping Policy and Process: This is where national Scouting initiatives—like volunteer simplification, new onboarding pipelines, and unit retention tools—are rolled out. Bill's presence ensures that the MCL's Good Citizenship and Eagle Scout presentation programs remain perfectly aligned with new national Scouting standards.
- National Recognition: Positioning the MCL alongside top-tier national committees enhances the visibility of the MCL, encouraging more Scouts and Scouters to look to local detachments for leadership.



The National Jamboree: Mobilizing the Mission on the Ground

- Activating the Partnership: Moving from the boardroom to the field, Bill directly activates the Memorandum of Mutual Support before 15,000+ youth and thousands of adult volunteers at the Summit Bechtel Reserve.
- Frontline Outreach: The Jamboree provides a direct stage to showcase the shared values of the MCL and Scouting - leadership, discipline, and devotion to country -especially during this year's landmark America 250 patriotic celebrations.
- Direct Regional Connections: Bill can network face-to-face with regional council leaders and scoutmasters from all 50 states, opening immediate doors for local MCL detachments to establish steady, year-round Eagle Scout pipelines.



The Bottom Line for the MCL

Attending the National Annual Meeting allows the MCL to influence strategy and network at the top, while the National Jamboree allows the MCL to execute the mission and plant our flag on the ground. Together, these two events give Bill the ultimate blueprint and visibility to strengthen hometown youth programs across every local detachment.

6. Action Required: Call to Leadership Support

To overcome our ongoing communication and roster challenges, we need direct assistance from leadership at all levels.



- **Appoint and Elevate:** We request all Division, Department, and Detachment Commandants formally appoint a dedicated Scout Coordinator and forward their contact details up the chain of command.
- **Digital Visibility:** We request that all levels prominently feature Scouting program resources and coordinator contact information on their respective websites.

Our current data does not capture the full scope of the incredible work being done by quiet, hardworking Detachments across the country. Help us ensure every effort is counted.

7. Defining Our Impact

As a reminder, the Marine Corps operates on the timeless ethos, *"Once a Marine, Always a Marine."* Eagle Scouts share a parallel bond: *"Once an Eagle Scout, Always an Eagle Scout."*

While presentation traditions vary by Department, the NSC strongly encourages presenting the Good Citizenship Certificate to any individual who has earned the rank of Eagle Scout—whether they achieved it yesterday or decades ago. Recognizing this milestone builds tremendous goodwill, elevates the MCL's reputation, and serves as an exceptional tool for recruiting new members to our ranks.

The core pillars of Scouting—character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness—are vital to the success of future generations. It is our distinct responsibility as Marines and Associates to champion these values.

For any questions, ideas, or support requests, please contact the NSC at **scouting@MCLeague.org**.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Kropa

Bill Kropa
Committee Chair



Appendix A MCL National Award Count for 2026



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE National Scout Committee

2026



NATIONAL COUNT

1,674



Central Division	
None Assigned	
Illinois	181
Indiana	4
Kentucky	2
Michigan	158
Ohio	28
Wisconsin	32
Division Total	405

Mideast Division	
Charles Minton	
Delaware	1
District of Columbia	0
Maryland	66
North Carolina	148
Virginia	17
West Virginia	90
Puerto Rico	0
Division Total	322

Midwest Division	
Janice Hartley	
Iowa	9
Kansas	12
Minnesota	1
Missouri	203
Nebraska	10
North Dakota	0
South Dakota	12
Division Total	247

New England Division	
Chris Cekovsky	
Connecticut	3
Maine	2
Massachusetts	9
New Hampshire	2
Rhode Island	2
Vermont	0
Division Total	18

Northeast Division	
Adam Tegge	
New Jersey	75
New York	70
Pennsylvania	213
Division Total	358

Northwest Division	
Bonnie Holden	
Alaska	
Idaho	5
Montana	1
Oregon	0
Washington	8
Division Total	14

Rocky Mountain Division	
John Everhart	
Colorado	18
New Mexico	7
Utah	0
Wyoming	1
Division Total	26

Southeast	
Claude Davis	
Alabama	0
Florida	24
Georgia	32
Louisiana	70
Mississippi	0
South Carolina	35
Tennessee	
Division Total	161

Southern Division	
Jim Howington	
Arkansas	7
Oklahoma	10
Texas	14
Division Total	31

Southwest Division	
Steve Bosshard	
Arizona	4
California	88
Hawaii	0
Nevada	0
Okinawa	0
Guam	0
Division Total	92



Appendix B NSC 2026 Newsletter



NATIONAL SCOUT COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER



July 27, 2026

In this issue:

- What do we do?
- BSA Community Organization Award
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Marines Honor Michigan's Highest Scouting Achievers
- Starting a Program
- Division Committee Info
- Presenting Certificates
- National Committee Info

What do we do?

The mission of the National Scout Committee is to support the overall mission of the Marine Corps League, specifically in fostering the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.

