

June 2026



## Southern Sierra Service Area of the Greater California Council

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

[Visit the Service Area Website](#)

[Visit the Greater California 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*

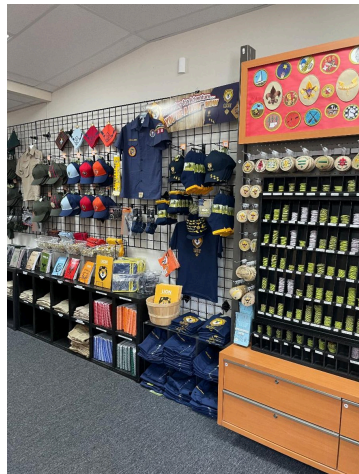
**NEW INFORMATION ALL THE WAY TO THE LAST PAGE!!**

### **ORDER AHEAD!**

Award orders can be emailed ahead to be filled  
and ready when you arrive.

Email (Advancement reports and a PO)  
to [cbasham3504@gmail.com](mailto:cbasham3504@gmail.com)

Shipping is available



**Scout Office  
&  
Trading Post Hours**

### **Service Area Website & Calendar**

[www.sscscouts.org](http://www.sscscouts.org)

### **Service Area Facebook Page**

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

### **Greater California Council Website**

<https://gcc-scouting.org/>

All 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)*

- June 5 - Day Camp - Early Check-in
- June 7 - Commissioner Meeting
- June 8-11 - Day Camp - Dinotopia
- June 14 - Flag Day
- June 14 - Jamboree Troop PLC Meeting
- June 16 - Service Area Committee Meeting
- June 19 - Twilight Camp Registration Deadline
- June 19-21 - OA Induction Ceremony
- June 21 - Father's Day
- June 21 - Jamboree Troop Meeting
- June 22-27- NYLT - Youth Training
- June 25 - OA - LEC Meeting
- July 3 - Office Closed
- July 4 - Independence Day
- July 5 - Commissioner Meeting
- July 6-9 - Twilight Camp
- July 8 - Popcorn Kickoff (Zoom)
- July 11 - Popcorn Kickoff (in-person)
- July 18 - Membership Extravaganza

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

- July 18 - Jamboree Troop Leaves
- July 21 - Service Area Committee Meeting
- July 31 - Jamboree Troop Returns

### Scout Office Contacts

(661) 325-9036

#### Field Director

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

[alan.young@scouting.org](mailto:alan.young@scouting.org)

#### District Executive

Cameron Hutton - Ext. 103  
(661) 428-0382

[cameron.hutton@scouting.org](mailto:cameron.hutton@scouting.org)

#### Council Commissioner - General Support

Cindy Basham - Ext. 102  
(661) 319-3954

[cbasham3504@gmail.com](mailto:cbasham3504@gmail.com)

[cindy.basham@scouting.org](mailto:cindy.basham@scouting.org)

### SPECIAL NOTICE

In accordance with the California State Law for youth organization volunteers, adults with expired membership are to be removed from the agency's DOJ database. For Scouting, that is 60 days after expiration.

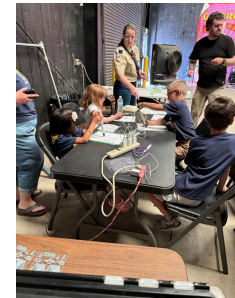
When the former member returns, they will need to start the registration process as a new member. They will need to submit a new Adult Application, have a current Safeguarding Youth Training certificate and a new Live Scan.

If you know someone that has allowed their membership to lapse - be sure to let them know the above.

### ATTENTION

***Be sure to check the service project opportunities, community events and special invitation listings following the "Training" section of this newsletter.***

## STEM in Scouting



On May 2, Cub Scouts enjoyed a morning full of the excitement of a galaxy far, far away as we explored science, technology, engineering and math.

Scouts experienced 3d printers in action, practiced programming their own computer games, made their own origami lightsaber, and met the droid builder of the 501st Legion and MORE!

