Join Us In- Person

Wednesday, 08/13 7 PM

Azusa Eagles Lodge 1603 San Gabriel Canyon Rd

Azusa

Park in the back & enter rear door



Scouting America | Greater Los Angeles Scouting | San Gabriel Valley District

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

Roundtable

By David Granillo

Welcome to August, the end of summer. The San Gabriel Valley District hopes your unit had a wonderful summer.

We hope you'll come to Roundtable on Wednesday, August 13th to learn more ideas for outings and programs. Adult leaders can get new ideas from other leaders, commissioners, and Roundtable staff in and around the district.

Cubscout leaders can learn more about pocket knife safety and about Whittling Chip award. Plus new songs! We'll have ideas for Scouts BSA leaders too!

Don't forget to wear your leather fobs so you can receive your monthly bead at Roundtable. Also, bring your own water container and you will receive a special bead. Roundtable is open to all Scout Leaders. If units have questions, need guidance, or have suggestions for Roundtable topics of interest, please email <u>David Granillo</u>.

Remember leaders: Good thoughts, good words, and good deeds!

Eagle Corner

JULY EAGLES

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

- Tucker Dubbs, Troop 483
- Christian Weber, Troop 411
- Connor Tantraphol, Troop 104
- Ryley Aquino, Troop 110
- Mandy Ju, Troop 333

- Christian Del Rosario, Troop 486
- Tyler Villa, Troop 486
- Joy Thomas, Troop 408
- Ian Parsons, Troop 188
- Jesse Chen, Troop 111



LIFE TO EAGLE ORIENTATIONS

What is a "Life to Eagle Orientation"? It's an informational session designed to guide Life Scouts and their parents through the process of earning the Eagle Scout rank, the highest rank in Scouting America. These orientations provide clarity on the requirements, procedures, and resources needed to successfully navigate the journey from Life Scout to Eagle Scout.

Life to Eagle Orientations have been scheduled for the following dates at 7 pm at St. Dorothy Catholic Church, 241 S Valley Center Ave, Glendora, CA 91741:

- Thursday, October 9, 2025
- Thursday, January 22, 2026
- Wednesday, May 27, 2026

If your Life Scout is actively working towards the Eagle Scout rank, please join us so they can be prepared!









Friends of Scouting Annual Giving Campaign

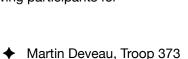
By Drake Rubalcava

Happy August and I hope you all had a nice Fourth of July holiday! As we enter the end of Summer break and the start of the new academic year now is a good time to look at your units FOS contributions as now is the time of re charter for units.

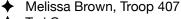
I would like to again thank you all who participated in our Panda Express Fundraiser on July 18th. We successfully raised \$284.66 which is that much closer to our yearly goal for FOS. I encourage you to participate in our next fundraiser happening sometime in September. Be on the lookout for where and date in a future update. This is a good way to earn your 2025 FOS Sapphire Council patch for those interested.

I will be starting to awarded the FOS Council patches as well as the 2025 FOS Unit participation ribbons and hopefully even presidential ribbons for units as well starting at this month's Roundtable on Wednesday, 8/13. So, I encourage you to attend round table as well if it's been a while since your last attendance.

A shout out to the participants who have thus far contributed to our FOS goal as of August 1st 2025. Please congratulate the following participants for their contributions:



- Marlin SanchezZhao Ma, Troop 110
- ◆ Scott Mitchell, Troop 185
- ♦ Robert Ullom
- ◆ Panda Restaurant Group Inc, On behalf of Troop 188
- ♦ Southern California Edison, On behalf of Troop 185



- ◆ Teri Carrano
- ♦ Michael Cavalero
- ♦ Estela Chicas
- ♦ Chester Chua, Troop 486
- ◆ Gerald Delker, Crew 0091
- ♦ Susan Kimball

I'm looking forward to seeing our goal met this year under my leadership and hope you will be a

contributor towards our success. We are currently as of 8/1/25 at \$3,506.72 which is 38.9% of our \$9,000 goal. There is still plenty of time for us to reach our goal and I encourage you to contribute as little as \$5 for our District.

