



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, December 7
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 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 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 Upcoming Dates to Remember *(See articles below for details)*

- December 2 - Pushmobile 2023

Council Commissioner - General Support

Cindy Basham - Ext. 102
cbasham3504@gmail.com

- December 2 - Range Safety Officer Training
 - December 9 - OA - Lodge Leadership Development
 - December 9 - Scout Night at the Condors
 - January 20 - Winter Extravaganza
 - January 27 - Council Volunteer Recognition Dinner
-



**Scout Office & Trading Post
will be closed
Monday, December 25
Tuesday, December 26
Friday, December 29**

Trading Post Open on Saturday, December 9

**TRADING
POST**



TRADINGPOST



The Scout Office Trading Post will be open on

**Saturday, December 9
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)**

In the Spirit of the Season

The holiday season brings thoughts of joy and gratitude, and there's no better time to express our thanks and sincere appreciation for your amazing hard work, creativity, and dedication.

From your officers, Executive Board, and staff of the Southern Sierra Council.

Happy Holidays!

Kristen Watson - Council President

Andrew Kao - President Elect

Cindy Basham - Council Commissioner

Randy Saunders - Council Executive

THANK YOU - OUTDOOR EXPO

Lion's Roar, Merit Badge Midway, Training



On Saturday, November 4th we had events for many different scouts and scouters.



For our Kindergarten age Lions and their parents, we had Lion's Roar. 19 Lions roared through a fun morning of activities and crafts. Special thank you to Amy Swidecki, who organized this wonderful event. Thanks also to Alanna Philbin-Way, Christy Schleibaum, Cherri Crawford and Troop 194, who led the activity stations.



Another big Thank you to the Council Training Team! On the same November morning, several adults were instructed in Leave No Trace by Maria Brown and Fundamentals of Training by Sheri Stringer.



The biggest turnout was for our Merit Badge Midway. Over 44 Scouts attended sessions offered for seven merit badges. A total of 78 merit badges were earned at this one day event.

The volunteer counselors for the merit badge were: Brian Atwater – Electricity, Adam Tat – Fire Safety, Cap Casperson – Weather, Cameron Hutton – Wood Carving, David Kampa – Leatherwork, and Adrianna Lovas & Gayle Achuff – Citizenship in the World, Heather Kampa & Erin Stikes. Thank you to everyone who spent their valuable time to teach skills to participating Scouts.

We also recognize Rick Pierce and the Westside Church of Christ for allowing access and being awesome hosts for this great day of Scouting. Thank you Rick!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



The next month is a season of joy and happiness. We have so much to celebrate. There are gift exchanges, sweets, visits with loved ones that we don't see often, lights, holiday songs, and so much going on.

We also have so much to be thankful for this year. We were blessed with lots of rain. We are grateful for our family and friends. We have Scouting memories including campouts, new skills learned, seeing our Scouts advance in rank, and witnessing the development of young people into incredible citizens.

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.

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.

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.

Thank you for your support!
Randy Saunders - Scout Executive

2023 PUSHMOBILE RACES

Saturday December 2nd, 2023

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

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

Cost - \$10.00 per racer

Online Registration will close on December 1 at 5:00 pm

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



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

Recharter Timeline & Membership Fees

Unit Recharter - 2024

All recharterers are to be completed in "Internet Advancement - Recharter" no later than Friday, December 1.

Recharter Unit Timeline - TIME FOR STAGE 3

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

If you have any questions or need assistance with the unit recharter please contact your Unit Commissioner or Council Commissioner, Cindy Basham (cbasham3504@gmail.com)

Become a Badger Today



The Badger Troop is the 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.

Members receive a special "Badger Troop" council shoulder patch.

Become a Badger today... click [HERE](#)

Scout Night at the Condors Saturday, December 9 @ 7:00 pm



Scout Night at the Condors... Saturday, December 9 @ 7:00pm.

On Saturday, December 9, Southern Sierra Scouts and their families will flock to the Bakersfield Condors game for an evening of hockey and fun.

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

Additional tickets for the Scouts section of the arena are still available for purchase online by using the button below. Deadline to get tickets for this seating section is December 3rd at 11:59pm. Cost for tickets is \$18.00 each.

Condors Tickets

The game starts @ 7:00pm. 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 also be recognized on the scoreboard during intermission. Following the game, Scouts will also be able to be part of the group photo on the ice. Units and families will be seated together. Tickets will be available from your unit representative starting December 4.

