

August 2025



Scouting America™

Southern Sierra Council

SSC Scouting News

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

Visit the SSC Website

***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

Thursday, August 7, 2025

6:30 pm via Zoom

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

<https://www.facebook.com/sscscouts>

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



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

- Aug 4 - Popcorn - Storefront Order #1 due online
- Aug 7 - OA BBQ/Pool Party
- Aug 7 - SSC Program Committee Meeting
- Aug 9 - Scout Swim Party
- Aug 9 - Ridgecrest Scout-O-Rama
- Aug 12 - Council Training Planning Meeting
- Aug 14 - Roundtable - Growing Your Pack/Troop
- Aug 20 - Life to Eagle Workshop
- Aug 21 - Jamboree Troop Meeting
- Aug 23 - Blaze into Scouting
- Aug 23 - OA - LLD - Lodge Leadership Development
- Aug. 28-29 - Popcorn - Storefront Pick up #1
- Aug 29 - Popcorn - Storefront Sale Begins
- Sept. 3 - Range & Target Sports Committee Meeting
- Sept. 4 - SSC Program Committee Meeting
- Sept 5-7 - Wood Badge - Weekend 1
- Sept. 8 - Popcorn Storefront Order #2 due online
- Sept 9 - Safeguarding Youth Training (formerly YPT) - In-person
- Sept 13-14 - Wood Badge - Weekend #2
- Sept 13 - Personal Mgmt. Merit Badge - Session 1
- Sept 17-28 - Kern County Fair - Potato Booth
- Sept 18 - Jamboree Troop Meeting
- Sept 19-21 - OA Conclave
- Sept 25 - OA - LEC at the Potato Booth

**Scout Office
&
Trading Post Hours**

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



Council Office Contacts
(661) 325-9036

District Executive

Cameron Hutton - Ext. 103

(661) 428-0382

cameron.hutton@scouting.org

Council Commissioner - General Support

Cindy Basham - Ext. 102

(661) 319-3954

cbasham3504@gmail.com

**Scout Store/Trading Post will be open
Saturdays from 11am to 3pm**

August 30

September 6

September 13

September 20



2417 M Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 325-9036

Cub Scout Twilight Camp July 7-11 - 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm



Twilight Camp Thank You Heather, Stevie & Staff!

For the first time in several years, the Southern Sierra Council had a Twilight Camp.

It was a great opportunity for all the cub scouts that could not make it to our Cub Scout Day Camp in June. The scouts still got to have all the fun, make the crafts and treats, and they even got to experience some new water activities to stay cool in the hot July nights.

We are very appreciative of the Kern County Shriners Club; Noble Park was a fantastic venue.

Heather Kampa and her family deserve a huge thank you for making the event happen. Heather and Stevie made a great effort and found all the right volunteers to make Twilight Camp a success. So many hands were needed to make it a success, too many to start listing. You volunteers know who you are, and everyone had more fun because of your help. THANK YOU!

And now that we've played around with modern day science,
we hope you'll join us in the prehistoric past for

Cub Scout Day Camp 2026- DINOTOPIA



Mark Your Calendars for Next Summer

Day Camp - June 8-11, 2026

Twilight Camp - July 6-10, 2026

2026 National Scout Jamboree

Join the Adventure TODAY!



Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia

- 15,000 Scouts, Leaders & Service Team
- Zipline - one of the longest in North America
- World-Class Skate Park
- Rock Climbing
- Water Activities
- Patch Trading

- ATV Offerings
- Treetop Canopy Tours

- Stadium Shows
- and more...

Jamboree is less than 1 year away. Get registered NOW!

**Scouts & Parents Monthly Meetings begin
Thursday, August 21, 2025 @ 7:00pm
at Stine School (4300 Wilson Road) in Bakersfield**

**All Scouts BSA youth & parents are invited to attend.
Spots are filling up - so join the contingent today!**

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 is \$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.

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 is 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.



Your Scout is Invited A Note from the National Jamboree Director

Dear Scouting Families,

What if your Scout could spend 10 days unplugged from screens, surrounded by nature, and immersed in an action-packed experience that builds confidence, leadership, and lifelong friendships?

