

October 2025



Southern Sierra Service Area of the Golden Empire Council

Keeping you up to date with what is happening in local Scouting.

[Visit the Service Area Website](#)

[Visit the Golden Empire Council 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



Program Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 2, 2025

6:30 pm via Zoom

The 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 upcoming year.

Service Area Upcoming Dates

(See articles below for details)

- Oct. 2 - Program Committee Meeting
- Oct. 4 - Jamboree Trash-a-thon



**Scout Office
&
Trading Post Hours**

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

Scout 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

- Oct. 4 - Home Repair Merit Badge
- Oct. 10-12 - Webelos/AOL Campout
- Oct. 11-12 - Certified Angling Instructor Course
- Oct. 16 - Jamboree Troop Meeting
- Oct. 17-18 - Tigermania Campout
- Oct. 17-18 - Wolf/Bear Campout
- Oct. 22 - Council Connections Mtg.
- Oct. 23 - OA LEC Meeting
- Oct. 25-26 - BALOO/IOLS
- Oct. 27 - Popcorn - Final Order Deadline
- Oct. 27 - Popcorn - Storefront Returns Deadline
- Oct. 30 - UC Meeting
- Oct. 31 - Halloween
- Nov. 1 - Outdoor Expo - Lion's ROAR, Leave No Trace, Safeguarding Youth Training, Merit Badge Midway
- Nov. 7 - Popcorn Pick up
- Nov. 9 - NRA RSO class
- Nov. 11 - Veterans Day Parade
- Nov. 12 - Eagle Workshop
- Nov. 13 - Roundtable - Renewing Your Unit for 2026.
- Nov. 15 - Jamboree Day Hike
- Nov. 20 - UC Meeting
- Nov. 27-28 - Office Closed



Scout Office & Store will be open
Saturday from 11am to 3pm

October 4, 2025

2417 M Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301

(661) 325-9036



Limited Quantity in Stock

- Eagle Scout 2025 Etched Glass Ornament
- Cub Scout Paws Etched Glass Ornament
- Scouting America 2025 Fleur-de-Lis Etched Glass Ornament

\$14.99 Each

JOIN IN THE FUN!



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

2025 Potato Booth

Thank You to EVERYONE That Made It Happen!!



**Chili Verde Baked
Potato
for the Win!**



The Potato Booth is a Wrap!

Another successful year because of over 350 volunteers that turned out to wash, wrap, bake, prep and serve. Each potato served was created with Scouting spirit and a servant heart.

Thank you to Cameron Hutton who led the way and to every volunteer that supported the 12 days of the potato booth! You are all amazing and very appreciated!

Much appreciation to the Golden Empire Council management team for traveling from Sacramento to work shifts in the booth.

Here's some fun facts from this year's potato booth:

- 9267 baked potatoes made and sold
- 3570 were THE WORKS.
- 39% of the orders added a large drink combo
- 1105 Chili Verde Potatoes - #1 Savory Item of the fair
- 877 Giant Potatoes were sold
- 619 bowls of Mac & Cheese, Chili Verde or combination were sold
- 1959 added Sour Cream to their order - the most popular side
- 12% of orders added bacon to their potato
- 186 Sweet Potatoes sold
- 254 Flaming Hot Potatoes sold
- Average sale per customer is \$17.39

**The Potato Booth is a vital funding
source for making Scouting happen in
Southern Sierra**

NEW FOR PARENTS
Safeguarding Youth Parents Video

SYT Parent Video

Scouting America Introduces Safeguarding Youth Parents' Guide Video

Safeguarding our youth is everyone's responsibility.

As Scouting America continues to invest in prevention efforts, we have recently introduced this Parents' Guide video, which will also be sent directly to the parents of new members.

With this new asset, we aim to share key aspects of our Safeguarding approach with new parents while encouraging them to take the full Safeguarding Youth Training and join the journey with their child.

This video doesn't replace the written Parent Guides but instead acknowledges that people absorb information in different formats.

