

The **Scouter** newsletter is here. Look inside to learn what's new in the SGVD, read this month's *I Scout Because* article featuring **Steve Salyards**, and much more.

Roundtable

By David Granillo

Happy 4th Of July! I hope Scout units are having fun, or are going to have fun at summer camp, if your unit is doing that this month.

We hope you'll come to Roundtable on Wednesday, July 9th to learn more activities and program ideas. The Roundtable staff will share and hope all leaders will earn new ideas for all of your units. Adult leaders can get new ideas from other leaders, commissioners, and Roundtable staff.

Don't forget to wear your leather fobs so you can receive your monthly bead at Roundtable. Roundtable is open to all Scout Leaders. If units have questions, need guidance, or have suggestions for Roundtable topics of interest, please email [David Granillo](#).

Join Us In- Person



Wednesday, 07/09 7 PM

Azusa Eagles Lodge
1603 San Gabriel Canyon Rd
Azusa

Upcoming Training

07/07 - 07/10	Overnight	<u>Trail to Eagle</u> , Trask Scout Reservation
07/20	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	<u>Gun Safety and Fun Water Balloon Shoot</u> , Firestone Scout Reservation
07/23	7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	<u>Popcorn Fundraising Best Practices Webinar</u> , Online
08/02	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM	<u>Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST)</u> , Trask Scout Reservation
09/19 - 09/21	Overnight	<u>Wood Badge (Fall Course)</u> , Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation

For more information on the trainings above and additional upcoming training check the [Scouting Training Calendar](#).

Eagle Corner

JUNE EAGLES

Please join us in congratulating the SGV District's Scouts who earned their Eagle Rank in June!

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| ◆ Cole Teague, Troop 411 | ◆ Hunter Clendenen, Troop 888 |
| ◆ Edward Deng, Troop 411 | ◆ Parker Lyn, Troop 408B |
| ◆ Andrew Figueroa, Troop 411(last month) | ◆ Asher Prince, Troop 373 |
| ◆ Mathias Oliveros, Troop 888 | |



I Scout Because...

By Steve Salyards

Why do I Scout? How long do you have? How much space do I have?

On the one hand, the answer is simple: Having been involved personally and with my kids in various youth programs, I have seen that Scouting provides the longest-lasting impact in building character, citizenship, and life skills in any program I have been a part of.

But it's more than that. At this point, I am well into my sixth decade of Scouting, and this year is special because it is the 50th anniversary of both my earning Eagle and my first Philmont trek. And as I write this, I am returning from my fourth Philmont trek. So what makes me want to keep doing this now that my kids are long gone from the program?

There are a few things. The first is that a lot of adult volunteers put their time and effort into leading, advising, and helping me along my scouting journey. This includes my scoutmaster, a couple of OA advisers, and numerous others who, one way or another, were generous with their time to help me learn, advance, and (mostly) succeed. Several were long-term scouters, including an OA advisor who, a couple of years ago, was awarded the Silver Antelope. My continued activity is my way of thanking them for their efforts and paying it forward to the youth in the program now.

Scouting is also a great way to get to know and work with some amazing youth. I have had the opportunity to work in various ways with over 2000 youth during my time in scouting. Be it working camp staff, the Order of the Arrow, or the district Eagle process, I have met many great young leaders. One went on to be a National Region Chief for the OA. Another was the VOA National President. But each of the scouts is unique, and each has interesting stories to share. And for some, the contact is life-changing. Ask me about a few of them - I have lots of stories.

Another reason I stick around is the adventures I have had and the people I have worked with who have changed me. There are all the scouts and parents who have gone through our troop, the great program group at National Jamboree, all the crews I have gone to high adventure bases with, and the stream of other youth, adult volunteers, and parents I have gotten to know and share time with. There is nothing like sharing a sunrise on a Philmont porch or the shared exertion of a long uphill when backpacking in the Sierras.

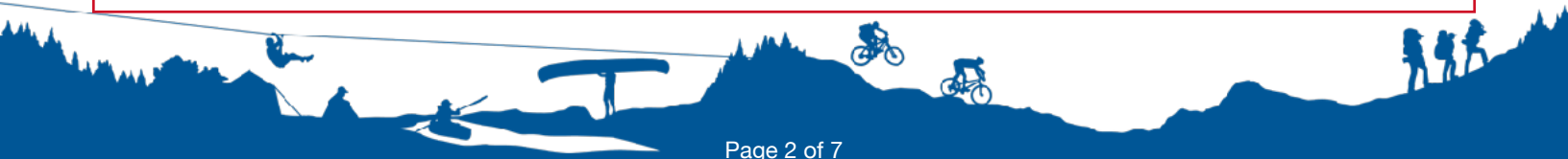
And finally, I am still having fun. I spent the last week revisiting trails and camps I was on 50 years ago, 11 years ago, and 3 years ago. But also seeing some new spots and learning new aspects of Philmont's history, geology, and natural history. But even a hike or a backpack trip in the local mountains is a wonderful opportunity to be outdoors and experience the fellowship of Scouting. How long will I keep doing this? Well, after the previous Philmont trek, I decided another 12-day trek would probably be too long. But on this trek, I have found that a 7-day trek is something I can handle, and I might consider a 9-day trek if the opportunity presents itself in the future. As George Burns said, "You can't help getting older, but you don't have to get old." Scouting keeps me feeling young and keeps me around others who are young, or who keep a younger mindset.