They can! We're excited to invite your Scout to the 2026 National Jamboree, happening July 22–31, 2026, at the stunning Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia — a place built for adventure, growth, and unforgettable memories.

This isn't just a trip. It's a turning point.

Imagine your Scout zip-lining through the treetops, conquering whitewater rapids, trading patches with kids from across the country, and discovering just how capable, confident, and independent they really are — all in a safe, supportive environment designed to help them thrive.

Why Should Your Scout Attend?

- **Confidence & Independence**
 - At the Jamboree, Scouts step out of their comfort zone, meet new people, and take on new challenges — building resilience and self-assurance that lasts a lifetime.
- **Epic Adventure**
 - From mountain biking and rock climbing to rafting and zip-lining, the Jamboree offers nonstop excitement, guided by expert staff and surrounded by supportive peers.
- **Friendships & New Perspectives**
 - At the Jamboree, Scouts connect with others from every corner of the country (and beyond!), gaining fresh insights, memories, and friendships that last a lifetime.
- **Unplugged Experiences**
 - In a world full of screens, the Jamboree offers real-life adventure — where leadership, teamwork, and service take center stage.
- **Once-in-a-Lifetime Shows**
 - Stadium events, fireworks, and high-energy performances await in a stunning outdoor amphitheater.

Parents often tell us:

“My Scout came back from the Jamboree more mature, confident, and inspired than ever before.”

If your Scout dreams big, craves adventure, or simply needs a place to explore their potential — **this is it.**

Ready to Learn More?

- Contact your local council: (661) 325-9036 x102
- <https://scoutingevent.com/030-Jambo26>
- **Register for an informational webinar:**
 - Ask questions and get a glimpse of what's in store.
 - <https://jamboree.scouting.org/updates/jamboree-informational-webinars/>

We hope your Scout will join us for this incredible experience!

Yours in Scouting,

Bill Beaumont
Director, 2026 National Jamboree



Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 4

The 2026 Jamboree Troop invites all scouts to join them for their own "Adopt A Park" Clean-up at Hart Park

Watch the September newsletter for more details.

Great opportunity for service hours, to see the peacocks & to beautify the park.

POPCORN! POPCORN! POPCORN! Unit Popcorn Order #1 - Due Online - August 4

Storefront Sales start Friday, August 29

Between now & then, scouts can kick off their sales by selling popcorn online and taking orders to be delivered once the popcorn arrives.

In addition to the Trails-End Rewards - a scout can earn the following from the council:

- Sell 1 item - SSC 2025 popcorn sales patch
- Sell \$100 in Heroes & Helpers - Receive the 2025 SSC Heroes & Helpers shoulder patch
- Top Selling scout in each unit (with sales over \$500) receives a \$50 gift card to the Trading Post, Amazon or Walmart.
- All Scouts that sell at least \$1,000 will receive 2 tickets to the Bakersfield Condors Scout Night hockey game on December 20, 2025.
- All Scouts that sell at least \$2,500 will receive \$200 gift card to the Trading Post, Amazon or Walmart and be recognized as a Southern Sierra Super Seller.

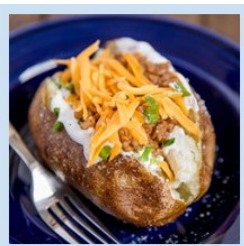


JOIN IN THE FUN!



WANT FREE PARKING, FREE ADMISSION AND A FREE POTATO?
SIGN UP TO HELP OUT IN THE POTATO BOOTH!

Volunteers Needed Baked Potato Booth



The 2025 Kern County Fair is coming up quick - September 17 to 28. That means the Potato Booth will be open for business for each of those 12 days.

To make the Potato Booth operate, we need Scouts, leaders, friends & family volunteers to work one or more shifts during the fair. Shifts are typically 3 to 4 hours.

Volunteers receive a ticket for fair admission, a parking pass, and a baked potato of their choice. Due to the nature of the work in the potato booth, the minimum age for a volunteer is eleven.