Please watch it, share it with your parents and volunteers, and encourage them to share it with their own networks.

As Scouting America's Chief Safeguarding Officer, Glen Pounder plays a pivotal role in leading the assessment and oversight of all youth safeguarding activities nationwide. His responsibilities include policy formulation, training, liaison with the National Executive Board, strategic planning, external partnerships, and legislation.



2026 National Scout Jamboree AN EPIC EVENT WITH 20,000 FRIENDS



Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia

- 15,000 Scouts, Leaders & Service Team
- Zipline - one of the longest in North America
- World-Class Skate Park
- ATV Offerings
- Treetop Canopy Tours
- Rock Climbing
- Water Activities
- Patch Trading
- Stadium Shows
- and more...

Jamboree is less than 1 year away.



Jamboree Troop Meeting

Thursday, October 16 - 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Stine School - 4300 Wilson Road

Jamboree Trash-A-Thon - Hart Park

Saturday, October 4 - 9:00 am

HART PARK "ADOPT-A-PARK" CLEAN-UP

Grabbers, Gloves, & Trash Bags Provided



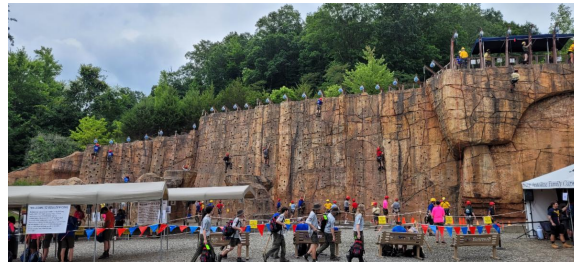
NATURE CENTER "Peacock House"

Hart Memorial Park
8000 River Rd., Bakersfield, CA
www.kernnaturecenter.org



OCTOBER 4 - 9 A.M.

Come help us make Hart Park beautiful & visit the peacocks!



Jamboree Staff Needed: 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.

POPCORN! POPCORN! POPCORN!



Support your Scouting goals and adventures now!

As of September 29, the council has sold \$204,462 in popcorn. Thirteen units and 151 scouts have sold popcorn.

There is still time to sign up if your unit wants to sell. We have inventory at the council office!

The deadline for storefront returns is October 27. No popcorn returns will be accepted after that date. Units will receive a 2% commission for not returning any popcorn.

Third and final unit orders are also due on October 27. This is for take orders that you need to fill. The final order is scheduled to be delivered to the council office on November 7.

Along with Trail's End Rewards, there are some excellent prizes that Scouts can earn. Prize orders are due December 5th. Unit Kernels will receive reminders to submit prize orders.

- All Scouts that sell at least one item receive a popcorn patch.
- Any Scout that collects at least \$100 in Heroes and Helpers donations will receive the special Heroes shoulder patch.
- Any Scout that sells at least \$1,000 in popcorn will receive two tickets to "Scout Night at the Condors game on Saturday,, December 20. There will also be special opportunities and recognition at the Condors game.
- Any Scout that sells at least \$2,500 in popcorn will receive a \$200 gift card from Amazon, Walmart or the Scout Shore.

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 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



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



Now is the time to invite new families to join the adventure of Scouting!

Whether you're a leader or a parent, you play a key role in growing your unit and sharing the fun.



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'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 Badger Troop - Southern Sierra'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>

NRA Range Safety Officer Class

Sunday, November 9, 2025
8:00am to 5:00pmn
Scout Office - 2417 M Street



\$25 at the door (lunch provided)

Register by emailing jeremy.brown1775@gmail.com

21 years and older. Only 10 spots available.

Credentialing fee paid directly to the NRA after course conclusion.

Email or text (661) 912-1261 for detail/registration.

Session includes standard operating procedures, inspections, emergency procedures, firearm stoppages and malfunctions, safety briefing. Students must demonstrate organizational and teaching skills

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

Note: To accommodate the schedules of those who may have school or work on Columbus Day, all required instruction and the graduation will be completed by 5 PM on Sunday, the 12th.