So I Scout because I can have a variety of experiences that change others and that change me for the better.



I Scout Because
SCOUT STORIES

Tell Us Why You Scout - Send your article and pictures to sgvdistrict@greaterlascouting.org!



Safety Moment - Hammock Safety for Camping

A popular camping trend that's gained momentum over the past decade – hammock camping. While hammocks offer a unique and environmentally friendly way to camp, it's important to remember that safety is still a top priority. Let's delve into some essential tips to ensure safe hammock camping experiences.

WHY HAMMOCK CAMPING?

Hammock camping has become a favorite among campers due to its minimal impact on the environment, aligning well with the Leave No Trace principles. However, just like any outdoor activity, it comes with certain risks that need careful consideration.



HAMMOCK SAFETY POINTS

- ◆ **Follow Manufacturer's Instructions:** Each hammock has specific guidelines for hanging distances between solid supports like trees. Always adhere to these instructions to ensure safe setup.
- ◆ **Secure Hanging Locations:** Only hang hammocks to secure and immovable objects like trees or solid posts. Avoid attaching hammocks to objects that might move, such as vehicle bumpers.
- ◆ **Check Knots and Fastenings:** Before entering a hammock, double-check all knots and fastenings. Ensuring a secure setup is crucial for your safety.
- ◆ **Avoid Stacking Hammocks:** Never stack hammocks on top of each other. It compromises their stability and increases the risk of accidents.
- ◆ **Height Considerations:** Hang hammocks no higher than 3 feet above the ground to prevent severe falls and injuries.
- ◆ **Stay Away from Water:** Hammocks should not be hung over water bodies like rivers, lakes, or streams. Avoid accidents by staying clear of waterfront areas.
- ◆ **No Swinging or Standing:** Never swing or stand in a hammock. Falls from hammocks can lead to serious injuries, so use them only for their intended purpose.
- ◆ **Inspect Ropes:** Check hammock ropes for fraying or damage before use. Replace with manufacturer-approved replacement ropes if needed.
- ◆ **Weight Limit:** Don't exceed the weight limit specified by the manufacturer. Overloading the hammock compromises its safety.
- ◆ **Supervise Children:** Keep a watchful eye on children using hammocks, ensuring their safety at all times.
- ◆ **Protect Trees:** If using living trees, take care not to damage the bark. Some hammock-tents have wide bands to distribute stress, minimizing harm to trees.

Remember, hammock camping can be a delightful experience when done safely. By following these guidelines, you're ensuring the safety of yourself and those around you. So, whether you're a seasoned hammock camper or new to the trend, let's keep safety at the forefront of our camping adventures. Stay safe out there!

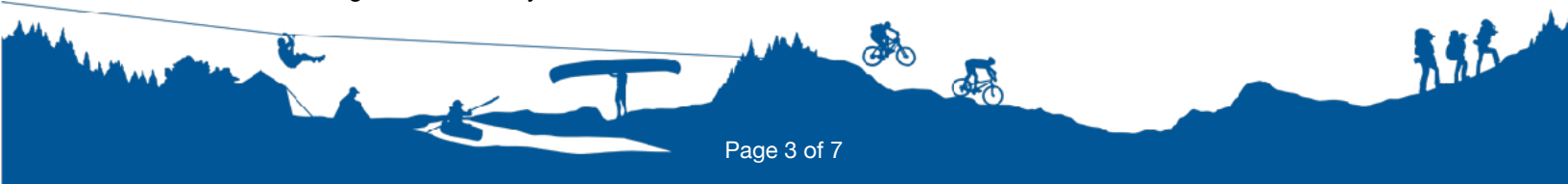
YPT is now SYT: Safeguarding Youth Training

By Melissa Brown

Scouting America's most important training has been updated with an entirely new look and feel, including a greater emphasis on the organization's SAFE initiative, updated information on technology and the threat to youth online, and the use of real volunteers in real Scouting environments.



The training previously known as Youth Protection is now called Safeguarding Youth and is available immediately on [my.Scouting](#). When adults current Youth Protection expires, they will take the new Safeguarding Youth training which will take 90 minutes and expire in a year, and the annual training renewal is only 15 minutes. [Click here](#) to learn more!



