

February 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
Shipping is available



SSC Program Committee Meeting

**Program Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 1
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)*

- February 1 - Camporall SM/SPL Meeting



**Scout Office & Trading Post
will be closed
Monday, February 19**

- February 3 - Council Day of Service
- February 3 - NYLT Reunion & Recruitment
- February 8 - Roundtable - What's New for 2024
- February 9-11 - OA Winter Fellowship
- March 2 - Council Pinewood Derby
- March 2 - Merit Badge Midway
- March 2 - Adult & Unit Awards Luncheon Bakersfield
- March 16-17 - BALOO & IOLS - Ridgecrest
- March 16 - Adult & Unit Awards Luncheon - Ridgecrest
- March 18 - Camp Card Sales Begin
- March 21 - Eagle Dinner - Class of 2023

Welcome New Council President Andrew A. Kao, M.D.

Andrew is a board-certified ophthalmologist who returned to his native Bakersfield to practice ophthalmology at Empire Eye and Laser Center. He is a graduate with honors from UC Berkeley and received his medical degree from UC San Francisco. He also completed a fellowship in ocular pathology at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, Florida.

He is a volunteer surgeon, board member, and Chief Medical Officer at Advanced Center for Eyecare, a non-profit clinic that provides medical and surgical care to the underserved in Central California and beyond.



Andrew is an Eagle Scout from Southern Sierra Council - Troop 712 - and enjoys traveling, reading, and watching Giants baseball. He is an amateur runner and cyclist, and hopes to improve his gardening skills. He is Vice President of the Bakersfield Youth Symphony Orchestra of which he was a member in this youth.

In 2022, he was recognized as the Operation Sight Volunteer of the Year by the ASCRS Foundation for his charitable work through Advanced Center for Eyecare.

Thank you for your leadership! Kristen Watson Council President - 2021 to 2023

Thank you to the council's outgoing president, Kristen Watson!!

During her three years of a two year term, Kristen led the council out of Covid-19 and back to in-person meetings.

She brought to the council the Good Scout Celebration, Distinguished Citizen Dinner - Honoring our frontline medical workers, and the Baked Potato Bash. She continued maneuvering through the red tape of the Camp Kern fire clean-up and wrapped up her term in the limited group of councils with positive membership.

Kristen, thank you for your leadership during these challenging years!



Winter Extravaganza Thank you



The Southern Sierra Council's WINTER EXTRAVAGANZA was a huge success.

Nearly 40 scouts came out to play games, sing songs and make awesome crafts like suncatchers, snowflakes, and "snowball" launchers!

The morning's efforts also benefited the community by adding to a local food bank and making valentine cards for Meals on Wheels clients.

All this fun could not have happened without the fantastic volunteers that staffed the event. Skye Fosdick was our wonderful event coordinator. She was assisted by Olga Torres, Christy Schleibaum, & Destini Mello who ran the stations.

A big thanks to all who lent a helping hand in this wonderful event!

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 your 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 by Friday, February 9 will earn a patch for each Scout/leader who participated.

Day of Service Report Form

Help Scouts Earn their Way to Summer Adventures Camp Card Fundraiser Sales begin March 18



The Southern Sierra Council Spring Camp Card fundraiser is to give your pack, troop or crew a way to earn money for their spring/summer activities.

Each card will include a number of coupons/discounts. Currently, the following businesses are confirmed with more on they way:

- Smart & Final
- Big 5 Sports
- El Pollo Loco
- Valvoline Oil
- Checkers/Rally's Restaurants

For details, sales tips, order information and prize program select the button below

Camp Card Info

Email Randy Saunders at randy.saunders@scouting.org to sign-up your pack, troop or crew to take part in the sale.

Please include in the email of the camp card point of contact (name, phone number & email address) plus an estimated # of scouts that will be participating in the sale.

Roundtable for Cub & Scout Leaders What's New for 2024



**New Cub Scout Program
begins June 1, 2024**

**Scouts BSA
Updated Advancement**

**Membership Fees & Processes
Effective March 1, 2024**



**Thursday, February 8, 2024
7:00 pm to 8:15 pm
Scout Office - 2417 M St. - Bakersfield**

Order of the Arrow



Upcoming OA Events - OA Members:

- Friday, Feb. 9 to Sun., Feb. 11 - Winter Fellowship
- Saturday, Feb. 10 - Cub Scouts & Scouts BSA at Winter Fellowship
- Thursday, Feb. 22 - LEC Meeting
- Feb-Mar - Election Team Visits (See below)

2024 OA Calendar

Election time - To become an OA member scouts must meet the eligibility requirements, be approved by their Scoutmaster/Crew Advisor and be elected by the members of their troop/crew.

To schedule an election for your troop/crew - Please respond to the earlier OA email or contact Alexander Tindell at tindellaj@gmail.com.