Columbus Day, Monday the 13th, will be dedicated to non-required fishing activities and instruction. Those unable to remain for Monday's activities can depart after the graduation on the 12th.

More course information, the packing list, and directions to the course will be sent to all registered participants.

Tight Lines!



CAI Course Registration

CAMPING & OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

Upcoming Cub Scout Campouts

Putting the Outing in Scouting

Webelos & Arrow of Lights - October 10-12

Wolves & Bears - October 17-18

Tigermania - October 17-18



WEBELOS/ARROW OF LIGHT ADVENTURE WEEKEND

Gergen Ski Ranch - 10658 Round Mountain Road

\$50 per person from 9/27 to 10/7/25 - 11:59 pm

Registration fee covers site, activities, meals & patch.

Register online at <https://scoutingevent.com/030-WW25>

All WEBELOS, Arrow of Light Scouts and Parents are invited to attend this Council-wide camping/activity trip. Here the Scouts will set up camp, work on Adventure pins as well as participating in kayaking/canoeing, range & target sports and campfire programs.

WHEN:

Check-In – Friday, October 10th - Begins at 5 PM - Follow signs to registration

Check-Out – Sunday, October 12th - 10:00 AM - Assembly Area

WHAT TO BRING: Dinner on Friday evening is to be provided by you. Please eat before camp or bring a sack dinner. There are no personal campfires or cooking areas allowed in camp. Also bring any/all camping gear: Tent, Sleeping Bag, Sleeping Pad, Camp Chair etc. Packs will camp together in the same area. Pop-ups for shade & tables are suggested for the Pack's campsite.

IMPORTANT TO BRING: BSA Medical Form - Parts A & B

Additionally, please have a skit or song you would like to perform as a Den/Pack for the Saturday evening campfire.



Join us for a fantastic weekend at Gergen Ski Ranch where we will be offering a number of adventures including Paddle Onward & Paddle Craft. This year we will be offering canoeing and kayaking with swim checks scheduled for Friday evening. Swim checks can be done in advance by a certified lifeguard - Swim check certification form available in attachments.

We will provide the fun, food and activities, you provide the camping gear and a Scout looking for fun and adventure. Get your Webelos or Arrow of Light den together and register early to save money and we will see you there.

**This is a Webelos/Arrow of Light and Adult partner event. Please no siblings. There are no facilities or activities for additional family members.*



Cub Overnighter for Wolves and Bears **on October 17-18, 2025.**

The campout will feature a campfire on Friday night, many fun activities on Saturday which will help towards their rank advancement, and also

include BB and archery!

When: Friday, October 17 to Saturday, October 18
(Check-in begins at 5:00 pm on Friday evening.)

The event will end by 4:00 pm on Saturday.

Location: Gergen Ski Ranch - 10658 Round Mountain Road, Bakersfield

Cost: \$20 per person. (fee includes site fee, activities, meals on Saturday & patch)

Register online at <https://scoutingevent.com/030-WolfBear25>

Deadline to register: October 15, 2025 - 11:59pm

Additional family members can attend for \$20 per person.

No program is provided for additional family members.

All Cub Scouts or family under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.



Staff: \$10 per person (Scouts BSA/Leaders assisting with activities)

If you have questions please contact Cindy Basham at cbasham3504@gmail.com.

Don't forget to eat before you come on Friday and be prepared for a night of camping and fun!



**It's the 2025 Tigermania!
BLAST OFF TO NEW ADVENTURES!**

All Tigers and Parents Come to Tigermania!

Our time together will consist of Adventures, Games, Archery, and Much More!

Don't forget to eat before you come on Friday and be prepared for a night of camping, campfire stories, and friends!