Many of our Scouts BSA troops have already committed to their day/shifts. Groups (workplace, church, school, etc.) can reserve a full shift (13 volunteers), multiple shifts or even a full day. This is an excellent opportunity for teambuilding and earning community service hours. PLUS you can attend the fair before and/or after your shift.

Check out the Potato Booth schedule and email Cindy at cbasham3504@gmail.com to reserve your shift(s).

Potato Booth
Schedule

Membership/Recruiting

Saturday, August 23, 2025
10:00 am to Noon



Visit These Locations:

BFD Station 8 @ 2213 University Ave.

BFD Station 14 @ 5815 Mountain Vista Dr.

Fruitvale/Norris Park @ 6221 Norris Rd.

Westdale Park @ 15200 Westdale Dr.

- **Check out the trucks**
- **Meet a Firefighter**
- **Play Scout Games**
- **Scout Skill Demos**

Bring a friend that signs up for Scouting - Earn a Recruiting Reward (see below)

Peer-to-Peer Recruiting

Scouts - Recruit a friend to join Scouting

Once the new recruit is registered the original scout will receive a SSC Recruiter Patch & a recruiter strip for their uniform.

In addition, the original scout will receive one of the following:
Cub Scouts will receive the lantern/fan combo

Scouts BSA will receive a pair of Scouting binoculars



New scout will receive
a matching
SSC Recruiter Patch

**Unit Leaders - Contact
Cindy at the Council
office to receive
recognition items for the
Scout & new recruit.**



Recruitment Kickoff Roundtable Growing Your Pack/Troop

Thursday, August 14
Scout Office - 2417 M St.
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

This evening will feature:

- Fall Membership Plan
- Best practices for recruiting
- Retention tips and tricks
- Planning an engaging unit program
- Making & maintaining connections

We have so many new membership opportunities coming up, and council staff are expanding the efforts for getting more scouts to join. Please make sure your unit has representation at our Recruitment Kick-off Roundtable. At the roundtable you will be able to see the council's new safe archery demo that we'll be using at community/school events.

Unit leadership should also contact Cameron to set up Sign-Up nights for your pack and Open House Nights for your troop. Please start checking your school's back to school night as there may be an opportunity to have a table for parents to see Scouting and talk to you.



Badgers Make Important Contributions to Southern Sierra Scouting



Change the Lives of Future Leaders!

Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA learn to be prepared for every challenge. Investing enables Southern Sierra Council's Scouts to continue growing in the skills that prepare them for life.

Give a gift to Scouting to help change the lives of future leaders.

Join the Southern Sierra Council's Badger Troop - Southern Sierra Council's recurring gift club.

By contributing \$20 or more per month by credit or debit card, you'll help provide a sustainable funding source for local Scouting programs.

Recurring gifts are a convenient way to support Scouting in our community. Over the course of the year your monthly donation becomes a significant contribution to making Scouting happen.

To join the Badger Troop, click this link
<https://donations.scouting.org/#/council/030/appeal/5374>

Council Territory 3 Invitation



11-13 OCTOBER 2025 CERTIFIED ANGLING INSTRUCTOR COURSE

@

**Camp High Sierra
Mammoth Lakes, CA**

Fishing is the fourth most popular outdoor activity for scouts, yet most Scouting units do not have a fishing program that can help them recruit and retain scouts.

This course will qualify you as a Scouting America Certified Angling Instructor (CAI) and is designed to help you implement a strong fishing program in your unit, develop qualified fishing merit badge counselors, and qualify you to be a trainer in future CAI courses. You do not need fishing experience to attend this course.

Subjects taught during the course include casting and fishing with conventional and fly fishing tackle, tying fishing knots, fly tying, identifying good fishing locations, fishing conservation, and much more.

There will be at least two periods allocated to fishing on any of the famous and beautiful trout fisheries in the Eastern Sierras, so bring your gear!

You can arrive at camp starting at 4 PM on the 10th. The formal instruction begins at 8:00AM on the 11th.



Who Should Attend?