Thank you to Cameron Hutton and his crew, Joshua Root, Amy Swidecki, Mike Goodman & the 501st Legion! Additionally, thank you to Jason Maples & the staff of ESports for hosting STEM Day!

### **STEM Committee:**

If your Cub Scouts or Scouts BSA members like STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) activities, we need to hear about it. We are restarting a STEM committee with monthly meetings—second



Tuesdays of each month starting at 6:30PM and lasting an hour via Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85634619630?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85634619630?pwd=jFyiPWIKTziCCFCFvZaqqQX48p4lnH.1)

[pwd=jFyiPWIKTziCCFCFvZaqqQX48p4lnH.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85634619630?pwd=jFyiPWIKTziCCFCFvZaqqQX48p4lnH.1)

Meeting ID: 856 3461 9630

Passcode: 846418

The June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting will be a continuation of the discussion of the committee's role in the Scouting program. A few ideas that came out last month are: providing Nova Counselors and Supernova Mentors to continue the STEM awards offered in the past 10 or so years; build kits for units to check out and learn about various topics; provide in-person hands on activities like the STEM Day in early May.



## Trail to First Class Palooza A Big Success!!



Trail To First Class-Palooza was a great chance for newer Scouts BSA to focus on learning skills and completing rank advancement requirements.

Over 60 scouts took the opportunity to jumpstart their Scouts BSA advancements with the help of the senior scouts and leaders in the troops. The focus was basic scout skills required for ranks Scout through First Class.

Thank you to James Avery, Chaman Dhillon & the many Scouts BSA troops who made this happen! Troops shared their scout skills knowledge with those just starting out on their scouting trail.

*Trail to First Class Palooza is an annual program to build the skills and confidence of the newly bridged scouts.*

## Camp Card Sales



We hope that everyone participating in the sale had success!

It is time to wrap up the sale by turning in your cash for sales (\$2.50 per card—you keep your commission) and unsold cards to the office by June 5th.

If your Cub Scouts or Scouts are part of the "I sold 20" club, they will receive tickets to both a Bakersfield Train Robbers baseball game and a Sacramento Republic FC soccer game.

***Reminder - Be sure to turn in your prize sheet showing scouts who earned the "I sold 20" prizes or sold 100, 400, 500, or 1,000 camp cards.***

***Southern Sierra Units - please turn your form into Cindy at the Scout office. Forms due by Friday, June 5.***

***Prize sheet link: <https://gcc-scouting.org/s/2026-Camp-Card-Prize-Form.docx>***

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# DINOTOPIA

CUB SCOUT DAY CAMP 2026



## DAY CAMP

By May 1-\$65  
May 2-29- \$75



## TWILIGHT CAMP

By May 1-\$65  
May 2-June 19-\$75

**TRAVEL TO DINOTOPIA THIS SUMMER FOR  
CRAFTS, CHALLENGES, GAMES AND DINO-SIZED MEMORIES!  
OPEN TO TIGER, WOLF, BEAR, WEBELOS AND AOL SCOUTS!**

### DAY CAMP

- June 8-11<sup>th</sup> 8-12pm
- Centennial Elementary
- 15200 Westdale Dr

### TWILIGHT CAMP

- July 6-9<sup>th</sup> 5:30-8pm
- Centennial Elementary
- 15200 Westdale Dr

📞 949-421-8334    🌐 Steviejomcdonald@gmail.com    • Day Camp Director  
📞 661-325-9036    🌐 Cameron.hutton@scouting.org    • So. Sierra Scout Office

Twilight Camp Registration

*Deadline to register for Twilight Camp is Friday, June 19.*

## **Day Camp - Early Check-In & Registration**

***Parents - watch your email for final details***

**Friday, June 5th**  
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM  
Scout Office - 2417 M Street

Families can turn in any remaining camp forms and pick up camp shirts during this time. Early check-in helps camp mornings run smoothly, so we highly encourage attending if possible!

