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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

WELCOMING THE NARRAGANSETT COUNCIL, SCOUTING AMERICA, TO THE
RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE ON MARCH 24TH OF 2026, AND JOYFULLY
CELEBRATING SCOUTING MONTH IN FEBRUARY

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, McNamara, Casey, Edwards,
Paplauskas, Felix, Ajello, Shallcross Smith, and Fellela
Date Introduced: March 24, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The Narragansett Council, Scouting America, previously the Boy Scouts of
2 America, was founded in 1910, and is one of the largest Scouting and youth development
3 organizations in the region, with thousands of youth participants. Since Scouting America's
4 beginning, more than 130 million Americans have participated in its programs nationwide, to the
5 great benefit of our nation. Through the years, countless youngsters have developed leadership
6 skills and character, learned how to be self-sufficient, as well as life-saving and career enhancing
7 skills and have selflessly served their local communities and made positive differences in the
8 lives of countless people. In celebration of Scouting month, a group of Narragansett Council
9 Scouts and leaders are visiting the Rhode Island State House on February 24th; and

10 WHEREAS, The Narragansett Council serves the entire State of Rhode Island along with
11 cities and towns in neighboring states, and tirelessly endeavors to be accessible to all Rhode
12 Islanders, regardless of their income or social status. In particular, they work to include
13 disadvantaged families within our State's urban communities. In 2025, 1,558 new Scouts and
14 their families joined programs offered by the Narragansett Council; and

15 WHEREAS, When thousands of Rhode Islanders suddenly lost access to their
16 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program (SNAP) benefits during the federal government
17 shutdown in November 2025, Scouts stepped up to support their communities. Scouts collected
18 292,038 pounds of food through "Scouting for Food" and delivered that to local food pantries in
19 every community in Rhode Island. Scouts and their leaders also completed 40,451 community

1 service hours in 2025 and donated 254 pints of blood; and

2 WHEREAS, Camping and environmental education have always been vital and integral
3 parts of the Scouting experience. In 2025, at the nationally renowned Camp Yawgoog, run by the
4 Narragansett Council, there were 4,553 campers, over 120,000 meals served, and 16,039 merit
5 badges earned. There were 262 boy troops and 59 girl troops attending Camp Yawgoog last year;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The Narragansett Council also operates the highly successful Adventure
8 Base Camp at Camp Champlin in Cranston; and

9 WHEREAS, Camp Champlin's year-round "Adventure Base Camp" delivers the youth
10 development, life skills, and leadership development programs of Scouting not just to thousands
11 of Scouts every year, but to all Rhode Island youth and families, focusing on unique outdoor
12 adventure program experiences; and

13 WHEREAS, Throughout the year, the Narragansett Council offers many enriching,
14 rewarding and educational programs including Fire Explorer's Academy, Law Enforcement
15 Explorer Academy, and Police Explorer Stations Day. All of these programs offer young people
16 the opportunity to participate in practical hands-on activities that explore possible career choices;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Each year, the Narragansett Council also offers training classes on a variety
19 of important topics including Youth Protection Training, Leave No Trace & Outdoor Ethics
20 Classes, National Youth Leadership Training, and Introduction to Leadership Skills; and

21 WHEREAS, Since girls were officially welcomed into Scouting in 2019, the
22 Narragansett Council enrolled its largest share of girl scouts in 2025, accounting for 19 percent of
23 all Scouts in the Council; and

24 WHEREAS, The Narragansett Council's more than 6,800 youth, and their families,
25 highly value the positive experiences and enriching educational opportunities the Narragansett
26 Council provides for them as they help to prepare their children to lead successful and rewarding
27 lives and to make a positive impact within their communities; now, therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
29 welcomes the Narragansett Council, Scouting America to the Rhode Island State House on March
30 24, 2026, joyfully celebrates Scouting month during the month of February, and thanks the
31 Scouts and their adult volunteer leaders for all the good they do on a daily basis in the State of
32 Rhode Island; and be it further

33 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
34 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Tim McCandless, Scout Executive and

1 CEO of the Narragansett Council, Scouting America.

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