Scouters and Scouts aged 15 or older, Fishing and Fly Fishing Merit Badge Counselors, Scoutmasters, Cubmasters, Venturing Leaders, Cub Scout and Scouts BSA Camp Fishing Program Directors and Staff, and anyone interested in creating an outstanding fishing program.

The cost of the course is \$75. This covers facilities, food, and all course materials.

For more information contact:

Jeff Geyer
301-802-4835
lithicdigger@gmail.com

Register at:
<https://scoutingevent.com/030-cai25>



"A fisherman does not bait his hook with food he likes. He uses food the fish likes. So with boys."

Robert Baden Powell

CAI Course Registration

Advancement News

Personal Management Merit Badge
2 Sessions

Saturday, September 13, 2025
(Session 1)



9:00 am to 3:00 pm Scout Office - 2417 M St.

What: Success in school, sports and life depends on appropriate training, planning & management. Personal Management is an Eagle-required Merit Badge and often considered one of the most difficult merit badges. It is designed to work on time (requirements 1,2 & 3), money (requirements 4, 5, 6 & 7) and project management (requirements 8, 9, & 10) and is good preparation for Scouts thinking about planning their own Eagle projects.

This session will be interactive and will include requirements - 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 10.

Requirements 2, 8, & 9 will be assigned to complete by the second session - Saturday December 13.

Class limit - 15 scouts

Bring a sack lunch & water bottle

There will be a "working" lunch

Location: Scout Office - 2417 M Street - Bakersfield

Cost: \$5.00 per scout

ALL Participant MUST turn in an "AB Medical" form (will be returned at the end of the day)

Register online at: <https://www.scoutingevent.com/030-PM25>

Home Repairs Merit Badge Full Day



Saturday, October 4, 2025
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Scout Office - 2417 M St.
Cost \$5.00

Successfully completing this badge's requirements can lead to a lifetime of personal and financial rewards: Doing basic home repairs provides a sense of personal pride in one's achievements and increased self-confidence. In addition, safe and successful do-it-yourselfers can easily save a family thousands of dollars in repair bills over the years.

Prerequisite: Be familiar with the merit badge requirements.

Register online at : <https://www.scoutingevent.com/030-HR25>

Mark Your Calendars Upcoming Merit Badge Days

Saturday, November 1 - Merit Badge Midway

Location: 1st Presbyterian Church - Corner of Truxtun & H St. - Bakersfield
Registration Opens Online - September 1

Cost: \$5.00 per badge

Half-day Session - AM

Moviemaking
Coin Collecting
Leatherwork

Half-day Session - PM

Coin Collecting
Leatherwork
Traffic Safety

Full-day

Citizenship in the World
Radio

Saturday, February 28, 2026 - Single merit badge day - TBD
Saturday, March 7, 2026 - Merit Badge Midway
November 7, 2026 - Fall Merit Badge Midway

Eagle Nest

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



LIFE-TO-EAGLE WORKSHOP

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Scout Office - 2417 M Street

Online Registration: <https://scoutingevent.com/030-EW0825>

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 two new Eagle Scouts during the month of July!
The new Eagles are from Troops 3 & 484.**

Order of the Arrow

Continuing Fellowship on the Scouting Journey.

- **Aug. 7 - Pool Party/BBQ**
- **Aug. 21 - LEC Meeting - 7pm - Scout Office**
- **Aug. 23 - LLD - Lodge Leadership Development**



YOWLUMNE Lodge

Yowlumne Lodge - OA Pool Party & BBQ

Thursday, August 7, 2025

6:00pm to 9:00pm

At the home of the Tindell's - 620 Browning Ct. - Bakersfield - 93309

This event is for all Arrowmen - New & Old

- Main dish will be provided - please bring a side dish enough to feed 10 people.
- Swimming fellowship (please bring swimsuit, towel, chair, & OA Sash)
- Minor upcoming business will be covered

*This is a no fee event
Register NOW - so we have a good headcount
Registration closes 8/4/25*

OA - BBQ/Pool Party Reservations

Order of the Arrow - Lodge Leadership Development - LLD

Saturday, August 23, 2025

8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Cost: \$15 each - thru 8/19/25 and \$20 each after

Location: Centennial Elementary - 15200 Westdale Dr. - Bakersfield, CA 93314

This annual event is an opportunity for Arrowmen to lead fellow Scouts in hands-on team-building leadership activities.