2026 National Jamboree Registration in Open

Jamboree isn't just a place—it's a once-in-a-lifetime experience that will ignite your spirit of adventure and push you beyond your limits. It's not camp. It's not a weekend outing. It's something far bigger. The 2026 National Jamboree, held July 22–31 at the breathtaking Summit Bechtel Reserve, is a 360-degree explosion of fun, friendship, and hands-on adventure. Picture yourself zip-lining through the trees, scaling rock walls, conquering obstacle courses, and meeting thousands of Scouts from across the country—all while discovering strengths you didn't even know you had. This is your hero's journey—a challenge to become the best version of yourself. You'll go farther, climb higher, and come home transformed.

Join over 20,000 Scouts and leaders from across the country at the 2026 National Jamboree—a celebration of adventure, friendship, leadership, and discovery. From high-adventure activities like climbing and zip-lining to iconic East Coast landmarks and thrill rides, each day will offer opportunities for personal growth, fun, and connection.



Click the image to register today!

Upcoming Events

07/14 - 07/18	<u>Cub Twilight Camp, Trask Scout Reservation</u>
07/18	<u>FOS SGVD Panda Express Fundraiser, order in app or at your local restaurant</u>
08/02	<u>Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST), Trask Scout Reservation</u>
08/23	<u>2025 Council Quarterly Strategic Planning Meeting, Cushman Watt Scout Center</u>
08/30	<u>Scouts Range Merit Badge, Trask Scout Reservation</u>

For more information on the events above and additional upcoming events check the [SGV District Calendar](#).



Summer is Coming

Outdoor activities are integral to meeting Scouts and their family's needs while also providing many of the most appealing features of the Scouting program. If you haven't signed up for summer camp yet this is your sign to do so.

Greater LA Scouting has many camp opportunities. Please [check out our local camps](#) and find the right date and location for your Packs and Troops today.

The Resources for the Recently Updated Aviation Merit Badge

By John Campbell

The requirements for the Aviation Merit Badge have changed for 2025. These requirements can be found [here](#). You can download the entire 97-page pamphlet for free from this page. There are new resources for Counselors including a detailed curriculum for teaching this merit badge at a camp and one for teaching this merit badge at an aviation museum. There is also an Aviation Merit Badge Counselor presentation in a Powerpoint document that counselors can use when working on the merit badge with their Scouts. It includes a complete multimedia presentation with support for all requirements, as well as recommended approaches, resources (e.g. flight simulators and drones), and forms required (e.g. for discovery flights). Counselors are free to adapt this presentation to fit their needs when working with Scouts on the Aviation merit badge.



The Digital Resource Guide for this merit badge is available at [here](#).

This resource includes numerous videos and an interactive guide of the requirements that includes detailed explanations and test questions. All of these features make learning the requirements easier and more fun.

All these new digital resources are planned to be added to the other merit badges in the future.

Popcorn Program

By Clark Mason

Popcorn selling season is just around the corner and I'm here as your District Popcorn Kernel to help you in any way I can. Popcorn can be really easy to sell, but the first step is to register your unit [here](#). Greater LA Scouting has also put together a page of resources, please [check it out here](#).

Greater LA Scouting will also be hosting a popcorn fundraising best practices webinar on Wednesday 7/23 at 7 pm. Registration will be sent out soon, but this would be a great way to learn more about popcorn fundraising if you have never done it or want to look for fresh ideas on how to maximum your unit fundraiser.



There are many methods to fundraise with popcorn, so I encourage you to sign up and ask for help from council professional staff, myself and other popcorn kernels to make it a success for your unit and scouts!

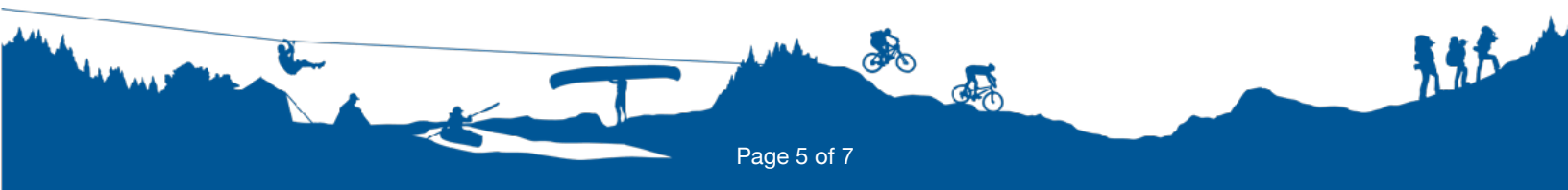
KEY DATES

WED 07/23 - Best Practices Webinar at 7 pm

MON 07/28 - Order deadline for first show & sell orders

FRI 08/15- Show & Sell Order Distribution

If your unit wants help with best practices on running a popcorn program, feel please contact me at jclarkmason@hotmail.com.