As always, I'm always open to any suggestions or feedback to how we can be successful for our FOS goal. If you would like an in-person presentation in regards to FOS, please reach out to your Unit Commissioner, <u>Susan Kimball</u> our District Commissioner, <u>Estela Chicas</u> our District Director, or <u>me</u>.

(Continued on next page)



FOS Annual Giving Campaign (cont'd)

By Drake Rubalcava

We hope you'll consider giving. As a token of our appreciation for your generous support of the Friends of Scouting Giving Campaign, we are pleased to offer exclusive recognition items based on your giving level:

- ♦ Sapphire Level (\$25-\$149): Receive our new Council Shoulder Strip
- ◆ Gold Level (\$150-\$424): Receive a Gold Council Shoulder Strip
- ◆ Diamond Level (\$425+): Receive a Diamond Council Shoulder Strip



In addition to individual recognition, units that participate in the Friends of Scouting campaign will be awarded a White Ribbon for their unit flag. Units that achieve 100% family participation will be honored with a Presidential Ribbon for their unit flag—a symbol of your collective commitment to the future of Scouting. Thank you for your continued support in helping build character, citizenship, and leadership in our youth!

Thank you to everyone that supported FOS last month by joining our Panda Express fundraiser! Here are some of the selfies we received.



























I Scout Because...

By Drake Rubalcava

When people ask me why I scout, I answer from two perspectives: the youth I once was, and the adult leader I've become. Scouting helped shape me early in life and welcomed me back when I needed purpose and connection as an adult.

I first joined Cub Scouts in Pack 462 in La Verne because of my cousin and his dad—my uncle. They were already involved and invited me to see what Scouting was all about. I quickly realized I wanted to be part of that experience with them. What drew me in was not just the promise of camping or adventure, but the opportunity to build stronger family bonds. My grandma, who was the heart of our family, always encouraged me to be involved in Cub Scouts and later in Boy Scouts with Troop 411 in La Verne.



As a kid who had trouble fitting in, Scouting offered me something I could not find elsewhere: belonging. My cousin was always there for me whether he liked it or not, especially when we went through our Middle School years and into our High School years, and my uncle became the supportive father figure I needed during a time when my own father was not as present as he could have been.

After my grandma passed away in 2014, I found myself unsure if I still belonged in Scouting. She had loved seeing us in uniform, and without her, something felt off. Still, I chose to stay in her memory. But the months that followed were even more challenging. I witnessed domestic violence in my home—my father committed against my mom and an experience that made me question everything, including my place in Scouting.

Eventually, the demands of high school led me to step away from the program. Marching Band, Student Council, and academics took priority. Even after leaving, I carried the Scout Oath and Law with me. The values I learned continued to guide me in school and eventually, my career.

After college, I found myself in a demanding job that was pushing me toward burnout. This was around the time that the Covid-19 Pandemic was dwindling down and life for all was returning to pre-covid normal, I asked with my uncle, who continued to be involved with our Troop in the years after both myself and my cousin left our troop who remained to be involved the troop. That sparked a question: Could I come back—but as a leader?

I reached out to the Scoutmaster, who welcomed me with open arms. That moment was the beginning of a new chapter in my Scouting journey. Since then, I have grown into new roles, including currently serving as our SGVD Finance Chair.

I scout because I remember what this program gave me as a youth: resilience, mentorship, and purpose. I returned to Scouting because I wanted to pass that onto helping others the way others once helped me.

