

November 2024



Scouting America™

Southern Sierra Council

SSC Scouting News

Keeping you up to date with what is happening in the Southern Sierra Council.

[SSC Website Link](#)

Be sure to select "View Entire Message" at the bottom of page one to see full newsletter - Plus forward to your unit families



Award orders can be emailed ahead to be pulled and have ready when you arrive.
Email (Advancement reports and a PO) to cbasham3504@gmail.com
Shipping is available



**Scout Office
& Trading Post Hours
Monday to Friday
12 pm to 5 pm**



SSC Program Committee Meeting

**Program Committee Meeting
November 7
6:30 pm via Zoom
(meeting link will be sent to all registered leaders 11/5)**

The SSC Program Committee is responsible for strengthening and enriching unit program by overseeing the program functions of Activities & Civic Service; Advancement; Camping; and Training.

Council Website & Calendar
www.sscbsa.org

Council Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/sscbsa>



**Scout Office & Trading Post
will be closed
Thursday, November 28 &
Friday, November 29
for the Thanksgiving Holiday**

Both are great ways to keep up with what's happening throughout the month and for the upcoming year.

**Council Upcoming Dates to Remember
(See articles below for details)**

- Nov. 2 - Outdoor Expo
- Nov. 7 - SSC Program Meeting
- Nov. 11 - Veteran's Day Parade
- Nov. 11 - Lunch at Scout office for Parade participants
- Nov. 13 - Life to Eagle workshop
- Nov. 14 - Unit Renewal Training
- Nov. 21 - Commissioner Meeting
- Nov. 28 & 29 - Office closed
- Dec. 5 - SSC Program Meeting
- Dec. 6 - Popcorn Invoices Due
- Dec. 6 - Popcorn Prize Orders Due
- Dec. 7 - Pushmobile
- Dec. 19 - OA Chapter Meeting/Xmas Party
- Dec. 24 & 25 - Office Closed

Council Office Contacts

(661) 325-9036

Scout Executive

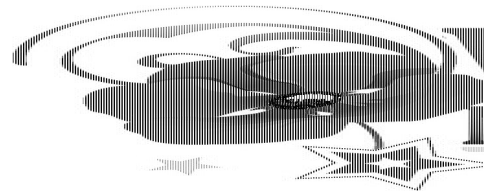
Randy Saunders - Ext. 104
randy.saunders@scouting.org

District Executive

Cameron Hutton - Ext. 103
cameron.hutton@scouting.org

Council Commissioner - General Support

Cindy Basham - Ext. 102
cbasham3504@gmail.com



**The annual Recharter process
has changed**

Unit Renewal & Membership Renewal
-- two separate processes --

**Be sure to attend the November 14 presentation
on the new process.**

Units expire 12/31/24

**October was a Great Month for
Cub Scout Camping**



Over 45 Webelos and Arrow of Light scouts (and their adults) attended **Webelos & Arrow of Light Adventure Weekend** at Colonel Allensworth State Park on October 4-6th . They completed many advancement adventures from Chef's Knife to High Tech Camping. Cub Scouts had a great time building and launching model rockets. All this fun and learning would not have been possible without Troop 194's scouts and amazing leaders led by Chris Snavelly. Loads of thanks also go out to the 80+ Scouts and leaders of various troops who volunteered to run the various stations, cook, organize campfire, and make sure everyone stayed safe. WALAW was truly an example of what the Southern Sierra Council can accomplish when we come together.

Tigermania, an event for first grade Cub Scouts and their parents, was held on October 18-19 at the Gergen Ski Ranch.

Over 30 Tigers and their parents roared through a fun day of



activities and delicious food.

Special thank you to Amy Swidecki, who organized this wonderful event. Amy has led Tigermania for several years now, each one being full of fun and adventure. Thank you Amy and her volunteer staff, for working so hard to make this event a wonderful experience.



Our second and third grade Cub Scouts attended the **Wolves/Bears Overnighter** at the Gergen Ski Ranch on the same weekend of October 18-19. Over 50 Cubs and their parents participated in a day full of activities. We especially appreciate the many parents who stepped up to help with activity areas. Many giving hands provided service leading activity stations, delivering meals, and cleaning up the area. Thank you all.

