

January 2024



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](mailto:Michelle.Shoemake@scouting.org)  
Shipping is available



### **Council Office Contacts**

(661) 325-9036

### **Scout Executive**

Randy Saunders - Ext. 104  
[randy.saunders@scouting.org](mailto:randy.saunders@scouting.org)

### **District Executive**

Cameron Hutton - Ext. 103  
[cameron.hutton@scouting.org](mailto:cameron.hutton@scouting.org)

### **Office Clerk**

Michelle Shoemake - Ext. 108  
[michelle.shoemake@scouting.org](mailto:michelle.shoemake@scouting.org)



### **SSC Program Committee Meeting**

**Program Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 4**  
**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](http://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)*

- January 20 - Winter Extravaganza



**Scout Office & Trading Post  
will be closed  
Monday, January 1  
Monday, January 15**



## **THANK YOU - Troop 484!** **Cub Scout Pushmobile**



A BIG round of applause for the Leaders, Scouts & Parents of Troop 484 for chairing the 2023 Cub Scout Pushmobile Race in December!

166 Cub Scouts had an outstanding time racing with other dens and packs. Fun was had by all, and we had a new heat of adult pushmobile races!

All our racers did their best and showed off how hard they had been practicing.

Thank you, Troop 484!



## **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 is now open 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.

Final 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.***

## Unit Recharter - 2024



Will your unit be rechartered when 2024 begins? Just about every pack, troop & crew in the council can answer "YES" to that question.

Outstanding job continuing your unit's Scouting program into 2024!

Remind to order your Journey to Excellence patches. These are a special order item only and are not stocked at the Trading Post.

Thank you to all that made it happen on time!!

## 2023 Trails End Popcorn Sale...A huge success!



The sales totals for the 2023 Trails End popcorn sale are now complete. We are pleased to report that the popcorn sale was a huge success.

Seventeen Packs & Troops participated in this year's fundraiser. Together, they sold \$296,192, including \$30,000 via online direct sales.

Our Scouts collected nearly \$10,000 in Heroes donations, which was shared with several fire stations, Bakersfield Police Department, California Highway Patrol and Kern County Search & Rescue.

A total of 237 Scouts had at least one sale. The average sales per Scout is \$1,249, an incredible effort by our young sellers. Our units collected an average of 42% commission, which totals \$122,054 that Scouts and leaders will use to deliver adventures and lasting memories.

Here is a list of the Packs & Troops that participated in the 2023 Trails End popcorn sale:

- Troop 194 - \$85,754
- Pack 58 - \$72,329
- Troop 300 - \$34,244
- Pack 25 - \$20,295
- Pack 104 - \$16,880
- Pack 33 - \$13,065
- Pack 400 - \$12,341
- Troop 888 - \$9,738
- Pack 341 - \$9,665
- Troop 712 - \$6,542

- Pack 395 - \$5,720
- Troop 711 - \$2,850
- Troop 2119 - \$2,193
- Troop 484 - \$2,043
- Troop 413 - \$1,230
- Pack 413 - \$982
- Pack 426 - \$265

Here is a list of the top selling Scouts in the 2023 Trails End popcorn sale:

- Beckett G, Pack 58 – 10,655
- Richie F, Troop 194 - \$9,716
- Archer G, Pack 58 - \$8,879

75 Scouts sold at least \$1,000 and were special guests at the Condors Scout Night hockey game.

Thank you to all of the Scouts, leaders and parents that supported the popcorn sale in 2023.

There is a limited amount of popcorn for sale at the Trading Post. Stop by and pick up your favorite items today.

## 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 by January 15. 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.

Information will be sent to all leaders via email and be available on the Council's website in the coming days.

## Order of the Arrow Selects New Officers



### Upcoming OA Events - OA Members :

- Friday, Jan. 19 to Sat., Jan. 20 - Section G18N CoC Retreat
- Thursday, January 25 - LEC Meeting
- Saturday, January 27 - Service - Council Dinner
- Friday, Feb. 9 to Sun., Feb. 11 - Winter Fellowship
- Feb-Mar - Election Team Visits

2024 OA Calendar

The Yowlumne Lodge of the order of the Arrow recently elected new officers for the 2024 Scouting year.

- Lodge Chief – Talen Monaco, Troop 712
- Lodge Vice Chief – Ethan Comstock, Troop 194
- Lodge Secretary – Xavier Fosdick, Troop 47

The Lodge also recognized two of its members with the Founders Award. Introduced at the 1981 National Order of the Arrow Conference, the Founder's Award recognizes Arrowmen who have given outstanding service to their lodge. The award is reserved for an Arrowman who demonstrates that he or she personifies the spirit of selfless service, as advocated by founder E.

Urner Goodman and cofounder Carroll A. Edson. The Founders Award recipients for 2023 are Tyler Dunn and Dewayne Marney.

