

July 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

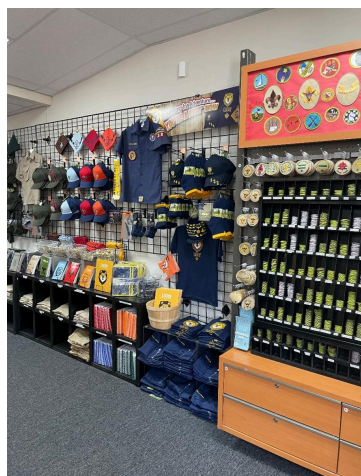
*Be sure to select "View Entire Message" at the bottom of page one to see full
newsletter - Plus forward to your unit families*

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
Shipping is available



Service Area Website

www.sscscouts.org

Service Area Facebook Page

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

Greater California Council Website & Calendar

<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)

- 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 - Recruiting Extravaganza
- July 18 - Jamboree Troop Leaves
- July 21 - So. Sierra Committee Meeting
- July 21 - STEM Committee Meeting
- July 23 - OA Meeting
- July 31 - Jamboree Troop Returns
- Aug 5 - OA Activation - Pool Party/BBQ
- Aug 8 - Scout Swim Party
- Aug 8 - Scout-O-Rama - Ridgecrest
- Aug 14 - Roundtable for all Leaders
- Aug 18 - So. Sierra Committee Meeting
- Aug 19 - Life to Eagle Workshop
- Aug 20 - So. Sierra Training Planning Mtg

**Scout Office
&
Trading Post Hours**

Monday to Friday
12 pm to 5 pm

• Aug. 27 - OA Meeting



The Scout Office & Trading Post
will be closed
Friday, July 3
in celebration of the
250th Anniversary of the USA

Scout Office Contacts

(661) 325-9036

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

SOUTHERN SIERRA - TEJON DISTRICT - CALENDAR

Available at [Calendar/Events — Golden Empire Council](#)

to filter for just So. Sierra-Tejon District select "List of Events Here" (red button)

In the filter section on the left, scroll down and check the Tejon District box

Select Search at the top and the right column will list the events in the So. Sierra-Tejon District

Time to plan your unit calendar/program for the year

All events for the 2026-2027 Scouting year are on the calendar to assist with your planning

Popcorn - Funding Your Unit Program

Popcorn Kernels and Leaders

Popcorn season will be here before you know it!

We have two options for a Popcorn Kickoff

Popcorn Kick-Off via Zoom

Wednesday, July 8th at 7:00 PM!

or

In-person on Saturday, July 11 at 10 am

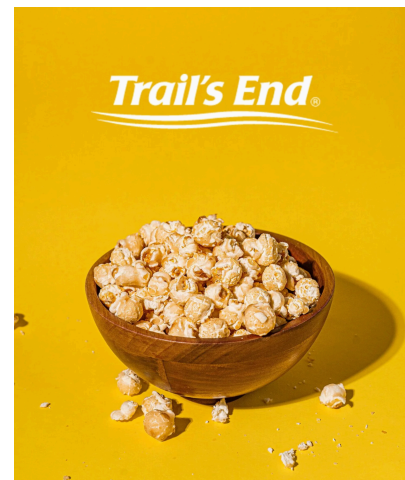
Southern Sierra Office

If someone else in your unit is taking over as committee chair or popcorn kernel and you want them to get these emails/newsletters instead of yourself, please let Popcorn Kernel, Dawn Goodman, know at dkjay279@gmail.com

These meetings will cover essential information about this year's popcorn sale, including important updates, key dates, and resources to help your unit succeed.

If you're still deciding whether your unit will participate in the sale, we encourage you to attend anyway to learn more about the program and the opportunities it provides for Scouts.

If your unit has not yet signed up to sell popcorn this year, please do so here: [Trail's End](#)



We look forward to seeing you there!

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85751479793?pwd=plbw0Wg38QF0vrJAiaMaajkJF8a7b0.1>

Helpful Resources

- [Trail's End Rewards](#)
- [Unit Leader Guide](#)
- [Parent Guide](#)
- [Product Order Form](#)

Be sure to join our Council **Facebook Group**! This group will be an important place for:
Announcements

Unit Transfers

Sales Tracking

Updates & Reminders

...and much more throughout the sale!

[Facebook Group Link](#)

Membership Growth & Retention is Essential



Recruiting Extravaganza

Saturday, July 18, 2026

9:00 am via Zoom

As we get closer to fall recruiting season, now is the time to make sure your unit is set up for success.

