

The **Scouter** newsletter is here. Look inside to learn what's new in the SGVD, including upcoming events, training opportunities, new merit badges, Friends of Scouting updates, and much more. Also, check out the I Scout Because article featuring **John Campbell**.

Roundtable

By **David Granillo**

Boy! This year has gone by quickly. Welcome to November and Happy Thanksgiving! We hope to see all adult leaders smiling faces at Roundtable on Wednesday, November 12th. Come hear all the program ideas for the youth and your units.

We are going to have a Christmas Party and a white elephant gift exchange, for the December Roundtable. Bring a gift, no more than \$15 for a gift. We had fun last year and we will have fun next month. Think of some good ideas.

This month, the Scouts BSA session will have a guest speaker from the Watershed Restoration Program with service project ideas for badge of ranks and forestry and soil and water conservation merit badges. The Cub Scouts session will consist of pack and den meeting ideas for Thanksgiving..

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 [David Granillo](#).

Join Us In- Person



Wednesday, 11/12, 7 PM

Azusa Eagles Lodge
1603 San Gabriel Canyon Rd
Azusa

Park in the back & enter rear door

Eagle Corner

OCTOBER EAGLES

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

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| ◆ Calvin Cheung, Troop 126 | ◆ James Base, Troop 407 |
| ◆ Jacob Park, Troop 174 | ◆ Ethan Tang, Troop 266 |
| ◆ Ryan Chen, Troop 167 | ◆ Quin Martinez, Troop 407 (September) |



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, 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!

I Scout Because

By John Campbell

WHY I VOLUNTEER WITH SCOUTING AMERICA

When people ask me why I dedicate my time to Scouting America, I often think about the bigger picture - not just what happens at our weekly meetings or campouts, but what we are really building: the future.

THE MOST NOBLE PURSUIT

There is no calling more noble than mentoring the next generation. In a world of endless distractions and competing priorities, choosing to invest time in young people is perhaps the most meaningful contribution any of us can make. Every hour I spend with Scouts is an hour invested in someone's character, confidence, and capability. These young people will be tomorrow's leaders, parents, and citizens. We have a short window of time to prepare our youth to be independent, capable, functioning adults. What could possibly be more important than helping shape who they will become?

THE GOLD STANDARD OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

I am convinced that Scouting America stands apart as the best youth development program available. It is not just about earning badges or learning knots - though those have their place. It is a comprehensive system that develops the whole person: physical fitness, moral courage, leadership skills, outdoor competence, and civic responsibility. Where else can young people learn to lead their peers, navigate the wilderness, mitigate risk, develop self-reliance, serve their community, and develop a personal code of ethics, all within one coherent framework?

AN INVESTMENT IN OUR COLLECTIVE FUTURE

Here is something I consider: youth development programs like Scouting may actually help Social Security solvency. When we raise competent, capable, responsible young people who become productive citizens, we are ensuring a stronger workforce and economy for decades to come. Every Scout who develops a strong work ethic, leadership skills, and personal responsibility becomes an asset to our economic future. It is not just feel-good volunteerism - it is a genuine investment in our nation's stability.

THE GUIDEBOOK WE ALL NEED

As a parent or mentor, you are constantly searching for wisdom on raising kids. I have found that there is no better guidebook than the principles embedded in Scouting. The Scout Oath and Law provide a clear, practical framework for character development that transcends any single moment or challenge. These are not abstract ideals - they are daily touchstones for making decisions, treating others, and becoming your best self. Every time I help a Scout work through a problem using these principles, I am reminded that we adults benefit from the same guidance.

(Continued on next page)



I Scout Because
SCOUT STORIES



I Scout Because (cont'd)

By John Campbell

ADVENTURE WITH PURPOSE

Life is an adventure, and Scouting leads the way to embracing it with appropriate risk mitigation. We live in an age of bubble-wrapped childhoods, where many young people never learn to assess risk, push their boundaries, or discover what they are capable of achieving. Scouting strikes the perfect balance: we climb mountains, paddle rivers, and camp in all weather - but we do it with proper training, rules, equipment, and supervision. We teach Scouts to embrace challenges while respecting genuine dangers. This is the antidote to both reckless behavior and paralyzing caution.

