

May 2025



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
NEW INFORMATION ALL THE WAY TO THE LAST PAGE!!***



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



[SSC Program Committee Meeting](#)

Program Committee Meeting

May 1

6:30 pm via Zoom

(meeting link was sent to all registered leaders on 4/29)

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.sscscouts.org

[Council Facebook Page](#)



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)

- May 1 - SSC Program Meeting
- May 3 - Cub Scout STEM Day
- May 8 - Roundtable - For All Leaders
- May 8 - Jamboree Troop & Parent Meeting
- May 10 - Life to Eagle Workshop
- May 15 - SSC Training Committee Mtg.
- May 15 - OA - Details & Desserts
- May 17 - Trail to First Class Palooza
- May 22 - OA - LEC Meeting
- May 24 - Flags for Veterans - Hillcrest Memorial Park
- May 29 - Randy Saunders' send off dinner
- May 31 - OA - LLD - Lodge Leadership Development
- June 4 - Range & Target Sports Committee Meeting
- June 5 - SSC Program Meeting
- June 6 - Cub Day Camp Parent Orientation
- June 9-12 - Cub Day Camp
- June 14 - Flag Retirement - Greenlawn SW
- June 26 - OA - LEC Meeting
- June 27-29 - OA Ordeal Weekend

**Scout Office
&
Trading Post Hours**

**Monday to Friday
12 pm to 5 pm**

**The Scout Office & Trading Post will
be closed on Monday, May 26 for
Memorial Day.**

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
(661) 319-3954
cbasham3504@gmail.com



Headed to Indiana Scout Executive Randy Saunders



After 5 years in the Southern Sierra Council, Scout Executive Randy Saunders is headed to Bloomington, IN as the Scout Executive of the Hoosier Trails Council.

Randy has been an amazing Scout Executive, attending pack & troop meetings and celebrations, camping at everything from Tigermania to Camporall, serving on training teams and being the "face" of Southern Sierra Council. Always with a smile and always excited to spread the word of Scouting.

Thank you, Randy, for your above & beyond service to the Southern Sierra Council! You will be missed but your legacy will live on!

"Send Off" Dinner for Randy

Thursday, May 29 - 6:00 pm program (doors open at 5:30 pm)

Hodel's Country Dining - 5917 Knudsen Dr. - Bakersfield

Cost: \$33.00 per person

Register Online using the button below

"Send Off" for Randy

Camporall...

Strong Skills, Timeless Values, and WEATHER



The 2025 edition of the Camporall was an amazing success. Scouts from throughout the Southern Sierra Council gathered at the Glennville Rodeo Grounds for a weekend of Scout skills, fellowship, and weather. Over 250 Scouts and leaders braved the cold, wind, rain and snow flurries to show their strength and perseverance. Congratulations to all of the patrols and Scouts that received recognition for their efforts.

Congratulations to Troop 300 for earning the Super Troop award, and to Troop 3 Spartans, who earned the Golden Tomahawk as the top patrol at Camporall.

Special thanks to Chuck Monaco and his team of volunteers that organized and delivered a wonderful weekend of Scouting. Finally, all Scouts and leaders should be commended for displaying their best by living the words of the Scout Oath and Law.

For a full list of event winners - check out the council website at www.sscscouts.org



2026 National Scout Jamboree Join the Adventure TODAY!



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 three to 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 has a contingent of Scouts and leaders that will 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. The cost of this trip will be \$5,200, and includes the Jamboree fee, the Washington tour, all overnight accommodations, meals, airfare, and some equipment needed for the event. We have established a payment plan and also provide fundraising opportunities to help any Scout that wants to attend earn the money to go.

The next **Scouts & Parents Meeting for the 2026 National Scout Jamboree on Thursday, May 8, 2025 @ 7:00pm at Stine School (4300 Wilson Road) in Bakersfield.**

All Scout BSA youth and parents that are interested are invited to attend this meeting. Spots are filling up, so join the contingent today!

Scoutmasters: Our contingent leaders would like to visit an upcoming Troop meeting to share information about the 2026 Jamboree with your Scouts and parents. Please contact Randy at randy.saunders@scouting.org with a date and we'll make arrangements to visit.

Registration for this event is now open. Here is the link to use for initial registration, deposit and future payments: <https://scoutingevent.com/030-Jambo26>. Scouts will also be required to get a recommendation from their Scoutmaster (form will be available via the registration link). To complete registration, a \$325 deposit must also be paid.

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.

Show our Scouting Strength to the Community... Give Big Kern is May 6



Give Big Kern Day is Tuesday, May 6

The Southern Sierra Council needs everyone's help with raising the funds necessary to grow and support local Scouting. Your generous contribution is vital to our cause. Every gift of any amount help local Scouting reach the lives of more young people.