(Continued on next page)

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







I Scout Because...(cont'd)

By Drake Rubalcava

I want to say thank you to two important people. To Troop 411's Scoutmaster, Marcia Townsend, thank you for allowing me to return to our troop and add my value to our historical troop and move us closer to our Centennial in 2029. Your guidance and support have made being in scouting a memorable experience and why I scout. And to the uncle who is there for anyone, Senior Assistant Scoutmaster, Kurt Dodge, thank you for being the shining light for our family in the years after grandma passed away. The impact you had on me, and Robert goes far beyond what we express in words, and you know it.

My message to others is simple: never forget why you scout. That reason may evolve, but it will always be the compass guiding your path.

Upcoming Training

09/19 - 09/21	Overnight	Wood Badge (Fall Course), Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation
09/20	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	HAT - Desert Camping and Travel Training, Cushman Watt Scout Center
09/27	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST), Trask Scout Reservation
10/17 - 10/19	Overnight	Training N Transition (TNT), Trask Scout Reservation
10/17 - 10/19	Overnight	National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT), Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation
10/25 - 10/26	Overnight	Wilderness and Remote First Aid, Cushman Watt Scout Center
11/01	6:30 AM - 5:00 PM	University of Scouting, St. Paul High School
11/14 - 11/16	Overnight	Trail to First Class/IOLS, Trask Scout Reservation
12/13	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST), Trask Scout Reservation

For more information on the trainings above and additional upcoming training check the Scouting Training Calendar.

Camp Card Campaign

Bv Estela Chicas

The Camp card unit fundraiser campaign is in full swing. The SGV 2025 goal is \$72,000 and we are currently at \$57,000 with 34 participating units. Units can start submitting payments and can still order more camp cards.

KEY DATES

09/01 - Individual District and Council Top Sellers will be announced 09/15 - All accounts must be closed out!



If you have any questions about the program, please reach out to <u>Estela Chicas</u>. You can learn more about the <u>Camp</u> Card Campaign here.



Safety Moment - Back to School Safety

As you are reading this some of our council has already headed back to school. Soon all our membership will be hitting the books, tablets, or whatevers once again. Here are recommendations from the National Safety Council to make sure your child safely travels to school:

WALKERS

Review your family's walking safety rules and practice walking to school with your child.

- ♦ Walk on the sidewalk, if one is available; when on a street with no sidewalk, walk facing the traffic
- ◆ Before you cross the street, stop and look left, right and left again to see if cars are coming
- ♦ Make eye contact with drivers before crossing and always cross streets at crosswalks or intersections
- ◆ Stay alert and avoid distracted walking

BIKE RIDERS

Teach your child the rules of the road and practice riding the bike route to school with your child. Stay alert and avoid distracted riding

- ♦ Make sure your child always wears a properly fitted helmet and bright clothing
- ♦ Ride on the right side of the road, with traffic, and in a single file
- ♦ Come to a complete stop before crossing the street; walk bikes across the street



BUS RIDERS

Teach your children school bus safety rules and practice with them.

- ◆ Go to the bus stop with your child to teach them the proper way to get on and off the bus
- ♦ Teach your children to stand 6 feet (or three giant steps) away from the curb
- ♦ If your child must cross the street in front of the bus, teach him or her to walk on the side of the road until they are 10 feet ahead of the bus; your child and the bus driver should always be able to see each other
- ♦ Get the facts on bus safety from Injury Facts

DRIVING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL

Stay alert and avoid distracted driving.

- ♦ Obey school zone speed limits and follow your school's drop-off procedure
- ♦ Make eye contact with children who are crossing the street
- ♦ Never pass a bus loading or unloading children
- → The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them to safely enter and exit the bus

TEEN DRIVERS

Car crashes are the No. 1 cause of death for teens. Fortunately, there is something we can do.

- ◆ Teens crash because they are inexperienced; practice with new drivers every week, before and after they get their license
- ♦ Set a good example; drive the way you want your teen to drive
- ♦ Sign the New Driver Deal, an agreement that helps define expectations for parents and teens

Sourced from: https://blog.ggacbsa.org/safety-moment-august-1-2024/

Combined Troop Pilot Update

By Estela Chicas

The latest update from National indicates that units in the pilot program will need to renew individually but their adults will be the same in both units. The final decision will be announced at the end of October.