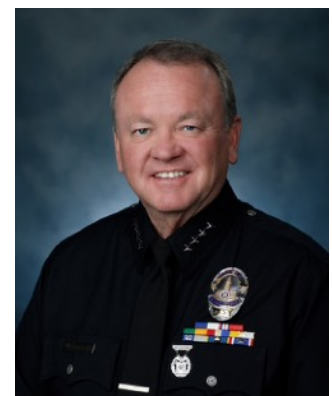
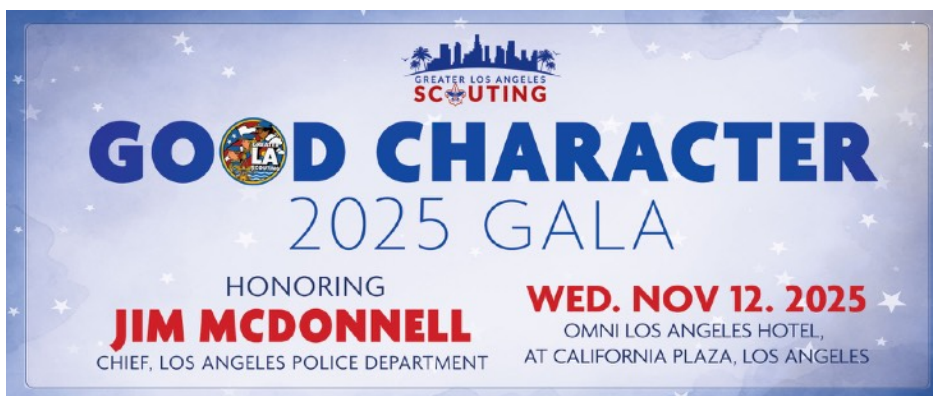
THE SECRET SAUCE: THE PATROL METHOD

But here is what really makes Scouting work - the patrol method is the secret sauce. This is where the magic happens. As a parent, if you tell your kids to do things, you are just a task master and the kids may not see the importance or benefit of your requests. In the alternative, a Scout in a patrol has obligations to their peers. Doing the dishes at home is work that kids dislike their parents assigning to them, but doing dishes at a campout is about making the same contribution that every patrol member makes. The dynamic is completely different. Young people leading other young people, making real decisions with real consequences, learning from both successes and failures in a supported environment, is the best method to develop youth. Adults guide from the sidelines rather than directing every move. The patrol method builds leaders because it gives young people genuine responsibility and agency. They are not just following instructions; they are planning, executing, problem-solving, and leading. No other aspect of Scouting has more impact on development than this elegant system of youth-led leadership.

THE RIPLE EFFECT

Every week, I see the transformation happening. A shy Scout finds their voice during a patrol meeting. A natural leader learns to listen to others' ideas. A struggling student discovers they are brilliant at fire-building or first aid. These moments matter, and they multiply. Each Scout I help mentor will influence dozens, maybe hundreds of others throughout their lifetime.

That is why I am a Scouter volunteer. There is no better use of my time than investing in young people through a program that has proven its worth for over a century. Scouting America gives us the structure, the methods, and the opportunity. All we have to do is show up and commit to the most noble pursuit there is: preparing the next generation to be the best they can be.



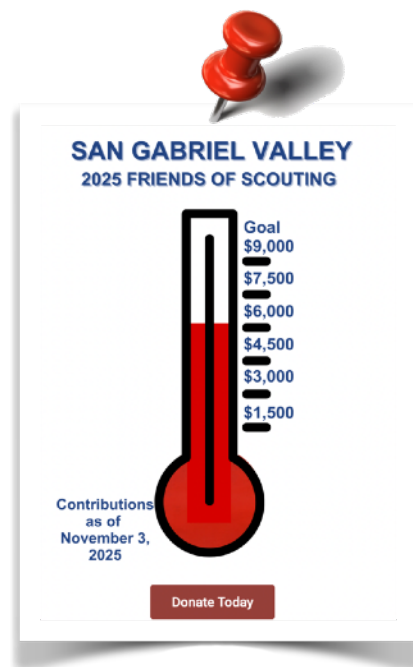
Friends of Scouting

By Drake Rubalcava

Happy November! I would like to wish both a Happy Veterans Day to all throughout the district who have served, and Thanksgiving. This is a time to be thankful of all we have accomplished and a time to reflect on the upcoming holiday season. If there are units who are celebrating with Courts of Honor, I extend my congratulations to scouts for their hard work.

