

The *Scouter* newsletter is here. Look inside to learn what's new in the SGVD, including upcoming events, training opportunities, merit badge updates for 2026, Friends of Scouting updates, and much more.

## Roundtable

By David Granillo

Happy New Year to all the Scout Leaders in Cub Scout Packs, Scouts BSA boy and girl troops, and family troops. As 2025 ended, 2026 will be an even better in Scouting. Roundtable is not only a supplement for training for adult scouts but a resource for leaders to network with other scouters, to add or share new ideas.

Join us for Roundtable in the New Year! We have a new location for our monthly Roundtable meetings this year. We will be meeting at Duarte Elk's Lodge, 2436 E. Huntington Dr., Duarte, CA 91010. We start promptly at 7:00 PM.

The Roundtable staff looks forward to seeing your smiling faces for a prosperous scouting year. Please bring two people from your unit to join, so they can experience Roundtable with us. If units have questions, please email [David Granillo](mailto:David.Granillo).

**NEW  
LOCATION**

**Join Us In- Person**



**Wednesday, 01/14, 7 PM**

Duarte Elk's Lodge  
2436 East Huntington Drive  
Duarte

## Eagle Corner

By Steve Salyards

### DECEMBER EAGLES

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

- ◆ Rylan Robles, Troop 423
- ◆ Alexander Pilarz, Troop 461
- ◆ Andreas Peterson, Troop 373
- ◆ Noah Araujo, Troop 486
- ◆ Branden Chow, Troop 141



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

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 (the program will be held in the Anita Doyle Building at the back of the campus).

- ◆ Thursday, January 22, 2026
- ◆ Wednesday, May 27, 2026
- ◆

Scouts and troops are reminded that under the current Eagle Process there are four reference letters required and these must be delivered in sealed envelopes. Emailed letters are strongly discouraged and accepted as special cases with advanced approval.



## Troop 104 of Arcadia - Tours Local Fire Department, Gains Lifelong Lessons in Safety, Service, and Community

By Johnny Tseng

Arcadia Troop 104 recently had the unique opportunity to visit and tour the Arcadia Fire Department, an experience that left a lasting impression on every scout. During the visit, the scouts learned essential fire safety and prevention tips, asked thoughtful questions, and gained a deeper understanding of the daily life and responsibilities of firefighters and behind the scenes staffs.

The tour offered a behind-the-scenes look at the equipment, vehicles, and rigorous training that firefighters undergo to keep our community safe. Scouts walked away with a newfound appreciation for the dedication and bravery these professionals demonstrate—especially in light of the recent devastating Eaton Canyon fires that impacted our area. “This was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” said a parent. “Our scouts not only learned how to stay safe but also saw firsthand the incredible service firefighters provide.”

Arcadia Troop 104 extends heartfelt thanks to the fire department staff for hosting the tour and for their unwavering commitment to protecting our community. Their support and heroism remind us all of the importance of service and preparedness.



## Friends of Scouting

By Estela Chicas

Hello SGVD Scouters and Happy New Year to all.

Thanks to those of you and the units across the SGV in supporting our FOS goal this year. We appreciate all of you who contributed to helping our district and Council better help our youth across the region. Thanks to your support we were able to achieve our goal! Thank you!



## Upcoming Events

01/10 & 02/14	<u>2026 Hello World (STEM Nova Merit Badges)</u> , Caltech Pasadena (flyer on Page 6)
01/16 - 01/18	<u>Winter Camp for Cub Scouts</u> , Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation
01/17	<u>Winter Fest</u> , Trask Scout Reservation
01/23 - 01/25	<u>Winter Camp for Scouts BSA</u> , Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation
01/25 & 02/22	<u>Canoeing Merit Badge</u> (1 part each weekend), Santa Fe Dam (flyer on Page 6)
01/28	<u>2026 Annual Council Award Recognition Dinner</u> , Quite Cannon Montebello
01/30 - 02/01	<u>Winter Camp for Cub Scouts</u> , Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation*
02/06	<u>Scout Shabbat</u> , Temple Beth Israel Pomona (flyer on Page 6)
02/13 - 02/15	<u>Winter Camp for Scouts BSA</u> , Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation
02/20 - 02/22	<u>Winter Camp for Scouts BSA</u> , Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation
02/21	<u>Paul Bunyan Award</u> , Trask Scout Reservation
02/27 - 03/01	<u>Winter Camp for Cub Scouts</u> , Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation
03/06 - 03/08	<u>Winter Camp for Cub Scouts</u> , Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation
03/07	<u>Innovation Science Merit Badge Day</u> , Trask Scout Reservation
03/14	<u>Cub Scout Adventure Day</u> , Trask Scout Reservation
03/21	<u>Scouts Range Merit Badge</u> , Trask Scout Reservation
03/22	<u>Kayaking Merit Badge</u> , Santa Fe Dam (flyer on Page 6)
03/27 - 03/29	<u>Cub Scout Rocket Academy</u> , Firestone Scout Reservation
03/28	<u>Citizenship Merit Badge Day</u> , Trask Scout Reservation
04/11	<u>Western University Open House, Annual Care Merit Badges</u> , Western University
07/19-31	<u>2026 National Scout Jamboree</u> , Summit Bechtel Reserve
09/11 - 09/13	<u>Catholic Scout Camporee</u> (flyer on Page 7)
09/11 - 09/13	<u>Catholic Parent &amp; Leader Program</u> (flyer on Page 7)
09/12	<u>Catholic Cub Day</u> (flyer on Page 7)

