



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

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)*

- Dec. 1 - Condors Tickets on Sale
- Dec. 5 - Popcorn invoices payments due
- Dec. 5 - Popcorn Council Prize Orders due
- Dec. 6 - Pushmobile
- Dec. 13 - Personal Mgmt Session 2
- Dec. 18 - OA Xmas Party
- Dec. 20 - Scout Night at the Condors
- Dec. 24-25 - Office Closed
- Dec. 31 - Scout Expo Registration Deadline
- Dec. 31 - Trading Post closed for inventory (office open)
- Jan. 1 - Office Closed
- Jan. 15 - Jamboree Troop meeting
- Jan. 19 - Office Closed
- Jan. 22 - OA - LEC Meeting
- Jan. 24 - Volunteer Recognition Dinner
- Jan. 25 - Jamboree Troop Escape Room



Scout Office Contacts

(661) 325-9036

**Scout Office
&
Trading Post Hours**

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



The office & trading post be closed on Wednesday, December 24 & Thursday, December 25 for the Christmas Holiday and Wednesday, December 31 for inventory

Field Director

Alan Young - Ext. 104
(408) 564-3385

alan.young@scouting.org

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
cindy.basham@scouting.org

Happy Holidays

We want to express our sincere gratitude for your incredible dedication and hard work. Your commitment of time and talent has made a significant impact on the scouts of Southern Sierra, and we are truly grateful and honored to have you as a part of our team.

Your selflessness is invaluable, and has left a lasting impression on every scout & family.

We wish you a wonderful and joyful holiday season, filled with peace and happiness, and we wish you and your loved ones all the best in the coming year.

From your officers and staff of the Southern Sierra Service Area

*Andrew Kao
President*

*Cindy Basham
Commissioner*

*James Rhodes-Dreyer
Executive*



Available NOW at the Scout Office
Quantities Limited

\$14.99 Each

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



- **\$10.99 Each**
• Cub Scout Loop & Pin Organizer



Lion's Roar, Merit Badge Midway & Training



Kindergarteners through Adult Leaders

November started off with Lion's ROAR for our youngest scouts, merit badges for Scouts BSA and training for older scouts & adult leaders.

Lion's ROAR - Thank you to Amy Swidecki who chaired the event along with her team, Miranda Swidecki, Elizabeth Ramirez, Christy Schleibaum, CJ Kah, Jeremy Brown, Cameron Hutton, Chris Snavelly, Nick Ingalls & and Troop 194 scouts.

Merit Badge Midway - Many thanks to Gayle Achuff for organizing Merit Badge Midway which was made possible by counselors, Alanna Philbin-Way, Brian Atwater, Mike Goodman, Robert Foster, James Avery, & Sheri Stringer. Thank you to all!!

Training - Carolyn Forster provided an in-person Safeguarding Youth Training and Maria Brown presented Leave No Trace 101 - Awareness Training. Thank you!



2025 Cub Scout Pushmobile
Saturday, December 6, 2025
Check-in Opens 7:30 am - Races Begin 9:00 am



Location: Valley Baptist - Olive Drive Campus
5500 Olive Drive - 93308

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

REGISTRATION COST IS \$10 PER RACER

Online Registration will close on December 5th
Registrations accepted up to & including Race Day
(if not registered by 12/05/25 @ 5:00 pm you must bring registration fees and register at the tent on Race day with cash or check payable to Southern Sierra Council

No Refunds - Races are rain or shine

***Races occur in the WEST parking lot.

Check-in: 7:30 am- 8:30am for Walk-ins
Registration closes at 8:30am, Races begin at 9:00am

SNACK BAR WILL BE AVAILABLE BEFORE AND DURING RACES FOR DRINKS/SNACKS
New Mini Pancakes

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR MEDICAL A/B FORMS

Pushmobile Car & Race specifications being used for this Council event are available on the SSC website at www.sscscouts.org. Cars not meeting specifications will be permitted to race but will not be eligible for awards.

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

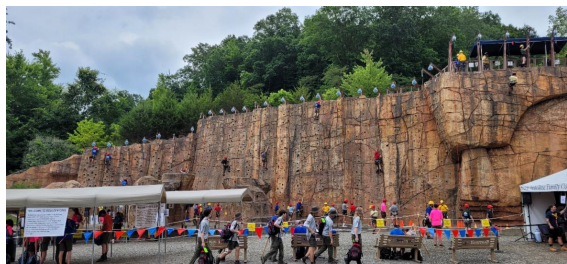


Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia

Jamboree is less than 8 months away.