Donations to the Southern Sierra Council through Give Big Kern help Scouting go and grow locally. Here are a few examples:

- The Council provides activities and events that help deliver a complete Scouting experience to young people.
- The Council pays for and provides accident insurance that helps parents pay for the treatment of injuries that happen at Scouting activities.
- The Council provides liability insurance coverage that protects charter organizations, meeting locations, and Scouting volunteers.
- The Council provides recruiting materials and tools to help Packs and Troops grow their membership. The Council had membership growth in 2024, but there are many communities that still need Scouting in Kern County.
- The Council keeps an inventory of materials and supplies that are used for activities, overnight campouts, and training courses.
- The Council office provides one-stop service to parents and leaders, whether it's to purchase Scout uniforms and supplies, or checking advancement records for Eagle Scout candidates.

Our goal this year is to raise \$25,000 and receive 100 donations.

Please consider making a donation to the Southern Sierra Council during Give Big Kern to show Kern County that Scouting is committed to improving young lives. You can donate now any amount online:

<https://www.givebigkern.org/organizations/southern-sierra-council>

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 in our area.

Thank you for your support!
Randy Saunders - Scout Executive

Roundtable - For all Leaders Kern River Parkway Nature Center



KERN RIVER PARKWAY
NATURE CENTER
HART MEMORIAL PARK · BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

Thursday, May 8, 2025
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Kern River Parkway Nature Center

"Adventures in the Dark"
Things to do with Scouts when the lights go out.

Safety Moment...Announcements...Refreshments...FUN!!

(No Zoom for this Roundtable)

Camp Card Sales - Round 2

Are your Scouts looking for an opportunity to earn money for their summer Scouting adventures?

The Camp Card sale is still available to your Scouts... for the month of May.

The coupons on the card are good through the end of 2025. So, scouts can still sell Camp Cards to earn more funds to pay for more Scouting adventures.

Available now, Scouts can individually check-out Camp Cards to sell. The cards retail for \$10. The commission is still 50%, meaning that a Scout will earn \$5.00 for each card sold. The selling period will end on June 2. All Scouts are welcome to participate, even if they didn't sell previously.

Please share this opportunity with the parents of your Scouts. Check-out and settlement will all be done with parents through the Scout Office. Units will not need to coordinate sales for this period.

Contact Cindy for more information or to pick up Camp Cards.

Bakersfield & Surrounding Areas



POPCORN! POPCORN! POPCORN!



The Trails End Popcorn Sale is back for 2025. Last year our Packs & Troops put over \$114,000 into their Scouting adventures by selling popcorn. The average unit commission was 42%... well above the national average. Southern Sierra Scouts sell over \$1,200 each... INCREDIBLE!!!

If you are looking for a fundraiser that provides huge opportunity, no up-front costs for the product, and has an excellent rewards program for the Scouts... Trails End Popcorn is for you. There are several ways to sell popcorn: storefront, wagon sales, and online direct

sales. You unit can earn up to 42% commission. Product will be available to sell starting August 29.

Come join us at the 2025 Popcorn Kick-off on Saturday, July 19 @ 10:00am in Bakersfield in person (location TBA), OR via Zoom on Saturday, July 19 @ 2:00pm. There are benefits for attending: your Pack or Troop will receive an additional 2% commission. Attendees will also receive a \$10 Starbucks gift card. We will review the plan for the 2025 sale, including securing storefront locations.

Please RSVP for the Popcorn Kick-off to Cindy at cbasham3504@gmail.com

Membership/Recruiting

Peer-to-Peer Recruiting Scouts - Recruit a friend to join Scouting

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

Unit Leaders - Please be sure to contact Cindy at the Council office to receive recognition items for the Scout & new recruit.

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

Saturday, May 10 - 9:00 am
Scout Office - 2417 M Street

Register Online at:

<https://www.scoutingevent.com/030-Eagle0525>

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 six new Eagle Scouts during the month of April!
The new Eagles are from Troops 3, 47 (2), 194 (2) & 888.

Order of the Arrow

COMING UP:

May 15 - Details & Desserts - 6:30 pm - Scout Office
Register online: <https://scoutingevent.com/030-OADD>

May 22 - OA LEC Meeting - 7:00 pm - Scout Office

May 31 - LLD - Lodge Leadership Development - 8 am to 3 pm
(Centennial Elementary School - 15200 Westdale - Bakersfield)
Register online: <https://scoutingevent.com/030-LLD25>

June 26 - OA LEC Meeting - 7:00 pm - Scout Office

June 25-27 - OA Ordeal - Camp Kern



Continuing Fellowship on the Scouting Journey.