Guide to the Grand Slam and Triple Crown of National High

Adventure

By John Campbell

The Triple Crown goes to a Scout or Scouter who completes qualifying programs at any three of the Scouting America's four national high-adventure bases: Northern Tier, Philmont Scout Ranch, Florida National High Adventure Sea Base and the Paul R. Christen National High Adventure Base at the Summit Bechtel Reserve. Scouts and Scouters who complete qualifying programs at all four bases can receive the Grand Slam.



SUMMIT BECHTEL RESERVE, WEST VIRGINIA



Located in the Appalachian Mountains, the Summit boasts state-of-the-art lodging, dining, and meeting facilities and world-class outdoor recreation. Whether it's paddling inflatable kayaks down whitewater rapids, racing ATVs on backcountry tracks, or sharpening archery skills — there's a super-charged outdoor adventure waiting for everyone. As the official host of the National Jamboree, the Summit brings thousands of Scouts to property through summer camps and hosts a wide variety of non-Scouting

events including weddings, church groups, school outings, triathlons, bike races, and music festivals.

PHILMONT

PHILMONT SCOUT RANCH, NEW MEXICO

Philmont Scout Ranch offers 214-square miles of rugged northern New Mexico wilderness. Experience backpacking treks, horseback cavalcades, and challenges such as rock climbing, mountain biking, and range and target sports. Philmont Scout Ranch even offers training, service programs, and best of the old west programs – burro packing, gold panning, chuckwagon dinners, and interpretive history. It's an unbeatable recipe for fast-paced fun in the outdoors!

SEA BASE, FLORIDA KEYS



Sea Base offers aquatic programs including sailing, scuba diving, fishing, ocean kayaking, paddle boarding, and rustic camping on an undeveloped barrier island. Sea Base also boasts one of the largest coral restoration projects in the country. Through the micro-fragmentation technique, the Brinton Environmental Center Coral Nursery (BEC) expedites coral growth in our ocean bed. Scouts participate in this STEM activity first-hand for the ultimate maritime adventure!

NORTHERN TIER, MINNESOTA



From incredible canoe journeys to winter wilderness camping, Northern Tier promises the adventure of a lifetime. Explore millions of acres of pristine lakes, meandering rivers, dense forests and wetlands in the Great North Woods of northern Minnesota and Canada.

For more complete information visit <u>NationalHighAdventureAwards.org</u>. There are details regarding the requirements and the application for the awards is on this website.





Commissioner's Corner

By Susan Kimball

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Individual members/families can complete their membership renewal. Your unit can also opt to complete membership renewals for some or all of its members. You can find the Settings for these options in the Organization Manager. Units can renew their members on the roster screen. Members expiring in September have received emails reminding them that it is time to renew their membership. Please plan how you will handle the renewals this year.



Starting in August, Scouting America will send text reminders to members about upcoming renewals. These helpful reminders will be sent starting 45 days before the membership expiration.

Members whose SYT/YPT training has expired will not be able to renew until the training is complete. Please renew your SYT/YPT as soon as possible to help make the renewal process easier for your Unit.

Members who have not completed the AB-506 requirements will have their membership suspended before renewal. Those members will need to complete all of the requirements before being allowed to renew their membership.