With recharterers already completed, I would like to remind you to take a look at your unit's contributions to FOS. Still haven't given? Wondering if there is still time? Want more information with an in-person presentation? Don't worry there is still penalty of time either this month or next for you to contribute and have you or your unit added to our special donor board we display at Roundtable each month. Which means roundtable is a good time for you to visit and be presented with your unit's Certificate and Ribbon for your unit's involvement with FOS for 2025.

As always the district key 3 and myself are continuing to redevelop our FOS efforts throughout the district, please feel free to send your feedback or suggestions to myself via email, drakerubalcava@outlook.com.



Upcoming Events

11/14 - 11/16	<u>Firestone's Pumpkin Smash</u> , Firestone Scout Reservation
11/15	<u>Cabrillo Merit Badge Day</u> , Cabrillo Beach Youth Waterfront Sports Center
11/15	<u>Council Quarterly Strategic Planning Meeting</u> , Cushman Watt Scout Center
11/22	<u>Pio Pico Merit Badge Day</u> , South Gate Park
11/22	<u>13th Annual Law Merit Badge Day</u> , Loyola Law School
12/06	<u>20 Mile Hike</u> , Gabrielino National Recreation Trail
12/27 (more dates)	<u>Winter Merit Badge Programs</u> , Trask Scout Reservation
01/16 - 01/18	Winter Camp for Cub Scouts, Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation*
01/23 - 01/25	Winter Camp for Scouts BSA, Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation*
01/30 - 02/01	Winter Camp for Cub Scouts, Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation*
02/13 - 02/15	Winter Camp for Scouts BSA, Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation*
02/20 - 02/22	Winter Camp for Scouts BSA, Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation*
02/27 - 03/01	Winter Camp for Cub Scouts, Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation*
03/06 - 03/08	Winter Camp for Cub Scouts, Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation*
01/17	<u>Winter Fest</u> , Trask Scout Reservation
01/28	<u>Council Annual Recognition Dinner</u> , Quiet Cannon
07/19-31	<u>2026 National Scout Jamboree</u> , Summit Bechtel Reserve

*** Links will be posted soon. Be sure to check the SGV District Calendar later this week to register.**

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



Popcorn

By Clark Mason

Popcorn selling season is winding down for most units. Scouts can continue to sell online to hit their goals, but for those units that sold and are done, now is the time to wrap up your accounting and either pay council if you owe or if Trail's End owes your unit, request a payout. In addition, most popcorn kernels should have received a reminder from Trail's End to review rewards and approve them for issuance to scouts. If you need help with reconciling your sales or any aspect of closing out the sale, feel free to reach out to Alfredo or Estela or me.

GLAAC staff is working on the council top seller party for scouts that sold \$1,500+. Please watch for updates from Alfredo about the upcoming party on December 13th.

As we look ahead to next year's popcorn campaign, if you have suggestions or input that you have about this year's campaign or ideas on how to make it better next year, please email me at jclarkmason@hotmail.com so I can advocate for the district units.

Thanks so much to units that participated in the popcorn campaign.



Upcoming Training

11/14 - 11/16	Overnight	<u>Trail to First Class/IOLS</u> , Trask Scout Reservation
11/14	7:00 PM - 10:30 PM	<u>HAT Climbing Instructor Training Level 2</u> , Cushman Watt Scout Center
12/13	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM	<u>Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST)</u> , Trask Scout Reservation
12/13	8:00 AM - 6:00 PM	<u>HAT - Winter Camping and Travel Training</u> , Cushman Watt Scout Center
03/21 - 03/22	Overnight	<u>HAT - Wilderness and Remote First Aid</u> , Cushman Watt Scout Center

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

Personal Safety Awareness

By Melissa Brown

These new [Personal Safety Awareness videos](#) replace the Cyber Chip requirements for the Scout and Star ranks. Before watching these videos, the scouts should complete the exercise in the [How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide](#) pamphlet with their parent or guardian. This pamphlet can be found in the front of the Scout Handbook.