## Camp Reminders

Please make sure your Scout brings the following EVERY DAY:

- A labeled water bottle
- A hat for sun protection
- A positive attitude ready for adventure!

## Trail's End Popcorn - 2026 Sales

### Support your Scouting goals and adventures now!

The Greater California Council's popcorn sale is the perfect opportunity for your Scout to take ownership of their Scouting journey. More than 70% of your popcorn sales go to support your Scout! The council does all the pre-work for you! We set up sale locations, research opportunities, calculate returns, manage relationships with vendors, and much more!

### 2026 POPCORN SALE SCHEDULE

 **SALE DATES AUG 12 - DECEMBER 4**

Key Dates:

- July 8 : Popcorn Kick-Off! Via Zoom
- July 13 : Top Tier Units - Storefront Bookings
- July 15 : All Units - Storefront Bookings
- July 29: FIRST Order Due
- August 12 - 14: First Order Distribution
- Sept 9: SECOND Order Due
- Sept 23-25 : Second Order Distribution
- Oct 2 : THIRD Unit Order Due
- Oct 21-23: Third Order Distribution
- (Final November Order Optional)
- December 4 : End of Sale - Payments Due



### [Two Chances to Kick-Off the 2026 Popcorn Sales](#)

Wednesday, July 8 - 7:00 pm - Zoom  
(*Link to follow*)

**OR**

Saturday, July 11 - 10:00 am  
Scout Office - 2417 M Street - Bakersfield  
(*in-person only*)

2026 Popcorn Sales Resources



**SERVE. LEAD. IMPACT.**

***Impact365 builds character and strengthens communities—one Scout, one project, and one service hour at a time.***

Are you doing your "Good Turn Daily"? If so, you are the embodiment of one of Scouting America's new initiatives, Impact 365. The initiative is a four-year one with themes of America250 for 2026 followed by Environment, Schools, and Safety. Members are encouraged to make a positive impact 365 days a year through local, flexible, and community-driven service projects.

For America250, every unit is encouraged to complete 250 hours of community service during 2026. These may be through usual unit service projects, Eagle and other rank service projects, or having the unit identify a community need and inviting families, alumni, and community partners to join and increase the impact.

**Remember to log your service hours in Scoutbook so the successful impact can be shared with others. We want to hear about your successes, and will share them in the newsletter when you get word to us.**



## **Liberty in Action 250th Challenge:**

Scouting America has launched the Liberty in Action: 250th Anniversary Challenge, a special nationwide program encouraging Scouts to celebrate the principles of citizenship, service, and patriotism that shape the United States.

Scouts across the country can earn the Liberty in Action 250th Challenge patch by completing activities that connect them to their communities and deepens their understanding of civic responsibility. The challenge highlights

the ideals of liberty, leadership, and service while helping Scouts actively explore what it means to be responsible citizens.

To earn the Liberty in Action patch, Scouts complete a series of age-appropriate activities that may include participating in community service projects, learning about local or national government, exploring historical sites connected to American liberty, and demonstrating strong citizenship in their units, schools, or neighborhoods.

Details about the program and requirements to earn the patch are at this Scout Shop blog: [Liberty in Action 250th Anniversary Challenge](#) | [Scouting America](#) . Cub Scout specific ideas to complete the requirements are available at: [How to celebrate America's 250th with your Cub Scouts - On Scouting](#).

The patch may be earned through February of 2027 and will be available through the trading post.



