Distinguished Citizen Dinner

Honoring

Dr. Chuck Epps

Immediate Past Superintendent of Fort Mill Schools

April 28, 2026

Rock Hill Sports & Event Center

Scouting America

Palmetto Council

Scouting America
Palmetto Council

Trustworthy
Loyal
Helpful
Friendly
Courteous
Kind



Obedient
Cheerful
Thrifty
Brave
Clean
Reverent

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

The mission of Palmetto Council, Scouting America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetime by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath & Law.

Founded in 1935, the Palmetto Council of Scouting America (Boy Scouts of America) provides the premier Scouting program for youth ages 5 to 20 across Cherokee, Chester, Lancaster, Spartanburg, Union, and York Counties in South Carolina. With over 3,000 Scouts, 1,000 volunteers, and four Scouting programs to choose from, the Palmetto Council prepares young people to make moral and ethical choices throughout their lifetime, based on the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Welcome to the 2026 Distinguished Citizen Dinner hosted by the Palmetto Council, Scouting America. Our mission is to shape the next generation of leaders by providing youth with character-building and principled experiences that last a lifetime.

Your support directly impacts more than 3,000 Scouts across Cherokee, Chester, Lancaster, Spartanburg, Union, and York Counties, empowering them with opportunities for growth, leadership, and service.

We hope you enjoy this special evening of celebration, appreciation, and community!

2026 Distinguished Citizen Dinner Committee & Table Hosts

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John Gordon
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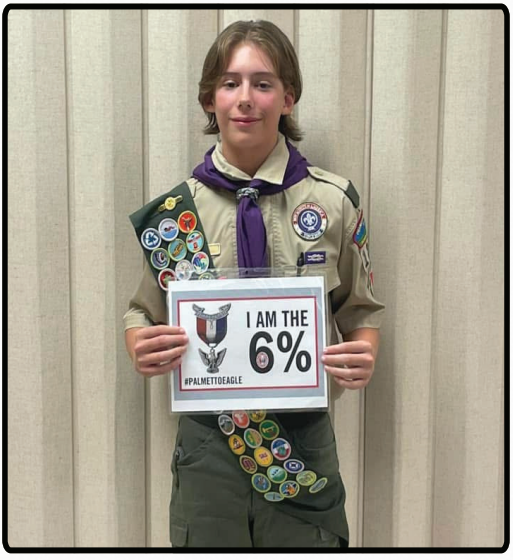
2026
PALMETTO COUNCIL

DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN DINNER

OPENING CEREMONY	HONOR GUARD SCOUT TROOP 130
INVOCATION	SHAYAN PULIPATI LIFE SCOUT, TROOP 130
DINNER	
SCOUT OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION	PATRICK COTE COUNCIL COMMISSIONER
SCOUTING'S IMPACT	JUSTIN WILLIAMS SCOUT EXECUTIVE / CEO
DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN PRESENTATION	ELL CLOSE, CHAIR ALEX MILLER, EAGLE SCOUT

To learn more about the Palmetto Council, Scouting America, visit palmettocouncil.org, Like us on Facebook or follow us on Instagram @palmettocouncil

2026
Scout of the Year



Alex Miller

Alex began Scouting in September 2017 as a Tiger Scout with Pack 1830, building on an early love for the outdoors. He crossed over to Scouts BSA on March 3, 2022, and earned the rank of Eagle Scout on November 6, 2024. Throughout his journey, he has mentored younger Scouts and is currently a member of Troop 219 and Crew 4213.

He has demonstrated strong leadership as a Troop Guide and Senior Patrol Leader on SEALS (Scouts Excited About Leadership Skills) staff and served this year on NYLT (National Youth Leadership Training) staff, with plans to return. He is especially passionate about developing leadership in others.

Alex joined the Order of the Arrow in 2023, achieved Brotherhood in 2024, and has served as Vice Chief of Inductions (2025) and Vice Chief of Programs (2026). He is an active member of the Skyuka Lodge ceremonies team and will serve with Section E7 at this year's conclave.

A high school freshman in a dual enrollment program, Alex maintains straight A's while participating in marching band, Model UN, cross country, and track. He is also a junior black belt in karate.

Known for his character and willingness to serve, Alex consistently helps others in his community. He exemplifies the ideals of Scouting and is a deserving recipient of Scout of the Year.