All OA members and older youth Scouts are encouraged to attend.

Not in OA? - Grab your PLC and bring your unit to the next level. All are welcome to this event.

Lunch will be served.

Please register online by Tuesday, August 19

OA - LLD Registration

TIME TO PAY YOUR 2025 OA DUES - \$20

Easy way to pay your annual dues -

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

Questions:

Cub Scout Summertime Event

Don't forget to sign up for our Summer Swim Party! ALL Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA are encouraged to come down to the lovely Riverlakes Pool on August 9th, 1-4pm.

Remember, the more the merrier, so make sure all your scout friends and families know about this fun opportunity to stay cool on a hot day! Bring snacks and drinks (no glass containers, please), hang out in the shade or the water, and have some fun.



Saturday, August 9 - Scout Swim Party
Riverlakes Pool - 5100 Riverlakes Drive - 93312
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

- \$5.00 per attendee (swimming or spectating) - Walk-ins \$8.00 per attendee
- 12 months & under - no charge
- Registration deadline - Thursday, August 7
- Swimmers - be dressed...ready to swim. Don't forget your towel and sunscreen.
- Spectators - bring a lawn chair - Pop-ups are welcome.
- Snacks & non-glass beverage containers welcome.
- No alcohol or smoking.

- Register online at <https://www.scoutingevent.com/030-swim25>

"AB Medical form" is required for ALL attendees.

Training News & Resources



Register **BEFORE August 5th** to ensure your spot at **WOOD BADGE!**
Convenient back-to-back weekends; nearby location; lowest cost course in Southern California!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!!

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 13-14, 2025

Locations: Camp Verdugo Oaks, Castaic

Course Director: Carolyn Forster, Southern Sierra

REGISTRATION*:

<https://www.longbeachbsa.org/training/woodbadge/>

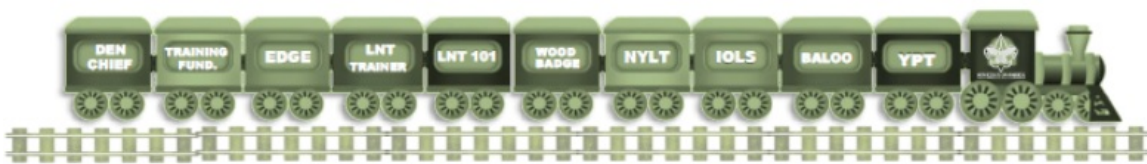
Scholarships available

Questions: Carolyn Forster CJForster1964@gmail.com

WB Registration Link

Scholarships Available

MUST Register **BEFORE Aug 4th to ensure availability and best price.
Ask your unit first for a possible scholarship.*



COUNCIL TRAINING PLANNING MEETING*

TUESDAY, August 12* @ 6:30 pm

Zoom: ID: 314 211 1129 Password: 928897

August 12th Agenda

- Trainers needed for Fall 2025: BALOO & IOLS
- SAFEGuarding Youth & Hazardous Weather Training renewals
- 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

S.A.F.E. Guarding Youth Training (SYT)



Youth Protection Training (YPT)

is now known as -

S.A.F.E. Guarding Youth

Training (SYT)

Everyone: **Get a head start NOW to complete your annually required SAFEGuarding Youth Training.**

YPT or SYT taken during 2025 is required for recharter.

[My.Scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org) *

(You can take SYT at [My.Scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org) any time during the calendar year. It will not be "assigned" to you in the system.)

- **RECOMMENDED** for **ALL adults** even if you are not registered.
- **REQUIRED** for **ALL** registered adults annually.