Jamboree Troop Meeting

Thursday, January 15 - 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Scout Office - 2417 M Street - Bakersfield



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!

Invoice Payments & Prize Orders are due by Friday, December 5.



182 scouts have sold \$287,213 in sales for Trails End and we are not quite done yet.

Unit must turn in council popcorn prizes by December 5. See below for the prizes to be reported. Prize lists should be emailed to cbasham3504@gmail.com.

All unit invoices are to be paid in full by Dec. 5. Units will receive a 3 percent bonus for paying on time.

Scouts Night at the Condors is Saturday, Dec. 20 - popcorn sellers will receive special recognition at that game, fan tunnel experience & an on-ice picture opportunity at the end of the evening.

Along with Trail's End Rewards, there are some excellent local prizes that Scouts can earn.

- All Scouts that sell at least one item receive a popcorn patch.
- Any Scout that collects at least \$100 in Heroes 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. Tickets will be available to units beginning December 8.
- Any Scout that sells at least \$2,500 in popcorn will receive a \$200 gift card from Amazon, Walmart or the Scout Shore.

Scout Night at the Condors

Saturday, December 20 @ 7 pm



On Saturday, December 20, Southern Sierra scouts and their families will flock to the Bakersfield Condors game for an evening of hockey and fun.

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

Additional tickets for the Scout section of the arena are available for purchase online.

[Order Condors Tickets Here](#)

Deadline to order tickets for the Scout Night seating section is Sunday, December 7 at 11:59pm
Cost for tickets is \$20.00 each.

The game starts at 7:00pm - Pregame activities start at 6:45pm. Scouts attending the game will be able to participate in the fan tunnel welcoming the team onto the ice before the game. Scouts will also serve as the Color guard during the National Anthem. Popcorn top sellers will be recognized on the Jumbotron during intermission. Following the game, scouts will be part of the group photo on the ice.

Units and families will be seated together. Tickets will be available from your unit representative starting Monday, December 8.

Volunteer Recognition Dinner

Saturday, January 24, 2026



Southern Sierra Volunteer Recognition Dinner

Saturday, January 24, 2026

Doors open - 5:30 pm
Program begins - 6:00 pm

Hodel's Country Dining - Heritage Room

5917 Knudsen Drive - Bakersfield

\$35.00 per person

\$260.00 per table of eight

Register online by Friday, January 16, 2026

Silver Beaver Boosters are encouraged to donate in support of the Silver Beaver awards. Donation can be made on the reservation page.

Dinner Reservations

This annual event recognizes Scouters, and Community Leaders who give outstanding service to the Scouting movement along with units for their Scouting support.

The highlight of the evening, the Silver Beaver - the council level distinguished service award of Scouting America. It is considered the highest award a council can bestow upon a volunteer Scouter.

District Award of Merits will be included in the awards of the evening. Two deserving Scouters will be recognized for their contributions to the scouts of the service area.

Again, this year we will be recognizing Scouting Veteran Leaders—from 5 years to 90 years. If 2025 was a 5-year milestone for you or a fellow leader, please submit a Veteran Award Application. Veteran Award Application available at the registration page.

Unit recognitions for popcorn sales, Unit of Excellence, & leader training awards will be presented.

Award applications should be submitted to the Scout Office no later than January 9, 2026.



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.



Congratulations to scouts from Packs 25, 33, 341 & 413 for recruiting a new scout!!

Spread the Word!

Joining scouting provides numerous benefits, including developing life skills like leadership, self-confidence, and citizenship through hands-on activities and outdoor adventures. It also fosters personal growth, ethical development, and teamwork, while offering opportunities to explore different interests and build lifelong friendships.

2026 Scouting Year is Rapidly Approaching Unit Renewals due by Friday, December 5

Effective November 1, 2025, in addition to the national registration fees, the updated council fees for new and renewing members will be:

Golden Empire Council 2025-2026 Annual Membership Fees			
	National	Council	Total Annual Fees
Participants K-20 years of age Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts	\$85/YR	\$80/YR	\$165/YR
All Registered Adult Volunteers (Volunteers with multiple registrations only pay once)	\$65/YR	\$60/YR	\$125/YR
All Exploring Youth and Adults	\$50/YR	\$20/YR	\$70/YR
Merit Badge Counselors (Who are not already a registered volunteer)	\$25/YR	\$25/YR	\$50/YR
Scout Life Magazine Fee (Optional)	\$15/YR	\$0	\$15/YR

New Flexible Payment Options Now Available! □

To keep Scouting accessible for all families, Scouting America and the Golden Empire Council have partnered with Klarna to provide new, flexible payment options for membership registration and renewals. (Youth and Adult) ♻️

Now, when registering or renewing online, families can split their dues into manageable installments—making Scouting more affordable and convenient than ever!

