

APRIL
2026

NORTH STAR MUSEUM
OF BOY SCOUTING & GIRL SCOUTING
Museum News

Inside this issue:

- Founders Hall Event (Continued) 2
- Skunk Reunion (Continued) 3
- 50th Anniversary Celebration 3
- Skunk of the Year Nomination Form 4
- 2026 Skunk Reunion Registration Form 5
- Be Prepared for the 2026 Edition of Super Merit Badge Weeks 6

There is Still Time to Register for the Founders Hall Event Honoring John Andrews and Beth Voermans and Featuring GSUSA President Noorain Kahn



Our Keynote is National GSUSA President Noorain Kahn

The final countdown is on for the April 18, 2026 Founders Hall fundraiser and recognition event. Since the February *Museum News*, our honorees were announced and additional program details have been finalized. Former Northern Star Scouting CEO John Andrews is being honored as a Founder and long-time Girl Scout volunteer and Museum Board Treasurer Beth Voermans is being honored as a Trailblazer. In addition, there is also a pre-event reception from 1:30–2:30 p.m. where you can meet and greet our keynote speaker—GSUSA President Noorain Kahn.

Let's learn a bit more about our honorees.

John Andrews is being inducted into the Founders Hall as a Founder. He certainly fits the Founder definition – individuals who have played a pivotal role in advancing Scouting America, Girl Scouts USA, or the North Star Museum. Founders are the architects, and visionaries who have significantly influenced the creation, innovation, or direction of these institutions over an extensive period.

[Continued on Page 2](#)

Time for the Funkiest Event Around – The Skunk Reunion!

Attention all Skunks! As Spring is finally upon us, it is time for all our fragrant friends to brush up their black and white coats and prepare to gather once again for our annual reunion. That most foul of events – the 2026 Skunk Reunion – is taking place on **Saturday, June 6 at the North Star Museum, 2640 Seventh Avenue East, North St. Paul. The festivities begin at 10:00 a.m.** Don't miss it or you are even more of a stinker than we thought!

It is possible that a few of you reading this article might be asking themselves “what is a Skunk and am I a skunk?” Well, people who are Museum members and have been registered in Scouting America or Girl Scouts of the USA for three or more years are Skunks. If you fit that description you are a Skunk. To register, fill out the registration form in this issue of the *Museum News* and send it in with your \$20 registration fee. You can also register on the North Star Museum

[Continued on Page 3](#)



There is Still Time to Register for the Founders Hall Event Honoring John Andrews and Beth Voermans and Featuring GSUSA President Noorain Kahn (Continued)

In his 42-year career with Scouting America, John left a lasting impact on youth development and the preservation of Scouting history. Serving in five councils across the Midwest, John spent 31 years as a Chief Executive Officer, including his transformative leadership of Northern Star Council—one of the largest and most dynamic Scouting councils in the nation. Of course, this brief description of John's career just scratches the surface. You will hear much more at the Founders Hall event.



John Andrews

Beth Voermans is being inducted into the Founders Hall as a Trailblazer. We define trailblazers as those grassroots volunteers who bring life to the

ideas initiated by Founders and Builders. Often referred to as “Red Jacket Scouters” or “Green Bloods”, Trailblazers deliver these ideas directly to youth, embodying the spirit of service and leadership. These qualities fit Beth to a “T”. She is a dedicated leader and lifelong advocate for Girl Scouting whose service, professionalism, and quiet commitment have made a lasting impact on her community and the North Star Museum.

A Lifetime Girl Scout, Beth began her journey at age ten, earning her First-Class Award and demonstrating early a strong commitment to service and leadership. Decades later, she renewed her involvement by leading her daughter's Daisy troop, beginning more than 30 years of continued volunteer leadership. Over the years, she has served in numerous roles at both the service unit and council levels, including Service Unit Treasurer, Co-Day Camp Director, Council Trainer, and National Delegate.

In 2021, Beth began volunteering with the North Star Museum, initially supporting the Collections team and eventually becoming the Treasurer on the Museum's Board of Directors. Learn more



Beth Voermans

about Beth's life of service and leadership at the Founders Hall event on April 18.

There is still time to register for this “must do” event at nssm.org. Tickets are \$50 through April 11 and \$60 after April 11. Remember, check-in opens at 2:30 p.m. and the event itself runs from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Museum. Heavy appetizers and dessert will be served following the ceremony. We planned this event so it coordinates with any plans you have to attend the Northern Star Scouting Council Recognition Court of Honor and Luncheon at Base Camp earlier in the day. It will be a memorable day of recognition. See you at the Founders Hall!

Time for the Funkiest Event Around – The Skunk Reunion! (Continued)

website at nssm.org. Registration remains open through May 31.

This year is particularly special, as we gather to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Order of the Odor (aka Skunks). What better way to celebrate our Centennial than at the very institution that was established in 1976 by our most odiferous forbearers—the North Star Museum. Yes, that is a century for the Skunks and a half century for the Museum. My, those Skunks are so industrious, if not for the smell, you might mistake them for beavers!

Our malodorous gathering kicks off at 10:00 a.m. for friendly, fragrant, fellowship that will be embellished with tales of Skunk lore galore. The formal program begins when the mighty Skunk gavel comes down at 11:00 a.m. This year's guest speaker is none other than Northern Star Council's new CEO – Jeff Sulzbach. Jeff's perspective will particularly meaningful as the Skunks enter their stinky second century. Following Jeff's remarks, the coveted Skunk of the Year award will be announced. This issue of the *Museum News* contains a Skunk of the Year award nomination form. If you know of a worthy and rank

candidate, please complete the form and send it to the Museum. All nominations must be received by Monday, May 25th.