YOWLUMNE Lodge

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.

Cub Scout STEM Day **Saturday, May 3, 2025**



Cub Scout Families

STEM DAY

Saturday, May 3, 2025

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

We'll have an exciting morning of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math demonstrations. In honor of "May the 4th", we'll also have a special Star Wars themed station.

Location: First Congregational Church - 5 Real Road

Trail to First Class Palooza **Saturday, May 17, 2025**



Join scouts from across the council for a productive day, while focusing on rank requirements for Scout through 1st Class ranks. Great opportunity for older scouts to show off their skills and help newer scouts with advancement. Remember to bring a sack lunch and your A/B medical form!

Saturday, May 17, 8am to 5pm

Location: Panofsky-Wilson Preserve -(27750 Caliente Bodfish Rd, Caliente, CA 93518)

Cost: \$10 per scout

Two ways to attend

- (1) With your troop - overnight camping allowed
- (2) As an individual - for the day only

Register online by Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Troops - Scouts and Leaders are needed to lead activity stations.
Please contact James Avery to reserve an activity.
(661) 497-1605 or james.avery.bsa@gmail.com.

Cub Scout Day Camp & Twilight Camp



Day Camp
June 9-12th 8am-12pm
Centennial Elementary
15200 Westdale Dr

Day Camp Registration:
Early: \$65 until May 9th
Regular: \$85
May 10th -31st

Twilight Camp
July 7-11th 5:30pm-8pm
Location TBD

Twilight Registration:
Early: \$65 until May 9th
Regular: \$75
May 10th - June 25th

SSC 2025 DAY CAMP & TWILIGHT CAMP!

Open to Tiger, Wolf, Bear,
Webelos and AOL Scouts!!

**TIGERS MUST HAVE AN ADULT
PARTNER AT ALL TIMES**

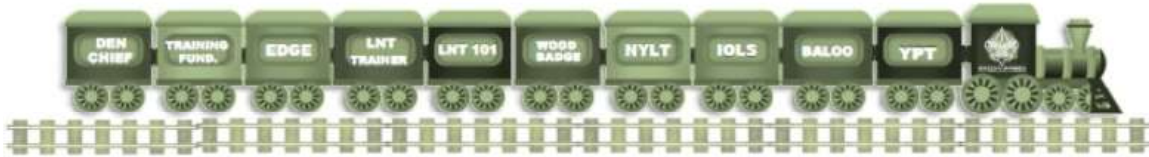
**PACKS MUST PROVIDE ONE TRAINED
ADULT FOR EVERY 5 SCOUTS**

Register now : <https://sscbsa.org>
Contact Camp Directors with Questions:
Heather Kampa 661-304-3424 or
Stevie McDonald 949-421-8334



Day Camp/Twilight Camp - Registration Open NOW
Day Camp (June) - <https://scoutingevent.com/030-June25>
Twilight Camp (July) - <https://scoutingevent.com/030-July25>

Training News & Resources



COUNCIL TRAINING PLANNING MEETING*

THURSDAY, May 15* @ 6:30 pm

Zoom: ID: 314 211 1129 Password: 928897

May 15th Agenda

- Training Calendar Planning for 2025/26
- Trainers needed for Fall 2025: BALOO, IOLS, EDGE, Training Fundamentals
- YPT & Hazardous Weather renewals
- Position training timing
- NYLT & Wood Badge

And more . . .

Why should I attend this meeting?

Training doesn't happen by magic or accident; nor is it created by a single person. It takes planning and input from ALL the units to ensure trainings are offered timely and are engaging for all participants.

Your voice and volunteer time is needed to provide the best training for all adults throughout our Council. **Training is a vital part of your unit's growth, succession planning, adult member retention, and quality programs.**

Anyone can represent your unit at the Committee meetings –Please assign someone who isn't otherwise engaged in your unit activities to attend the *2 meetings per year (May and August).

Who should attend

- Trainers
- **Committee Chair** or **Committee Training Chair** (**If you don't have these positions currently filled – any volunteer in your unit may attend to take notes*)
- **Unit Commissioners**
- **Wood Badge participants and staff**
- **Anyone interested in trainings for your unit or becoming a trainer**

CONTACT:

Carolyn Forster

Council Training Chair

CJForster1964@gmail.com

SERVICE WORKDAY



SERVICE WORKDAY Camp Tecuya, Frazier Park

The Tri-Council is hosting a workday at Camp Tecuya. A great way for older scouts, OA scouts, Venture Crew to accumulate **service hours** and **conservation service hours**.