For the Scout rank, Scouts must view all four of these videos: Digital Safety, Bullying, Abuse, and Safeguarding Youth Policies. Then for Star Rank, Scouts must view all four Scout rank videos again and all 4 of the Star rank videos: Persistence for Pictures, Grooming and Sexual Abuse, Sexual Abuse in the Family, and Friends Should Never Look the Other Way.



Advancement Educational Presentations

By John Campbell

PowerPoint Presentations—for group instruction or individual review
Note expiration dates on all presentations. Check for updates at the appropriate time.

INTRODUCTION TO THE GUIDE TO ADVANCEMENT

This presentation provides further insight into one of the most critical publications produced by the Scouting America National Advancement Program Team. It is the official source for administering advancement in all Scouting America programs: Cub Scouting, Scouting America, Venturing, and Sea Scouts. This file may be opened and viewed on your computer or downloaded for later viewing or for presentation at a roundtable, University of Scouting, or other gathering. The intent is to provide a better understanding of how Scouting America advancement policies and procedures should be interpreted and implemented. [Download PowerPoint Presentation](#)

TODAY'S ADVANCEMENT

The one-day, "Today's Advancement" course provides new and experienced units, district and council advancement administrators in-depth education regarding the management of advancement according to the Guide to Advancement. The course has been structured to allow district and council advancement chairs to provide this education locally, on schedules which best fit council and district operations. The education covers such topics as management of unit advancement programs, building advancement committees, available advancement education materials, mechanics of advancement, coordinating positions of responsibilities, the Merit Badge program, boards of review, Eagle Scout applications, the Eagle Scout Service Project, and other important advancement topics. [Download PowerPoint Presentation](#)

DEVELOPING COUNCIL AND DISTRICT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEES

This presentation is intended to guide advancement chairs and committee members on how to build high-performing advancement committees at the unit, district, and council levels. It defines the roles, responsibilities, and organization of these committees and explains how to evaluate their effectiveness. This presentation is intended to be instructor-led and should take approximately 45 to 60 minutes including introductions, and up to 90 minutes with questions and answers. [Download PowerPoint Presentation](#)

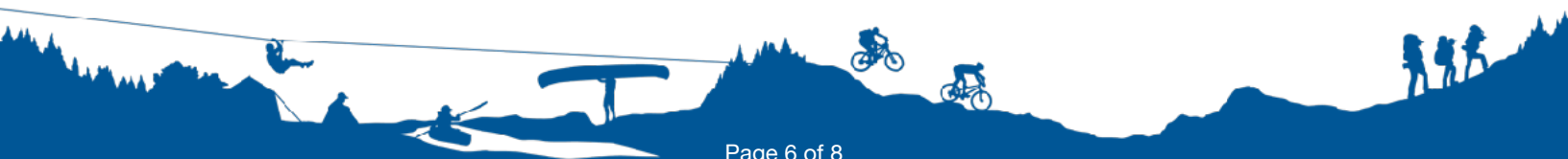
THE EAGLE SCOUT SERVICE PROJECT COACH

This PowerPoint presentation with speaker notes is designed for Eagle Scout service project coaches who have been designated by councils or districts to provide guidance to Scouts whose service project proposals have been approved. It delivers the basic knowledge and skills needed to get started. It can also serve as a refresher for veterans. It is intended as an instructor-led presentation to project coaches of any experience level and takes 60 to 90 minutes to complete. [Download PowerPoint Presentation](#)

THE EAGLE SCOUT SERVICE PROJECT

This presentation, for unit leaders, advancement administrators, Scouts and parents, addresses the process and requirements for proposing, conducting, and reporting on Eagle Scout Service Projects. It is intended as an instructor-led presentation and takes 45 to 60 minutes; up to an hour and a half with questions and answers. [Download PowerPoint Presentation](#)

