

March 2021



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](#)

**Due to the state mandate concerning the COVID-19 pandemic - Staff & Visitors are required to wear a mask while at the Trading Post**

**The Trading Post and Scout Office hours are Monday thru Friday - Noon to 5:00 pm**

Orders can be emailed ahead to be pulled and ready when you arrive. Email (Advancement reports and a PO) to Mary Castaneda at [Mary.Castaneda@scouting.org](mailto:Mary.Castaneda@scouting.org) or by calling (661) 325-9036

Shipping is available



**Council Office Contacts**  
(661) 325-9036

**Scout Executive** - Randy Saunders  
[randy.saunders@scouting.org](mailto:randy.saunders@scouting.org)

**Office Manager** - Mary Castaneda  
[mary.castaneda@scouting.org](mailto:mary.castaneda@scouting.org)

**District Associates**  
Greg Etheridge  
[gregory.etheridge@scouting.org](mailto:gregory.etheridge@scouting.org)



**SSC Program Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 4 via Zoom**  
**6:30 pm**

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.

All program committee members and interested adults are invited to attend this meeting led by Council Vice-President of Program, Sheri Stringer.

These meetings will be held on the first Thursday of odd-numbered months (January, March, May, July, September, November).

*All registered leaders will receive the Zoom link on Tuesday, March 2.*

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Blake Nettleton  
[blake.nettleton@scouting.org](mailto:blake.nettleton@scouting.org)

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Simply [click here for AmazonSmile](#), select "Southern Sierra Council, BSA" as your organization.

## Celebrating the 2020 Eagle Class

### Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner

Tuesday, March 9 - 6:30 pm - Luigi's  
Final day to register, sponsor or submit scholarship applications is March 1, 2021



**Meet  
Clinton Pierce**  
-  
**Guest Speaker  
for the Eagle  
Dinner**

Clint grew up in Cub Scout Pack 433 and Boy Scout Troop 712, where he became an Eagle Scout in 1999. He is a graduate of Bakersfield High School, Bakersfield College, University of California Santa Cruz, and California Western School of Law.

He is a former Boy Scouts of America District Executive for the Rocky Mountain Council and Southern Sierra Council. He currently practices law as a Deputy Public Defender for Kern County, and he is an Associate Pastor of Christ Community Church of Wasco.

## Bring Luck to the Southern Sierra Council



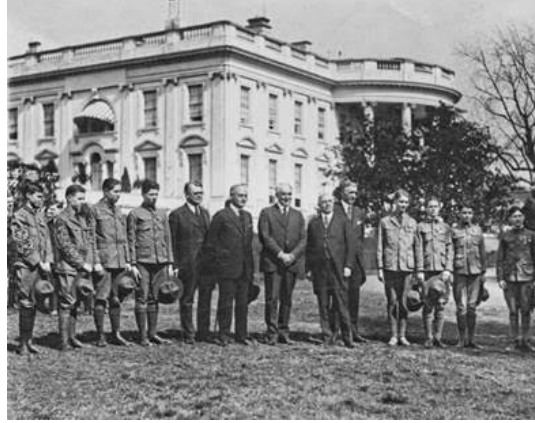
March is a month of transition. As the winter morphs into spring, we set our sights on summertime. In Scouting, March is a time of preparation for upcoming adventures taking place in June, July & August. March 2021 is an especially hopeful time, as we anticipate getting back together outdoors for Scouting activities soon. The Southern Sierra Council volunteers and staff are preparing for the upcoming summer. There are training courses on the calendar that are important for your unit leadership (BALOO, Wilderness First aid, CPR & Trainers EDGE). We'll keep you posted on the planning progress for upcoming Scouting events.

The leadership and staff of the Southern Sierra Council are working hard create the resources and funds needed to keep Scouting alive and well in our area. We need your help.

Please consider making a donation in honor of "being prepared" for the summer to the Southern Sierra Council this month. 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 in our area.

Thank you for your support!  
Randy Saunders - Scout Executive

100 Years Ago!



US President Warren G. Harding (1865 - 1923) receives a group of Eagle Boy Scouts at the White House, Washington, D.C., on March 16, 1921.

## General Topic Roundtable - for all leaders



### Bridgings - The Covid Way

**Thursday, March 11  
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm**

Scouting continues...Spring is the time that all AOL Scouts earn their Arrow of Light and transition to their next step along the Scouting trail.