Thank you Jesse Mello and his family for coordinating and hosting our Friday night campfire!

Special thanks to Dewayne Marney, the Council chef. Dewayne led a team of volunteers to prepare and serve meals to nearly 250 people during the two events. Thank you Dewayne.

Thank you also to James Avery and Esequiel Esparza for providing safe, fun Archery and BB Gun Ranges.



Outdoor Expo

Saturday, November 2, 2024

Location - First United Methodist Church

4600 Stockdale Highway

Lion's ROAR & Merit Badge Midway

Registration closes - Nov. 1 - 5:00 pm



Come to the Annual Lions Roar!!!
For Scouting Fun and A Roaring Good Time!!

Saturday, November 2, 2024
8:00 AM To 12:30 PM

Online Registration for Lion's ROAR: <https://scoutingevent.com/030-Roar24>

**Cost: \$20 Per Lion (includes an Adult Partner)*
Activities, Patch, and Snack Provided!**

Reserve Your Spot Online at

***Adult Partner must be present with Lion at all times.
A Patch for an Adult may be purchased for an additional \$2.00**

Planting Station
Games

Obstacle Course

Marble Run
and More!

AND New for this year - Archery & Slingshot



Merit Badge Midway

Time: (Check-in) 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Cost: \$7 per merit badge

Online registration for Merit Badges: <https://scoutingevent.com/030-MBFall24>

Full Day
8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Morning Session
8:30 am to 12:00 pm

Afternoon Session
1:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Emergency Preparedness *

American Business *

Indian Lore

Disabilities Awareness
Cancelled

Indian Lore
Moviemaking *

Salesmanship *

(*) Prerequisites apply - please see online registration for details. These must be completed and brought to the merit badge day to receive the full merit badge - otherwise it will be a partial until prerequisites are complete and submitted to the counselor.

All Outdoor Expo attendees (youth & adults) must turn in a Health Form (parts A & B) at Check in

Season for Giving

Remember Scouting on Your Holiday Gift List

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving, the Southern Sierra Council would like to thank all of the volunteers and leaders that tirelessly give to make Scouting happen for our young people. We would also like to thank all of the individuals, families, businesses and civic groups that contribute funds to the Council. These generous donations provide the resources and support to "deliver the promise" of Scouting.



Before we launch into the 2025, we need your generous help to close this year. The Southern Sierra Council continues to operate on a lean budget...A SCOUT IS THRIFTY. To continue to support and grow local Scouting, we need you. You can provide the gift of Scouting this season.

The Southern Sierra Council is an important component to the great Scouting experience we have to offer young people. The leadership and staff of the Southern Sierra Council are working hard to provide the resources and funds needed to keep Scouting alive and prospering in our area.

Please make a donation to the Southern Sierra Council this holiday season. You can donate any amount online [HERE](#). Please share this link with your friends and contacts that are interested in supporting our young people. Your generous gift is greatly appreciated and very important to keep Scouting alive and well in our area.

Veterans Day Parade

Monday, November 11

All packs, troops, crews & posts are invited
to join the Southern Sierra Council
Veteran's Day Parade entry.

The parade will be in downtown Bakersfield on
Monday, November 11. Parade kicks off at 10:00 am



This year's theme is
"Bridging the Gap: Past, Present & Future"

This entry is registered in the walking/marching category. Wagons, pushmobiles, etc. are welcome. There will be a couple pickups and trailers for those needing a break or unable to walk the distance.

Theme related posters & handheld flags are encouraged for all. Please bring your unit flags and banners to identify your group.

Each unit is responsible for their own scouts, leaders & families and bringing their own decorations.

Please email Cindy Basham at cbasham3504@gmail.com if your unit would like to participate. Individual scouts (with an adult) are invited to participate if their unit is not planning to attend.

The parade entry number & meeting location/time will not be available until a week prior to the parade. This information will be sent out to all who sign up as soon as it is received.

POPCORN! POPCORN! POPCORN! Funding Scouting Adventures



The 2024 Trails End Popcorn Sale is helping Scouts and their units fund their adventures for the coming year. There is still time to sell more popcorn to reach higher rewards levels.