Callout is at Camporall on April 20, 2024.

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.

- Attending the [National Order of the Arrow Conference \(NOAC\) - July 29 to Aug. 3, 2024 at the University of Colorado Boulder?](#)
- Reminder to keep you payments current at all times.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2024 OA DUES?

Easy way to pay your annual 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 - Talen Monaco at (661) 525-6586 or T3Monaco@gmail.com.

Cub Scouts & Scouts BSA Invited Saturday, February 10, 2024



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
ORDER OF THE ARROW

2024 Winter Fellowship Edged Sports

OA Arrowmen - Friday to Sunday, Feb. 9-11 - \$20 registration
Scouts BSA & Cub Scouts - Saturday, Feb. 10 - 9 am to 3 pm - \$5.00 registration

All Scout (Lions to AOL Cub Scouts & Scouts BSA) are invited.

Providing council service on Saturday for Cub Scouts & Scouts
Fellowship with Arrowmen through the weekend
Activities provided are Archery, BB guns, Slingshot, Crafts & More!

Location: Panofsky Wilson Preserve - 27750 Caliente Bodfish Road

All participants must register online by February 7

[Register - Winter Fellowship](#)

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!
Lengthwise Root Beer will be available!

This event is hosted by Yowlumne Lodge.

Activities in the edged sports for Scouts BSA will include Tomahawk and Knife Throwing.

Jim Burke Ford Dream Builder's Program

Letter from an Eagle Scout Service Project Help Needed - February 10

Hello Scouts!

My name is Dylan Scherer, Eagle Scout, and member of the Jim Burke Ford Dream Builders Program. My group and I have planned a project to build bat-boxes (similar to birdhouses, but for bats), to help combat the mosquito problem in Bakersfield, as bats consume about 1,200 mosquitoes an hour! We would love for as many Boy Scouts as possible to join us!



The following will be available at the event:

1. Pizza and water will be provided to everyone in attendance.
2. Woodworking experience and conservation service hours can be used towards rank and merit badges requirements.
3. A TROOP raffle where the 3 winning troops will win a \$200 cash prize
4. A SCOUT raffle where 4 scouts will be chosen to win \$50 Amazon gift cards. To enter the raffle the scout must take a photo with their Bat Box after the event and email the photo to the Dream Builders.

We would love it for you guys to join us! The event is on **February 10th at 9 a.m. at Norris Middle School.**

If you are interested in participating in the event, RSVP with the following link:
<https://forms.gle?RLF5WBRQ2V8zTrBK6>.

Any questions contact Dylan Scherer (661) 378-3551 or Harjaisal Brar (661) 888-0818.

Dylan Scherer is an Eagle Scout from Troop 194 & Harjaisal Brar is an Eagle Scout from Troop 484.

BADGER TROOP JOIN US, INVITE A FRIEND, THANK YOU!



It's a new year...
Join the
Badger Troop



The Badger Troop, started in 2022, 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.

First-time members will receive the special "charter member" patch. There is a new Badger Troop patch for those that have joined and continued their monthly donation into 2024.

To join the Badger Troop, click this link: <https://donations.scouting.org/#/council/030/appeal/5374>

Merit Badge Midway



Time: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Cost: \$5.00 per merit badge until February 23 - \$7 after

Bring a sack lunch if staying the full day.

Register online at: <https://scoutingevent.com/030-MBSpring24>

Merit Badges Being Offered

Full Day

8:30am to 4:30pm

Citizenship in the Community *
First Aid *

Morning Session

8:30am to 12:00pm

Geology *
Music *
Photography

Afternoon Session

1:00pm to 4:30pm

Fingerprinting
Railroading *

* 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 Pinewood Derby Saturday, March 2, 2024



Doors open at 8am - Races start at 9am

**Location:
First Presbyterian Church
1705 17th St**

Race classes include:

Lions, Tigers, Wolves, Bears, Webelos/AOL, and Open

Online registration - \$5.00 per race car
Onsite Day of Registration - \$7.00 per race car

Register Now at: <https://www.scoutingevent.com/030-PW24>

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 (NESAs). Join NESAs at <https://nesa.org/>



LIFE-TO-EAGLE WORKSHOP

Saturday, May 11 - 9:00 am to 11:30 am

Registration link will be in the May newsletter

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 January! The new Eagles are from Troop 442!