2026
Distinguished Citizen
Dr. Chuck Epps



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Dr. James “Chuck” Epps, Jr. is a distinguished educator and visionary leader who dedicated 49 years to public education, including 45 years in the Fort Mill School District (FMSD) and 15 years as Superintendent. Under his leadership, FMSD became one of the fastest-growing and highest-performing school districts in South Carolina, serving more than 18,400 students across 20 schools.

Dr. Epps successfully guided the district through significant growth, including the opening of nine new schools and the passage of four community-supported bond referendums. He also led the implementation of South Carolina’s first school district impact fee, helping manage rapid growth while providing tax relief for residents. His leadership strengthened both district operations and community-centered facilities that benefit students and families alike.

A strong advocate for academic excellence, Dr. Epps ensured that FMSD consistently ranked among the top districts in the state and nation. The district maintained a graduation rate above 95%, exceeded state and national benchmarks on SAT, ACT, and AP performance, and supported more than 80% of graduates in pursuing postsecondary education. Expanded dual enrollment and Career and Technical Education programs further prepared students for success beyond the classroom.

FMSD earned numerous state and national recognitions during his tenure, including top national rankings, multiple National Blue Ribbon awards, and repeated honors as one of the Best School Districts and Employers in South Carolina. In 2024, Dr. Epps was named Administrator of the Year by the South Carolina chapter of the National School Public Relations Association.

A proud graduate of Fort Mill Schools, Dr. Epps served as an active community leader, holding roles in both professional and civic organizations. Dr. Epps retired in 2025, leaving a lasting legacy of growth, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to student success.

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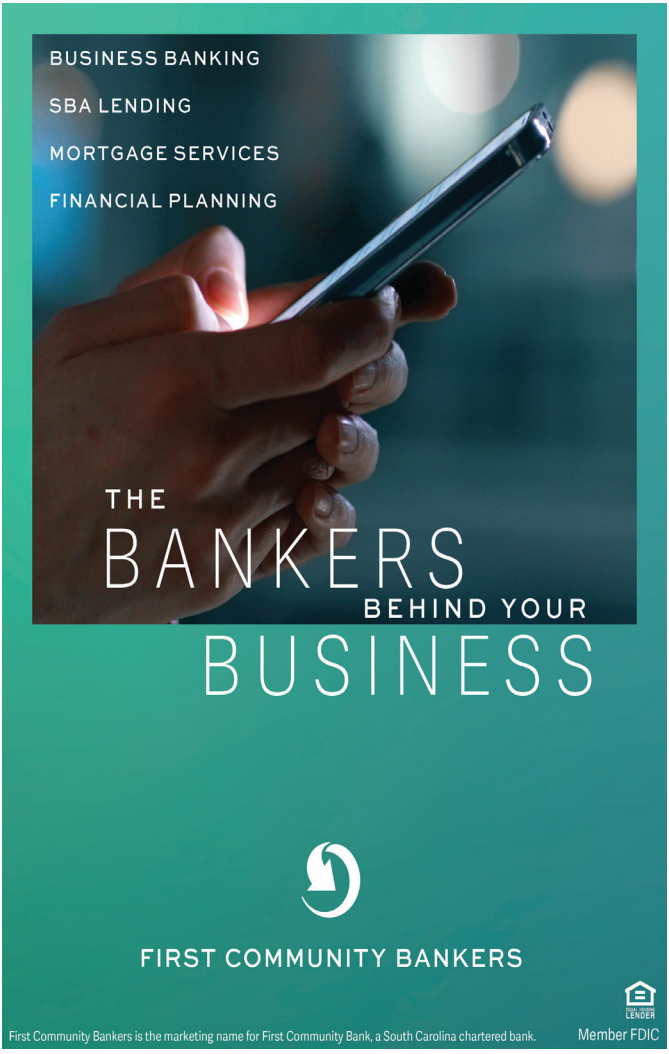
Dr. Chuck Epps' leadership and lifelong commitment to education have strengthened Fort Mill and shaped future generations. His integrity, focus on people, and dedication to community reflect the values that guide Scouting America—and align closely with Domtar's core values of ethical leadership, community investment, and lasting impact.

Domtar is proud to recognize Dr. Epps and celebrate this well deserved honor.

We are the fiber for the future.

Domtar.com

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FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

IN OUR COMMUNITY