



BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA®

SOUTHERN SIERRA COUNCIL

SSC Scouting News

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

[SSC Website Link](#)

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



Award orders can be emailed ahead to be pulled and have ready when you arrive.
Email (Advancement reports and a PO) to Michelle.Shoemake@scouting.org
Shipping is available



SSC Program Committee Meeting

**Program Committee Meeting
Thursday, November 2
6:30 pm via Zoom**

The SSC Program Committee is responsible for strengthening and enriching unit program by overseeing the program functions of Activities & Civic Service; Advancement; Camping; and Training.

Council Office Contacts

(661) 325-9036

Scout Executive

Randy Saunders - Ext. 104
randy.saunders@scouting.org

District Executive

Cameron Hutton - Ext. 103
cameron.hutton@scouting.org

Office Clerk

Michelle Shoemake - Ext. 108
michelle.shoemake@scouting.org

Council Website & Calendar

www.sscbsa.org

Council Facebook Page

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

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

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

- November 4 - Lion's ROAR

- November 4 - Merit Badge Midway
- November 4 - Trainings - Den Chief, Leave No Trace, Fundamentals of Training
- November 8 - Eagle Scout Workshop
- November 9 - Roundtable
- November 11 - Veterans' Day Parade
- November 30 - OA LEC
- December 2 - Pushmobile 2023
- December 2 - Range Safety Officer Training
- December 9 - Scout Night at the Condors
- December 9 - OA - Lodge Leadership Development



**Scout Office & Trading Post
will be closed
Thursday, November 23 &
Friday, November 24
for the Thanksgiving Holiday**

Trading Post Open on Saturday, November 11

**TRADING
POST**



TRADING POST

**TRADING
POST**

The Scout Office Trading
Post will be open on

**Saturday, November 11
Hours: 11am to 3pm**

Uniforms, patches, books, etc.
Anything a new (or existing)
member will need.

**2417 M Street - Bakersfield
(just north of 24th & M)**

October was a Great Month for Cub Scout Camping



Tigermania, an event for first grade Cub Scouts and their parents, was held on October 20-21 at the Gergen Ski Ranch. Over 20 Tigers and their parents roared through a fun day of activities and

delicious food.



Special thank you to Amy Swidecki, who organized this wonderful event. Amy has led

Tigermaina for several years now, each one being full of fun and adventure.

Thank you Amy and her volunteer staff, including Troop 2119, for working so hard to make this event a wonderful experience.



Our second and third grade Cub Scouts attended the Wolves/Bears Overnighter at the Gergen Ski Ranch on the same weekend of October 20-21. Over 60 Cubs and their parents

graduated from the "Super Hero Academy" after participating in a day full of activities.

Thank you to Robert Foster and all of the volunteers who stepped up when called upon to make the event happen. Many giving hands provided service leading activity stations, delivering meals, and cleaning up the area. Thank you all.



Thank you Dave Moelter, Cubmaster of Ridgecrest Pack 341, for the exciting Friday night campfire! You can see Dave above with his team of Ridgecrest leaders & scouts that came over for a great weekend.

Special thanks to Dewayne Marney, the Council chef. Dewayne led a team of volunteers to prepare and serve meals to nearly 250 people during the two events. Thank you Dewayne.

Thank you also to the Council's Shooting Sports team of Jeremy Brown, Esequiel Esparza and Cameron Hutton for providing safe, fun Archery and BB Gun Ranges.



As we enter the season of Thanksgiving, the Southern Sierra Council would like to thank all of the volunteers and leaders that tirelessly give to make Scouting happen in our neighborhoods.

We would also like to thank all of the individuals, families, businesses and civic groups that contribute funds to the Council. These generous donations provide the resources and support to help Scouting “go” and “grow.” All of our activities and events saw larger participation this year.

Before we launch into the 2024 Scouting year, we need your generous help to close this year. The Southern Sierra Council continues to operate on a lean budget... A SCOUT IS THRIFTY. To continue to support and grow local Scouting, we need you. You can provide the gift of Scouting this season.

Please make a donation to the Southern Sierra Council this holiday season.

You can donate any amount online [HERE](#)

Please share this link with your friends and contacts that are interested in supporting our young people. Your generous gift is greatly appreciated and very important to keep Scouting alive and well in our area.