Storefront locations and times are available for your groups. Make reservations for storefront sales on your unit portal. There is still some popcorn inventory at the Scout Office, which your unit can pick up while available. Scouts can sell online, too. The user app will remain open for this year's popcorn sale until the end of December.

One reminder for Unit leaders and Kernals, your unit invoice is due to be paid in full by December 6. Council prize orders are due to the Scout Office by December 6.

Along with Trails End Rewards, there are some excellent prizes that Scouts can earn.

- All Scouts that sell at least one item receive a popcorn patch
- Any Scout that collects at least \$100 in Heroes donations will receive the special Heroes shoulder patch.
- Any Scout that sells at least \$1,000 in popcorn will receive two tickets to the Condors game on Saturday, January 11. There will also be special opportunities and recognition at the Condors game.

74 Scouts have sold over \$1,000

- Any Scout that sells at least \$2,500 in popcorn will receive a \$200 gift card from Amazon, Walmart or the Scout Store.

29 Scouts have sold over \$2,500

Some fun numbers as of now:

- 216 Scouts have made at least one sale.
- Unit with most Scouts making a sale - Pack 33 with 43 Scouts.
- Unit with the highest average sales per Scout - Troop 194 with \$4,043 per Scout average.
- Units new to the sale this year - Pack 711 with \$10,157 and Pack 2021 with \$6,966.
- Top four units in sales - Troop 194 with \$76,818, Pack 58 with \$74,974, Pack 25 with \$25,397, Pack 104 with \$18,398. Three other units are within \$1,000 of each other around the \$10,000 mark - Pack 33, Pack 711 and Troop 712.

Please contact Randy at randy.saunders@scouting.org for more information



Scout Night at the Condors



On Saturday, January 11, Southern Sierra Scouts and their families will flock to the Bakersfield Condors game for an evening of hockey and fun.

We will also be recognizing our amazing popcorn selling Scouts at the game, too. Scouts that sold at least \$1,000 in popcorn have won two tickets to the game.

Additional tickets for the Scouts section of the arena are still available for purchase online

[Order Condors Tickets Here](#)

Deadline to get tickets for this seating section is January 5th at 11:59pm. Cost for tickets is \$20.00 each.

The game starts @ 7:00pm. Scouts attending the game will be able to participate in the fan tunnel welcoming the team onto the ice before the game. Scouts will also serve as the Colorguard during the National Anthem. Popcorn top sellers will also be recognized on the scoreboard during intermission. Following the game, Scouts will also be able to be part of the group photo on the ice.

Units and families will be seated together. Tickets will be available from your unit representative starting January 6.

Badgers Make Important Contributions to Southern Sierra Scouting



Recurring Monthly Gifts to Sustain Scouting

The Badger Troop is the Southern Sierra Council's recurring gift club. By contributing \$20 or more per month through your credit or debit card, you'll help provide a steady stream of support to the Council. Recurring gifts are convenient. Over the course of the year, your small monthly donation becomes a significant contribution to making Scouting happen locally. Members of the Badger Troop also receive a special patch.

Membership/Recruiting

Peer-to-Peer Recruiting Scouts - Recruit a friend to join Scouting New for 2024

Once the new recruit is registered the original scout will receive a lantern with flip-top fan, a SSC Recruiter Patch & a recruiter strip for their uniform.



New scout will receive a SSC Recruiter Patch

All new Cub Scouts who register via BeAScout.org from August 1 through November 30, 2024, will receive a special Welcome Kit in the mail shortly after completing registration.

Roundtable - For all Leaders Member & Unit Renewal Process Thursday, November 14 - 7:00 pm Scout Office - 2417 M Street



Big Rock Topic

Unit renewal and member renewal are no longer one and the same.

Please plan to attend so you are familiar with the new process to make renewing your unit easy for you & renewing your members easy for them.

Additional highlights - Safety moment, upcoming event info, game/activity, Q & A, snacks & more.

Journey to Excellence Is Your Unit on Target for Success?

Last quarter of the year - time to review your unit's Journey to Excellence status.



Use the next 3 months to tackle the categories that need attention.

Check out the 2024 Scorecards for the details.