No good Skunk should go home hungry. After the program, lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. Once your belly is full, be sure to linger and take in the exhibits and displays of the Museum. It will be a Centennial Celebration to remember. See you at the Skunk Reunion on June 6!



50th Anniversary Celebration

Come help us celebrate the 50th Anniversary of North Star Scouting Memorabilia Inc. (the North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting) on Sunday, June 28, 2026. It is a double celebration, for we are also celebrating the Museum's 20th anniversary of acquiring our headquarters building in North St. Paul.

Here is what you need to know. Doors open at noon on June 28 at the Museum. You know, 2640 Seventh Ave. East, North St. Paul, MN 55109. At 1:00 p.m., the 50th Anniversary program officially begins. The program will be followed by family activities and an

opportunity to tour the Museum. The North St. Paul Time Capsule will also be available to see.

At 2:00 p.m., there will be a volunteer recognition program and a presentation of the Museum's annual report will be given around 2:30 p.m. Between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. there will be more family activities, along with additional time to tour the Museum and view the North St. Paul Time Capsule.

While you are at the Museum for the double celebration, we encourage you to share your stories and memories of the Museum over the years. If you



were present for the Museum's grand opening celebration in

2006, we hope you will share your memories with others in attendance.

Please join us at the Museum on Sunday, June 28.

Skunk of the Year Nomination Form



Nomination for Skunk of the Year due by May 25, 2026

Section One:

Award Criteria: This award is presented to a person who has been affiliated with Scouting America, Girl Scouts of the USA, or the North Star Museum for at least three years, and is a current member of the museum.

<p>CANDIDATE/ Name of individual being nominated: _____ Current museum member? Yes / No Registered member of Scouting America/Girl Scouts? Yes / No Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____ Phone number: _____ Email: _____</p>
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<p>Nominator's name: _____ Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____ Phone number: _____ Email: _____ Best time to reach you: _____</p>

Section Two:

Please provide a statement of support for the individual being nominated. The statement should address the award criteria and this individual should receive this award. Include tenure with the museum, special or extraordinary things done during the year, other Boy Scout/Girl Scout activities he/she may be involved with, and the amount of time spent on museum activities. Use an extra sheet of paper if necessary.

Section Three: (optional)

Attach a letter of recommendation supporting your nomination from someone other than yourself. This person may be a Museum member, a Boy Scout or Girl Scout, an adult volunteer in Boy Scouting or Girl Scouting, or another individual familiar with the nominee's contributions.

Nominator's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Mail nominations to:

Selections Committee
North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting
2640 E. Seventh Avenue
North St. Paul, MN 55109
This form can also be downloaded from: www.nssm.org

Greetings to all Museum Members

Veteran Scouters and Skunks

2026 Skunk Reunion



It's time to get together, swap stories, report on the progress of the Museum, and celebrate the Centennial of the Skunks.

Who: People who are Museum members and have been registered in Scouting America or Girl Scouts of the USA for three or more years.

When: Saturday, June 6, 2026

Where: North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting, 2640 Seventh Avenue East, North St. Paul.

Time: 10:00 am Fellowship, beverages provided
11:00 am Program
12:00 Noon Lunch

Cost: \$20.00 per person. Preregistration is mandatory!

Registration: You can register online by going to www.nssm.org, or by mailing a check with this form into the North Star Museum at 2640 Seventh Avenue East, North St. Paul, MN 55109.

Directions: Take Minnesota 36 to Century Avenue in North St. Paul and proceed South one block to Seventh Avenue East. Turn left (West) and go one long block where you will see the Museum's sign on the Southwest corner.

The deadline for registration is May 31, 2026

My name, phone number and email address are: _____

Yes, I'm coming! Put me down for the reunion. Here is my \$20.00.

I will be bringing guests Number of guests _____ x \$20.00 (Names: _____)

I need a ride.

I can pick-up supplies and/or help by driving.

DATED MATERIAL



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**APRIL
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North Star Museum
of Boy Scouting
and Girl Scouting
2640 East 7th Avenue
North St. Paul, MN
55109

Phone: 651-748-2880

**We're on the web
www.nssm.org**



Be Prepared for the 2026 Edition of Super Merit Badge Weeks

As summer approaches, the Museum is already receiving inquiries about our plans for Super Merit Badge Weeks – 2026. Super Merit Badge Weeks is the Museum's most popular educational program. For well over a decade, this program has been the perfect remedy for the dog days of summer, or whatever you want to call the doldrums that follow from school being out, only a week of summer camp, and units not meeting. Advancement is the answer!

Once again Scouts can count on a week of merit badge opportunities in June, July, and August. Put this summer's Super Merit Badge Week dates in your calendar so you are ready to pounce and sign up when the class specific schedule is

announced. June merit badges will be scheduled during the week of June 22-27. July merit badges will be scheduled during the week of July 20-25. The final summer week of Super Merit Badge Weeks will be the week of August 17-22. The class schedule for each month will be posted on the Museum's website and emailed to units that request a special email announcement about thirty days before the scheduled week. Thus, the June schedule will be released in mid-May. As always, you can find the schedule, register, and pay online at nssm.org. Prices remain unchanged--\$15 per person or \$12 for Museum members. Are you prepared for Super Merit Badge Weeks – 2026? We hope so. See you at the Museum.

Museum News Editorial Team: Terri Anderson, John Guthmann, and John Raymond.

North Star Scouting Memorabilia Inc. is a Minnesota non-profit corporation, a member of the American Association of Museums, Association of Midwest Museums, and the Association of Scout Museums International. We are a 501(c)(3) with the mission to collect, preserve, share and interpret the history and significance of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting in the upper Midwest. We adhere to the Code of Ethics of the American Association of Museums and the Donor Bill of Rights.

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