The Southern Sierra Council is an important component to the great Scouting experience we have to offer young people. The leadership and staff of the Southern Sierra Council are working hard to provide the resources and funds needed to keep Scouting alive and prospering in our area.

Thank you for your support!
Randy Saunders - Scout Executive

Join the Badger Troop

Southern Sierra Council's Recurring Gift Club



By contributing \$20 or more per month through your credit or debit card, you'll help provide a steady stream of support to the Council. Recurring gifts are convenient. Over the course of the year, your small monthly donation becomes a significant contribution to making Scouting happen locally. The first 100 members will receive the special “charter member” patch.

Become a Badger today, click the button below:

[Join the Badger Troop Here](#)

Outdoor Expo - Three Events - One Location
Saturday, November 4
Location - Westside Church of Christ

Lion's ROAR - for all Kindergarteners & Adult Partner

Lions ROAR

**Come to the Annual Lions ROAR!!!
For Scouting Fun and A Roaring Good Time!!**

Time: 8:00 am to 12:30 pm

Fee: \$15 per Lion - \$5 per Adult Partner
(adult partner must be present with Lion at all times)



A Patch for an Adult may be purchased for an additional \$2.00.

Register online at: <https://scoutingevent.com/030-lion23>

Merit Badge Midway



Time: 8:00am to 4:30pm

Cost: \$5 per merit badge until October 27, 2023 -
\$7 after.

Bring a sack lunch if staying the full day.

Register Online at: <https://scoutingevent.com/030-MBfall23>

Merit Badges Being Offered

Full Day
8:30am to 4:30pm
Citizenship in the World *
Dentistry *

Morning Session
8:30am to 12:00 pm
Electricity
Fire Safety *
Leatherwork
Weather *

Afternoon Session
1:00pm to 4:30pm
Electricity
Weather *
Wood Carving

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

Council Training Day





3 informative trainings for Scouts BSA, Venture Crew, and Adults to choose!

Register Online at: <https://scoutingevent.com/030-trainingfall23>

Den Chief Training - 8:00am to 12:00pm

Scouts BSA/Crew members learn how to serve as a scouting role model for Cub Scouts in a den and pack; promotes scouting and the troop or crew; encourages the transition of Webelos/AOL scouts into Scouts BSA troops; fulfills advancement requirements for a leadership position in the troop or crew; assists the den leader with planning and conducting den meetings. Great overview for Den Leaders and Scoutmasters/Assistant Scoutmasters to better understand the Den Chief program.

Leave No Trace 101 - Awareness Course - 8:00am to 12:00pm

Learn from our own LNT Master Educator, Maria Brown. Leave No Trace integrates Scouting's ethical and decision-making focus into the outdoors environment, providing Scouting members with a principled framework to assist in arriving at making ethical decisions in the outdoors. Leave No Trace practices apply to all outdoor activities, including those at Scout camps, camporees, and on all types of public or private lands. Meets Requirement #5 of Outdoor Ethics Award. (Cost \$5 given to the instructor for supplies. Scouts BSA/Venture Crew age 14+)

Fundamentals of Training - 8:00am to 12:00pm

An introductory course for new and experienced scouting trainers to learn BSA teaching techniques and skills. Participants learn in a team-based setting similar to scouting's patrol method. Experienced trainers coach and mentor the participants as they become comfortable with and more confident in their training skills. **Required** for NYLT and Wood Badge staff.

Veteran's Day Parade - Bakersfield Saturday, November 11

All packs, troops, crews & posts are invited to join the SSC Veteran's Day Parade entry. The parade will be in downtown Bakersfield on Saturday, November 11. Parade kicks off at 10:00 am.

**This year's theme is
"Veterans Prepared to Serve"**



The entry is registered in the walking/marching category. Wagons, pushmobiles, etc. are welcome. There will be a couple pickups and trailers for those needing a break or unable to walk the distance.

Theme related posters & handheld flags are encouraged for all. Please bring your unit flags and banners to identify your group.

Each unit is responsible for their own scouts, leaders & families and bringing their own decorations.

Please email Cindy Basham at cbasham3504@gmail.com if your unit would like to participate. Individual scouts (with an adult) are invited to participate if their unit is not planning to attend.