Packs

- Planning & Budget
- Membership Growth & Retention
- Program - Advancement, Activities, Outdoor Activities, Service Projects
- Leadership - All positions are filled with trained adults

Troops

- Planning & Budget
- Membership Growth & Retention (includes AOL Bridging)
- Program - Advancement, Short-term camping, Long-term camping, Service projects & Youth leadership
- Leadership - All positions are filled with trained adults.

Scorecards are available at the link below.

<https://www.scouting.org/awards/journey-to-excellence/>

2024 Pushmobile Races Saturday, December 7, 2024



Tune up those pushmobiles!

**Location: Valley Baptist Church - Olive Drive Campus
5500 Olive Dr. 93308**

Online Registration now open.

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION COST IS \$8 PER RACER ON OR BEFORE NOV. 25, AFTERWARDS COST IS \$10 PER RACER

Online Registration will close on December 2

Registrations accepted up to & including Race Day

(If not registered by 12/ 2/24 at 5:00pm you must bring registration fees and register at the tent on Race day with cash or Check payable to Southern Sierra Council, No Exceptions)

No Refunds – Races are rain or shine

*** Races occur in the WEST parking lot.

ALL Parking is in the EAST parking lot***
Use the firelane to walk around to the race area

Check-in: 7:30am-8:30am for Walk-ins
Registration closes at 8:40am, Races begin at 9am

Snack Bar will be available before & during Races.

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR MEDICAL A/B FORMS

Pushmobile Car & Race specifications being used for this Council event are available on the SSC website at <https://scoutingevent.com/030-PM24>

Cars not meeting specifications will be permitted to race but will not be eligible for awards.

Questions: Event Chair: Brent Wuertz at 661-599-2487 or bdogsf49@gmail.com

Council Staff Advisor: Randy Saunders at 661-325-9036

2026 National Scout Jamboree Leader Selection Process & Parent Information



The National Scout Jamboree is one of the pinnacle adventures that a Scout can experience. Scouting's flagship event is one-of-a-kind. Typically held every four years, it's a gathering of approximately 15,000 Scouts, leaders, and service team members that showcases everything that is great about Scouting.

Features include: one of the longest zip line courses in North America, a world-class skate park, ATV offerings, treetop canopy tours, rock climbing, water activities, patch trading, stadium shows, and much more!

**The next National Scout Jamboree will be held
on July 22-31, 2026,
at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia.**

The Southern Sierra Council will put together a contingent of Scouts and leaders to make the journey to the National Scout Jamboree. The trip includes a tour of the Washington, DC area several days before the Jamboree.

Scouts ages 12 (by the opening of the Jamboree in 2026) and up are eligible to attend and participate in the Council's contingent to the Jamboree.

Costs have not been set as of now, but the range will be \$4,500 to \$4,800 and includes the Jamboree fee, the Washington tour, all overnight accommodations, airfare, and some equipment needed for the event. Once the price is set, a payment schedule will be available for Scouts and parents to follow.

**There will be a Scouts & Parent Orientation for the 2026 National Scout
Jamboree on Thursday, January 9, 2025 @ 7:00pm
at the Scout Office in Bakersfield.**

The adult volunteers selected to be the leaders for the Southern Sierra contingent will be announced on December 1, 2024

There are also opportunities for volunteers to participate at the National Scout Jamboree as a member of the Jamboree Service Team. More information about Jamboree Service Team can be found at www.jamboree.scouting.org under the JST/Staff tab.

2023 National Jamboree

The Rocks climbing area



Eagle Nest

- If you have any questions or need assistance with the Eagle process, please contact the Council office for direction.
- Membership empowers Scouting's mission, protects the Eagle Scout legacy, and keeps alumni connected. Give your Eagle pride a purpose with membership in the National Eagle Scout Association (NESA). Join NESA at <https://nesa.org/>



LIFE-TO-EAGLE WORKSHOP

Wednesday, November 13 - 6:30 pm
Scout Office - 2417 M Street

Register at - <https://www.scoutingevent.com/030-Eagle1124>

Life Scouts, Parents and Leaders are invited to the Life to Eagle Workshop. This is an interactive workshop/seminar detailing the Eagle Rank process from project inception through preparation for the Eagle Board of Review

Congratulations to three new Eagle Scouts during the month of September! The new Eagles are from Troops 3, 147 & 950.