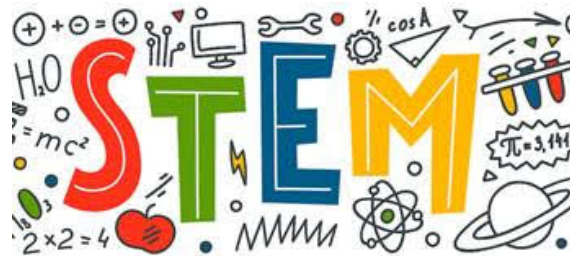
This program will provide Packs and Troops the tools needed to work together on a safe, but special, bridging ceremony honoring the AOL transition.

Demonstrations and ideas to make the ceremony memorable while maintaining required Covid protocols.

**Zoom link will be sent to all Registered Leaders by Tuesday, Mar. 9**

**NEXT SPECIAL TOPIC ROUNDTABLE -  
Thursday, April 8**

## Cub Scout STEM Activity Day



Anytime can be the right time to explore STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). Explore our favorite experiments, engineering challenges, and demonstrations with fun hands-on STEM activities!

**March 27, 2021, from 8:30 am-12:00 pm  
at Westside Church of Christ.  
Register online today!**

## Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon



### IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING STEM ACTIVITY DAY

**March 27, 2021, from 12:30 pm-2:00 pm  
at Westside Church of Christ  
7300 Stockdale Hwy.  
Register online today!**

Register for Recognition Luncheon

All Scouters, Volunteers and families are invited for the volunteer recognition and luncheon. Sandwiches, chips, cookies & drink will be served - \$5.00 per person.

## Awards of Appreciation

### COVID-19 INNOVATION AWARD - New Award

This special 1-time only award recognizes anyone who helped Scouting happen during the 2020 COVID-19 restrictions. Nominate anyone, registered or not, for the COVID-19 Innovation Award on the Award of Appreciation form.

**General Award of Appreciation:** Nominate *anyone* with your Unit, registered or not, who helps your scouts grow and go! No restrictions on who can be recognized with this award.

E-mail all Appreciation Award forms to Cindy Basham, [cbasham3504@gmail.com](mailto:cbasham3504@gmail.com) by Thursday, March 25.

Award of Appreciation form

## Adult Leader Recognition Awards

All volunteers and leaders are valued and we want to recognize their work and achievements.

Why recognize adults? - We get the privilege of appreciating our adult volunteers and you show scouts and families you are invested in the BSA program, mission, and values too.

Many of the leader knot awards are earned with tenure plus position training and scouting activities you are already accomplishing.

Has your Cubmaster or Scoutmaster received the "Unit Leader Award of Merit"? Must be nominated by Committee Chair (& SPL for Scoutmasters).

Turn in Training award forms to Cindy Basham by email at [cbasham3504@gmail.com](mailto:cbasham3504@gmail.com) or to her attention at the Scout Office **no later than Thursday, March 25.**

**All BSA awards:** <https://www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central/>

# Order of the Arrow



## Upcoming OA Events:

Watch for Emails & Reminder Notices

- March 2 - LEC - Lodge Executive Committee Meeting

## Order of the Arrow Unit Visitations:

Schedule a Troop visit (virtual or in-person) for your Scouts to learn about the Order of the Arrow. Some of your Scouts may be eligible to be elected by their peers to join. This is a great way to introduce Scouts to the Order of the Arrow and for some to be recognized as being called out with an invitation to join.

## For more information or to schedule a visit:

Lodge Chief - Tucker Monaco - [tucktuck712@gmail.com](mailto:tucktuck712@gmail.com)

Chapter Chief - Trystan Monaco - [trystanmonaco@yahoo.com](mailto:trystanmonaco@yahoo.com)

Lodge Advisor - Bill Hurley - [whurley6@icloud.com](mailto:whurley6@icloud.com)

## Eagles Nest

- If you have any questions or need assistance with the Eagle process please contact the Council Office for direction.
- Congratulations to seven new Eagle Scouts during the month of February! These scouts are members of Troops: 3,125,194, 217, 484 & 712.
- An Eagle Scout is a natural born leader, one who models courage, kindness, and character...and whose good example others can't help but follow.