Are your adult leaders in compliance with the State-mandated Law AB506? Find out who is missing their requirements in your unit. Please reach out to <u>Estela Chicas</u> immediately to get your unit in compliance! Thank you to the following units for being 100% compliant with training, fingerprinting, and consents:

- ◆ Crew 0185
- ◆ Crew 0199
- ♦ Crew 0333
- ◆ Pack 0091 (F)
- ◆ Pack 0110 (F)
- ◆ Pack 0188 (F)
- ◆ Pack 0408 (F)
- ◆ Pack 0448 (F)
- ◆ Troop 0167 (B)

- ◆ Troop 0185 (B)
- ◆ Troop 0185 (G)
- ◆ Troop 0188 (G)◆ Troop 0407 (G)
- ★ Troop 0408 (G)
- ★ Troop 0423 (B)
- ◆ Troop 0491 (B)
- ◆ Troop 0888 (G)
- **♦** Troop 2131 (B)

UNIT RENEWAL

Start your unit renewal by doing the following:

- Log in to my.scouting.org Organization Manager Unit Renewal (available to Unit Key-3 members).
- ♦ This process will ask you to verify your adult leadership, ensuring that all your leaders are current with their Safeguarding Youth Training (formerly YPT).
- ♦ Confirm your unit's PIN (for beascout.org) information is current.
- ◆ Pay the \$100 unit renewal fee. Council Link: Pay your unit fee here
- ♦ Members with current YPT do not need to take the Safeguarding Youth Training. However, members whose YPT is expiring must take the new training before they can renew their membership. This can delay the unit renewal.

No need to wait for your members' renewal to complete your unit renewal.

Early renewal benefits include quick processing (helps avoid the rush for faster handling), cost savings (no online payment fee through the Council's portal), individual renewals (members can renew and link to your unit right away), error reduction (pre-check minimizes mistakes for leaders and scouts). Renew early for a smoother renewal experience!



Membership Chair

By Erick Bonilla

As the new Membership Chair for the San Gabriel District, every unit leader I meet seems to ask me, more or less the same question, "How do I grow my unit?"

I always ask, what are you doing to recruit new members? The majority of the time, the answer is, "We have a cool flyer!" I then respond with, "... And then what else?'

Lots of the time, they don't have anything else to add. Having a flyer is a great tool in recruiting, but it's not the magic answer to bringing in all those new scouts that units dream of!

As we head back to school, units should take the time and ask their committee, WHAT IS OUR UNIT RECRUITING PLAN? A plan, you say? Absolutely. The more you plan on recruiting, the more opportunities you create to bring in more youth into your program.

Here are some tips for creating your unit's recruitment plan for next year:

1. Identify Your Unit's New Member Coordinator (NMC)

Choose one dedicated person to be your New Unit Member Coordinator. Their mission? Focus solely on growing your unit by being the person to create a relationship with potential new families. If you don't have a NMC, ask your committee members and parents if they will take it on. Avoid using a key three leader as the NMC. The NMC should be focused on talking with new parents at every meeting.

2. Commit to Growing Your Unit

Choose targeted schools and community events. Work closely with your Unit Commissioner or District Executive to help build strong relationships. A focused and organized effort yields stronger results and community presence. Plan recruiting events and place them on your unit's annual calendar to get maximum buy-in from your members.

3. Identify Your Community

Know the families you serve and the neighborhood you're in. This helps tailor your outreach and makes your message more relatable. Update your unit pin every six months and be sure to point out what makes your unit special, add events and highlight recent adventures. Word of mouth to other parents in your community is also a strong factor in unit growth. Tell all the other parents in your circles how Scouting has helped your scout and family.

4. Plan Your Join Scouting Night

Keep it short (30–45 minutes), simple, and fun. They will remember fun and be excited to come back to the next meeting. Have a fun event planned in the near future so that you get these new families to sign up for. Once they are signed up, they are committed to coming back.

5. Promote, Promote, Promote

Now is the time for your 'magic' flyer, social media, yard signs, and—most importantly—personal invitations! Parents need a clear reason to attend, so speak in everyday language, not Scouting jargon. Don't forget while your unit is fundraising, it's also a great time to promote your unit.

6. Conduct your Join Scouting Night

Deliver a fun, hands-on taste of Scouting. Let scouts explore and learn while parents connect with your New Member Coordinator. The goal is to show Scouting as a welcoming, family-friendly community. Avoid hitting them with all of the unit details at the first meeting.