We do this by working with Divisions, Departments, and Detachments in recognizing America's youth who have earned the highest achievements in Scouting; recognizing regular and associate members who have met the requirements for the Scouting America Community Organization Square Knot Award; recommend deserving youth for the Hero Medal; and working with local Scouting units in identifying service projects to support Veterans.

BSA Community Organization Square Knot Award

Congratulations to Claude Jay Rutan of Northampton County Detachment #298, Department of Pennsylvania and to Stuart Blair of Baltimore Detachment #565, Department of Maryland. Marine Blair is also the Department Scouting Chair.



Claude Jay Rutan

*Thank you to these Marines
for all they do for the League
and for Scouting!*



Stuart Blair

The Community Organization Award is designed to recognize Marine Corps League members (including associate members) who are actively involved in the Scouting program and complete the requirements for the award. The award is meant to recognize the dedication and hard work required by League and Associate members to assist in furthering the Scouting program in the Marine Corps League. Members who earn this award can also be recognized by their Department / Detachment. Once approved, the League or Associate member is authorized to wear this Square Knot with an Eagle, Globe, and Anchor device.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is a Good Citizenship Award?

A: It is an official certificate that is presented by the Marine Corps League to those in Scouting America (SA) who have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, Summit Award, or Quartermaster Award. The Marine Corps League Auxiliary (if available) presents to those in the Girl Scouts of America who have achieved the Gold Award. If there is no local Auxiliary, the Detachment can modify a blank certificate to mirror the SA one.

Q: Why should your Department/Detachment participate in this program?

A: There are many reasons including; raising public awareness of the Marine Corps League within our communities, to congratulate and give recognition to Scouts who have achieved their highest awards, to reinforce to the Scout that the skills he or she has mastered are held in very high regard by the Marine Corps, the Marine Corps League, and corporations throughout the United States and around the world.

Q. How can participating in this program benefit our Department / Detachment?

A: There are many reasons including; Exposure in your community. (picture in the paper, guest at the ceremony, etc.), growing your network of volunteers, community support of your Department / Detachment programs and fundraisers, member recruitment possibilities, and getting more Department / Detachment members involved with functions.

Q. What does it cost?

A: This is a 100% voluntary program, but there is a cost. The certificate and red presentation folder from the MCL ship store sell for \$2.00 each. A pack of gold seals (for your Department stamp) from an office supply store is about \$6.00 per pack. Some Detachments present challenge coins, some present K-Bars, some even sponsor Scouts for summer camp or other high activities. It is up to you on how much you want to spend.

“This is an excellent opportunity to recognize our next generation of young Americans who have already demonstrated their commitment to service to their communities and country. It is also a great way to increase our profile and name recognition”



Marines Honor Michigan's Highest Scouting Achievers

Two members of the Marine Corps League's Department of Michigan Scouting Committee, Chair David Masunas of the Oceana County/Brett Witteveen Detachment #1225 and Rich Walsh of Kalamazoo Detachment #879, spent the 2026 recognition season traveling across the state to salute the young men and women who have reached the pinnacle of Scouting. At the Michigan Crossroads Council's annual regional recognition dinners on both sides of the state, the two Marines helped present more than 70 certificates to newly minted Eagle Scouts, Venturing Summit Award recipients, and Sea Scout Quartermasters.

The Building Character Celebration opened in the President Ford Division with a gala dinner at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids. The celebration then moved to the east side of the state, where the Great

Lakes Division held a picnic-style event at the Packard Proving Grounds Historic Site in Shelby Township.

For Marines Masunas and Walsh, these appearances reflect the Marine Corps League's mission to foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism, in part by recognizing America's youth who have achieved the highest honors in Scouting. By presenting these certificates at the two dinners, the Marines connected the League's values with the next generation of Scouting's leaders. These appearances continue to strengthen the enduring partnership between the Marine Corps League and Scouting, building lasting goodwill in communities across Michigan and reflecting the League's deep and ongoing commitment to America's youth.



David Masunas



Rich Walsh with Marines from RSS Detroit



How do we start a program?

The following basic guidelines will assist any Detachment / Department that wishes to participate in our exciting program. This program can be as simple or as elaborate as your membership decides.

- The Detachment / Department votes to participate in the program at any regularly scheduled meeting. There is a cost factor in providing this program, so a vote is necessary from the membership.
- A League or Associate Member will be appointed by the Commandant from the Detachment / Department as the Chair of the Scout Committee. Department Chairs should notify the Division and National Committees of their appointment. Detachment Chairs should contact their Department Chair. This will assist National to maintain accurate contact information throughout the Marine Corps League.
- The Chair, and any committee members, do not need to have been or be currently active in Scouting to participate.
- Semiannual reports of the number of certificates presented should be forwarded to the Department / Division / National Committees. All the report needs is the number of certificates presented. We do not need any additional information at the National level.
- Your first report will show the number of awards presented for the period of July 1 to December 31 is **due by January 15th** for the National Mid Winter Conference. A final report for the National Annual Convention will be the total number of awards given for the total Marine Corps League fiscal year July 1st to June 30th of the following year. This report is **due by July 15th**. No reports are accepted after that.
- The expenses for this program will be the cost of the certificate \$2.00 each, a green presentation folder if wanted \$2.20. If a member is unable to attend the Court of Honor to present the certificate, make sure the certificate is mailed (cost for postage) to the Scout so he or she will be able to display the certificate at his Court of Honor.