## 2021 Scouts BSA Requirement Changes



Recently, BSA announced changes to **First Class (4b)** to require demonstrating GPS unit proficiency while on a campout or hike and modified wording on **Life rank** regarding earning the 3 additional merit badges from the list required for Eagle rank.

In addition, the COVID-19 FAQs update on 01/14/2021 continues to allow **Second Class (5b)** and **First Class (6a)** swimming requirement to be deferred until each Scout's next rank, as necessary, through Life rank, but the requirements must be completed by Eagle rank. When conditions warrant, BSA will reinstate these requirements and communicate via BSA sites such as Bryan on Scouting and Scouting Wire with 30 days' notice. Units will be responsible for tracking deferred requirements. The current release of COVID-19 FAQs can be found [here](#).

**Changes to the following Merit Badges** also have been made: Archaeology, Collections, Digital Technology, Disability Awareness, Electricity, Electronics, Fish and Wildlife Management, Fishing, Fly-Fishing, Lifesaving, Motorboating, Photography, Public Health, Rowing, Sports, Theater, and Woodwork. Please see [this article](#) which identifies the updated requirement number and the revision in the merit badge.

BSA also announced that they will **no longer publish the annual Scouts BSA Requirements book** with current year rank requirements and merit badge requirements. All Scouts BSA rank and merit badge requirements, including changes, will be [listed here](#).

# New EPA Award for Scouts BSA



## 50th Anniversary Environmental Protection Agency Award - Jan 1-Dec 31, 2021 For Scouts BSA

To celebrate its first 50 years, the Environmental Protection Agency has partnered with the Boy Scouts of America to create an award for members of troops. This new award will recognize youth who research and learn about the subjects of human health and the environment, as the EPA develops its vision for the next 50 years.

The objective of the EPA award is to combine a variety of disciplines to challenge and educate youth; introduce them to the breadth of the EPA's involvement in environmental protection and conservation; and encourage them to research, investigate, experiment, demonstrate, survey, and study air pollution, water pollution, solid and hazardous waste, and ocean dumping.

Members must earn the Public Health merit badge and a merit badge from Animal Study, Outdoor Activity, and Earth Science categories.

Finally, they must participate in an environmental/public health community service project as part of an approved Scouting program. All requirements for the EPA Award must be completed in 2021.

[Download the application.](#) Completed applications are submitted to the local Scout Shop to receive the commemorative patch.



### Questions about training or training requirements

Contact Council Training Chairman - Carolyn Forster at [cjforster1964@gmail.com](mailto:cjforster1964@gmail.com)

## Training News & Upcoming Courses

### COUNCIL TRAINING COMMITTEE

The Training Committee is the *best* opportunity to coordinate training for your unit's needs. Join us at Council Training Committee to give your input on training needed for your Unit, your leaders, and your scouts.

*Who should attend:*

- **ALL** Pack or Troop Committee Training Chair or Committee Chair
- Trainers
- **Wood Badgers are also encouraged to attend for support with your ticket activities and how you can continue to promote Wood Badge to all leaders.**

[New Date - next Meeting:](#)

Tuesday, [March 9, 2021](#) @ 6:30 pm

Location: Zoom

Please contact Carolyn Forster, [cjforster1964@gmail.com](mailto:cjforster1964@gmail.com) if you have questions or would like to provide input for the next meeting.



## TRAINING ATTENDANCE PREREQUISITES

For all in-person or virtual trainings, the following requirements **always** apply:

- **All participants** must have Medical Forms A&B ([680-001\\_ABC.pdf](#) ([scouting.org](http://scouting.org)));
- Medical Form Part C for camping 72 hours+ and/or high adventure activity
- **Adult participants** must have current Youth Protection Training (taken during 2020 or 2021) - [My.Scouting.org](http://My.Scouting.org)



## **BASIC ADULT LEADER OUTDOOR ORIENTATION (BALOO)**

**Saturday, March 20 *THRU* Sunday, March 21**  
(BALOO is an overnight camping learning experience)

**Camp Hamilton, Bakersfield**

All Cub Scout level leaders - BALOO training is **required** for registered adults to be qualified to take Packs or Webelos Dens on outdoor activities and overnight campouts. BALOO training is only offered 1x per year in Southern Sierra Council.