The Recruiting Extravaganza taking place on Saturday, July 18, 2026, is designed to help you do exactly that.

This virtual training will focus on practical ways to grow and strengthen membership. We'll cover recruiting strategies for Packs and Troops, school outreach, BeAScout lead management, troop pipelines, available recruiting supplies, social media tips, and retention best practices.

Whether your unit is looking to grow or fine-tune its approach, this session will give you tools you can use right away.

We encourage every unit to have at least one representative attend, especially Key 3 and Membership Coordinators.

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81377108088?pwd=OU5bNUM9ITsAluB31U9Gxlf6SvFuK3.1>

Cub Day Camp - Memories Were Made

Cub Scout Day Camp was an amazing success under the creativity & leadership of Director, Stevie McDonald, and her amazing staff.

Throughout the 4-day experience, 35 Cub Scouts stepped into a prehistoric playground of adventure.

Thank you to Stevie & the entire Day Camp staff for an amazing adventure!!

A similar adventure is coming up at Twilight Camp and a roaring good time is planned during their 4 evenings.



Twilight Camp - Begins July 6



Registered for Twilight Camp?

Check-In: Monday, July 6 - 5:30 pm

Location: Centennial Elementary School - 15200 Westdale Dr.

The countdown is on — Dinotopia camp is almost here, and we cannot wait to explore a world of dinosaurs, discovery, inventions, and adventure with your Scouts!

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!
- and wears their Day Camp t-shirt (distributed at check-in on day 1)

Every participant (scouts & adults) must turn in a Health form at check-in on day 1 along with the Range & Target permission form.



Join Scouting

It's more fun with friends...

Are you set for another year of fun? As you make your calendar for your program year, peek at your leadership team and youth membership. Succession planning is necessary for long-term success.

Does your pack, troop, or post have a good representation of ages across your program, or are their voids (like a pack that does not have a Bear den, or a troop that does not have any Scouts between the ages of 14-16)?

Now is the time to lay the groundwork for fall recruiting...for youth members and adult leaders! You will learn some of the strategies at the July 18th Membership Extravaganza on Zoom (related article above).

What kind of help do you need to be successful? Please send in feedback to Alan (alan.young@scouting.org) and Cameron (Cameron.hutton@scouting.org) by August 3rd.

Some things to consider and include in your plan that you send:

- **Current meeting time and location for your unit, your calendar, contact for families interested in joining.**
- From which schools do you recruit (troops might consider nearby middle schools)
- Does your unit already have a relationship with school leadership, or do you need help?
- What night do you want to have a joining night, and do you need help reserving it
- How many flyers do those schools need?
- Will those schools allow in-person exchange of info (lunch talk, assemblies, table at Back-to-School night to promote joining night, giving flyers during pickup, etc.)?
- How many yard signs do you need at busy entrances (and are they allowed)?
- Are there other ways to spread word about the joining night (class email lists, poster in the library, performing a flag ceremony before Back-to-School night, etc.)?
- Do you need Cameron or Alan to do the introductory talk to parents at joining night (*while we can deliver general information, your knowledge of your specific activities, communication with families, and help with filling applications and fees will make it easier for families complete the registration process that night*)?

Don't Go Dark This Summer!

Summer is one of the best times to showcase everything Scouting has to offer. While other organizations may slow down, Scouts are outdoors, attending camp, serving their communities, and creating

memories that last a lifetime.

Now is the perfect time to grow your unit!

From **June 10th through July 31st**, any Pack, Troop, Crew, or Post in good standing that recruits **5 or more NEW Scouts or Explorers** will have its **\$100 National Charter Fee covered by the Greater California Council**.

To qualify, youth must:

- Be brand new to the Scouting program
- Be fully registered during the campaign period
- Be verified by your District Representative
- Be registered with a unit in good standing P

Please note: Scouts receiving scholarships, Transfers, former Scouts rejoining, and adult registrations do **not** count toward the challenge.

This is more than a membership drive. It is an opportunity to introduce more young people to adventure, leadership, service, and lifelong friendships while strengthening Scouting across the Greater California Council.

Military Family Fee Waiver



Step-by-Step Online Registration Guide

IMPORTANT: The military Family Fee Waiver covers only the \$85 National Registration Fee.