WORKDAY

Saturday, May 17 @ 8:00 am gathering; 9:00 am work starts
(Optional: can stay overnight Saturday to Sunday at Camp Verdugo Oaks)

FOOD

- Please eat breakfast before arrival.
- Bring a sack lunch.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT –

Please label all your equipment in advance

- Closed-toed shoes
- Work Clothes (no uniforms)
- Work gloves (required)
- Goggles (required)
- Dust Mask (required)

REPAIRS AND CLEAN UP

- Painting – benches, picnic tables, buildings, floors, deck, railing, outhouses
- Widen the rock pathway
- Demo and repair – tent platforms
- Stucco repairs – pool house
- Roof replacement – outhouses

QUESTIONS

Carolyn Forster
Council Training Chair



REGISTRATION OPENS IN MAY!

CALLING ALL REGISTERED ADULTS:

Tri-Council Wood Badge 2025 is hosted by Southern Sierra Council!
Get the best leadership training from people you know. Ask your unit for scholarships for leadership training. (Southern Sierra Council has limited scholarship funds available.)

Leadership training for every level of registered adult:
Cub Scouting - Troops - Venturing

Wood Badge supports leadership, continuity, sustainability adult membership retention, and strengthens Scouting America programming for our youth.

Tri-Council

WOOD BADGE

September 5-7 & September 20-21, 2025

Location: Camp Verdugo Oaks, Castaic, CA

Course Director: Carolyn Forster, Southern Sierra

REGISTRATION*: <https://sscscouts.org/calendar/>

Scholarships available

Questions: Carolyn Forster CJForster1964@gmail.com

Scholarships Available

MUST Register **BEFORE Aug 1st to ensure availability and best cost. Ask your unit first for a possible scholarship.*

What is Wood Badge?

Wood Badge is the most advanced leadership training course for adults offered by the Scouting America. The training course is rich in scouting history and tradition and incorporates current leadership theory and methodology.

Prerequisites:

- Be a registered adult member of the Scouting America
- Have completed basic training requirements for your registered scouting position prior to the course.



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.

Sequoia Council - MUST REGISTER BY JUNE 18

June 23-28, 2025

Camp Chawanakee, Shaver Lake

Registration: <https://scoutingevent.com/027-NYLT25>

Greater LA Council - MUST REGISTER BY JUNE 26

June 27-29 and July 11-13, 2025

Cabrillo Beach Youth Waterfront Sports Center, San Pedro

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

Tri-Council: Los Padres Council, Ventura Council & Southern Sierra Council - MUST REGISTER BY JULY 26

Course Director: Jeremy Brown

July 27-August 2, 2025

Camp Rancho Alegre, Santa Barbara

Registration: <https://www.scoutingevent.com/053-NYLT>

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.

Scout Spirit in Action

Honoring our Fallen Soldiers & American Flag

Packs & Troops - Your Help is Needed Two events where Scout Spirit will be in action

Saturday, May 24 - 7:45 am - Hillcrest Memorial Park

Placing American flags at each soldier's grave honoring their bravery & courage.

Saturday, June 14 (Flag Day) - 9:30 am to 12 noon - Greenlawn Southwest

Retiring American flags that have completed their duty waving over homes and businesses.

Please email Cindy Basham at cbasham3504@gmail.com to get your pack/troop on the list for one or both of these events. Individual signups are welcome, too.

An approximate headcount will be needed as the event grows near but at this time only your commitment to participate is needed. Friends & family invited, too.



Special Invitations for Scouts & Families



SCOUTS



READ SACRED TEXTS

We invite Scouts & youth across the world to join us again in reading their own faith's sacred texts. Together, we can recognize our **Duty to God**, participating as a group or on your own.

Read your sacred texts on **May 1st, 2025**, or any time that week. Join Scouting America, other youth organizations and all faith youth groups in a celebration of sacred texts.

MORE INFORMATION

stlbsa.org/Scouts-read-sacred-texts-worldwide/
ScoutsReadSacredTexts@gmail.com



To Order Patches



To Register



Promotion Video



KERN RIVER PARKWAY 
NATURE CENTER
HART MEMORIAL PARK · BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

Saturday - May 17 - 2 to 4 pm - FAMILY PROGRAM

Burbles rocks with science teacher Dave Hanley

Discover life in the shallows under the rocks where the river burbles over them.

Sunday, May 18 - 2 pm

Reptiles with Doug Lemmons, the snake wrangler

Law enforcement agencies (& the public) utilize Doug's special skills to relocate unwanted snacks & other reptiles.

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.sscscouts.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



June 9-12

Cub Scout Day Camp

July 7-11

Cub Scout Twilight Camp

July 19

Rollerskating Party
Popcorn Kickoff

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

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