2024 Eagle Scouts, Leaders & Parents - Mark your calendars for the 2025 Eagle Dinner -Thursday, March 20, 2025 at Luigi's Warehouse. The Eagle Class of 2024 will be celebrated!

Order of the Arrow



2024 OA Calendar

November Lodge Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday Nov 21st - 7PM (*one week earlier*)
Scout Office : 2417 M Street

All members are welcome to attend!
2025 Lodge Elections, Winter Fellowship Planning and more.

Order of the Arrow Christmas Party

Thursday Dec 19th - 6-8PM
Flight Adventure Park: 3400 Buck Owens

Bring a \$5-10 White Elephant gift and your activity uniform with sash

2025 Dues Reminder. Please pay your \$20 dues online at the link below, at the Scout Office, LEC or next OA event!

Keep our Lodge active and engaged!!

All youth OA members interested in a youth leadership role in the lodge (Chief / Vice Chief / Secretary) are strongly encouraged to attend all of these events.

TIME TO PAY YOUR 2025 OA DUES - \$20

Easy way to pay your annual dues -

Pay online at <https://scoutingevent.com/030-Dues2025>

Questions:

Contact Lodge Advisor - Chuck Monaco at (661) 303-8636 or cmonacoscouts@gmail.com or
Lodge Chief - Talen Monaco at (661) 525-6586 or T3Monaco@gmail.com.



The Silver Beaver Award is the council-level distinguished service award of Scouting America. Recipients of this award are registered adult leaders who have made an impact on the lives of youth through service given to the council.

The Silver Beaver award is made for noteworthy service of exceptional character to youth by registered Scouters, Cub Scouters, & Venturing leaders within the local council.

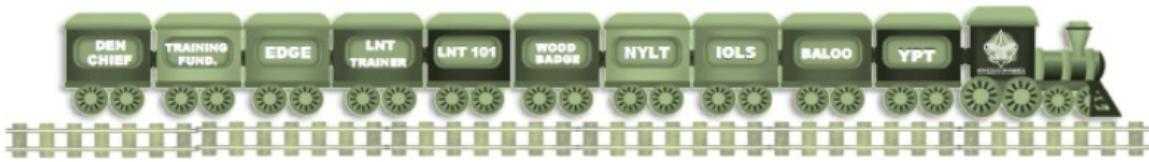
Email nominations to Cindy Basham at cbasham3504@gmail.com no later than **December 1, 2024**.

Official nomination form must be submitted but supporting attachments are welcome. Official nomination form available at <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/92-103.pdf>

The Silver Beaver award will be presented on Saturday, January 25, 2024 at the Council Volunteer Recognition Dinner.

[Past Silver Beaver Awardees](#)

Training News & Resources



NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

A great opportunity for female as well as male Scouts BSA to meet and interact with scouts from the Southern California area.

****Register early to ensure you have a spot!***

NYLT trainings in Southern California fill up fast and usually have a waiting list.

Greater LA Council

December 20-22, 2024 and January 3-5, 2025

Cabrillo Beach Youth Center, San Pedro

Registration: <https://www.scoutingevent.com/033-NYLT>

Verdugo Hills Council

February 15-17 and February 21-23, 2025

Camp Verdugo Oaks, Castaic

Registration coming soon!

Tri-Council: Los Padres Council, Ventura Council & Southern Sierra Council

Course Director: Jeremy Brown

July 27-August 2, 2025

Camp Rancho Alegre, Santa Barbara

Registration coming soon!

What is National Youth Leadership Training? NYLT is the entry-level program for youth ages 13-17 to learn and practice leadership skills with their peers in an outdoor environment. Leadership skills are essential for all youth to navigate everyday challenges and be more successful with school and college/university, band/sports, church, community service, work, family life, and, of course, Troop and Crew youth leadership. Scouts participating in the NYLT course are better prepared for life.

Qualifications:

- Youth ages 13/14-17 years old (Troop or Venture Crew)
- Earned 1st Class rank or higher

- Recommended by the Scoutmaster to attend NYLT course

Scholarships: Youth may request scholarships for registration fees through their Troop or Venture Crew, the Council office, or the NYLT course itself.