BEGIN ONLINE

Select Get Military Code, highlighted here in yellow

Verify Military Affiliation

How does verifying work?
Scouting America Uses SheerID, a trusted partner, to verify that you are a member of the military. SheerID only collects information at assists in verifying your eligibility. Additional information or documentation may be requested.

Enter Service Member's information, making sure all fields are complete, including status and branch of service.

TO USE THE DISCOUNT CODE

Copy the Coupon Code & Apply the Discount Code as Shown Below

See that the Military Discount Code is applied, and complete the youth registration as normal.

To register, visit beascout.scouting.org, find your local Pack by typing in your ZIP code, and complete the verification process as shown above. Once verified, you will automatically receive a code, waiving the National fee. Please note you will need a second unique code to waive the Council fee, which can be obtained by calling the Tejon District Registrar, Cindy Basham at (661) 319-3954.

Need Assistance? Take screenshots of your progress and send them with your questions to Cindy.Basham@Scouting.org



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—**usually the second Tuesdays** of each month starting at 6:30PM and lasting an hour via Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85634619630?pwd=jFyiPWIKTziCCFCFvZaqqQX48p4lnH.1>

Meeting ID: 856 3461 9630

Passcode: 846418

The July meeting is postponed one week to July 21.

The hot topic is taking the idea from another district's pack and expanding it to a district activity that can be taken to other districts. The pack has a rocket day as a combination activity for existing Cub Scouts and promotion of the Cub Scout program to the general public. It is anchored by 2-liter water bottle rockets and other activities. Last month we discussed their success and ideas for supporting activities and learning.

We are still defining the overall function of the committee. A few ideas that came out in May 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 (rocket day was the first idea that started gathering support as a draw for recruiting new youth).



Scout-O-Rama Saturday, August 8 - Ridgecrest

We are gearing up for the Desert Area Scout-O-Rama Expo, and we need your unit's energy, creativity, and Scout spirit to make it a massive success!

This expo is primarily a major recruiting event for our desert area units, designed to show local families exactly what makes Scouting America so incredible. To pull this off, we are asking SSSA units to head out to Ridgecrest to help us run activities, showcase your skills, and inspire the next generation of Scouts.

Here are the quick details:

- * **What:** Desert Area Scout-O-Rama Expo
- * **When:** Saturday, August 8th | 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- * **Where:** Ridgecrest, CA - Desert Empire Fairgrounds
- * **Why:** To recruit new youth, showcase our district's talent, and have a blast.

Action Packed Activities

We already have some awesome features lined up, including:

- * **Lego Pinewood Derby** (Fast-paced, hands-on fun for all ages)
- * **Archery & BB Gun Shooting Ranges**
- * **Knife Throwing** (Potentially, based on final logistics)

We Need Your Ideas & Displays!

We want our units to bring their unique strengths to the table. Whether your Pack, Troop, or Crew excels at pioneering projects, camp cooking, high adventure displays, team-building games, or STEM activities —we want you to showcase it.

Think outside the box! Bring an activity or a display that will make a visiting family say, "I want my kid to do that."

Perks & Recognition

To show our appreciation for your time and effort, awards will be given to participating units! Criteria are currently being finalized by the committee, but expect recognition for creativity, engagement, and Scout spirit.

How to Lock In Your Spot

To help us map out the event space and ensure we don't duplicate activities, **please reply to Davidmoelter@hotmail.com.**

In your reply, please include:

1. Your **Unit Number** (Pack/Troop/Crew)
2. A brief description of your **proposed display or activity idea**

Spaces and activity slots will be locked in on a first-come, first-served basis. Let's show the desert area what the Southern Sierra Service Area can do!

For more information and to sign up for an activity, contact:

Dave Moelter at (408) 307-0740 or davidmoelter@hotmail.com

Cub Roundtable Commissioner

Scoutmaster. Troop 55

Asst. Cubmaster, Pack 341

Summertime Swim Party

Scout Swim Party

Saturday, August 8, 2026

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Riverlakes Pool - 5100 Riverlakes Drive

\$5.00 per person (swimming or observing)

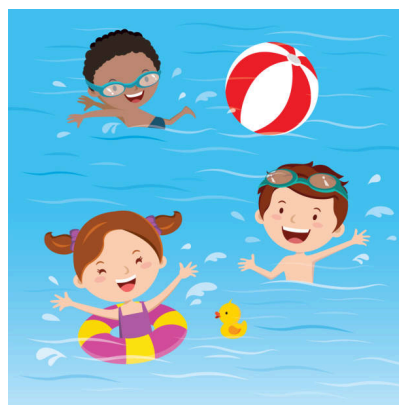
Reserve early - space is limited.