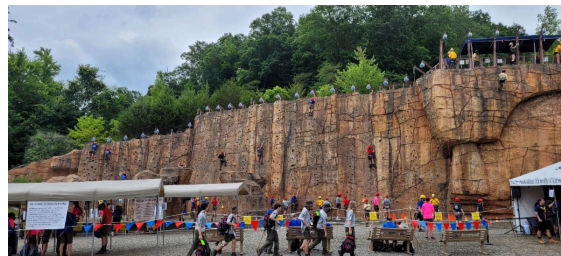
**Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia**

**Jamboree is less than 2 months away.**

**Jamboree Troop Meetings**

**Sunday, June 14, 2026 - PLC Meeting - 7:00 pm**

**Sunday, July 21, 2026 - Jamboree Troop Meeting - 7:00 pm**



**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](http://www.jamboree.scouting.org) under the JST/Staff tab.

## Membership/Recruiting

### Save the Date - Sign Up Now

### **Recruiting Extravaganza**

**Saturday, July 18, 2026**

**9:00 am via Zoom**

We're excited to share the Council will be hosting this year's Recruiting Extravaganza on Saturday, July 18 at 9 a.m.! We encourage every unit to have a representative attend—Unit Key 3 and Membership Coordinators would especially benefit. Stay tuned for an agenda!

This virtual training is designed to help your unit grow and strengthen its membership by sharing proven strategies and best practices from across the council.

#### **What You'll Learn:**

- Effective recruiting techniques for packs, troops, and crews
- Best practices for school and community outreach
- How to conduct successful joining events
- Tips for engaging and retaining new families
- Resources and support available from the council and district

Whether your unit is looking to grow, rebuild, or simply improve your annual recruitment efforts, this training will provide practical ideas you can put into action right away.

We encourage every unit to have at least one representative attend. The ideas shared during this training can make a significant impact on your unit's success this fall.

Please register here: [GEC-Recruitment Extravaganza 2026](#)

Thank you for your commitment to Scouting and for all you do to provide outstanding programs for youth and families.



Need help filling empty Cub Scout dens with leaders or youth, or both?

Need a feeder pack to help keep your troop sustainable?

Know of a house of worship that needs help with their youth program?

We can help. Give Alan a call at 661-325-9036, Ext. 104.

## Peer-to-Peer Recruiting

### **Scouts - Recruit a friend to join Scouting**

Once the new recruit is registered, the original scout will receive a 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 Scout office  
 to receive recognition  
 items for the Scout &  
 new recruit.**



### **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.

## **Friends of Scouting**



**FOS, or Friends of Scouting,  
 is the council-level annual giving  
 campaign.**

We have collected over \$18,136 in payment and pledges from Friends of Scouting visits & community support!

Thank you for supporting Scouting through your tax-deductible gifts. These donations help to keep support for the Scouting program within a relatively short drive.

We still have a handful of unit visits to make. Please contact Cameron at 661-325-9036 to schedule a presentation.

*Amounts include recurring monthly donations made to date*

Pack 25 - \$ 220	Troop 1 - \$ 150	Troop 300 - \$ 200
Pack 33 - \$ 1,564	Troop 3 - \$ 150	Troop 442 - 1,100
Pack 58 - \$ 360	Troop 47 - \$ 3,229	Troop 484 - \$ 350
Pack 104 - \$ 100	Troop 125 - \$ 600	Troop 712 - \$ 710
Pack 341 - \$ 400	Troop 188 - \$ 80	Troop 848 - \$ 200
Pack 426 - \$ 960	Troop 194 - \$ 625	Troop 1776 - \$ 250
Pack 2021 - \$ 1,300		Troop 2119 - \$ 655

## **Eagle Nest**

- If you have any questions or need assistance with the Eagle process, please contact the Scout 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

**Thursday, August 20, 2026 - 6:30 pm**

**Scout Office - 2417 M Street - Bakersfield**

**Online Registration will open August 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 newest Eagle Scouts during the month of May!  
The new Eagles are from Troops 3 & 47.**



## 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

**Continuing Fellowship on the Scouting journey**

### Mark Your Calendars

**June 19-21 - Induction Ceremony**

**June 25 - LEC - Lodge Executive Committee**

**Merger talks have begun with Amangi-Nacha Lodge (Golden Empire Council) and we are both preparing to form a new Lodge with a new Name and Totem.**