Help Scouts Earn their Way to Summer Adventures: Spring Fundraiser



The Southern Sierra Council is going to offer a Spring fundraising opportunity in 2024. This program will offer a 50% commission for participating Scouts and units, helping you raise more funds for Summer Camp and other adventures, Cub Scouts can also raise funds for Day Camp or other Pack activities and projects.

The Spring Fundraiser product (NOT popcorn) and details will be introduced on January 1. The timeframe for the program will be the month of March. There will be a limited prize program, but the main emphasis will be on 50% commission to help Scouts earn their way to camp.

So leaders, stay tuned for more details over the next few weeks.

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

Order of the Arrow - Lodge Leadership Development - LLD & Banquet

Saturday, December 9, 2023

9:00 am to 2:30 pm

Check-in starts at 8:30 AM

Cost: \$20 each

Location: Centennial Elementary

Register online at <https://scoutingevent.com/030-LLD23>

This year at our Lodge Leadership Development we will be having our training sessions for scouts and leaders on the following topics:

- Conversion - The Induction Process to Brotherhood
- Time Management
- Membership Retention
- Unit Relations (Adult)

The LLD will also include activities for Arrowmen, Scouts and Scouters to enjoy in collective fellowship. The Afternoon Banquet will include Meal, Awards, Recognition, and appointment of new Key 3 Youth Leaders.

Training sessions are open to all Southern Sierra Council Scouts BSA members.

All Arrowmen are strongly encouraged to attend and participate at our LLD. Share the word with fellow Arrowmen, Scouts from your troops and the rest of the council.

Please register online by noon on Friday, December 8 at the link above.

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.

Winter Extravaganza Coming Up

Calling all Cub Scouts



Saturday, January 20th, 2024

9 am - 12 pm

Check-in starts at 8:30 am

First Congregational Church

(5 Real Rd, Bakersfield, CA 93309)

Come join us for a fun filled morning of winter themed games, crafts, skits, songs, and activities! We'll have plenty of fun for ALL Cub Scouts.

Bring a bag of canned food items, and receive a patch!

Registration opens online December 15 at

<https://www.scoutingevent.com/030-WE24>

Cost is \$5.00 per scout until Friday, January 12.

After 1/12/24 cost is \$10.00 per scout.

Deadline for registration is Wednesday, January 17 at 11:59 pm.

ALL Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Leaders & Family Members on site MUST turn in an "AB medical" form.

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, January 24 - 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Scout Office - 2417 M Street

Online Registration: Opens January 1, 2024

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 November! The new Eagles are from Troops 188, 194, 300 & 950G.

2024 Scouts BSA Advancement Changes Effective January 1, 2024

As of January 1, 2024, the following changes to Scouts BSA requirements become effective.

Rank Requirements:

There are minor change to Scout (6), and Star (^).

The Cyberchip has been phased out. Scouts should use the Personal Safety Awareness training at <https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/scouts-bsa/> for both Scout and Star ranks.

Eagle Palms:

Scouts BSA will no longer have to wait three months between Eagle Palms. They will have to earn five additional merit badges, and live by the Scout Oath and Law.

Merit badges with significant changes to content are:

- Automotive Maintenance
- Golf
- Skating

- Canoeing
- Coin Collecting
- Fire Safety
- First Aid
- Insect Study
- Journalism
- Nuclear Science
- Safety
- Surveying
- Sustainability
- Swimming

Merit badges with minor changes include:

- Backpacking
- Bird Study
- Camping
- Chemistry
- Cooking
- Digital Technology
- Engineering
- Fly-Fishing
- Indian Lore
- Law
- Mining in Society
- Photography
- Plant Science
- Programming
- Radio
- Scouting Heritage

The most current requirements are at <https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/>

2024 Cub Scout Advancement Changes Effective June 1, 2024

The four areas of improvement are the **Bobcat badge, Cub Scout Adventures, Webelos, and Cub Scout Awards**. Bobcat will no longer be a badge that is earned once when a Cub Scout joins. It will become a required Adventure for each rank and earned each year.

To see the latest Cub Scout Program Updates:

<https://www.scouting.org/program-updates/cub-scout-program-updates-announced/>

Council Volunteer Recognition Dinner Saturday, January 27, 2024



You are Cordially invited to the
SOUTHERN SIERRA COUNCIL

Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner

Saturday, January 27, 2024
Hodel's Country Dining - 5917 Knudsen Dr. - Bakersfield
Doors open 5:30 pm --- Program begins 6:00 pm

Individual Tickets - \$35.00
Sponsored Table for Eight - \$260.00

[Online Reservations - Click HERE](#)