SSC SYT POLICY: SYT is required annually in Southern Sierra Council (SSC) per Board policy established in 2015. Although National Scouting America has a minimum 2-year requirement, SSC requires **ANNUAL (every calendar year)** renewal of SYT by all registered adults for recharter qualification.

For 2025 ONLY: If you have already renewed your Youth Protection Training during 2025 you do not need to take the new SAFEGuarding Youth training until May 31, 2026. If you last took YPT during 2024 you **MUST** take the new SYT course on-line at [My.Scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org) during 2025 to qualify for recharter with Southern Sierra Council (see note above regarding SSC policy for annual renewal).

***ONLINE BEST PRACTICES:** For best results please consider:

- Complete online SYT **BEFORE September**. After September – EVERYONE IN THE ENTIRE NATION is trying to take the SYT simultaneously, which often causes a delay/overload to the My.Scouting system during this time.
- Use a desktop or laptop computer. **DO NOT** use your phone or iPad to take these trainings since it may not let you complete the training and/or may not generate your certificate.
- Use Google **Chrome** when accessing My.Scouting.org (other platforms are not necessarily supported)
- Logon during the early morning hours to avoid the rush of East Coast scouters logging in due to the time difference.
- **Be patient**. Once you complete your training on My.Scouting.org, it may take up to 24-hours for you to receive your completion certificate by email.
- If you continue to experience issues with the online SYT course, please send me an email with screenshots and a description of your experience. **Do not keep trying to take it repeatedly**. We will work out the issues together.

CONTACT: Carolyn Forster, Council Training Chair, CJForster1964@gmail.com



HAZARDOUS WEATHER TRAINING

It's time to renew your **Hazardous Weather Training** (HWT).

HWT is REQUIRED to be renewed every 2 years (National Scouting America requirement) for ALL direct contact leader positions. Leadership positions with expired **HWT** are considered 'untrained' and do not qualify for renewal or working with youth.

Ensure you have the most current information in weather safety this summer by updating your HWT on [My.Scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org).

Login to [My.Scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org) any time to retake Hazardous Weather Training. (Note: Hazardous Weather will NOT be 'assigned' to you. You can retake **HWT** at any time.)



TRAINERS NEEDED - FALL 2025

All leaders must be trained *before* working with youth.
Trainings for new and continuing leaders need trainers and presenters to be successful!

OCTOBER 25-26 @ Fort Tejon Historical Park, Lebec, CA



[Basic Adult Leader
Outdoor Orientation \(BALOO\)](#)



[Introduction to Outdoor
Leaders Skills \(IOLS\)](#)

All trainings have pre-made syllabus with scripts and instructions.
It just needs *YOU* to present it! **Experienced leaders** make great trainers and presenters!

- Presenters can either attend the entire training *or* just come to present their session.
- Presenters attend the course at no cost.
- A Zoom meeting will be scheduled for staff development and expectations.

Contact:
Carolyn Forster, Council Training Chair
CJForster1964@gmail.com



BE A SCOUT FOR A WEEKEND

Be ready this fall to go camping and outdoor activities with your Pack or Troop. Mark your calendar for BALOO or IOLS this October.

BALOO or **IOLS***

October 25 thru 26, 2025

Fort Tejon State Historic Park, Lebec, CA

**Overnight camping is required to complete either course.*

Registration: Opens Online September 1

Adult trainings to learn outdoor skills needed for Cub Scout outdoor events/overnight camping or teaching trail-to-first class skills to Scouts BSA.

Who should attend:

- **BALOO** - Any registered adult volunteer to help the Pack be able to go on outdoor activities and overnight campouts.
- **IOLS**: Any registered adult to assist with trail-to-first class scouting skills; required training for **Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster** positions.

NEEDED: *A few experienced volunteers to present scouting skills to adult leaders.*

CONTACT:

Carolyn Forster, Course Director
CJForster1964@gmail.com

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 at the Council Volunteer Recognition Dinner on January 24, 2026.

AWARDS CENTRAL *(all awards available)*

<https://www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central/>

TRAINING AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

<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.)

