



## Northwest Community Newsletter

**Serving the four Northwest Suburban Districts of the Pathway to Adventure Council**

**Blackhawk District** - Des Plaines, Glenview, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Mount Prospect, Niles, Park Ridge, Rosemont, Schiller Park, and Skokie

**North Woods District** - Buffalo Grove, Wheeling, Prospect Heights, Arlington Heights and Mount Prospect

**Pathfinder District** - Elk Grove Village, Hanover Park, Hoffman Estates, Roselle, Schaumburg, and Streamwood

**Signal Hill District** - Barrington, N. Hoffman Estates, Inverness, Lake Zurich, Palatine, Rolling Meadows, Kildeer, Tower Lakes, Long Grove, Deer Park, Hawthorn Woods, N. Barrington, S. Barrington, Lake Barrington and Barrington Hills

**Boy Scouts of America**

*providing youth life-long skills and memories for over 100 years.*

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Scout signup night

## **BLAST INTO SCOUTING** New Family Initiative



**Message from Alex Lohse,  
Field Director - Northwest Suburban  
Community**

Your commitment to scouting was apparent by all who attended the August ***Blast into Scouting*** orientations. Your engagement will help assure we reach more boys than ever before! For those who were not able to attend, or want to review the information, you can watch the orientation presentation [here online](#). Also, as a follow up, responses to frequently asked questions are provided in this Newsletter. [Check them out](#).

I look forward to seeing all of you at the September district meetings when final details for the September 17 signup will be communicated, and unit and parent packets distributed. We will also have more information about the October 3 launch event. Plan to attend the September meeting at the locations and times noted below.

Feel free to contact your [friendly community District Executive](#) with any questions regarding the ***Blast Into Scouting*** or you may contact me directly at 630-796-4262 or via email at [Alex.Lohse@scouting.org](mailto:Alex.Lohse@scouting.org).

Thank you for your dedication and passion for Scouting.



## **At September District Meeting:**

### **You will learn about**

- ÿ School signup assignments
- ÿ Signup day and Pack Support
- ÿ Launch day schedule and operations
- ÿ Parent Packet and Rocket distribution

### **You will receive**

- ÿ Unit Site Packet
- ÿ Family Packets
- ÿ Rockets for distribution to new scouts on September 17

## **September District Meetings**

### **Dates and locations**

**Tuesday September 1, 2015 6 - 7:30 pm**  
Pathfinder District

Our Savior's United Methodist Church  
701 E Schaumburg Rd  
Schaumburg, IL 60194  
District Executive Keith Schwartz  
630-796-4254

[Keith.Schwartz@Scouting.org](mailto:Keith.Schwartz@Scouting.org)

Alex Lohse

## Blast into Scouting Orientation

### **FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions:**

Those attending the August Northwest Community **Blast into Scouting** orientations asked a number of questions. As a way to share information with all volunteers Here are those questions and answers.

[Click Here](#)

If there are other questions about the **Blast into Scouting** program that need answers, [contact your community District Executive.](#)

**Thursday September 3, 2015 7:30-9 pm**

Signal Hill District

Immanuel Lutheran Church

200 N. Plum Grove Rd.

Palatine, IL 60067

Senior District Executive Terry Parke

847-846-9400

[cityparkxx@yahoo.com](mailto:cityparkxx@yahoo.com)

**Tuesday September 8, 2015 7:30-9 pm**

Blackhawk District

Christ Church

1492 Henry St.

Des Plaines, IL 60016

District Executive Brett Williams

630-796-4257

[Brett.Williams@Scouting.org](mailto:Brett.Williams@Scouting.org)

**Tuesday September 8, 2015 7:30-9 pm**

North Woods District

St. Simon's Episcopal Church

717 W. Kirchoff Rd.

Arlington Heights, IL 60005

Senior District Executive Brian Mulcrone

630-796-4258 [Brian.Mulcrone@Scouting.org](mailto:Brian.Mulcrone@Scouting.org)



Ignite the Fun...

