



ROUNDTABLE MATTERS

Pacifica District, Greater Los Angeles Area Council, Scouting America January 2026

Gary Thompson, Roundtable Commissioner

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GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAFETY MOMENT FOR JANUARY Did you know that the BSA has a safety program which breaks down so a simple mnemonic: SAFE? Supervision, Assessment, Fitness & Skill, and Equipment/Environment. Visit the [BSA Safety page and download the checklist](#) to have handy when planning all events. Let's all be S-A-F-E and learn more at [BSA Safety Moments](#).

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVENTURE (this list is NOT all encompassing—check the [Council Calendar](#) for even more!)

Jan 16-18	Camp Big Horn Winter Camp (Units) Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation HESR Main Gate
Jan 16 & 17	Scouting For Everyone (Scouters) Cushman Watt Scout Center
Jan 17	Winter Fest (All Ages) Camp Trask Scout Reservation - GLAAC
Jan 23-25	Camp Big Horn Winter Camp (Scouts) Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation HESR Main Gate
Jan 28	GLAAC Annual Recognition Dinner (Scouters) Quiet Cannon
Jan 28	Health & Safety MB (Scouts) Camp Trask Scout Reservation - GLAAC
Jan 30-Feb 1	Camp Big Horn Winter Camp (Cubs) Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation HESR Main Gate
Feb 1	Troop 773 Orienteering (4th & 5th Graders) Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area
Feb 6-8	Camp Big Horn Winter Camp (Cubs) Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation HESR Main Gate
Feb 6-8	OA Induction Weekend (OA & OA Staff) TBD
Feb 7	Pacifica MB (Scouts) Torrance Scout Center
Feb 13-16	Camp Big Horn Winter Camp (Scouts) Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation HESR Main Gate
Feb 20-22	Camp Big Horn Winter Camp (Scouts) Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation HESR Main Gate
Feb 21	Paul Bunyan (Scouts) Camp Trask Scout Reservation - GLAAC
Feb 21	Rangemaster Training (Scouters) Camp Trask Scout Reservation - GLAAC
Feb 21	HAT Canoeing the Lower Colorado (Scouters) Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park
Feb 27-Mar 1	Camp Big Horn Winter Camp (Cubs) Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation HESR Main Gate
Mar 6-8	Camp Big Horn Winter Camp (Cubs) Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation HESR Main Gate
Mar 6-7	OA Trade-O-Ree & MB Day (Scouts & OA) Foothill Vineyard Church
Mar 7	Innovation Science MB (Scouts) Camp Trask Scout Reservation - GLAAC
Mar 21-22	HAT Wilderness and Remote First Aid (Scouters) Cushman Watt Scout Center
Mar 27-29	Rocket Academy (Cubs) Firestone Scout Reservation
Apr 17-19	Pio Pico Pirate Camporee (Scouts) Prado Regional Park
Apr 17-19	OA Induction (OA & OA Staff) Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation HESR Main Gate
Apr 24-26	Rose Bowl Camporee (Scouts) Camp Trask Scout Reservation - GLAAC
Apr 24-26	Pacifica District Camporee (Scouts) Firestone Scout Reservation

MERIT BADGE CHANGES There were major and minor revisions to more than 80 merit badges. Want the details? Find them [here](#). The BSA Guide to advancement has a summary on their page and a reminder that scouts who started on the previous version can continue on that version until complete or change to the new merit badge requirements. Here's the [summary page](#).

SILVER BEAVER Let's take a moment to congratulate our Pacifica Scouters who will receive the Silver Beaver on 28 January, David Lesser and Steve Staso! Join the celebration for them and the other selectees on January 28th.

NEW RIVER EXPERIENCE Troop 773 has one male youth spot available for the New River Experience, 6/18/2026 to 6/24/2026 (Round Trip from LAX June 15-25). We're doing 1-2 days of sightseeing before and after the trip. The two leaders are Jeff and Jennifer Sorbello. This experienced duo has previously taken crews to Philmont (Jeff only), Seabase,

and Northern Tier. The crew is aged 14-16, all Star or Life rank. If anyone is interested, please contact Jeff at jeffsorbello@att.net

POSITION TRAINED? The updated Position Trained Requirements document is now available. It outlines what is needed for an adult leader to be considered fully trained. Trained leaders may wear the official Trained emblem once they have completed Safeguarding Youth training and the courses listed in [this updated document](#).

