

# ECR Roundtable Newsletter and Hands-On Agenda

**Hands-On Date:** **Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 7pm – 8:30pm**

**Hands-On Location:** Sage Granada Park UMC  
1850 W Hellman Ave, Alhambra, CA 91803

## Hands-On Agenda

- 7:00 - 7:15pm Roundtable Sign-In and Opening / Key Announcements (Renewals and Rechartering)
- 7:15 – 8:15pm Breakouts for:
- Fire Building Basics Training
  - Tent Pitching & Campsite Set-up Demo
  - Fundraising activities – Ideas and How-to
- 8:15 – 8:30pm Awards, Drawings and Aloha!

## ECR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

- **Key Info this Month (Alvin Wong, Martin Cardenas)**
  - **Roundtable attendance is open to Unit, Committee, and future Leaders!**
    - Come learn about what to expect with the upcoming Council Dinner, District Dinner, and District Awards and Recognitions.
    - Recognize your exceptional volunteers by nominating them to be recognized at ECRD's upcoming District Dinner!
    - Practice Key Scout skills for Family Camping Trips and what Scouts should know.
    - **Prizes!!!** – We have prize drawings for those who show up in-person, so be sure to attend, meet, and learn from other Scouting Leaders!

- **Safety Reminders**

- **New Adults, including ANY youth that have turned 18 (including Venturers), need to complete an Adult application and AB506. (Estela Chicas)**
  - Youth who have turned 18 partially through their membership period, will need to complete an Adult Application and submit it as a “multiple”. There won’t be any additional charge.
  - This applies to Venturing Youth as well once they turn 18. When their membership expires once they are 18, their renewal as a Scout will be at the regular youth fee instead of the adult fee, (per National, they still pay the higher youth fee because they are still eligible for awards and recognitions).
  - Scouting America will start dropping those who have not completed AB506 this month. If you have a member who has their membership dropped in error, please contact Estela Chicas.
- **Foul Weather Training (Course SCO\_800) (David Tran) – DON’T FORGET!** The (online) training expires every 2 years! Be sure to check your training status and retake as necessary because it is required for outdoor Scouting activities.
  - **This is all the more important given the continuing severe weather and flooding that is occurring throughout the areas.**
  - Log into your My.Scouting.org account, go to your “My Training” page and “retake” the Foul Weather training course to renew the expiration date.

- **Key Scouting Events and Activities (Estela Chicas)**

- **The Lease for Cabrillo is Expiring**, and will be returned to Los Angeles soon after 2025 for use in the upcoming Olympics. Please check with Cabrillo if you are scheduled for any events or outings in 2026. Reports are that the Camp will continue to operate as normal until the turnover.
- All the Council’s Scouting, Camp, and Training events as well as links for more info and registration sign-ups are here on the Council Calendar:  
<https://scoutingevent.com/033>
  - **Scouting For Everyone @ Cushman Watts – Jan 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>**
  - **Council Recognition Dinner @ Quiet Cannon in Montebello - Jan 28<sup>th</sup>**
  - **ECR District Dinner @ Sage Granada Park UMC – Jan 31<sup>st</sup>**
  - **Pinewood Derby Car Cutting @ Cabrillo – Jan 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>**
  - **Scout Shabat Event @ Pomona – Feb 6<sup>th</sup>**
- **Winter Camps at Big Horn Circle X Ranch – Jan, Feb, & Mar**
- **Cub Rocket Academy - Mar**
- **2026 ECR Camporee @ Firestone - Mark your Calendars! April 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>.**

- **Council Matters & Events**

- **COUNCIL EXECUTIVE CHANGE** – Estela Chicas will now be the Council Executive for El Camino Real District. Please reach out to her instead for any matters that you would have reached out to Martin Brown-Gaines before.
- **COUNCIL CALENDAR of Events (Kevin Burton for site issues)** – Schedule of all the Council, Camp, and Training events as well as links for more info and registration sign-ups: <https://scoutingevent.com/033> <<= Check it Out!
- **COUNCIL’S ADVERTISING FOR SCOUTING is in high gear – We have seen record numbers of online referrals from “Be A Scout” to join Units! (Estela Chicas, Baolei “Bonnie” Pei)**
  - The campaign has been remarkably successful in getting more Cub Scout to join the Council! Although the number of Cubs vary from District to District, we are getting closer to parity between the number of Cubs and Scouts. We have all of you to thank for that!
  - Key-3’s should log into their My.Scouting.org accounts, and open their Application Manager -> <https://my.scouting.org/98C7C6D4-6CF0-4F14-82B4-3A72DC02DE59/membership-manager/application>
  - How to use the tool:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dg2bB610Jbo&feature=player\\_embedded](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dg2bB610Jbo&feature=player_embedded)
- **National Scouting Jamboree – An epic Scouting adventure awaits! (Baolei Pei)**
  - Sign up now at: [ScoutingEvent.com/033-Jamboree](https://scoutingevent.com/033-Jamboree)**
  - Enrolling registered Boys and Girls Age 12-17 by July 2026**
  - **Spots are LIMITED, sign up at: <https://scoutingevent.com/033-Jamboree>**
    - Boys and Girls Age 12-17 by July 2026 are eligible to attend.
  - Register and start planning *NOW* if interested! Refer to attached flyer and the registration web link for more detailed information.
  - **Key Dates and Costs:**
    - **July 17-20, 2026** - Pre-Jamboree Travel to Philadelphia, Gettysburg & Washington D. C
    - **July 21, 2026** - Thrill Day at Kings Dominion, largest amusement park in Virginia
    - **July 22-31, 2026** - Jamboree at Summit Bechtel Reserve, West Virginia
    - **\$4,900** if paid monthly, \$490/month for 10 months
    - **\$4,410** (10% discount) if paid all at once
    - The Price is all-inclusive, covering R/T airfare, ground transportation, lodging and meals (Tour +Jamboree), admissions to all attractions,