(Continued on next page)



Advancement Educational Presentations (cont'd)

By John Campbell

EFFECTIVE TROOP ADVANCEMENT

This presentation provides new and prospective troop advancement coordinators and troop advancement committee members with the basic knowledge and skills needed to get started. It can also serve as a refresher to veterans. Participants will learn about the advancement process, their unique role in it, and the related Scouting America national policies and procedures. The session is intended to be instructor-led and lasts approximately 60 to 90 minutes depending on the experience level of those attending. [Download PowerPoint Presentation](#)

THE ESSENTIALS OF MERIT BADGE COUNSELING

This PowerPoint presentation with speaker notes covers the required procedures for merit badge counseling, clarifies the role of counselors in the Scouting America advancement program, and discusses the appropriate approaches to use in working with Scouts. It is intended as an instructor-led presentation to counselors of any experience level and takes 60 to 90 minutes to complete. [Download PowerPoint Presentation](#)

THE MERIT BADGE PROGRAM

This presentation, for unit leaders, merit badge counselors, advancement administrators, and parents, addresses the merit badge program and its benefits to Scouting. It includes the procedures for earning merit badges, merit badge counselor qualifications, the process of counseling, necessary counselor certifications and limitations, and administration of the merit badge counselor program. It is intended as an instructor-led presentation to counselors of any experience level and takes 45 to 60 minutes; up to an hour and a half with questions and answers. [Download PowerPoint Presentation](#)

VIDEOS

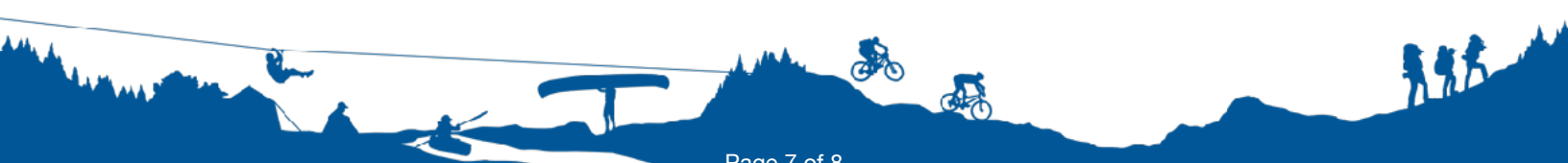
Guardian of the Gate

Darnall Daley reading his article, "Guardian of the Gate." The piece has appeared in Advancement News and is considered by the National Advancement Program Team to be the most accurate accounting of the proper approach to advancement. [Click here to view the video](#)

Safety Moment - Hypothermia

As we approach the cooler months, planning for outdoor activities needs to consider cold weather exposure and the potential for hypothermia. Hypothermia is an abnormally low body temperature that is dangerous and potentially fatal if not properly cared for. Hypothermia most often occurs when individuals are exposed to extremely cold temperatures for extended periods of time. Prevention is the best medicine and staying warm and staying dry are two ways that the risk of hypothermia can be mitigated.

[Click here](#) to learn more.



Upcoming Events

Click the images below for more details.

**THE 13TH ANNUAL
LAW MERIT BADGE DAY**

**GREATER LOS ANGELES
SCOUTING**



*Sponsored by the
Legal Eagles*

Saturday, November 22, 2025
9:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Robinson Courtroom
at Loyola Law School
919 Albany St., Los Angeles,
CA 90015

Cost per Scout: \$40 (in-council) | \$50 (out-of-council)
Scholarships are available upon request, please contact
Hannibal Sullivan at Hannibal.Sullivan@scouting.org

Register at: ScoutingEvent.com/033-LawDay
Participants must be 13 or older



Contact: Hannibal Sullivan at
Hannibal.Sullivan@scouting.org



**SCOUTING AMERICA
ELEVATE
2026
NATIONAL JAMBOREE**

**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



**GREATER LOS ANGELES
SCOUTING**

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SCOUTER Editor in Chief: [Maureen McLaughlin](#)

Please consider making a one-time, monthly, or quarterly donation to [Greater LA Scouting](#).