'TIS THE SEASON (FOR RECRUITING) Have you checked out the new [Membership Corner?](#) It's packed with ideas on how to recruit for your unit.

ATTENTION MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS: Thank you all for playing your part in the development of our youth by serving as a merit badge counselor. If you know of anyone that has a talent for teaching youth, there is probably something that person could contribute. Mention the possibility of becoming a counselor and point the person to the website <https://greaterlascouting.org/pacifica-advancement-information/> which has the document that describes our process.

NATIONAL JAMBOREE 2026 REGISTRATION IS 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 just a 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. [Registration is now open for GLAAC's Contingent Troops](#).

HOLD THE DATE – PACIFICA'S SPRING CAMPOREE APRIL 2026: Pacifica's 2026 Spring Camporee will be held April 24-26th at Firestone Scout Reservation.

PACIFICA DISTRICT ANNUAL AWARD DINNER Time to start thinking about nominees for the Pacifica District Award of Merit. Details coming soon for the Annual Awards Dinner in 2026. Sheryl Ruskin puts on a great celebration!

HIGH ADVENTURE REGISTRATION The High Adventure camps will be opening 2027 registration soon. Bechtel open Jan 13th. Northern Tier on Jan 14th. Sea Base on Jan 15th. Philmon is already open.

PACIFICA DISTRICT VACANT POSITIONS Actively seeking nominations or volunteers for Pacifica's Roundtable Commissioner and Training Chair. Please contact eric.arentsen@gmail.com with your nominee. We welcome Alan Franz as District Vice Chair, Andrew Tew as District Program Chair, Susan Griego as District Popcorn and Camp Card Chair, Sheryl Ruskin continuing as Special Events / District Award Dinner Chair, and Alfredo Chavez as the District Executive!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Pacifica District, we need volunteers to plan and staff some of the awesome events we are planning for next year. We need volunteers to organize our Scouting for Food. We also need volunteers to help staff our Geocache Day, Camporee Committee, Fishing Merit Badge Camping Weekend and a Family Day at Cabrillo. If you are interested in supporting any of these events, please contact Sheila at Sheandjc@yahoo.com.

MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND RANGEMASTERS NEEDED: If you are a nurse, nurse practitioner or doctor, we need your help. One of the requirements for certain overnight activities is that we have medical personnel onsite. If we don't have volunteers, we have to add the cost of hiring someone to the cost of the event or cancel the event if we can't find someone. Please contact me if you are willing to help staff one of our events. We also need rangemasters to help out at our ranges. Our camps have limited resources and sometimes cannot provide the support we need to efficiently run our ranges. Please let me know if you are willing to help out during our events. If you are supporting the event, you can attend the event free of charge. Please contact Sheila at sheandjc@yahoo.com for more information or to volunteer.

WITH RECRUITMENT COMES AN UPDATED PIN Since we're kicking off our recruiting season, now is a great time to update your www.beascout.org pin for your unit. See [this article](#) for more information!

SCOUTBOOK PLUS Most of the migration from Scoutbook and Advancements to Scoutbook Plus is now complete. Looking for help or have a specific question? Have you tried the [help forum](#)?

UPDATE ON SCOUT HANDBOOK TRANSLATIONS Do you have multilingual scouts and families? Spanish-language versions of Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA Handbooks are available on Amazon and Kindle. Traditional and Simplified-Mandarin, Braille and more languages are coming soon due to the Lilly Endowment to help ensure families can enjoy scouting.

UPDATED MERIT BADGE RESOURCES Updated resources make it easier than ever for Scouts to work on merit badges. Fresh videos, updated pamphlets, and online tools are now available for a wide range of merit badges, including Nuclear Science, Sustainability, Exploration, Genealogy, Painting, Sculpture, Dog Care, Fingerprinting, Scholarship, Robotics, Insect Study, Mammal Study, Environmental Science, Graphic Arts, Music, Pets, Family Life, Bird Study, Nature, Animation, Reptile and Amphibian Study, Digital Technology, Home Repairs, Camping, and Hiking. All of these resources can be found on the [Merit Badge Hub](#), which provides the latest requirements, downloadable pamphlets, helpful videos, and other materials in one easy-to-access location. More updates will be added soon.