**Stay tuned!**

\*\*\*\*\*

### INDUCTION CEREMONY

Induction is scheduled for June 19-21 and will be held at Rancho Escondido (5604 S. Kelso Valley Rd., Weldon, CA)

**Register online at:** <https://scoutingevent.com/047-Ordeal26>

**Deadline for Registration - Monday, June 15**

- We are in need of Elangomats for the Induction Ceremony. Please contact Chris Snavelly (email to: [cjsnavely1@gmail.com](mailto:cjsnavely1@gmail.com)) and/or Chuck Monaco (email to: [cmonacoscouts@gmail.com](mailto:cmonacoscouts@gmail.com))
- We are in need of Ceremonialist for this year's Induction Ceremony. Please contact Trystan Monaco (email to: [trystanmonaco19@gmail.com](mailto:trystanmonaco19@gmail.com)) and/or Chuck Monaco (email to: [cmonacoscouts@gmail.com](mailto:cmonacoscouts@gmail.com))

**2026 OA Dues - Time to Pay - \$20**

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

<https://www.scoutingevent.com/047-Dues26>

#### **Questions:**

Contact Lodge Advisor - Chuck Monaco at (661) 303-8636 or [cmonacoscouts@gmail.com](mailto:cmonacoscouts@gmail.com) or Lodge Chief - Gio Orna at (661) 487-9362 or [gio.f.orna@gmail.com](mailto:gio.f.orna@gmail.com).

# Advancement News



## Communication Merit Badge Workshop Saturday, September 12, 2026 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Scout Office - 2417 M Street

This merit badge requires the scout to complete most of the requirements prior to the session. Check the prerequisites shown on the registration page to know which will be covered during the session and which are to be done PRIOR. During the session, prerequisites will be reviewed while scouts practice communication skills with the other participants.

Resource for this session is the new Communication Digital Resource Guide  
<https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/digital-resource-guides/communication/>

Cost: \$5.00 per scout

Register online at: <https://www.scoutingevent.com/047-CommMB>

Each scout must bring their health form - parts A & B, a sack lunch, completed prerequisites & blue card signed by their Scoutmaster.

Class limit: 12

## Training News & Resources



### TRAINING CALENDARS – SUMMER 2026

#### SOUTHERN SIERRA SERVICE AREA

**June 22-27**  
**NYLT**

<https://scoutingevent.com/053-2026NYLT>  
Camp Rancho Alegre, Santa Barbara

**August 20 - 6:30 pm**  
**Service Area Training Planning Mtg.**  
Zoom:  
ID: 314 211 1129 Password: 928897

#### GREATER CALIFORNIA COUNCIL

**July 12-17**  
**NYLT**

<https://scoutingevent.com/047-111923>  
NorCal AA, Dobbins

**August 22**  
**Cub Leader Basic Training** (in-person)  
Kairos School, Vacaville  
<https://scoutingevent.com/047-104536>



## Summer is the BEST time to renew your trainings!!

Avoid the back-to-school and holiday rush: Go to [My.Scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org) today to renew your **S.A.F.E.GUARDING YOUTH** and **HAZARDOUS WEATHER TRAININGS** during 2026.

As a registered adult in Scouting America, you are expected to keep your trainings current at all times.  
*NOTE: Expired training may result in membership suspension or even loss of membership.*

## S.A.F.E.GUARDING YOUTH

**S.A.F.E.GUARDING YOUTH TRAINING (SYT)** is renewed every 12 months. You will need to renew your SYT prior to the 12-month expiration for membership renewal, maintain your current training, and, most importantly, to keep our youth safe at all times.

**\*\*NEW\*\*** If you have already completed SAFEGuarding Youth training since 5/31/25, you are qualified for the new 'refresher' course – **It's now only a short 20 minutes to complete your renewal on-line!!**

**POLICY:** Since 2015 our Council's Board established policy for all registered adults to be 100% trained in SYT at all times, including annual renewal (every calendar year) of SAFEGuarding Youth training. This policy has been adopted by our newly merged Council and remains an annually required training.