How It Works □

1. Complete your new or renewal registration online.
2. At the payment section, select “Klarna” as your payment option.
3. Choose from a variety of flexible payment plans that fit your budget.

These new options make it easier than ever for every family to experience the adventure, learning, and leadership that Scouting provides.



UNIT RENEWAL FEE

\$100/yr

For all new and existing units.

SCOUT LIFE MAGAZINE FEE



\$15/yr



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>

Advancement News

New Merit Badges - Counselors Needed

Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity Merit Badges



Scouting is stepping boldly into the digital age with the release of its two newest merit badges — Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity — now available for Scouts to begin earning!

Check out the requirements for these merit badges in the links below.

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.

<https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/cybersecurity/>

<https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/artificial-intelligence/>

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, February 11, 2026

Scout Office - 2417 M Street

Online Registrations Opens January 1.

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

2025 Eagle Scouts, Leaders & Parents - Mark your calendars for the 2026 Eagle Dinner -
Thursday, March 12, 2026 at Luigi's Warehouse.
The Eagle Class of 2025 will be celebrated!

Order of the Arrow



Continuing Fellowship on the Scouting Journey.

Dec. 18 - OA Christmas Party

(3rd Thursday due to Christmas)

Mark Your Calendars

Feb. 20 - Winter Fellowship (Camping & Target Sports)

Watch your emails for details & registration links for the above.

YOWLUMNE Lodge

The **Order of the Arrow (OA)** is the honor society of Scouting America composed of Scouts and Scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives as elected by their peers

2026 OA Dues - Time to Pay - \$20

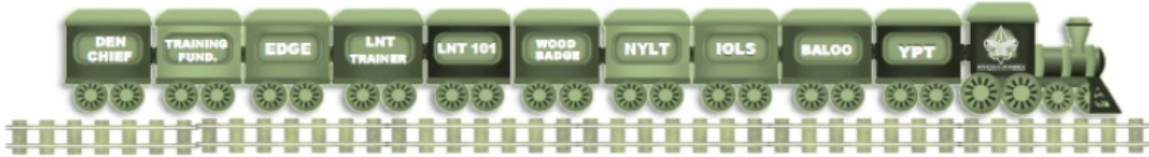
Easy way to pay your annual dues - Pay online at:

<https://scoutingevent.com/030-dues26>

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



BALOO & IOLS 2025 Courses

Congratulations to all our adult volunteers who completed either **BALOO** (Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation) or **IOLS** (Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills) training courses during 2025!



These volunteers have made the commitment to ensuring the youth are receiving the best programming in their Packs or Troops:

BALOO

Sharon Bruen, Pack 341, Ridgecrest
Scott Calvert, Pack 395, Ridgecrest
Chris Cawthon, Pack 58, Bakersfield
Shay Cawthon, Pack 58, Bakersfield
John Towne, Pack 2021, Bakersfield
Matt Taylor, Pack 58, Bakersfield
Sabrina Gondeck, Pack 104, Bakersfield

IOLS

Alfredo Hernandez, Pack 341, Ridgecrest
Talen Monaco, Troop 712, Bakersfield
Olga Torres, Troop 2119, Bakersfield
Rosa Flores-Casas, Pack 341, Ridgecrest
Jayden Stull, Pack 413, California City
Jessie Ayala, Pack 188, Mojave
Jayson Brouchoud, Troop 848,

Seth Hubble, Pack 104, Bakersfield

Ridgecrest

Janet Maness, Troop 2119, Bakersfield
Nicholas Maness, Troop 2119, Bakersfield
Blaine Osmond, Pack 413, California City
Joy Reynolds, Troop 1, Taft
Jack Shaw, new unit – Pine Mt. Club

Next **BALOO** and **IOLS** courses are scheduled for March 14-15, 2026 in Ridgecrest. See below for more information about these courses.

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 membership 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.)