MESSENGERS OF PEACE Messengers of Peace, the World Organization of the Scout Movement's initiative dedicated to building a culture of peace worldwide, has been realigned to better empower Scouts as peace-builders and global citizens. The program now features five new learning paths, giving Scouts the freedom to engage in the way that inspires them most. These paths connect directly to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals—and Scouts who embark on them may also be on their way to earning a Messengers of Peace Award. Learn more and see how you can make an impact [here](#).

UNIFORM SQUARE KNOTS Not the bowline and half hitch – the other knots. Uniform square knots. Currently, there are 32 authorized square knots you can wear on your uniform; however, the Uniform and Insignia guide limits you to three rows of three knots, for a total of nine. Did you know, generally speaking, Scouting America has a policy not to authorize a new square knot if there is some other item that already recognizes the accomplishment or achievement? And, did you know the policy also restricts new knots by expecting at least 500 people to be eligible to earn the knot in a 10-year period? [Learn more here](#).

MISS JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE? Scouting America has launched a Unit Self-Assessment tool which looks a lot like Journey to Excellence. It's for your own edification, annual planning, and general assessment of unit health. [Check it out](#).

CAMP CHERRY VALLEY CCV will be open starting summer of 2026. Rebuilt dock & pier; infrastructure upgrades for kitchen, dining hall, and restrooms; upgraded campsites; modernized archery and rifle ranges; internet; and a refreshed trading post! You can [register for summer camp here](#). Want to help with the upgrades? You can [donate here](#).

BSA FISHING Calling all Cub Scout units in the Pacifica District. Take advantage of this resource to enhance your unit's fishing activities and ensure your leaders are well-prepared and trained. For any questions regarding fishing activities for your unit and available adult training opportunities, please contact Dane Shigemura. I am your dedicated point of contact for all fishing-related inquiries and will be able to provide the necessary information and support. Email: dane_shigemura@yahoo.com

RECRUITMENT Council has been getting ready for our recruitment season, if you have any questions with what items we have available to help with your recruitment please check out the council's recruiting page <https://greaterlascouting.org/recruitment-materials-order-page/>

EAGLE ADVANCEMENT Eagle candidates please review the “[Path to Eagle](#)” (Rev. 1/2025). See these [great tips from Scouting Magazine](#) on helping Scouts, especially those who are neurodivergent, on their path to Eagle. Eagle Project approver is Mr. Cortenbach who can be contacted at wpcortenbach@gmail.com or by phone at 310-891-2301. Scout profile and join date will be requested from Council and Scout will be assigned a book check person. Please do not contact the Council directly for profile or join date. Please call Mrs. Christensen at (310) 283-7197 for the Pacifica verification and review once the Eagle book and application are ready. Prior to contacting Pacifica District for approval, please review Eagle application and Eagle book with your troop advancement chair to confirm records agree with troop records and Eagle book is complete. Please check out the resources in the [Advancement Information Section](#). The updated Eagle Application and Confidential Appraisal Reference Letter are also included in RTM.

ORDER OF THE ARROW (OA) The OA is Scouting's Honor Society for Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts. Members (“Arrowmen”) provide service to their home Units, the Pacifica District, our Council, and BSA nationally. OA

provides Youth members additional service and leadership opportunities that help them grow and build experience. Members are sent virtual Meeting invitations via the LodgeMaster application.

2026 Lodge Dues may be paid [here](#).

The Winter Induction Weekend is scheduled for February 6-8, 2026, at the TBD. Lodge members and Candidates will be contacted by email with details and registration links.

To request a Unit Visit, Unit Election, or Camp Promotion visit please contact the Lakota Chapter Adviser, Bob Hodgkiss, at oachapteradviser@pacificabsa.org, or respond to the emails sent by Tuku'ut Lodge.

CHECK US OUT!

Virtually all info is available online: Events, Dates, Fliers, Contacts, Training, Etc.

Pacifica District Website: <https://GreaterLAscouting.org/pacifica-district/>

GLAAC Website: <https://GreaterLAscouting.org/>

AT ROUNDTABLE Have an event you'd like to promote at Roundtable or flyer you'd like to include with *Roundtable Matters*? We welcome all appropriate additions to our Roundtable program. Have a topic you'd like to see as a breakout session or big rock? Send an email proposal to gary.thompson@pacificabsa.org or roundtable@pacificabsa.org two weeks before Roundtable to get started.