Registration deadline - Friday, January 19, 2024

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

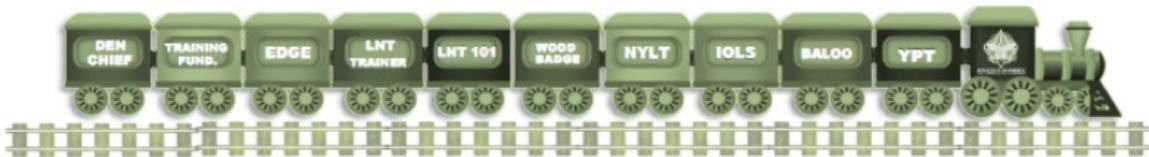
The highlight of the evening, the Silver Beaver - the council level distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America. The Silver Beaver is the highest award a council can bestow on a volunteer Scouter for their hard work, self-sacrifice, dedication and many years of service .

Other awards presented at the dinner:

- Scouting Veteran Leaders - from 5 years to 90 years. If 2023 was a 5-year milestone for you or a fellow leader, please submit a Veteran Award Application to the Scout office no later than January 15, 2024. The Veteran Award Application is available on the dinner registration page shown above.
- Unit Service Awards - for those units celebrating a 5-year milestone anniversary.
- Miscellaneous Council & Event Recognitions

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

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.vhcbasa.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**



Den Leader Award



Training Award For Cub Committee Members



Cubmaster's Key



Unit Leader Award of Merit For Cubmasters



Training Award For Roundtable Staff



Roundtable Commissioner's Key



District Award of Merit



Silver Beaver Award

• **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/>

Council Training Planning Meetings

THURSDAY, March 14 @ 6:00 pm

Zoom: ID: 314 211 1129 Password: 928897

We are moving to Thursdays in 2024! Everyone is invited to attend the 4 Council Training Planning meetings on Zoom (March, May, August, and September). We need **YOUR** input to make our trainings the best value-add for all our volunteers!

March 14th Agenda

- **Getting NYLT back on its feet**
- **Strategies for encouraging Scouts BSA/Venture Crew to attend NYLT**
- **Presenters and participants needed for Trainers' EDGE**
- **Planning for Wood Badge**

And more . . .

Why should I attend this meeting?

Training doesn't happen by magic or accident; nor is it created by a single person. It takes planning and input from ALL the units to ensure the training needed is offered timely and is engaging for all participants. Your voice and volunteer time is needed to provide the best training for all adults throughout our Council. **Training is a vital part of your unit's growth, succession planning, adult member retention, and quality programs.**

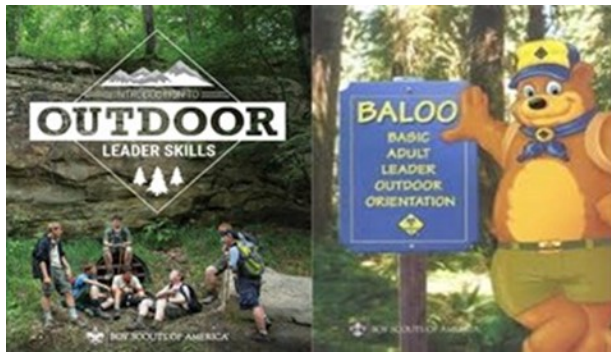
Anyone can represent your unit at the Committee meetings –Please assign someone who isn't otherwise engaged in your unit activities to attend the *4 meetings per year (March, May, August, September).

Who should attend:

- **Trainers**
- **Committee Chair or Committee Training Chair** (**If you don't have these positions currently filled – any volunteer in your unit may attend to take notes*)
- **Unit Commissioners**
- **Wood Badge participants and staff**

CONTACT:

Carolyn Forster
Council Training Chair
CJForster1964@gmail.com



BE A SCOUT FOR A WEEKEND

BALOO or IOLS*

March 16 thru 17, 2024

Ridgecrest, CA (location to be announced soon)

*Overnight camping is required to complete either course.

Registration coming soon.

Adult trainings to learn outdoor skills needed for Cub Scout outdoor events/overnight camping or teaching trail-to-first class skills to Scouts BSA.

Who should attend:

- **BALOO** - Any registered adult volunteer to help the Pack be able to go on outdoor activities and overnight campouts.
- **IOLS**: Any registered adult to assist with trail-to-first class scouting skills required training for **Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster** positions.

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

CONTACT:

Carolyn Forster, Course Director
CJForster1964@gmail.com

Safety in Scouting

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



February 3
Day of Service
(What project will your unit do?)

Southern Sierra Council | 2417 M Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301

[Unsubscribe rjsaunders256@gmail.com](mailto:rjsaunders256@gmail.com)

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