Course Leadership: The NYLT course is run by youth and adult volunteers from Southern Sierra Council and/or nearby councils, as mentioned above. Youth volunteer staff have completed the NYLT course and are ready to take on new leadership challenges.

ADULT AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



Did you know you, your leaders, and adult volunteers may qualify for an award? Awards for adults signify you have been trained, provide quality performance in your leadership role, you completed significant

milestone(s), and are committed to helping our youth to be responsible citizens in the community. Check out all the awards you, your leaders, and adult volunteers deserve and may be qualified to receive. Adult leader and volunteer recognitions are presented annually in March.

AWARDS CENTRAL (all awards available): <https://www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central/>

TRAINING AWARDS AND RECOGNITION: UNIT LEADER AWARDS

<https://www.scouting.org/training/training-awards-and-recognition/>

(Note: one of the requirements for Training Awards is “attend 4 Roundtables”; Roundtable is offered both in person and online to give everyone easy access to attend: Feb, May, Aug, & Nov. As an alternative, the leader can attend either a PowWow or University of Scouting, which are offered at nearby Councils throughout Southern California.)

- **Den Leader Training Award** – for all levels of *Den Leaders*
- **Scouter’s Training Award** – for each level of leader (*Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, and Venturing*).
- **Scouter’s Key** – for *Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Advisor* (Venturing).



William D. Boyce New Unit Organizer Award – for leaders who organize a new, traditional unit (*Cub Scout Pack, Scouts BSA Troop, or Venture Crew*) and the unit qualifies for Bronze level Journey to Excellence after first charter renewal.

<https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/WD-Boyce-New-Unit-Award.pdf>



Unit Leader Award of Merit – The Committee Chair nominates and applies for the award for your unit’s *Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, or Venture Advisor* who is running a quality program for the youth. [Award Nomination Form](#)

Unit Award of Appreciation – This award is for any adult volunteer, in any capacity, registered or not, who has given exceptional service to your unit. Submit everyone you want – there is no limit or specific qualifications. Award form coming



soon.

Safety in Scouting

Incident Reporting Helps

Timely and complete incident reporting provides Scouting America with an opportunity for analysis of incidents that occur and promotes continuous improvement of our programs. In our experience, the sooner a clear, concise, and complete incident report is made, the sooner that an appropriate response to the incident can occur.



GENERAL INFORMATION

What is an incident? There are three types of reportable incidents:

- Near Miss—A near miss does not result in injury, illness, or damage, by definition, but it had the potential to do so.
- General Liability—Events or allegations of injury, illness, or property damage, including employment, director, and officer issues.
- Youth Protection/Membership Infraction—Allegations of abuse, violations of Scouting America guidelines or policies, or inappropriate behavior by a Scout/Scout leader/parent/other.

Why report an incident? The information reported from incidents helps identify areas for improvement so we can help prevent the reoccurrence of similar incidents. Scouting America cannot address a concern if we do not know about it. Reporting incidents promptly is also critical so Scouting America can respond in a timely manner and manage claims properly.

When do I report an incident? You should immediately contact your local council to report and get assistance with serious, fatal or abuse incidents. Report within 24 hours if an injury or illness cannot be treated by Scout-rendered first aid, a medical professional such as a doctor or nurse was needed, or an ambulance was called.

How do I report an incident? There are incident reporting tools to assist you in collecting the facts of the incident to provide to the council. This is available on the council website www.sscbsa.org. Scroll down on the home page to "Incident Reporting Tools".

Reporting tips: It is important that incident reports are filled out as completely & timely as possible. This will help bring clarity to the situation and avoid unnecessary calls or emails for additional information. Photographs of the site, facilities, vehicles, or equipment can add value to the report. Remember to include only pertinent facts about the incident. Do not assign blame or include personal opinions. Stick to the facts.

Navigating Incidents: Guide for Units

Dates to Remember



January 18

Cub Scout Winter Extravaganza

January 25

Council Dinner - Volunteer Recognition

February 1
Council Day of Service

Southern Sierra Council | 2417 M Street | Bakersfield, CA 93301 US

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