The parade entry number & meeting location will not be available until the first week of November. This information will be sent out to all who sign up as soon as it is received.

Roundtable for Leaders is Back!

Thursday, November 9 - 7:00 pm - Scout Office

Roundtables provide unit leaders with the skill to do and the will to do what is needed to ensure that every member of every unit has a great Scouting experience. They build upon the foundation provided by position-specific basic training and each leader's commitment to serving youth through Scouting.

Roundtables exist to:

- Provide information
- Capture information
- Offer current program training
- Provide networking opportunities



Cub Scout Roundtable
Go Bags - Take it with you
Den Box - Be Prepared
Games - Den Time Fillers
Networking - What's Your Pack
Doing?

Scouts BSA Roundtable
Fire Starters - Always Ready
Campfire Opening Pizzazz
Bear Cannister Challenge
Networking - What's Your Troop
Doing?

Recharter Timeline & Membership Fees



Unit Recharter - 2024

The BSA issues charters to community organizations to enable them to use the Scouting program under their own leadership as a service to their children, youth, and families. Rechartering is the process of renewing the charter agreement between the BSA and the organization, and renewing the registration of youth and adult members. Every unit must recharter annually.

Youth Protection Training (YPT) is required annually of all adult leaders. To reregister for 2024, every adult 18 years of age and over must have taken YPT during the year of 2023. Anyone without the 2023 renewal will be dropped until compliant and then they are eligible to reregister (a new adult application will be required).

Recharter Unit Timeline - TIME FOR STAGE 2

Stage 1 - Recharter Prep - Oct. 1 to Oct. 31 (Assign Recharter Champion, complete Membership Inventory, review Journey to Excellence status & start collecting renewal fees)

Stage 2 - Internet Recharter - Nov. 1 to Dec. 1 (Unit collects final renewal fees, updates roster, submits recharter online, submits payment to Council along with Journey to Excellence scorecard & Annual Charter Agreement signed by Chartered Organization)

Stage 3 - Council Process - Dec. 1 to Dec. 31 (Validates recharter & resolves defects)

Recharter Fees for 2024

- Youth - \$95 (National \$80 plus Council \$15)

- Adult - \$75 (National \$60 plus Council \$15)
- Exploring - Adults & Youth - \$65 each
- Scout's Life -- \$15 per year
- Unit Recharter Fee - \$100 per unit

Recharter Overview - Thursday, November 9 - at Roundtable

POPCORN SALE...

Final Steps to a Successful Fundraiser



The 2023 Trail's End Popcorn Sale is moving into the final steps to completion. Many of you have sold out, and many of you are selling the last of your supply.

The FINAL orders for product are due on Friday, November 10. This order is to help you fill wagon sales. Chocolate Pretzels are also available for this order. Orders need to be placed online at www.trails-end.com.

The Council's Facebook Popcorn page is available for you to communicate with other Kernals in our Council. Click here to access: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/886153141477064>

Here's a good "to-do" list for you to review:

1. There is a supply of popcorn at the Scout Office. If you would like to pick-up some of this inventory, contact Randy or Cindy to get updates and arrange pick-up.
2. Orders for the FINAL product delivery, including Chocolate Pretzels, are due online by Friday, November 10.
3. Any Heroes donations you have received will also need to be entered into your final order online. This will allow your inventory to balance which will be needed in order to complete the sale and order Trails End Rewards prizes. The Council will be responsible for delivering popcorn to a number of "Heroes" groups in our area. If your unit is interested in participating in a delivery, let me know. Product will be available for pick-up on November 30.
4. Any product that you have ordered previously that you want to return is due by November 10. You can return up to 10% of your total order. You will also lose the 2% commission bonus earned by returning popcorn.
5. Invoices are due to be paid in full by December 8th. Your unit earns 3% bonus commission by paying in full by December 8.
6. Prize orders for Trails End and Council incentives are due by December 15.
7. The Condors tickets incentive for any Scout that sells \$1,000 (2 tickets) is due by December 1. The Scout Night at the Condors Game is December 9. Additional tickets will be for sale to all Scouts and family members that want to attend and sit in the Scout section. <https://scoutingevent.com/030-Condors23>

Contact Randy or Cindy to pick up more popcorn. Contact Randy for any additional questions.