Jamboree programs and activities, council provided training and meetings, custom Jamboree Swag and gear.

- **Traveling in three (3) Contingents, Leadership & Unit Structure:**
  - Troop 1A 40-Person Troop Scoutmaster: Jeremy Mo - mo.jeremy@gmail.com | 626-802-8267
  - Troop 1B 40-Person Troop Scoutmaster: Michael Tuite - CrewAdviser147@gmail.com | 626-353-1958
  - Troop 1C 20-Person Troop Scoutmaster: Gary Thompson - thompsgg@gmail.com | 310-330-6723
- **2025 Friends of Scouting (FOS) (Estela Chicas)**
  - **ECR raised \$6,712 towards the 2025 ECR FOS goal of \$9,580.** (See the thermometer at end of newsletter). We did well but could have met that goal with just a few more donations!
    - **Thank-you to all those individuals and Units who have donated!**
    - **If you haven't yet received the recognition/gift for your generous donations, we will be reaching out to you soon to get them to you!**
  - To see why we need your help for FOS and where the money goes, click on this link: <https://greaterlascouting.org/fos/>
    - If you were planning on donating but missed making it in time for 2025, please still make it now so we can get a head start for 2026!
  - It's still not too late to personally donate or make one on behalf of your Unit! To donate, use the following link, and be sure to select El Camino Real for the District: <https://donations.scouting.org/#/council/033/appeal/8647>
    - **If a business is going to donate, forward them the link to make their contribution and select "El Camino Real"**
    - **Be sure to let us know so we can recognize them as a supporter of their community through Scouting!**
- **District Matters (Martin Cardenas)**
  - **District Volunteer Positions Still Open (Martin Cardenas)** – We need help to give you the Scouting program and support that you need. Please consider lending us a little bit more of your time for the following positions. No experience is needed, only enthusiasm and a desire to help are all that is required.
    - Activities Chair
    - Finance Chair
    - Roundtable Chair
    - Unit Commissioners
  - **GLAC Scouting advertising has been really successful! – Respond quickly to "Be A Scout" online referrals to join your Unit! (Baolei Pei)**

- Key-3's will get automated emails from those interested in joining a Unit. Please respond promptly to those expressing interest!
    - Reach out to Estela Chicas or Baolei "Bonnie" Pei if you need help with the Application Manager App.
  - **Please contact our Membership Chair, Baolei "Bonnie" Pei** if you need support with new members or "Be-A-Scout" online referrals.
- **ECR Membership (Bonnie Pei)**
  - ECR had the **HIGHEST** Scouting membership growth of ALL GLAC districts!
    - 2025 ECR Scout youths **grew by 4.36%**, to 1003 youth! The only other GLAC District to show positive growth was Metro.
    - Please welcome the addition of three new Packs to our District:
      - Pack 5584 - Bassett Sunkist Elementary School
      - Pack 5621 - Bassett Van Wig Elementary
      - Pack 5015 - Bassett Don Julian School
- **Training (Ted Sakamoto, David Tran)**
  - **Check the Council Calendar for Training and Scout advancement opportunities**
    - **Upcoming Training Events and Merit Badge Classes:**
      - **CLICK=>> <https://greaterlascouting.org/training/>**
  - **Also, please check West LA, Long Beach, and other Councils for classes too!**
    - <https://scouting-la.org/training/>
    - <https://www.longbeachbsa.org/training/>
    - <https://iescouts.org/training/>
    - <https://www.scouting.org/training/training-updates/>
    - <https://lospadresscouting.org/calendar/>
  - **Scouter Training Knot (Ted Sakamoto, David Tran)** – A reminder that you too can get a Knot for your uniform as an adult leader! You can fulfill one of the Training Knot requirements by attending Roundtable Hands-On sessions for 3 times in-person.
- **Unit Operations & Admin. (Alvin Wong)**
  - **Use the Organization Manager (My.Scouting.org)** – The Organization Manager dashboard for Key-3 Leaders provides valuable information on the 5 key indicators associated with the long-term success of Units. Reach out to any Commissioner if you have question on how to use it or what it is showing.
  - **Time to Update your Unit's Leader roles and functional assignments (Unit Comm.)**
    - PLEASE Reach out to Estela Chicas with roster, membership, or position assignment problems with the system.