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



## Scout BSA Advancement Changes for 2026

By John Campbell

Requirement changes go into effect on January 1, 2026. There are updates to over 80 Merit Badges. Several badges now include important discussions about Leave No Trace principles and the Outdoor Code, helping Scouts understand their responsibility to protect natural areas during their adventures. If a Scout starts work on a Merit Badge before January 1, 2026, they may continue using the previous requirements until the badge is completed, OR they may choose to switch to the new requirements. Scouts starting work on or after January 1, 2026, must use the new requirements. There have been no changes made to the rank requirements for 2026.

Here is a [list of all the Merit Badges that have been updated for 2026](#) (with detailed information regarding the old and the new requirements).

Here is a [list of all the Advancement Updates for 2026](#).

All the changes will be reflected in Scoutbook and Merit Badge Hub (<https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/>) before January 1, 2026.

Always refer to Scouting.org for official information and requirements. Scouts BSA uses the [Guide to Advancement](#) as the source for all specific rules and information regarding Advancement.

You may want to register for [this webinar on Extensions of time for Life Scouts to finish their Eagle Requirements](#). If a major issue has disrupted completing the requirements for you to earn your Eagle Rank, this webinar will provide you with what qualifies as a valid reason and how to apply to get an extension of time. You can find this topic in Section 9.0.4.0 of the Guide to Advancement.

“Eagle Scout Extension Requests—What Really Matters” Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 8:00 PM Eastern (5:00 pm Pacific). Get clarity on the extension process and learn the key considerations for Scout rank advancement extensions. We will cover what documentation is needed, when extensions are appropriate, and how to navigate this aspect of advancement policy.

[Click here](#) to see previous webinars that have been recorded.

Have a Great 2026!

## Safety Moment - Frostbite

Serious injuries can occur when it's cold and you spend time working, playing, or sleeping outside, particularly if you are wet or your clothes are wet or too tight. Scouts should be instructed to inform an adult as soon as possible if they are at an event, winter camp, or troop campout and start experiencing any of the symptoms

[Click here](#) to learn more.



## Training Awards

By *Melissa Brown*

Scouting America offers several adult training and recognition awards for leaders who complete required training, demonstrate tenure, and provide quality program service to youth. The most common of these are the Scouter's Training Award, various position-specific training awards, and advanced recognitions like keys and knots.

### MAIN ADULT TRAINING AWARDS

Scouter's Training Award – Recognizes completion of basic training, about two years of registered tenure, active participation in roundtables or University of Scouting, and leadership that supports Journey to Excellence in the unit. It can be earned in multiple programs (Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts, and by district committee members).

Den Leader/Cub Scout leader awards – Cub Scout leaders can earn position-specific training awards (for example den leader) that similarly require position-specific training, two years of service, supplemental training, and participation in roundtables or other council training events.

### HOW THE AWARDS WORK

All of these are adult recognitions intended to encourage leaders to complete training and deliver a strong program, not just to collect patches.

Progress record forms and the most current requirements are available through the national awards and training recognition pages, and once requirements are completed the application is turned in at the local council service center for approval and purchase of the emblem or knot.

For more information, go to [Awards Central](#).

## Upcoming Training

01/16 - 01/17	Two Days	<a href="#">Scouting for Everyone</a> , Cushman Watt Scout Center
01/24	7:30 PM - 10:00 PM	<a href="#">HAT - Cross Country Skiing and Snow Shoeing</a> , Cushman Watt Scout Center
02/01	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM	<a href="#">Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST)</a> , Trask Scout Reservation
02/21	8:30 AM - 3:00 PM	<a href="#">Rangemaster Training</a> , Trask Scout Reservation
03/21 - 03/22	Overnight	<a href="#">HAT - Wilderness and Remote First Aid</a> , Cushman Watt Scout Center
05/09	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM	<a href="#">Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST)</a> , Trask Scout Reservation
08/09	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM	<a href="#">Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST)</a> , Trask Scout Reservation
08/15	8:30 AM - 3:00 PM	<a href="#">Rangemaster Training</a> , Trask Scout Reservation

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



## Upcoming Events

Click the images below for more details.



**HELLO WORLD NOVA AWARD**  
Craig France, Scout 7, Cybersecurity Facilitator

**NEW!** **Cybersecurity**  
The Cybersecurity Merit Badge equips Scouts with essential knowledge and skills to navigate and protect the digital world.

**NEW!** **Artificial Intelligence**  
To provide Scouts with a foundational understanding of AI, its societal implications, and the skills needed to become informed and responsible participants in a world increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence.

**Digital Technology**  
Teach Scouts about computers, the internet, and digital tools, covering their history, how they work, ethical use, and future trends, with practical skills in content creation and online safety, connecting these concepts to real world applications and potential tech careers.