Special thanks to Chuck Monaco and his team of adult Advisors who dedicate hours of service throughout the year mentoring the youth of our Lodge.

Southern Sierra Council is also home to the current Section Secretary, Alexander Tindell. Alexander is an Eagle Scout from Troop 47 and past Yowlumne Lodge Chief. There are six lodges from neighboring councils in our Section.

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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](mailto: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](mailto:cmonacoscouts@gmail.com) or Lodge Chief - Talen Monaco at (661) 525-6586 or [T3Monaco@gmail.com](mailto:T3Monaco@gmail.com).

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## 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 Link:** <https://scoutingevent.com/030-WS124>

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 December! The new Eagles are from Troops 3, 125, 188, & 711.**

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## Silver Beaver - Class of 2023

# Elaine Riendeau



Serving in the Eastern part of the council, Elaine currently is Scoutmaster of Troop 848 and a dedicated Scouter for the past 15 years.

Cub Scout den leader, day camp leader, STEM program coordinator, troop committee member, assistant scoutmaster and now scoutmaster.

Elaine's community impact reaches beyond Scouting with her dedication to the China Lake Mountain Search & Rescue Group, Ridgecrest Women of Math & Science, STEM "Expanding Your Horizons" & other service needs.



Elaine will be honored with the presentation of the Silver Beaver award - *the highest award presented by a council* - at the Council Volunteer Recognition Dinner on Saturday, January 27, 2024.

*Please plan to attend - See details below*

## 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.*

## Council Day of Service Saturday, February 3, 2024



### What project will your unit do?

The goal of Day of Service is to maximize Scouting's service to Kern, Inyo & Mono counties by consolidating a variety of service projects, chosen by our Scouts and Scout leaders. Put simply, we are asking you to set aside at least two hours the first Saturday of February for you and your scouts to make a difference in your neighborhood or community.

#### Special 2024 "Day of Service" Patch

Units that record their project in Scoutbook and email the report form to [cbasham3504@gmail.com](mailto:cbasham3504@gmail.com) by Friday, February 9 will earn a patch for each Scout/leader who participated.

*The "Day of Service" report form will be available in the February newsletter.*

## Training News & Resources





## Reunion & Recruitment

Any youth and adult volunteer who has been a participant or staff on a National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) course in any council is invited for an NYLT Staff Reunion and NYLT Promotional Planner Get-Together.

Scoutmasters, Asst. Scoutmasters, and Troop Committee Chairs are also invited to attend.

*NOTE: Youth and Adult staff are needed for NYLT courses happening in Long Beach Area Council, June 2024 or Verdugo Oaks Council, February 2025.*

**Meet us at the Scout office\* for pizza and fun as we take a walk down the NYLT memory lane.**  
Hear about all the 2024/25 course staffing opportunities and brainstorm ideas for promoting NYLT in Southern Sierra Council!

*(\*If you live out-of-town, we will send you a Zoom meeting link with your registration.)*

**SATURDAY, FEB 3, 2024 @ 6:00 pm**

# **NYLT Staff Reunion & Promotional Planner**

**Southern Sierra Council Office  
2417 M Street, Bakersfield**

**Please RSVP at <https://scoutingevent.com/030-nyltreunion24>**

*Casual attire (NYLT t-shirts)*



# 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/>

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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**

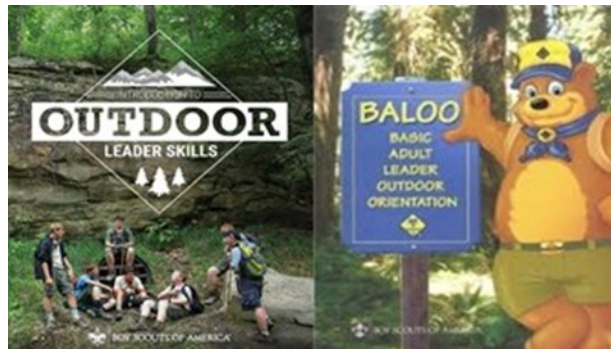
CONTACT:

Carolyn Forster

Council Training Chair

[CJForster1964@gmail.com](mailto:CJForster1964@gmail.com)

## BALOO & IOLS - Ridgecrest



# 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](mailto:CJForster1964@gmail.com)

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## 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               | • Insect Study    | • Surveying      |
| • Coin Collecting        | • Journalism      | • Sustainability |
| • Fire Safety            | • Nuclear Science | • Swimming       |
| • First Aid              | • Safety          |                  |

**Merit badges with minor changes include:**

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

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

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## 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/>

# 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](http://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



**March 2, 2024**

**Merit Badge Midway  
Council Pinewood Derby**

**April 19-21, 2024**

**Camporall  
Order of the Arrow Callout Ceremony**

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