- **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, Training Coordinator CJForster1964@gmail.com

WANTED

Trainers

Instructors



SPRING 2026

TRAINERS NEEDED – SPRING 2026

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

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



**Basic Adult Leader
Outdoor Orientation (BALOO)**



**Introduction to Outdoor
Leader 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, Training Coordinator
CJForster1964@gmail.com

ADULT AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Join us to honor and recognize our volunteers at the annual
Southern Sierra Volunteer Recognition Dinner
Saturday, January 24, 2026

SEE DINNER INFORMATION & ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK IN ABOVE ARTICLE

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



Be prepared to camp with your Pack or Troop this spring & summer!

BALOO or **IOLS**

March 14 thru 15, 2026*

Desert Empire Fairgrounds, Ridgecrest, CA

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

Registration: Coming Soon!

Adults learn in a group setting about outdoor skills needed for all 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/camping; Required training for **Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster** positions.

NEEDED: *A few experienced volunteers to help present scouting skills to adult leaders.* (*Syllabus outlines scope of presentations*)

CONTACT:

Carolyn Forster, Course Director

CJForster1964@gmail.com



NNATIONAL **Y**OUTH **L**EADEERSHIP **T**RAINING

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 often have a waiting list.*

Verdugo Hills Council & Long Beach Area Council

February 14-16 and February 20-22, 2025

Camp Verdugo Oaks, Castaic

Registration: <https://www.vhscouting.org/NYLT26>

Sequoia Council

June 22-June 27, 2025

Camp Chawanakee, Shaver Lake

Registration Information:

<https://www.seqbsa.org/alumni-and-volunteers/training/national-youth-leadership-training/>

Tri-Council: Los Padres Council, Ventura Council & Southern Sierra Service Area*

June 22-June 27, 2026

Camp Rancho Alegre, Santa Barbara

Scholarship available BEFORE May 1st

Registration Information: <https://www.scoutingamericavc.org/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. Ask your Troop's COR if their organization offers camperships.



**STAFF (Youth & Adults) NEEDED FOR
TRI-COUNCIL NYLT, June 22-27, 2026**

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

Staff NYLT this June (youth and adults) – Contact Carolyn Forster, CJForster1964@gmail.com for more information.

Special Invitations for Scouts & Families

**Scouts BSA
Final Registration - December 31, 2025**

SCOUTING AMERICA
GOLDEN EMPIRE COUNCIL

SCOUT EXPO

2026

AT BEALE AIR FORCE BASE

CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY WITH:

- 2 NIGHTS OF CAMPING
- THOUSANDS OF SCOUTS!
- SHOOTING RANGES
- PLANE & DRONE DISPLAYS
- MERIT BADGE OPPORTUNITIES
- CLIMBING WALLS + INFLATABLES
- SATURDAY NIGHT PERFORMANCE
- SUNDAY FUN RUN

When / Where:
APRIL 10-12, 2026
WHEATLAND, CA

All Scouts and Leaders are
Invited to Attend!
Registration ends 12/31/25
so sign up early!



Admission

\$65

For Scouts BSA

Scan the QR
for more info
and to register:



Email: GECscoutexpo@gmail.com With Questions or to Help!

Cub Scouts
Final Registration - December 31, 2025

SCOUTING AMERICA
GOLDEN EMPIRE COUNCIL

SCOUT EXPO

2026

AT BEALE AIR FORCE BASE

CELEBRATE AMERICA'S
250TH ANNIVERSARY WITH:

- 2 NIGHTS OF CAMPING
- THOUSANDS OF SCOUTS!
- SHOOTING RANGES
- PLANE & DRONE DISPLAYS
- FUN CRAFTS AND ACTIVITIES
- CLIMBING WALLS + INFLATABLES
- SATURDAY NIGHT PERFORMANCE
- SUNDAY FUN RUN

When / Where:
APRIL 10-12, 2026
WHEATLAND, CA

Admission
\$50
Per Cub or Parent

All Cub Scouts and Families
are Invited to Attend!
Registration ends 12/31/25
so sign up early!

Scan the QR
for more info
and to register:



Email: GECscoutexpo@gmail.com With Questions or to Help!

Go to <https://www.gec-bsa.org/programs> for **Scout Expo Leaders Guide** and to register for this great event.



KERN RIVER PARKWAY 
NATURE CENTER

HART MEMORIAL PARK · BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

Sunday, December 14, 2-4pm

Join us for an Omnipresent Puppet Theatre show & activities.
Bring your friends, too!

Still Looking for a Summer Camp?



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

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.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

February 7
Day of Service

February 8
Scouting America - 116th Birthday



February 12

Roundtable

March 7

Merit Badge Day

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

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