**January 10th & February 14, 2026**  
Each Session is from 10am-3pm

Scouts should be in **Class A Uniforms**, with their **water bottles** and a **sack lunch** for the noon break.

Register for this program using the link [bit.ly/2026HelloWorld](http://bit.ly/2026HelloWorld)

Bring \$25 cash or check (made out to Greater LA Scouting)

Questions? Text/Call...  
Karen +1213.407.1765  
Mark +1626.975.7592

**Caltech Watson Building Room 104**  
Park for free in any unnamed numbered spot at Holliston Parking Structure  
370 N. Holliston Ave. Pasadena



**Scouting Aquatics**

**10am-3pm**  
[bring a sack lunch and Health Form A and B]

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Jan 25 Santa Fe Dam - Canoeing Merit Badge 1st half
- Feb 22 Santa Fe Dam - Canoeing Merit Badge 2nd half
- Mar 22 Santa Fe Dam - Kayaking Merit Badge

More to Come:

- Lifesaving Merit Badge
- Rowing Merit Badge
- Swim Lessons (Camp Trask)
- Mite Swim Award (Camp Trask)
- Standup Paddleboard Award
- Snorkeling Award (Camp Trask)
- Continuous: National Outdoor Award, Aquatics

Contact:  
**Kricket McKay**  
[kricket@waterbugs.com](mailto:kricket@waterbugs.com)

**Scout Shabbat** is held yearly to coincide with the founding date of the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 1916. Please join us in celebrate Scouting's 110th anniversary with Scout Shabbat Services. The National Jewish Committee on Scouting (NJCOS) urges all Jewish Scouting youth to show pride in their faith by holding a Scout Shabbat service for their unit, district or council.

Since 2015, The San Gabriel Valley District Boy Scout Religious Committee has been coordinating a yearly San Gabriel Valley celebration. The Twelfth annual event will be hosted this year at Temple Beth Israel in Pomona for all Scouting Youth and Scouters.

**Annual Scout Shabbat 2026 information:**

**Who:** Scouts BSA, Cub Scouts, Ventures, and their families

**When:** Friday, February 6, 2026 plan to arrive between **6:30PM- 7:15PM**

**We will not be able to sell patches this year. If you would like to purchase one, they can be found on the National Jewish Council on Scouting website. Please see information below. The image shown is last year's patch.**



Take your seats at **7:15PM** Service **7:30 PM to 9:00 PM**

**Where:** Temple Beth Israel, 3033 North Towne Ave., Pomona, CA (909) 626-1277

**Cost:** Attending this event is **FREE!!!** Please RSVP @ [c6cker@gmail.com](mailto:c6cker@gmail.com) so that we have enough refreshments. If you would like to attend virtually, please note that in your RSVP and you will be sent a link.

**Come and participate in a traditional Jewish Religious Service.**

**Additional Information:**

- Please direct any questions about this event to Cheryl Becker, Religious Emblems Coordinator/Committee Member for San Gabriel Valley Boy Scout District at [c6cker@gmail.com](mailto:c6cker@gmail.com).
- Scouts should wear their Class A uniforms, sashes and any Scouting religious awards earned.
- Scout Shabbat is open to scouts of all religions.
- Refreshments will be provided after the service; donation of sweets are appreciated.
- Scouts can obtain the event patch through the National Jewish Council on Scouting website at the link <https://www.jewishscouting.org/shop/>

Sponsored by The San Gabriel Valley District, Boy Scout Religious Committee and Temple Beth Israel.



**Open House**

Western University  
College of Veterinary Medicine

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**April 11, 2026**

**Things to See & Learn**

- ✓ Student Club Booths: Tips on pet care, games & giveaways
- ✓ Pet Exhibits
- ✓ Scouts can earn Merit Badges
- ✓ Tips on Pet Care
- ✓ College Tours
- ✓ Food Vendors & So Much More

Contact Us:  
Ms. Stephanie Day  
[sday@westernu.edu](mailto:sday@westernu.edu)

## Upcoming Events

Click the images below for more details.



**2026 NATIONAL SCOUT JAMBOREE**  
JULY 19-31, 2026

Jamboree is more than a destination. It's the adventure of lifetime. And there is simply nothing else like it on the planet.

Sign up now at  
[ScoutingEvent.com/033-Jamboree](https://ScoutingEvent.com/033-Jamboree)



Scouting America  
**ELEVATE**  
2026  
NATIONAL JAMBOREE

GREATER LOS ANGELES SCOUTING

## SAVE THE DATE



**CATHOLIC SCOUT CAMPOREE**  
September 11 - 13, 2026

**CATHOLIC PARENT & LEADER PROGRAM**  
September 11 - 13, 2026

**CATHOLIC CUB DAY**  
September 12, 2026

For questions or to request a registration packet\*, please contact us at:  
[ccs.glaac@gmail.com](mailto:ccs.glaac@gmail.com)

Programs sponsored by:  
The Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Greater Los Angeles Area Council

\* PLEASE NOTE: Registration packets will be available at the end of January 2026. You are strongly encouraged to register as early as possible since space will be limited.

REV: 10/31/25

## 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](#).