Reservation link - <https://www.scoutingevent.com/047-swim26>

Okay to bring snacks, drinks, chairs but no glass bottles. Picnic tables available for use.

Good way to complete swim advancement items or just beat the heat!

Cub Scouts - attendance at this event can be used toward your summertime pack adventure loop/pin



Celebrating the 250th Anniversary



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.

Recognition items will be available through the council trading post as they become available.



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.

Available at the Scout Office - \$4.99 each



America's 250th Pin



America's 250th Collector Emblem

Limited quantities but more are on the way

**20 NATIONAL
26 JAMBOREE**
SUMMIT BECHTEL RESERVE
JULY 22-31



Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia

Jamboree Troop leaves July 18

Jamboree Troop Gear Check

Sunday, July 9 - 7:00 pm

Centennial Elementary School - 15200 Westdale Dr.

Bring Your Duffle Bag Packed & Ready to Go



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 \$30,231 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 - \$ 200	Troop 442 - 1,100
Pack 33 - \$ 1,640	Troop 3 - \$ 180	Troop 484 - \$ 420
Pack 58 - \$ 360	Troop 47 - \$ 3,460	Troop 711 - \$ 490
Pack 104 - \$ 220	Troop 125 - \$ 660	Troop 712 - \$ 1,075
Pack 341 - \$ 400	Troop 188 - \$ 100	Troop 848 - \$ 200
Pack 426 - \$ 960	Troop 194 - \$ 625	Troop 1776 - \$ 240
Pack 2021 - \$ 1,370	Troop 300 - \$240	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

Wednesday, August 19, 2026 - 6:30 pm

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 June!
The new Eagles are from Troops 194, 395, 442 & 760.

Order of the Arrow



YOWLUMNE Lodge

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

July 23 - OA Meeting - All members should attend
August 5 - Activation Event - Pool Party & BBQ

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!

Order of the Arrow Pool Party & BBQ **Wednesday, August 5, 2026**

6:00pm to 9:00pm

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

- Main dish will be provided by the lodge - *please bring a side dish of your choice - enough to feed 10 people*
- Swimming fellowship
- Minor upcoming business will be covered
- New Arrowmen from Induction need to attend

*** Please bring a swimsuit, towel, chair, and OA Sash for the event***
This is a no fee event - potluck side is the cost.

Registration is needed for a headcount.
<https://www.scoutingevent.com/047-OAPool26>

2026 OA Dues - Time to Pay - \$20

Easy way to pay your annual dues - Pay online at:
<https://www.scoutingevent.com/047-Dues26>

Questions:

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



SCOUT VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

ENGINEERING MERIT BADGE

\$20 PER SCOUT

SESSIONS ARE OFFERED ON TUESDAY EVENINGS (6:30PM CST)
OR SATURDAY MORNINGS (8:30AM CST)

*PLEASE NOTE: Group Bookings for troops of 6 or more are
available on other days of the week (pending availability)*

Scouts may join us for this 90-minute online program, which is open to all scouts. Our program facilitator will guide the scouts and explore the role of an engineer. Scouts will have the opportunity to learn about Harley-Davidson and explore styling, design, and engineering. The nine requirements for the Engineering Merit Badge will be discussed during this virtual, interactive experience.

*For more information or to schedule a private
Troop booking please call 414-287-2755 or email:
Meghan.selkegorski@harley-davidson.com*

PROGRAM FEE INCLUDES:

- Downloadable activity booklet for the program
- Facilitated virtual program with BSA approved & YPT Certified merit badge counselor
- Signed blue card upon completion of the merit badge requirements
- Exclusive H-D Museum patch



This virtual program walks scouts through all nine requirements with a certified merit badge counselor (with current SYT), while connecting engineering and history with concepts to real-world motorcycle design.

When can scouts join?

Starting in June 2026 and running all year:

- Tuesdays at 6:30 PM CST (4:30 PM in California)
- Saturdays at 8:30 AM CST (6:30 AM in California)
- Or schedule a private troop session (6+ scouts) at a time that works for you

Before the session:

Scouts will complete four simple activities ahead of time—hands-on tasks that take about 1–2 hours total. We'll send everything needed after registration.

Learn more or register here: [Click Here for more information or to register!](#)



TRAINING CALENDARS – SUMMER 2026

SOUTHERN SIERRA SERVICE AREA

Aug. 20 - 6:30 pm

Service Area Training Planning Mtg.