Bakersfield Condors hockey action is back! So is Scout Night with the Condors



Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 9 @ 7:00pm

Doors open at 6:00 pm - Pregame activities at 6:30 pm

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 Colorguard during the National Anthem.

Popcorn top sellers will be recognized during intermission. Following the game, Scouts will be able to be part of the group photo on the ice.

All Scouting families are welcome to participate in Scout Night with the Condors. Tickets for the Scouts section are available for purchase online starting November 1.

Ticket cost is \$18.00 per ticket. Deadline to order tickets is Sunday, December 3 - 11:59 pm.

Condors Tickets

Units & families will be seated together. Starting December 4, tickets will be available for your unit representative to pick up and distribute.

Scouts that sell at least \$1,000 during the popcorn sale will earn 2 tickets for this game. Families are invited to purchase additional tickets and will be seated with their scout.

Eagles Nest

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



LIFE-TO-EAGLE WORKSHOP

Wednesday, November 8 - 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Scout Office - 2417 M Street

Online Registration: <https://www.scoutingevent.com/030-EagleFall23>

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

2023 Eagle Scouts, Leaders & Parents - Mark your calendars for the 2024 Eagle Dinner - Thursday, March 21, 2024 at Luigi's Warehouse. The Eagle Class of 2023 will be celebrated!

Congratulations to our newest Eagle Scouts during the month of October! The new Eagles are from Troops 47 & 300.



The Silver Beaver Award is the council-level distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America. Recipients of this award are registered adult leaders who have made an impact on the lives of youth through service given to the council.

The Silver Beaver award is made for noteworthy service of exceptional character to youth by registered Scouters, Cub Scouters, Varsity Scouters, and Venturing leaders within the territory under the jurisdiction of a local council.

Email nominations to Cindy Basham at cbasham3504@gmail.com no later than **December 1, 2023**.

Official nomination form must be submitted but supporting attachments are welcome. Official nomination form available at <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/92-103.pdf>

The Silver Beaver award will be presented on Saturday, January 27, 2024 at the Council Volunteer Recognition Dinner.

[Past Silver Beaver Awardees](#)

Order of the Arrow



Upcoming OA Events - OA Members:

Watch for Emails & Reminder Notices - Be sure to sign up for events. Mark Your Calendars NOW -

- November 30 (Thursday) - OA Lodge Executive Committee
- December 9 (Saturday) - OA Lodge Leadership Development

All youth OA members interested in a youth leadership role in the lodge (Chief / Vice Chief / Secretary) are strongly encouraged to attend all of these events.

- **Reserve your spot for NOAC 2024 NOW!** - Email Chuck Monaco at cmonacoscouts@gmail.com
- National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) - July 29 to Aug. 3, 2024 at the University of Colorado Boulder

Easy way to pay your annual OA Dues -

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

Questions:

Contact Lodge Advisor - Chuck Monaco at (661) 303-8636 or cmonacoscouts@gmail.com or
Lodge Chief - Alexander Tindell at tindellaj@gmail.com.

Range Safety Officer Training



This course is intended for BSA leaders and adults wishing to help out with unit and council shooting events involving firearms. Must be 21 years old or older. Current NRA memberships preferred, as it allows for easier processing of your credentials after the class.

Saturday, December 2, 2023

8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Scout Office - 2417 M St. - Bakersfield

Cost: \$25 per person (Credentialing fee to the NRA is additional)

Contact Jeremy Brown for payment before date of class.

Venmo - (2Jeremy-Brown-901).

This is an all day class in a classroom setting.

Contact Jeremy Brown at (661) 912-1261 or talonor@yahoo.com

2023 PUSHMOBILE RACES

Saturday December 2nd, 2023

**Location: Valley Baptist - Olive Drive Campus
5500 Olive Dr. 93308**

Online Registration: <https://scoutingevent.com/030-PM23>

Early bird registration cost per racer \$8, on/or before by Nov. 24th

After 11/24/23 cost per racer is \$10

Online Registration will close on December 1st.

