



Roundtable Matters

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

Gary Thompson, Roundtable Commissioner

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GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAFETY MOMENT FOR MARCH Robert Baden-Powell once said the definition of the Scout motto Be Prepared is this: “A Scout must prepare himself by previous thinking out and practicing how to act on any accident or emergency so that he is never taken by surprise.” Baden-Powell also advocated that young men spend a lot of time learning in and about the out-of-doors, as he said, “The open-air is the real objective of Scouting and the key to its success.” However, we still need to be aware of our surroundings and their changing conditions, including what is happening with the weather. Check out this [Weather Safety minute](#).

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

Mar 18	OA Lodge Executive Committee (OA) Cushman Watt Scout Center
Mar 21-22	HAT Wilderness and Remote First Aid (Scouters) Cushman Watt Scout Center
Mar 27-29	Rocket Academy (Cubs) Firestone Scout Reservation
Apr 15	OA Lodge Executive Committee (OA) Cushman Watt Scout Center
Apr 16	Pacifica District Dinner (Scouters) ♥ The Cheesecake Factory
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 17-19	HAT Climbing 1 (Scouters) 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
May 20	OA Lodge Executive Committee (OA) Cushman Watt Scout Center
May 29-31	OA Kihaawk (OA)
Jun 8 - Jul 2	Trask Trail to Eagle (Scouts) Camp Trask Scout Reservation - GLAAC
Jun 12-14	Trail to First Class (Scouts) Camp Trask Scout Reservation - GLAAC
Jun 13-14	IOLS (Scouters) Camp Trask Scout Reservation - GLAAC
Sep 18-20	Woodbadge Weekend 1 (Scouters) Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation HESR Main Gate
Oct 3-4	Woodbadge Weekend 2 (Scouters) Camp Trask Scout Reservation - GLAAC

STRENGTHENED PARTNERSHIP WITH DEPARTMENT OF WAR Take a moment to read the latest on [Scouting America strengthening its partnership with the Department of War](#). Changes include waiving registration fees for military families, adding new merit badges and reinforcing our commitment to Scouting’s foundational ideals.

UNIFIED SCOUTS BSA HANDBOOK The new unified handbook blends the version for boys and the version for girls into a single handbook. No program or requirements changes.

AMERICA250 EAGLE SCOUT CERTIFICATE To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and continued partnership of Scouting America with America250; all Eagle Scouts who earn the rank in 2026 will receive a special commemorative Eagle Scout Certificate. This is automatic starting 1 Feb.

CAMP CARDS Scout cards are discount cards with local deals and savings. Each card sells for \$10 and the scout gets \$5 to pay for camp fees, registration and other scouting activities. [Learn more here](#).

CAMP STAFF Looking for the perfect summer job? Check out our summer camp staff opportunities [here](#).

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT Pacifica leadership are investing in creating a knowledge management repository to aid Ship, Crew, Troop and Pack leadership. Beta version will be available soon.

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](#).

MERIT BADGE TEST LAB Have you checked out the [MB Test Lab](#)? Get the latest on auctioneering, competitive gaming, sewing & needlework, dance, physics, wildfire management, life skills and psychology.

PACIFICA DISTRICT ANNUAL AWARD DINNER The [reservation site](#) is open so please join us for an evening dedicated to fellowship, great food, and—most importantly—honoring the incredible volunteers who made 2025 a success. We will be celebrating our newest District Award of Merit recipients along with other well-deserved recognitions. The dinner is at The Cheesecake Factory in Redondo Beach on Thursday, April 16. Book ASAP to avoid disappointment as space is limited and the booking cutoff is April 6! Spread the word!!

CAMP CHERRY VALLEY WORK WEEKENDS Want to roll up your sleeves to get Camp Cherry Valley ready for the upcoming season? Register [here](#).

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](#).

NYLT It's not too early to start preparing your scouts for [NYLT](#). Mark your calendar. Trask, Dec 18-20 2026 and Jan 8-9 2027. This high energy, outdoor experience helps develop new leadership, team building and problem solving skills.

NATIONAL JAMBOREE 2026 REGISTRATION IS ALMOST FULL Only 1 female and a few male spots left! 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](#).

PACIFICA'S SPRING CAMPOREE APRIL 2026: Pacifica's 2026 Spring Camporee will be held April 24-26th at Firestone Scout Reservation. Ancient Olympics is the theme, so bust out your toga and sandals!

HIGH ADVENTURE REGISTRATION The High Adventure camps registration for 2027 is open for all 4 high adventure camps.

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.

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!

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.](#)

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/>

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.

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.

The next Chapter Meeting is scheduled for 6:30-8:30 PM Tuesday, March 24th, to go bowling at the Lucky Strike Torrance (21915 S Western Ave, Torrance, CA 90501). The Chapter will be paying a portion of the fees; details will be provided by email.

Chapter members are encouraged to serve on Staff at the Council's upcoming Rocket Academy event at Firestone Scout Reservation, March 27-29, 2026. Serving on the OA Staff supporting the events and/or in the Cook Team is a way to earn money for your "Fang Fund" that can be applied to Scouting-related expenses.

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

The Spring Induction Weekend is scheduled for April 17-19, 2026, at the Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation. Lodge members and Candidates will be contacted by email with details and registration links.

Mark your calendar for May 29-31st, Kihaawk is coming up!

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.