



# LPSR Staff Association

## AUGUST 2026 Newsletter

### Memorial to Camp Staff

On December 25, 2025, the Camp Staff was busy preparing for the first session of Winter Camp slated to start the next day, when we received word that our Dining Hall Director Nancy Gibby had passed away unexpectedly in the early hours of Christmas Morning. She was 84 years old and was affectionately known by staff and campers as “Ms. Nancy”. She had worked on Lost Pines Staff for decades where she taught several merit badges as well as ran the Dining Hall. Outside of camp, Ms. Nancy served in a variety of leadership roles across five different Cub Scout Packs, three different Scouts BSA Troops, multiple District and Council activities. She was a Den Leader, a Scoutmaster, a Merit Badge Counselor, a Unit Commissioner. Because she was an active Staff member at her passing, we’ve honored her contribution to Lost Pines by posting her last ID badge to the Staff Memoriam Plaque in the A-building. RIP Ms. Nancy.



## Emergency Action at Texas Youth Camps

On July 4<sup>th</sup> 2025, a devastating flash flood took the lives of over a hundred people along the Guadalupe River in Kerr County. One of the hardest-hit youth camps, Camp Mystic lost 25 young campers and 3 staff members. As a direct result of this tragedy, the Texas Legislature mandated a new series of regulations entitled the *Youth Camp Safety Act* which applies to all youth camps in the State of Texas. By June 1st, only 9 Boy Scout Summer Camps had been accredited to be in compliance with the Act (including Lost Pines). One reason many camps had not achieved this compliance is that the cost of a State Youth Camp license has also gone up: last year it was \$454, this year it is over \$10,000. The new mandate also requires all youth camps to implement technology that most did not have: this includes **Fiber Optic** based internet; back-up broadband internet such as Satellite or Cell based technology; camp wide alarm and PA system; lighted evacuation paths; and parental acknowledgement of our EAP (Emergency Action Plan). To meet these new requirements, Lost Pines has installed 10 wireless emergency speakers throughout the camp property where campers or staff might be located.



This includes all the bathhouses and waterfront. In addition, the climbing tower (DOKs Tower) and the A-build both have sets of speakers facing different cardinal

directions. With the help of Tonkawa Lodge, we installed solar-powered LED lights along the main road into camp (our primary evacuation route) and down the pipe line towards Family Camp (our secondary evacuation route). Camp staff also have a separate set of hand-held radios for use only during emergencies. While Lost Pines has had fiber optic for many years, we have just installed a Starlink Satellite System for our internet back-up. The expectation is that by following the new regulations, youth camps in Texas will never again suffer the loss of life experienced last summer.

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## Summer Camp Staff 2026

Since the official end of the COVID Pandemic in 2023, Lost Pines Summer Camp attendance has been on the decline. However, in 2026, we were able to stem the tide. With 1282 youth and adult campers in attendance, the 90+ LPSR Staff had an extremely successful summer. The weather was moderate, and didn't go over 98 degrees. It rained at least one day each week.

As usual, the staff leads the way! Ms. Toni Nelson, in her 11<sup>th</sup> year as the Camp Director, did an amazing job assembling the camp staff, training them, and motivating them to be at their best. Under her leadership, the Lost Pines Staff this year helped Scouts earn 3,278 merit badges.

## Reintroduction of the Cantina

The Cantina Camp Snack Bar was brought back for Winter Camp 2025 and Summer Camp 2026. It had been many years since the Cantina offered snacks, drinks, ice cream, and other treats to camp participants.

More importantly, the picnic tables staged under sun sails provided a great place for youth and adults to gather with newfound friends. Some even took the opportunity to engage in a game of chess or checkers.



### **2026 Cantina Sales Fun Facts**

4,320 Slushies

2,160 cans of soda

1,104 ice cream sandwiches

920 pints of Blue Bell ice cream

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## **Tonkawa 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

Come join us for a celebration of Tonkawa Lodge's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Saturday September 19<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 6pm at the Frank Fickett Scout Center. Free food will be provided by the Lodge.

Register at

<https://scoutingevent.com/564-OABASH>