# BLAST INTO SCOUTING

BlastIntoScouting.org

## SEPT. 17th

Sign up at an elementary school near you!

**FREE**  
model rockets for new members!

The graphic features a yellow and blue rocket on the right side, set against a background of a wooden cabin and a group of people, including children and adults, gathered outdoors. The text is primarily in yellow and white on a dark blue background.

## 5 ways You can help - Make the Blast into Scouting a success

1. Post digital media notices to your personal Facebook cover photo, and sponsoring organization, community news sites [Click Here for the image to download and post](#)
2. Share the news of scouting and the September 17 signup with relatives, friends, neighbors, and colleagues
3. Welcome families at a local school on September 17

4. Volunteer as a courier on September 17 to assure all locations are able to get needed supplies
5. Volunteer to assist at the October 3 launch sites

Willing and able to help?

Contact your community District Executive. [Click Here](#)



### School locations

The directory of schools that will be part of the ***Blast into Scouting*** can be found [here for Cook County](#) and NWSC communities.

The school your unit will be covering should be contacted in advance to confirm arrangements, and get instructions on setup and building access.

If there are any questions, [contact your community District Executive](#).

Be sure to thank the school principal and contact for their assistance after the signup event:

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## 5 ways to attract boys and parents to Scout signup night

1. Tell other parents in person, on Facebook, and in email. Pass along the Blast Into Scouting introduction video <http://www.scoutchannel.org/#!/pathway-to-adventure/c1vjv>
2. Post the Blast into Scouting image as your FaceBook cover photo [Click here for image to download and post](#)
3. Scouts wear their uniform to school and church, and give out [invitations](#) to friends
4. Give your neighbors an [invitation](#) and distribute them at your school
5. Put a Yard sign in your yard or major intersection

Need supplies or assistance, contact your [community District Executive](#)

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## Unit Blast into Scouting Tools

To assist your unit prepare and conduct the September 17 signup and October 3 launch events, forms and templates have been developed and are available to download. Many of the forms allow you to customize them for your unit. Forms available include:

- [Invitation to the September 17 Signup](#)
- [Unit Calendar](#)
- [New Parent hand out](#) with value of Cub Scouting and interest survey
- New [Parent Joining Conference outline](#)
- [Uniform check list](#) - remind parents all items on the list are 10% off
- [Rocket order form](#) (to order rockets for all members of the pack and make the October 3 launch a Pack event)

Web sites identified and developed for Blast into Scouting promotion and information:

- [Blast into Scouting parent information site](#) with scouting information, FAQ, school locations and online registration for those not able to attend a school signup, and more
  - [BSA membership site](#) with engaging video about the value of scouting
  - [PTAC Blast into Scouting site](#) with program resources and information
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## September 17 - Signup Event

- What to bring - supplies, applications, parent packets, rockets (or hold for Pack orientation)
- What to do - collect application and fees, invite to pack orientation night

[More](#)

## September Pack Orientation Night (9/18 - 10/2)

- What to do
  - Fun activity for boys – e.g. build rocket
  - Distribute Launch flyers and instructions
  - Distribute engines to parents (or hold to 10/3)
- What to cover - What every parent needs to understand about:
  - The Cub Scout program
  - Unit Calendar
  - Communications
  - Safety and Training

[More](#)

## October 3 Launch

### Locations

- Schiller Woods Grove 13, Irving Park Road West of Cumberland Avenue
- Busse Woods Grove 18, Higgins Road west of Arlington Heights Road

It is expected units in the Blackhawk District would use the Schiller Woods location, while Pathfinder, North Woods and Signal Hill District units would use the Busse Woods location

More information will be available at the September District Meetings

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## Invite parents to register for newsletters

Being a new parent to scouting, there is so much to learn. One way to assure parents become engaged is to sign them up for your unit news distribution list at the Pack orientation night.