## HAZARDOUS WEATHER

**HAZARDOUS WEATHER TRAINING** is a great reminder for always being prepared to anticipate and respond to any sort of weather condition, wherever your travels take you and your scouts. Of course, the primary aim in scouting always is to ensure the safety of our youth, volunteers, and families at all times and locations.

Hazardous Weather training only takes a short 30 minutes to complete, is fun and interactive, and the information is updated regularly.

### TRAINING QUESTIONS:

Carolyn Forster  
[CJForster1964@gmail.com](mailto:CJForster1964@gmail.com)  
Tejon District Training Coordinator  
Southern Sierra Service Area  
Greater California Council



## **NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

*A great opportunity for Scouts BSA to meet and interact with other scouts from the Southern California area.*

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

*NYLT trainings **fill up fast** and often have a waiting list.*

**Greater California** (previously Golden Empire)

**& Greater Yosemite Councils**

July 12-17, 2026

NorCal Adventure Area, Dobbins

**Registration:** <https://scoutingevent.com/047-111923>

**Greater California Council** (previously Golden Empire)

September 5-7 & September 25-27, 2026

NorCal Adventure Area, Dobbins

**Registration:** <https://scoutingevent.com/047-104539>

**Greater LA Council**

December 18-20, 2026 and January 8-10, 2027

Camp Trask, Monrovia

**Registration:** <https://www.scoutingevent.com/033-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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



## **CALLING ALL REGISTERED ADULTS:**

Get the best **leadership training** from people you know.  
Ask your unit for **scholarships** for leadership training.

**Leadership training for every level of registered adult:**

**Cub Scouting    Troop    Venturing**

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

### **Greater LA Council**

September 18-20 and October 3-4, 2026

Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation, Cedar Glen, CA & Camp Trask, Monrovia, CA

**Registration:** <https://scoutingevent.com/033-WoodBadge>

### **Greater California Council**

September 25-27 & October 10-11, 2026

NorCal Adventure Area, Camptonville, CA

**Registration Information:** <https://www.gec-bsa.org/training>

### **Western LA Council**

October 2-4 & October 17-18, 2026

**Camp Verdugo Oaks, CA**

**Registration:** <https://bsa-la.doubleknot.com/event/2026-wood-badge-course/3125733>

### **Los Padres & Ventura Councils**

October 10-12 & October 24-25, 2026

Rancho Alegre, Santa Barbara, CA

**Registration:** <https://scoutingevent.com/053-2026WoodBadge>

#### **WHAT IS WOOD BADGE?**

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

## PREREQUISITES:

- Be a registered adult member of Scouting America
- Have completed basic training requirements for your registered scouting position prior to the course.
- Be capable of functioning safely in an outdoor environment. All participants are required to complete the **Annual Health and Medical Record (parts A, B and C)**:  
[https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001\\_ABC.pdf](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_ABC.pdf)

**Questions:** Carolyn Forster [CJForster1964@gmail.com](mailto:CJForster1964@gmail.com)



# Lead-the-Way

Help our Service Area **GROW** and **GO!**  
New Packs and Troops are forming as our membership is increasing. We need **YOU** to help our new leaders bring quality programming to our youth.

**You are invited to become a trainer or presenter at any upcoming training event.**

## Adults learn from the best – YOU!

- Do you have an outdoor skill you would like to share?
- Want to brush up on your presentation skills in a comfortable environment?
- Trainings happen twice a year, but you only need to commit to one!
- Full curriculum with scripts and facilitated learning outlines are already available.

Find out how you can help adults become more confident in the outdoors and leading youth. All it takes is a day to share your knowledge with our new leaders.

We can train you to be confident, effective, and start your next leadership journey as a presenter/trainer.

**CONTACT:**  
Carolyn Forster  
Southern Sierra Service Area  
Tejon District Training Coordinator  
Greater California Council  
[CJForster1964@gmail.com](mailto:CJForster1964@gmail.com)

# Awards for Adults

**Awards Central:**

Our adult volunteers work tirelessly to bring quality programming for our youth.