Friends of Scouting Annual Giving Campaign

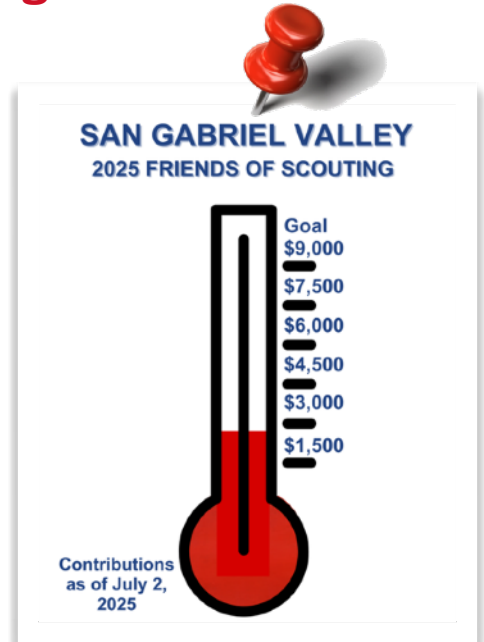
The Friends of Scouting (FOS) campaign is an investment beyond national membership fees and basic registration, which cover only a fraction of Scouting's costs. Without your support, our council's infrastructure, programs, and volunteer training are at risk, potentially leading to camp closures and fewer opportunities for Scouts.

Your contribution helps to:

- ◆ Keep camp fees affordable for all families
- ◆ Strengthen council infrastructure to support local units
- ◆ Maintain and improve camp properties for outdoor adventures
- ◆ Enhance volunteer training to ensure a high-quality program
- ◆ Fund camperships and Scoutreach, providing opportunities for all youth

Your generosity ensures Scouting remains strong and accessible in our community. [Click here to learn more about FOS.](#)

Help the San Gabriel Valley District reach our goal!



Friends of Scouting SGV District Fundraiser

By Drake Rubalcava, District Finance Chair

We hope you'll support the San Gabriel Valley District of Scouting America at our Panda Express fundraiser to support Friends of Scouting. You can order in person, or online nationwide using **code 9004941** when ordering at www.pandaexpress.com. See flier or [this link](#) for more details. We appreciate your support.

FUNDRAISER FOR
San Gabriel Valley
District of Scouting
America

**VIRTUAL COMMUNITY
FUNDRAISERS**

When
Friday, July 18, 2025
Place your order for pickup or delivery on Friday, July 18!

Where
Available at Panda Express locations nationwide
www.pandaexpress.com

How
Online orders only
Apply code **9004941** in the Fundraiser Code box during online checkout at www.pandaexpress.com or via App

28% of sales will be donated to: San Gabriel Valley District of Scouting America

The SGV District proudly serves the vibrant communities throughout under the Greater LA Council

Valid for online orders only. Panda Restaurant Group, Inc. ("PRG") reserves the right to cancel any and all fundraiser events at any time. If the Virtual Community Fundraising Terms and Conditions are not followed. If the organization is not in good standing with the IRS, Franchise Tax Board, or the State of California (for California organizations only), then donations may not be made to the organization. The organization must raise a minimum of \$150 in total event sales pre-tax, at your local Panda Express when purchased with designated code at check-out, in order to receive 28% of all event sales (pre-tax amount); PRG does not charge the organization fees related to the event. Purchasing of gift cards and meals from Panda's School Lunch program do not count towards the fundraiser, but purchases made with gift cards will count. No portion of purchase is tax deductible. The donation from PRG to the organization is tax deductible. The organization receiving the donation must be a tax exempt organization. PRG will issue the donation check and provide an accounting statement to the organization within 45 days of the completion of the event. Participants in the fundraiser may request the total dollar amount donated to the organization by emailing communityprograms@pandagrp.com or by submitting the question at <https://community.pandaexpress.com/faq>



Upcoming Event

REGISTRATION FEE
\$100
PER CUB SCOUT

Twilight Camp



CAMP ACTIVITIES:

- SWIMMING
- OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
- TARGET & RANGE SPORTS
- GAMES

CAMP PERIOD: July 14-18 from 4:30pm - 7:30pm
Open to Cub Scouts ages 6-11
Trask Scout Reservation
1100 N. Canyon Blvd,
Monrovia, CA 91016











Scouter Newsletter Archives

Missing an issue of your favorite newsletter? Check out our [archives here](#) to see back issues.

San Gabriel Valley District (SGVD) Resources

[Website](#) | [Events Calendar](#) | [Volunteer Contacts](#) | [District Contacts](#) | [Newsletter Submissions](#)

SCOUTER Editor in Chief: [Maureen McLaughlin](#)

Please consider making a one-time, monthly, or quarterly donation to [Greater LA Scouting](#).