In addition, there is our monthly PTAC Northwest Suburban Community Newsletter. Please encourage parents to register and get information about events and programs in our community. [They can subscribe online here.](#)

Our Council offers a monthly newsletter for volunteers with updates on programs and activities. Subscriptions are taken online at the [PTAC website home page](#) (scroll down and subscribe)

While there, Signal Hill District offers parents and volunteers an email distribution of notices and messages about events, activities and materials of interest. Registration is available under the News Tab on the [Signal Hill District webpage](#)

The National Service Center provides resource and information about the Cub Scout program for parents and leaders. To subscribe to update news check out <https://cubscouts.org/>



Letting parents know training available, and have them take the training, is key to engaging parents, reducing anxiety and building a strong cohesive unit. The unit orientation is the best time to start introducing the online, classroom and outdoor training provided by the BSA. Most training is available at no or little cost, so let new parents know upcoming training courses available.

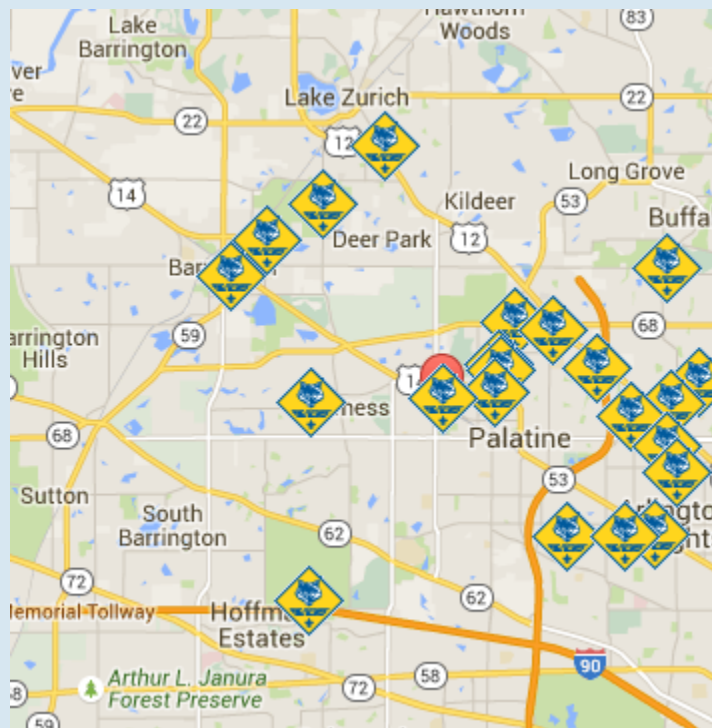
- October 17 the Den leader training is available during the University of Scouting (\$35/\$25 if register before Oct 3) as well as other Cub Scout focused English and Spanish courses, CPR / First Aid, STEM program and Den Chief training. [Registration information is](#)

[available online](#)

- November 14 Cub Scout leader training is available during the Council Training Academy, CTA, in Schaumburg. The courses include Cub Scout Leader Forum and others. [Information is available online](#)

Scouting program delivered by trained leaders with an outdoor experience brings sizzle and keeps youth in Scouting.

Engage parents in training from the beginning. The Youth Protection online course is a good place to start. Introduce parents to [My.scouting.org](http://My.scouting.org) Have them setup for an account and take the course.



## BE-A-Scout

The National BSA online Unit location system, BeAScout.org, will be coordinated as part of the Blast into Scouting program. From August 15th through September 18th all inquiries within the Blast into Scouting program area will be handled collectively for a consistent response. During this time, all emails will go to a full time BSA attendant who will respond to inquiries within 24 hours and forward the inquiry to Units and District Executives. The BSA attendant will track all inquiries to conclusion, e.g. joined a unit. After September 19th, the consistent response process will be deactivated and units should reclaim their BeAScout.org pin. Instructions will be provided to unit leaders on how to update their BeAScout.org location pins following the consistent response period and return them to Unit



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Welcome new Scouting Parents with a discount offer from the Scout Shop.

Now through October 25th, when a parent purchases a complete uniform at a [PTAC Community Scout Shop](#) or [online](#), they will save 10% off their purchase. [Use the handy uniform check list to see what is included.](#)

[Fine print is here](#)

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