If your Detachment / Department is interested in starting up a Scout Committee, contact your Department / Division Scout Chair.



Division Committee Chairs:

- Central — Not Assigned
- Mideast — Charles Minton / ssgtcdminton@yahoo.com / (252) 452-0728
- Midwest — Janice Hartley / janice.Hartley@hotmail.com / (314) 799-4568
- New England — Chris Cekovsky / ccekovsky@gmail.com / (413) 427-8456
- Northeast — Adam Tegge / ategge@hotmail.com / (917) 968-6296
- Northwest — Bonnie Holden / bonnie.holden@hotmail.com / (360) 339-3446
- Rocky Mountain — John Everhart / j.r.everhart@msn.com / (303) 921-3506
- Southeast — Claude Davis / tarheelmarine1@gmail.com (808) 722-6247
- Southern — Jim Howington / howingtonjim15@gmail.com / (502) 672-2222
- Southwest — Steve Bosshard / stevebosshard@aol.com / (707) 480-9495

Presenting the Certificates?

The following basic guidelines will assist in the presentation of the certificates to the Scout(s). Again, this can be as simple or as elaborate as you are comfortable with.

- Be in a proper Marine Corps League uniform.

Suggestion: it is our time to shine and leave an impression. Uniforms can include the Undress or Casual Uniforms. Some Detachments have polo shirts that they wear with black or tan trousers. If you have more than one presenter, try and be uniform in what is worn.

- Have a Good Citizenship Award for the Scout filled out and ready to be presented.
- Find out when/where you are to present the award, usually they have a person who is running the program that will assist you with this.

Suggestion: Contact the Court of Honor coordinator to make sure that they have the ability to have a representative to present the certificate, sometimes the ceremony is small and they do not actually need a physical presence and simply mailing the certificate is perfectly acceptable.

- Give your remarks.

Suggestion: Try and arrive early, the Scouts will have displays of their Scouting Journey that can help inform your comments. You can have a standard delivery or improvise, it is up to you. A "warrant" was developed based off of our enlisted promotion warrants that can be used as a simple and standard delivery.

- Present the Award(s).

- Take pictures.

Suggestion: Take any pictures before the ceremony begins, because when it is done, everyone will want pictures and this will allow you to leave as soon as the ceremony is completed.



Dept. JVC & SE Div Scouting Chair Claude Davis III (left)
Detachment Commandant Jeremy Washburn (right)
JAMES L. HAMMONS DETACHMENT #939
Aiken, South Carolina



National Committee Members:

- Ex-Officio — Joe Uribe / juribe@mcleague.org
- Chair — Bill Kropa / N3evz@rcn.com / (570) 499-0838
- Vice Chair — Rich Walsh / rich@walsh-ss.com / (269) 823-1501
- Member — Steve Bosshard / stevebosshard@aol.com / (707) 480-9495
- Member — Dave Masunas / raabks@gmail.com / (231) 301-0950
- Member — Charles Minton / ssgtcdminton@yahoo.com / (252) 452-0728

Please send us pictures and ideas for future issues!

If you have any questions, please contact us at scouting@mcleague.org



Appendix C MCL NSC Contact List



National Scout Committee

Department Contact

State	Name	State	Name
AK		MT	Gene Benner
AL		NC	Charles Minton
AR	Jim Howington	ND	Joe Hughes
AZ	Roger Rodriguez	NE	Jason House
CA	Steve Bosshard	NH	Brad Howe
CO	John Everhart	NJ	Charles Wain
CO	Clem Schuette	NM	Phoebe Marzan
CT	Chris Cekovsky	NV	
DE	Ralph Willis	NY	
FL	Thomas K. Reichard	OH	Thomas Lucas, Jr
GA	Mickey Edwards	OK	Jim Howington
HI		OR	Allen Stewart
IA	Dale Stern	PA	James P. Diamond
ID	Rosie Soto Mustic	RI	Chris Cekovsky
IL	Harry Fanning	SC	Don Barton
IN	Robert Mantle	SD	Steve Rueschhoff
KS	Michael Swearingen	TN	Dan Summers
KY	Cletis Evans	TX	Jim Howington
LA	Sammy Marcel	UT	
MA	Chris Cekovsky	VA	Frank Garvey
MD	Stuart Bair	VT	Chris Cekovsky
MI	Dave Masunas	WA	Bonnie Holden
MN	Sarah Belden	WI	Lynn Sabel
MO	Janice Hartley	WV	Fred Brunner
MS	Ron Polk	WY	Paul Voss