Often leaders feel they don't need an award or it's not necessary to make a big deal about them. However, our youth would not have the valuable programming, the unique outdoor experiences, or training in basic outdoor and life skills they get in Scouting America.

Awarding leaders is celebrating the good works it takes to make your unit and the scouts successful.

Leaders wearing their earned knots shows they are trained and experienced to provide programming for the youth.

**\*\* Let's KNOT forget to recognize all our leaders! \*\***

## ***KNOT OF THE MONTH –***

# **UNIT LEADER AWARD OF MERIT**



### **NOMINATION PROCEDURE**

1. The unit committee chair completes the Unit Leader Award of Merit Nomination Form on behalf of the unit committee. For Scout troops, Venturing crews, and Sea Scout ships, the nomination must include endorsement by the senior patrol leader, crew president, or ship's boatswain, respectively.
2. The unit or district commissioner certifies the form is complete.
3. The unit submits the nomination form to the Cindy Basham at the Bakersfield Scout Office for approvals & processing.

**NOMINATION FORM:** [https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-003\\_wb.pdf](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-003_wb.pdf)

### **BACKGROUND**

Quality unit leadership is the key to a quality unit program—and it leads to better Scout retention. The Unit Leader Award of Merit recognizes the quality unit leaders.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

The nominee must

1. Be a currently registered **Cubmaster**, **Scoutmaster**, **Venture Advisor**, or **Skipper** who has served in the position at least 18 continuous months.
2. Meet the training requirements for the registered position.
3. Distribute a printed or electronic annual unit program plan and calendar to each family in the unit.
4. Have a leader succession plan in place.
5. Effectively use the advancement method so that at least 60 percent of the unit's youth have advanced at least once during the last 12 months.
6. Cultivate a positive relationship with the chartered organization.
7. Project a positive image of Scouting in the community.

### **WHERE IT IS AWARDED**

The council may present the Unit Leader Award of Merit, which includes a certificate, square knot with the appropriate device, and a special unit leader emblem, at appropriate district or council events, such as district or council leader recognition dinners, training events, and board meetings.

## **Special Invitations for Scouts & Families**

**Flag Day - Sunday, June 14**

**10:30 am (exact time TBD)**

**Bakersfield Elk Lodge - 30th Street - Bakersfield**



The Elk's Lodge is requesting a troop/patrol to provide a ceremonial flag retirement as a part of their Flag Day Celebration.

Troop would provide the fire (bring a fire ring) and 5-6 flags to retire (Scout office has flags to retire).

Lunch will be provided.

Please contact Cindy at the Scout Office for the contact to the Elks.



## KERN RIVER PARKWAY NATURE CENTER

HART MEMORIAL PARK · BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

Looking for a great nature hike? Contact Carla - [kernnaturecenter@gmail.com](mailto:kernnaturecenter@gmail.com)  
Looking for an Eagle project - consider helping the Nature Center

### June 2026 Family Friendly Activities

**Saturday, June 20 - 8-10am**

**Adopt-a-Park Clean-up**

Grabbers, gloves & trash bags provided. Come help make Hart Park even more beautiful.

**Sunday, June 28 - Hart Park**

**2:00 pm**

**"Snail Races" - how do you get a snail to go faster**

## Possible Eagle Projects



Historic Union Cemetery  
730 Potomas Ave - Bakersfield

Contact Patrick Steele at (661) 662-5072 for project ideas

Senior Center - Garden Sitting Area for Seniors  
Contact Cindy at the Scout Office for details

## 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 service area website [www.sscscouts.org](http://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](mailto:ScoutsFirst@Scouting.org)

**Scan to Message Anonymously!**  
(Via Real Response)



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



## Dates to Remember



**July 6-9**  
Cub Scout Twilight Camp

**July 18-31**  
National Jamboree Tour/Summit

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