Let's give every family the opportunity to join something special this fall. If you need support with flyers, event planning, or school access, your SGV District team is ready to help! Together, we grow Scouting. One community, one unit, one family at a time.



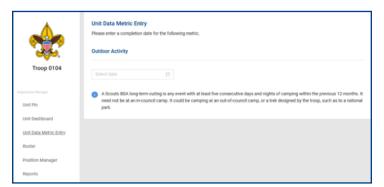
Unit Data Metrics

By Susan Kimball

UPDATE YOUR UNIT

Now that you are back from your summer camps, please enter your summer activity to meet this metric for your unit. This also needs to be done for Packs. To enter unit data metrics in my.scouting.org, navigate to the Organization Manager within your unit's dashboard and find the "Unit Data Metric Entry" section. This section allows you to record dates for outdoor activities and unit elections. You'll need to be logged in to your my.scouting.org account and have the proper unit selected. Here's a more detailed breakdown:

- ★ Log in to my.scouting.org: Access the website and log in with your credentials.
- ◆ Select your unit: From the menu, choose the appropriate unit for which you want to enter data.
- Navigate to Organization Manager: Within the menu, find and select "Organization Manager".
- ◆ Locate Unit Data Metric Entry: This section is typically found within the Unit Dashboard.
- ♦ Enter the date: For outdoor activities, enter the date of the event. For unit elections, enter the date of the election.
- ◆ Save your entries: Make sure to save any changes you make.





METRICS DASHBOARD

Did you know your metrics are on your dashboard? One of the easiest metrics to complete is the Outdoor/ Super Activity category. You just need to enter the date of your outdoor activity. If you have any questions on how to complete this, reach out to your commissioner for assistance.







6



Popcorn Program

By Clark Mason

The first round of popcorn orders are in and popcorn distribution starts on Friday 8/15. The next order deadline is Monday 9/1. If your unit needs help or advice on how to handle popcorn sales, feel free to reach out to Clark Mason, your SGV Popcorn Kernel.

unit isn't selling but you want to sell individually, please reach out to Estela

The SGV goal is \$130,000 and we have 11 unites committed so far. If your Chicas. You can learn more about the Popcorn Campaign here.



Thank you to thes

Upcoming Events

08/23	2025 Council Quarterly Strategic Planning Meeting, Cushman Watt Scout Center
08/24	STEM Shoot! Day, Trask Scout Reservation
08/30	Scouts Range Merit Badge, Trask Scout Reservation
09/05 - 09/07	OA Summer Induction Weekend, Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation
10/04	Cub Scout Adventure Day, Trask Scout Reservation
10/10 - 10/12	The Jungle Expedition: Secrets of Lost Camp Pepperdine, Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation
10/11	Dynamic Skills Merit Badge Day, Trask Scout Reservation
10/24 - 10/26	Firestone's BooFest, Firestone Scout Reservation
11/01	10 Mile Hike, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation
11/14 - 11/16	Firestone's Pumpkin Smash, Firestone Scout Reservation

For more information on the events above and additional upcoming events check the SGV District Calendar.

Training Update

By Melissa Brown

With the new school year starting, adult leaders should be logging into my.scouting.org and checking to see if their training is up to date, especially their SYT (Safeguarding Youth Training) and their Hazardous Weather Training.



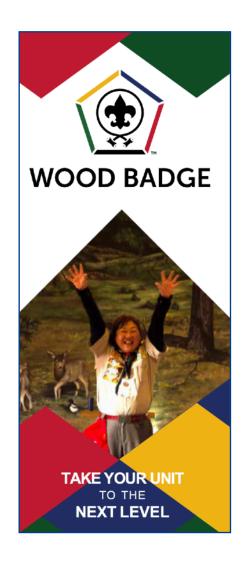
Also, on the training tab in my.scouting.org if you click on the Requirements tab you will see all of the trainings that are required for your scouting position.



Upcoming Events

Click the images below for more details.





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.