### **Questions about BALOO?**

Contact Carolyn Forster  
[CJForster1964@gmail.com](mailto:CJForster1964@gmail.com)

**Hurry! Early bird registration ends March 5 at only \$35! \***



**REGISTRATION:** CLICK [HERE](#)

**COST** \*: \$35 by 3/5; late registration \$40

*Let us know if you need a tent!*



**Saturday, April 10, 2021**

**8:00 am - 4:00 pm**

Virtual training on Zoom

Trainers EDGE helps develop the skills of a trainer. Participants improve their individual trainer skills levels by learning presentation behaviors, gaining resources, and practicing presenting methods using various media.

- **Recommended for** Council, District, and Unit Trainers, Youth\*

- and Adult Leaders
- **Required for NYLT\***, Wood Badge, and Commissioner College staff

**REGISTRATION:** CLICK [HERE](#)

**COST:** \$20

\*Youth Leaders in attendance may also complete **Public Speaking** and a partial **Communication Merit Badge**.

Contact Carolyn Forster  
CJForster1964@gmail.com



## **CPR/AED Certification Wilderness First Aid Trainings**

**CPR/AED:** Friday, April 23 - 5-9 pm (or when finished)  
SSC Scout Office - 2417 M Street, Bakersfield

**Wilderness First Aid (16 hours total):** Saturday, April 24  
**THRU** Sunday, April 25, 9am - 4 pm (or when finished)  
Rancho Escondido, Weldon CA

**Cost:** \$80 (includes Lunch & Dinner on Saturday and Breakfast on Sunday)

**Registration** (limited to 12 participants): [Southern Sierra Council - ARC Wilderness Remote First Aid Training \(scoutingevent.com\)](#)

For everyone planning or participating in remote high adventure activities ranging from lay responders to medical professionals. Focused on prevention, assessment, and treatment for an ill or injured person in a remote environment where definitive care by a physician and/or rapid transport is not readily available (defined as being an hour or more away from advanced care).

### **Prerequisites:**

- **Valid CPR certification** (card must be presented at Wilderness First Aid training) or take CPR/AED course on Friday.
- Age 14+ or older
- **Medical Forms A&B** [https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001\\_AB.pdf](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_AB.pdf)



### **Contact:**

Greg Etheridge  
661-325-9036  
SSC Scout office

[CPR/AED Training Register Here](#)

[Wilderness First Aid Register Here](#)



## **WOOD BADGE**

Wood Badge is the premier **leadership training for all Scout Leaders** who are involved at any level of scouting: Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, and Venturing, as well as Council and District leaders and professionals.

If you are sending your scouts to NYLT (National Youth Leadership Training) you should attend **Wood Badge**. All adults gain valuable and current leadership skills. Work with your unit if you need assistance with the registration fees.

### **2021 WB Registration will open soon -**

- **Tri-Council Wood Badge**: August 27-29 AND October 1-2, 2021
- **Sequoia Council Wood Badge**: September 10-12 AND September 25-26, 2021  
*Scholarships are available - ask your Pack/Troop, Council, or Wood Badge Course.*

Questions about Wood Badge:



## Coming Soon - Online Auction



What if I told you something exciting is coming for the first time to the Southern Sierra Council?

As a prelude to Summer, we are holding our first-ever online Auction!

Join us May 21-31<sup>st</sup> where the highest bidder gets to take home the prize.

More Details coming soon. Check Social Media and the Council Website for update

## Race to 2010 - Update on SSC Geocache Travel Bug - Pinewood Derby Car

Each February as we celebrate another birthday of the Boy Scouts of America - Scouter Brian Holcombe checks up on the Pinewood Derby car - SSC Geocache travel bug.

It began its journey in 2010 in Taft, CA as part of the BSA 100th Anniversary - Race to the 2010 Jamboree. It never made it to the Jamboree but has since travelled over 31,000 miles throughout the United States, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, France, and is currently in Southern England, United Kingdom.

Race to 2010 - Southern Sierra Council



While it didn't win the pinewood derby races or arrive at the Jamboree, it is having an amazing journey.

You can track its current progress at its web page:  
<https://www.geocaching.com/track/details.aspx?tracker=TB2RDE9>

## Dates to Mark on the Calendar

**Tejon Ranch BBQ/Council Recognition Dinner**  
Friday, May 14, 2021

**Council Pushmobile**  
Delayed until December 4, 2021

**Leave No Trace Trainers Course**  
Postponed until later in the Spring

**USA Archery Level 1 Instructor Class**  
Coming in 2021