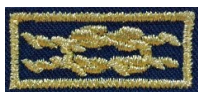
- **Den Leader Training Award** – for all levels of *Den Leaders*
- **Scouter’s Training Award** – for each level of leader (*Cub Scouts, Troop, and Venturing*).
- **Scouter’s Key** – for *Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, Advisors (Venturing)*.
- **Trained Strip** – recognizing adults and youth who have completed the training required for their leadership position.

OTHER AWARD



William D. Boyce New Unit Organizer Award – for leaders who organize a new, traditional unit (*Cub Scout Pack, Scouts BSA Troop, or Venture Crew*).

<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.

Unit Leader Award of Merit

APPLICATIONS/NOMINATIONS:

Cindy Basham, cbasham3504@gmail.com

Special Invitations for Scouts & Families



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

Sunday - August 10 - 1pm to 3pm - FAMILY FUN DAY AT THE PARK

with Dave Hanley & Mike Turner

Water rockets, gyroscopes, stomp rockets, paper airplanes

Saturday - August 23 - 8am to 10am - "Adopt A Park" Clean-up
grabbers, gloves, & trash bags provided

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 4

The 2026 Jamboree Troop invites all scouts to join them for their own
"Adopt A Park" Clean-up at Hart Park

Watch the September newsletter for more details.

Great opportunity for service hours, to see the peacocks & to beautify the park



Aqua-Nut Divers
presents the annual

TRY SCUBA IN A POOL

Saturday, August 9, 2025 from 8am-5pm
at the Bakersfield Racquet Club, 1660 Pine Street
(cross of Truxtun Avenue)

Cost is \$35.00
per person

Approximate 1.5
hour experience

All equipment
provided

Receive a \$25.00
voucher for a full
scuba class

All proceeds
go to training
disabled
veterans to
scuba dive for
free



Must be 10 years or
older

Medical waiver required
& will be sent by email
prior to the event

Must RSVP to Eric Schimon at Info@Aqua-Nut.com.
Please include full name/gender of each participant. Also,
include phone number and email address for each
participant as well as a preference of
morning or afternoon
session.

Made with PosterMyWall.com AquaNutDivers.com

"SCUBA in a Pool" is an introduction to SCUBA
This is not a merit badge session

Contact Eric Schimon at Info@Aqua-Nut.com to sign up.

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

Reporting Made Easy

How does Scouting America's anonymous reporting tool work?



Scan this QR code to add the Scouts First phone number to your address book. You can call or text it at any time.

Scout leaders, registered members, parents, Scouting professionals, or anyone else who believes a youth in Scouting might be at risk can call, text or email their concerns. You can report concerns not just of abuse, but of any unsafe activity at all.

While accurate information is critical to an appropriate response, a lack of specific information is not a reason to delay a report.

"As always, more information is better when reporting an incident, but we don't want someone to wait to report just because they don't have all the details," Pounder says. "We can start the conversation and gather the details as we go."

You will not be required to provide proof that a youth is in danger. All you are asked to do is report your concerns in good faith. You can also call, text or email if you have received a report of abuse and would like guidance on what to do next.

Utilizing the RealResponse platform, Scouts and their families can share their concerns and questions in real time, with the knowledge that these communications are going to the right place in the fastest way possible, creating meaningful dialogue about tough issues.

[For more information click here](#)

SCOUTS FIRST Helpline


SAFEGUARDING YOUTH

In an emergency or when complying with mandatory reporting, call 911 or your local authorities immediately. Then, report the incident to your council.

Report Concerns About Youth Safety

If you suspect a youth has been harmed or their safety is at risk—including violations of youth protection policies—contact your local council right away.

If you cannot reach your Scout Executive or local Council, report directly to Scouts First via:

 Anonymously Call or Text:
844-SCOUTS1

 Email: ScoutsFirst@Scouting.org

Scan to Message Anonymously!
(Via Real Response)



Your vigilance helps protect our Scouts. Thank you for taking action!



Dates to Remember

September 17-28

Kern County Fair - Potato Booth

October 10-12

Webelos/AOL Campout



October 17-18
Wolf/Bear Campout
Tigermania

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

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