Zoom:

ID: 314 211 1129 Password: 928897

Sept. 8 - 6 pm

**S.A.F.E. Guarding Youth
Training (in person)**

Note: This is the 90-minute full course.

Scout office, Bakersfield, CA

Sept. 18-20 & Oct. 3-4

Wood Badge

(Greater LA Council)

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

Hubert Eaton, Cedar Glen, CA & Camp

Trask, Monrovia, CA

GREATER CALIFORNIA COUNCIL

Aug. 22

Cub Leader Basic Training (in-person)

Kairos School, Vacaville

<https://scoutingevent.com/047-104536>

Sept. 5-7 & Sept. 18-20

NYLT (Greater Calif Council)

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

NorCal Adventure Base,

Dobbins, CA

Sept. 25-27 & Oct. 10-11

Wood Badge

(Greater Calif Council)

<https://scoutingevent.com/047-104538>

NorCal Adventure Base,

Dobbins, CA



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
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 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

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.



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

Questions: Carolyn Forster CJForster1964@gmail.com



All WOOD BADGE ALUM* and their families are invited to a Tri-Council Wood Badge Reunion!

SAVE-THE-DATE: Saturday, October 3, 2026

Bring your whole family for a fun day in the park with music, games, silent auction, barbecue, and fellowship. Location to be announced (near Glendale/Burbank area).

**Regardless of where you took your Wood Badge course, everyone is welcomed and encouraged to attend.*



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
CJForster1984@gmail.com

Awards for Adults

Awards Central:

<https://www.scouting.org/awards/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 –

SCOUTER'S TRAINING AWARD



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

The Scouter's Training Award is available for adult leaders at every unit level: Cub Scout Leaders, Scouts BSA Leaders, Venturing Leaders, and Sea Scouting Leaders.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. Anyone can complete the Progress Report and Application; including the candidate.
2. The candidate or unit submits the nomination form to the So. Sierra Scout Office (Attn: Cindy Basham) for approval by the District or Council Training Committee.

APPLICATION FORMS

- **Cub Scout Leaders:** <https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Scouters-Training-Award-for-Cub-Scout-Leaders-25.pdf>
- **Scouts BSA Leaders:** <https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Scouters-Training-Award-for-Scout-BSA-Leaders-25.pdf>
- **Venturing Leaders:** <https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Scouters-Training-Award-for-Venturing-Leaders-25.pdf>

BACKGROUND

The training award recognizes unit Scouters for tenure, training, and performance in their leadership roles.

REQUIREMENTS

The candidate must

1. Be a currently a registered leader in any unit level: **Cub Scout Pack, Scouts BSA Troop, or Venture Crew**, who has completed at least 2 years of tenure as an adult leader in the unit.
2. Meet the training requirements for the registered position.
3. Participate in at least 1 additional supplemental or advanced training event at Council, Territory, or National level during the 2 years.
4. Attend a PowWow (Cub Scouts), University of Scouting, or attend at least 4 Roundtables during each year of tenure for this award.
5. Participate in an annual Pack Planning, Scouts BSA Planning, or Venture Crew Planning in each year.
6. Give primary leadership to at least 1 major unit activity (Cubs: Blue & Gold, Pinewood Derby, Product Sales, etc.; Scouts BSA: Troop Self-Assessment; Crew: advisory leadership to a crew youth leader/activity) in each year.

WHERE IT IS AWARDED

The Scouter's Training Award can be awarded at a unit Court of Honor or a District/Council award event.

Special Invitations for Scouts & Families



KERN RIVER PARKWAY NATURE CENTER

HART MEMORIAL PARK · BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

Looking for a great nature hike? Contact Carla - kernnaturecenter@gmail.com

Looking for an Eagle project - consider helping the Nature Center

July 2026 Family Friendly Activities

Sunday, July 26 - Hart Park

2:00 pm

"Water Play Day" Family Fun Activity

Make water weenies and play with squirt guns outside in front of the Nature Center. Cool off in the shade while enjoying the water fun! Dave & Jill Hanley will provide supplies, while they last, so bring your own too!

Possible Eagle Projects



Historic Union Cemetery
730 Potomas Ave - Bakersfield

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

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. 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



August 8

Scout-O-Rama - Ridgecrest
Scout Swim Party - Bakersfield

August 19

Life to Eagle Workshop

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