Location: Gergen Ski Ranch - 10658 Round Mountain Road - Bakersfield, CA

Cost: \$ 20 per person (includes site fee, activity fees, meals on Saturday & patch)

Register online at <https://scoutingevent.com/030-Tiger25>

Deadline to register: October 15, 2025 - 11:59pm

No program is provided for additional family members or non-Tiger Cubs

All Cub Scouts or attendees under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Don't forget to eat before you come on Friday or bring a sack dinner. Be prepared for a night of camping and stargazing!

Questions? Email Amy at scoutmom.as@gmail.com

DON'T FORGET:

Camping Gear

Sleeping Bag

Tent

"Camp Chair"

"Refillable Water Bottle"

"Annual Health & Medical Record" - Parts A & B for all attendees



Each pack should consider Pop-ups for shade.

Advancement News

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.

Registration - FULL

Mark Your Calendars Upcoming Merit Badge Days



Saturday, November 1 - Merit Badge Midway

Location: First Presbyterian Church
Corner of Truxtun & H St. - Bakersfield

Cost: \$5.00 per badge until Friday, Oct. 24, 2025 - then \$7 after
Final deadline - Wednesday, Oct. 29

Morning Session
8:30 am - 12:00 pm
Moviemaking *
Coin Collecting *
Leatherwork

Afternoon Session
1:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Coin Collecting *
Leatherwork
Traffic Safety

Full-day
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Citizenship in the World*
Radio*

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



Note: Prerequisites for Citizenship in the World must be submitted to the counselor by email no later than October 24.

Mark Your Calendar for these upcoming Merit Badge Opportunities
Saturday, February 28, 2026 - Single merit badge day - TBD
Saturday, March 7, 2026 - Merit Badge Midway
November 7, 2026 - Fall Merit Badge Midway

New Merit Badges - Counselors Needed

Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity Merit Badges

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Cybersecurity merit badges are now available. Merit Badge Counselors are needed so scouts can begin working on the requirements for both badges immediately.

If you have the expertise to be a counselor for one or both of these new badges please submit a Merit Badge Information form to Cindy at the Scout office.

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 (NESAs). Membership empowers Scouting's mission, protects the Eagle Scout legacy, and keeps alumni connected. Join NESAs at <https://nesa.org/>



LIFE-TO-EAGLE WORKSHOP

Thursday, November 12, 2025
Scout Office - 2417 M Street

Online Registration Now Open:

https://www.scoutingevent.com/030-EagleWS_Nov25

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

Order of the Arrow



Continuing Fellowship on the Scouting Journey.

Be sure to sign up for:

- **Oct. 10-12 - Webelos/AOL Adventure Weekend**
- **Oct. 23 - LEC - 7pm - Scout Office**
- **Nov. 20 - LEC - 7pm - Scout Office (3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving)**

YOWLUMNE Lodge

A fine group of Scouts that brought their OA spirit to Conclave!



OA will be running "Race Time" at Webelos/AOL Outdoor Adventure Weekend.

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.

Training News & Resources



TRI-COUNCIL WOOD BADGE 3-30-25

Congratulations to all 22 participants completing the Tri-Council Wood Badge course #3-30-25. Southern Sierra participants included:

Rosa Flores-Casas, Pack 341, Ridgecrest
Alfredo Hernandez, Troop 848, Ridgecrest
Cameron Hutton, District Executive, Bakersfield
Ileana Nava, Troop 2119, Bakersfield
Michael Petersen, Pack 341, Ridgecrest
Joy Reynolds, Pack 428, Taft
Matt Taylor, Pack 58, Bakersfield
Olga Torres, Troop 2119, Bakersfield

Thank you to our Wood Badge staff from Southern Sierra Council for months of practicing and coordinating the course:

James Avery, Troop 47, Bakersfield (Chaplain)

Maria Brown, Troop 2119, Bakersfield (Historian)

Carolyn Forster, Troop 2119, Bakersfield (Course Director)

Ivette Rios, Troop 1, Taft (Scribe)

Sheri Stringer, Troops 47 & 2119, Bakersfield (Quartermaster)

Erika Tindell, Troop 47, Bakersfield (Troop Guide)

Wood Badge dates for 2026 coming soon!