Training News & Resources



ADULT RECOGNITION LUNCHEONS

▪ Bakersfield – Saturday, March 2

Details & Registration link:

<https://www.scoutingevent.com/030-BA2024>

▪ Ridgecrest – Saturday, March 16

Details & Registration link:

<https://www.scoutingevent.com/030-Ridgecrest2024>



Cost: \$8.00 per person

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. **District Award of Merit Nomination deadline - Friday, February 16.**
- 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/>

Deadlines for Leader Awards & Knots and "Unit Award of Appreciations"

Bakersfield - Wednesday, February 28 - 5:00 pm

Ridgecrest - Friday, March 8 - 5:00 pm

Submit to: Cindy Basham at cbasham3504@gmail.com

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.**

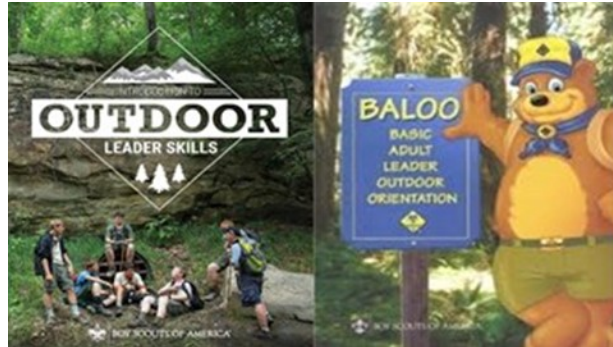
Anyone can represent your unit at the Committee meetings –Please assign someone who isn't otherwise engaged in your unit activities to attend the *4 meetings per year (March, May, August, September).

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

BALOO & IOLS - Ridgecrest



BE A SCOUT FOR A WEEKEND

BALOO or **IOLS***

March 16 thru 17, 2024

Desert Empire Fairgrounds - 520 S. Richmond Rd - Ridgecrest

**Overnight camping is required to complete either course.*

[BALOO_IOLS Information & Registration Link](#)

Registration deadline - March 13 - 11:59 pm

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



A great opportunity for female as well as male Scouts BSA to meet and interact with scouts from the Southern California area. Register early to ensure you have a spot – NYLT trainings in Southern California fill up fast and usually have a waiting list.

Long Beach Area Council

June 14-16 and June 21-23, 2024

Camp Tahquitz

(near San Bernadino)

Registration:

[Link to Long Beach NYLT](#)

Western LA County Council

June 16 - 21, 2024

Schoepe Scout Reservation

(near San Diego)

Registration:

[Link to WLACC NYLT](#)

Sequoia Council

June 17 - 22, 2024

Camp Chawanakee

(near Shaver Lake)

Registration:

[Link to Sequoia NYLT](#)

Orange County Council

June 17 - 22, 2024

Schoepe Scout Reservation

(near San Diego)

Registration:

[Link to Orange County NYLT](#)

What is National Youth Leadership Training? NYLT is the entry-level program for youth ages 13-17 to learn and practice leadership skills with their peers in an outdoor environment. Leadership skills are essential for all youth to navigate everyday challenges and be more successful with school and college/university, band/sports, church, community service, work, family life, and, of course, Troop and Crew youth leadership. Scouts participating in the NYLT course are better prepared for life.

Qualifications:

- Youth ages 13/14-17 years old (Troop or Venture Crew)
- Earned 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 from Verdugo Hills Council and Long Beach Area Council and possibly Southern Sierra Council. Youth volunteers have completed the NYLT course and are ready to take on new leadership challenges.



What is Trainer's EDGE?

Trainer's EDGE helps Adult Leaders, Volunteers, and Scouts BSA develop communication skills for effective presentations. Learn techniques to engage your audience, enhance your presentation, and gain confidence in your delivery. Trainer's EDGE 'trains the trainer' to practice using presentation behaviors and resources in a safe, positive, hands-on training experience.

- **Recommended for:** Adult Leaders and Volunteers, Trainers, and Scouts BSA*

- **Required for:** Wood Badge staff

**Scouts BSA in attendance may also complete Public Speaking Merit Badge & start the Communication Merit Badge. Must attend session during lunch time to earn badge.*

TRAINER'S EDGE

Saturday, April 13, 2024

8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Scout Office - 2417 M Street - Bakersfield

Registration: Opens March 1 - [More Information](#)

Pre-course Presentation Assignment: Participants have a "pre-class assignment" to complete the course. Please **prepare an 8-10 minute training presentation** on any scouting topic. You can design your own or choose one from an existing BSA training topic.

Your presentation should allow you to demonstrate the skills of a trainer. You will be provided with supplies to incorporate techniques learned during the course to enhance your prepared presentation. As a part of the afternoon program, you will make your presentation to a small group of other participants providing an opportunity for us all to learn from each other!

CONTACT:

Carolyn Forster

CJForster1964@gmail.com

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/>

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
- Canoeing
- Coin Collecting
- Fire Safety
- First Aid
- Golf
- Insect Study
- Journalism
- Nuclear Science
- Safety
- Skating
- 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/>

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



April 19-21, 2024

Camporall
Order of the Arrow Callout Ceremony

May 4, 2024

Cub Scout STEM Day

May 18, 2024

Scouts BSA - First Class Palooza

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

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