- Use the Unit Dashboard in My.Scouting.org to updated names in roles.
      - Leaders should take their Position-specific training online at My.Scouting.org.
      - To get access to various Scouting tools in Scoutbook and My.Scouting, Volunteers in new leader roles need to complete an additional adult application with their new “position” in the same Unit. If the adult is registered in another Unit as well, they should complete the form as a “**multiple**” for no additional membership costs to be registered in more than one Unit.
      - Please use this link for various position codes:
        - <https://www.ciecbsa.org/training/bsa-position-codes/53550>
- **Have members check and update their Scouting profiles (Unit Comm.)**
  - Members should check their profiles and make sure their CURRENT email and contact information is in their profiles! **That’s where their renewal and other important Scouting emails are sent!**
  - Adults should add a photo to their Scoutbook/Scoutbook+ profiles so that new parents and leaders can recognize adults.
- **Advancement, Awards, & Recognitions (Joe Rivera, Paul Lee)**
  - **FREE Digital Downloads of ALL Merit Badge Pamphlets** - In case you haven't heard, ALL Merit Badges books (in digital form) are now FREE to download!!! Go to this link (validated safe): <https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/all/>
    - Click on the MB you want, and then there will be link to download an e-Digital copy of the book for FREE!
  - **New Eagle Application Form 2025 (Paul Lee)** - All Eagle applicants should now use the 2025 application form available on the link below for Eagle Scout Resources, <https://greaterlascouting.org/eagle-scout-resources/> Contact Paul Lee if there are any questions.
- **Finance (Martin Cardenas)**
  - FOS for 2025 was moderately successful as we got close to our 2025 goal. If you missed the cutoff for 2025, please continue and make that donation to help us get a headstart for the 2026 year!
  - Need money to help with Summer Samp?
    - Camp Cards are coming out much earlier within the next month! Look out for the information on ordering them!
      - Only 20 Units out of over 40 Units in our District in 2025 participated, selling over \$35,000 in cards.
      - Since the cards pays the buyer back the full cost of the card, this is an opportunity that every Unit should take advantage of to help reduce camping costs!

- Popcorn sales are also a fantastic way to help a Scout pay for Camp! Yes, we know it is an expensive product which is why we will be bringing to you information on HOW to successfully sell it!
  - 7 Units generated almost \$56,000 in sales!
  - This is a high rate of return for funds for your Scouts!
  - Reach out to us if you are interested in learning sooner rather than later on HOW to successfully sell popcorn.
- Is your Unit looking for other ways to raise funds for equipment, uniforms, or to reduce the cost of outings?
  - Come to the Roundtable to speak to other Unit leaders about their fundraising events and how to successfully conduct them!

## Proposed Activities for Future Hands-On Roundtable Sessions

- Jan 14 (Wed) – Sage Granada Park UMC
  - Fire Building Basics Training
  - Tent Pitching & Campsite Set-up Demo
  - Fundraising activities – Ideas and How-to
- Feb 11 (Wed) – Hsi Lai Temple
  - General Camporee Mtg Session
  - First Aid Training
  - Camp Cooking Training
- Mar 11 (Wed) – St. Mark's Lutheran Church
  - Camporee Mtg
  - Scoutbook Plus Training
  - Advancement Workshop
- Apr 08 (Wed) – Sage Granada Park UMC
  - Final Camporee Mtg
  - Knots & Lashings Training
- May 13 (Wed) – Hsi Lai Temple
  - Knife and Axe Training
  - Unit Finance Tune-up Workshop
- Jun 10 (Wed) – St. Mark's Lutheran Church
  - Map & Compass Training
  - Eagle Application and Project Training
- Jul 08 (Wed) – Sage Granada Park UMC
  - Annual Planning Workshop
  - Outing, Hikes, and National Parks Planning Workshops
- Aug 12 (Wed) – Hsi Lai Temple
  - YPT and AB506 Workshops
  - Member & Unit Renewal Workshops (Rechartering)
- Sep 9 (Wed) – St. Mark's Lutheran Church
  - Camp Panels
  - Scouting Orientation for New Families
- Oct 14 (Wed) – Sage Granada Park UMC
  - Court of Honor and Eagle COH Planning Workshops
  - Scoutbook Plus and Advancement Training.
  - Fire Building Basics Training
- Nov 12 (Wed) – Hsi Lai Temple
  - High Adventure (HAT) Overview
  - Blue & Gold, and Bridging Workshops
- Dec 9 (Wed) – St. Mark's Lutheran Church
  - Leadership Roles and Responsibilities
  - Holiday Potluck and Gift Exchange?

Please let us know if there were other topics you would like a Hands-On session for!

# ECR's FOS 2025 GOAL: \$9,580

<https://greaterlascouting.org/fos/>

## EL CAMINO REAL 2025 FRIENDS OF SCOUTING