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 2026 renewals.

[My.Scouting.org](https://www.myscouting.org) *

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

S.A.F.E. Guarding Youth Training

Saturday, November 1, 2025

8:30 AM – 11:00 AM

First Presbyterian Church, 1705 17th Street (at H Street), Bakersfield

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

- **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 last took YPT during 2024 you MUST take the new SYT course on-line at My.Scouting.org during 2025 to qualify for renewal with Southern Sierra Council (see note above regarding SSC policy for annual renewal).

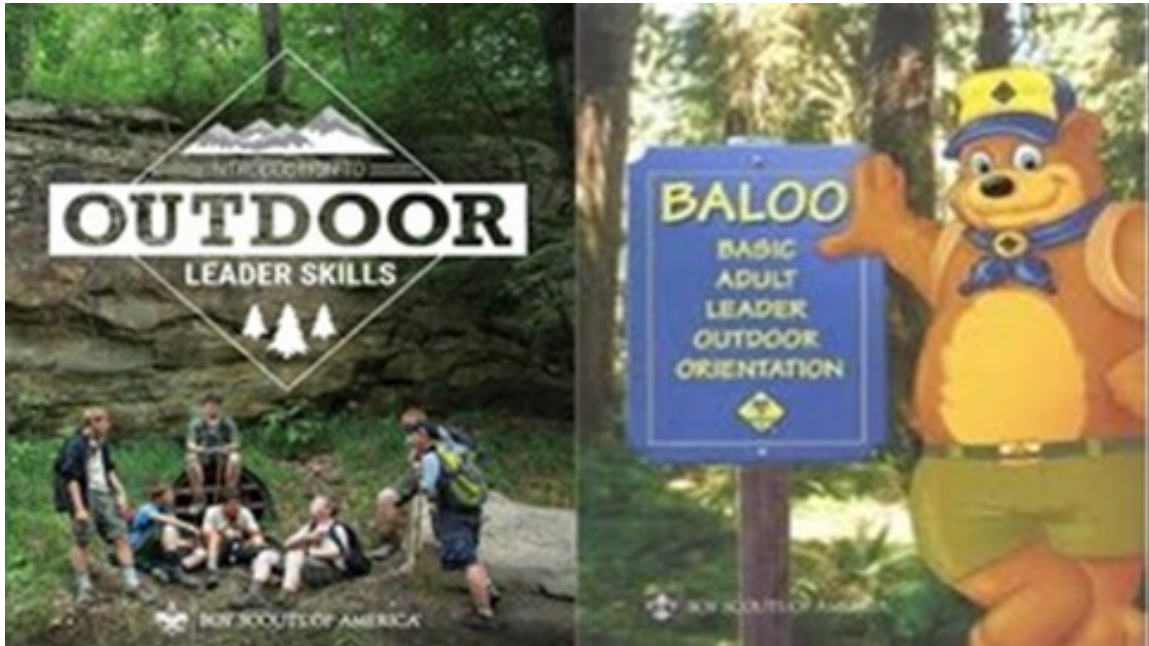
***ONLINE BEST PRACTICES:** For best results please consider:

- 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



BE A SCOUT FOR A WEEKEND

*Be ready this fall to go
camping and outdoor activities with your Pack or Troop.*

BALOO or **IOLS***

October 25 thru 26, 2025

Fort Tejon State Historic Park, Lebec, CA

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

Register Online: <https://scoutingevent.com/030-BalooIOLS>

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.



CONTACT:

Carolyn Forster, Course Director

CJForster1964@gmail.com



LEAVE NO TRACE 101 – AWARENESS

Saturday, November 1, 2025

**First Presbyterian Church, 1705 17th
Street, Bakersfield**

REGISTRATION: <https://www.scoutingevent.com/030-LNT>

Cost: \$5 paid to instructor

Leave No Trace is much more than just picking up trash! Learn the basics of Leave No Trace principles to enhance your ethical decision-making in the outdoors environment.