Registrations accepted up to & including Race Day

(If not registered by 12/1/23 at 5:00pm you must bring registration fees and register at the tent on Race day with

cash or Check payable to Southern Sierra Council, No Exceptions)

No Refunds – Races are rain or shine

*** Races occur in the WEST parking lot.

ALL Parking is in the EAST parking lot***

Use the firelane to walk around to the race area

Check-in: 7:30am-8:30am for Walk-ins,

Registration closes at 8:40am, Races begin at 9am

Snack Bar will be available before & during Races.

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR MEDICAL A/B FORMS

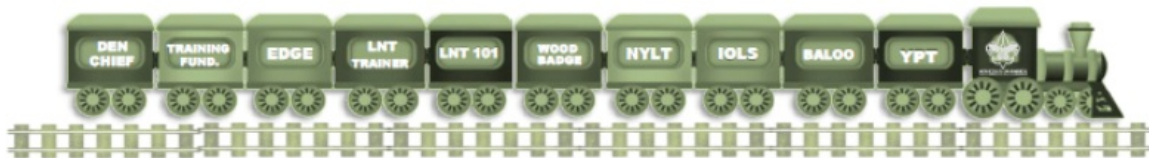
[Pushmobile Car & Race Specifications](#)

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
Council Staff Advisor: Randy Saunders at 661-325-9036



Upcoming Training Courses



NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING (NYLT)



A great opportunity for female as well as male Scouts BSA to meet and interact with scouts from the Southern California area.

NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING (NYLT)

February 17-19 and February 23-24, 2024

Camp Verdugo Oaks, Castaic (near Templin Highway on Grapevine)

Registration: <https://www.vhcbsa.org/NYLT24>

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 13-17 years old (Troop or Venture Crew)
- Earned 1st Class rank or higher
- Recommended by the Scoutmaster for NYLT

Scholarships: Youth may request scholarships for registration fees through their Troop or Venture Crew, the Council office, or the NYLT course itself.

Course Leadership: The NYLT course is run by youth and adult volunteers with Southern Sierra Council and possibly some volunteers from Verdugo Hills Council and Long Beach Area Council. Youth volunteers have completed the NYLT course and are ready to take on new leadership challenges.

ADULT RECOGNITION LUNCHEONS

- **Bakersfield – Saturday, March 2**
- **Ridgecrest – Saturday, March 16**

Registration opens February 1, 2024



Everyone is invited to the annual Adult Recognition Luncheons in March. Invite your entire unit to attend the luncheon and appreciate all the leaders and volunteers who give up their time, talents, and treasures to make your unit grow and go!

Now is the time to request your Leader Knots and Awards to your unit's Award Chair. Your time and commitment to your scouts and families is valuable and we want to honor you! Show your growth in the BSA program by receiving your knots and awards at the annual Adult Recognition luncheon. (See links to adult awards below.)



- **DISTRICT AWARD OF MERIT:** This is the highest honor a District can award to a volunteer. Who are those volunteers who have stepped up to take on an event for scouts or leaders at any level.
- **NOMINATIONS:** Submit nominations to Cindy Basham for this important recognition. Nomination form - <https://www.scouting.org/resources/forms/>



- **VOLUNTEER AWARDS:** Recognition is not just for specific positions. All volunteers are valuable. You or your unit can recognize anyone who has volunteered time to your scouts and unit with our Council's 'Unit Award of Appreciation'. There is no limit to nominate anyone and everyone who has volunteered with your unit, registered or not, to be recognized at the luncheon.

LEADERS AWARDS & KNOTS



- **Adult Awards & Recognition:** <https://www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/what-cub-scouts-earn/adult-awards-and-recognition/>

- **Adult Recognition for Exceptional Service:** <https://www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/what-cub-scouts-earn/adult-awards-and-recognition/adult-recognition-for-exceptional-service/>

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

Incident Reporting Helps

Timely and complete incident reporting provides the BSA 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 BSA 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. The BSA cannot address a concern if we do not know about it. Reporting incidents promptly is also critical so the BSA 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.sscbsa.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.

Dates to Remember



January 20

Winter Extravaganza
(Registration Opens - December 1)

January 24

Life to Eagle Workshop
(Registration Opens - December 1)

January 27

Council - Volunteer Recognition Dinner
(Registration Opens - December 1)

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