This course meets Requirement #5 of the Outdoor Ethics Action Award.

Who should attend:

- Scouts BSA and Venturers (age 14+)
- Adult Leaders

Course Director:

Maria Brown

mariambrown614@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://www.myscouting.org).

Login to [My.Scouting.org](https://www.myscouting.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 & SPRING 2026

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
MARCH 14-15, 2026, Desert Empire Fairgrounds, Ridgecrest



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

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

Veterans Day Parade

Tuesday, November 11, 2025
Parade begins at 10am

Interested in participating in the 2025 Veterans Day Parade?

All units are invited to join the Scouting entry for the parade. Please email Cindy Basham at cbasham3504@gmail.com if you would like to be notified of the details once received from parade committee.



Bring your unit & American flags along with your unit banner (if you have one). Handheld American flags and posters recognizing the Veterans are always a nice touch. A poster of YOUR favorite veteran??

Special Invitations for Scouts & Families



**GOLDEN EMPIRE COUNCIL
PRESENTS**

SCOUT EXPO 2026

**SCOUT EXPO 2026
BEALE AFB**



**AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY
1776 - 2026**

FEATURING

- A Thrilling Action Alley
- Flight Line Activities
- Community Showcase
- Range and Target Events
- Merit Badge Midway
- Evening Entertainment

10-12 APRIL, 2026

Follow us

Golden Empire Council Scout Expo

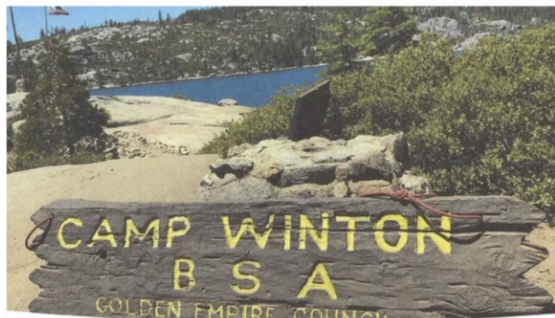


Contact Us

GECScoutExpo@gmail.com

This isn't just another Scout gathering — it's a celebration of Scouting like no other

Go to <https://www.gec-bsa.org/programs> for more information on Scout Expo 2026 and other upcoming events.



CAMP WINTON

Are you ready to get your adventure on!?

Join us as we unveil the newly updated and renovated Camp Winton for Summer 2026!

Our lake-front camp is situated in the beautiful Tahoe National Forest on the stunning Lower Bear River Reservoir. Camp Winton provides an unforgettable week-long camping experience for Scouts BSA Troops, Crews, and Ships. The enthusiastic staff, professionally prepared meals and timeless Winton traditions make this a not to miss Scouting experience. Come and be a part of our legacy and find out why everyone loves Camp Winton!

Interested in being on 2026 Camp Staff?

[Apply Here!](#)

Register at: [Camp Winton Registration](#)

Stake Your Claim – Special Camp Pricing 25% off for Southern Sierra Units

Units that register and pay the \$500 deposit by October 1st

2026 Camp Pricing:

- Early Bird (10/2/25–1/30/26): Youth \$760, Adult \$425, Webelos \$760
- Regular (1/31/26–6/1/26): Youth \$790, Adult \$425, Webelos \$760
- Late (6/2/26–start of camp): Youth \$835, Adult \$475, Webelos \$760

Bonus: One free adult per unit, plus a second free adult for every 15 registered youth.

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.sccscouts.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

December 6

Pushmobile - Cub Scouts

December 13

Personal Mgmt. Merit Badge - Session 2

December 20

Scout Night at the Condors



Southern Sierra Service Area | 2417 M Street | Bakersfield, CA 93301 US

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