

HAT HiLites

Greater Los Angeles Area Council

June 2026

Scouting America

- ❖ Have you heard about LA's newest Scouting Aquatics program? Scouts will have a chance to gain experience in many forms of paddlecraft and swim strokes earning merit badges and awards, including the prestigious National Outdoors award! Most events will be meeting on the fourth Sunday of each month, either at Camp Trask or Santa Fe dam. See the attached flyer. Check out GLAAC's calendar to sign up!
- ❖ The USDA-Forest Service, Angeles National Forest, and the GLAAC-HAT invite you to attend the next of the on-going series of Trail Boss Training sessions on June 6th. The purpose of this program is to train and qualify adult volunteers to organize and supervise conservation projects by sponsored groups, such as a Scout Unit. Contact David Ledford (see below) for details.
- ❖ Admission to National Parks will be free on the following days:
 - June 14 - Flag Day
 - July 3-5 - Independence Day Weekend
 - August 25 - 110th Birthday of the National Park Service
- ❖ Desert Camping and Travel training will be held on Saturday, September 19th. The objectives of this training are to acquaint the adult Scouter with an understanding of the special qualities of the desert environment and to emphasize those backpacking skills that are essential to having a safe and enjoyable experience. See the attached flyer for details. Register online at <http://glaac-hat.org/register/> or call 213-413-4400 and ask for Hannibol Sullivan.
- ❖ If you are out hiking in the Angeles National Forest and come across a tree blocking the trail please make a note of the location and rough size of the tree. Then report it to David Ledford at 310-373-2111 or email gdledford@verizon.net.
- ❖ Check your local library for free vehicle day-use passes to over 200 participating California state parks. Passes are checked out just like books. See https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30806.
- ❖ The time is ripe for Eagle projects or service projects in the local National Forests. Contact David Ledford (see below) for more information.

HAT Website: <<https://glaac-hat.org>> Awards store: <<https://glaac-hat.org/store>>

3-Month Calendar

Jun 6	National Trails Day/Trail Boss	
Sep 1	HAT Meeting *	
Sep 5	Trail Boss (Advanced)	
Sep 19	Desert Camping and Travel Training Seminar	See attached flyer

* HAT meetings are open to all registered adults. We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Cushman Watt Scout Center, 2333 Scout Way, Los Angeles. We will be meeting virtually too. Contact Steve Dodson for details.

**Weekend field experience to be scheduled at the seminar.

HAT Contacts

Chair	Steve Dodson	818-967-1323	sedodson1@roadrunner.com
Training	Michael Schlaifer	213-247-8808	training@glaac-hat.org
Awards Store	Craig Triance	714-474-1652	craigtriance@gmail.com
Trail Boss	David Ledford	310-373-2111	gdledford@verizon.net
The Trail Head Editor	Craig Triance	714-474-1652	trailhead@glaac-hat.org
HAT HiLites Editor	Tom Thorpe		hilites@glaac-hat.org

Forest Service Contacts

Conservation Projects	David Ledford	310-373-2111	gdledford@verizon.net
LA Gateway Ranger District	Little Tujunga Station	818-899-1900	

HAT HiLites is published monthly by the GLAAC High Adventure Team to inform Scout Leaders of specific program, service, and other High Adventure activities and opportunities available in the coming months. For additional information please call or email the appropriate HAT contact.



Scouting Aquatics



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- July 28-Aug 1 Lake Tahoe - Canoe and Camping Float Trip
- Aug 9 Santa Fe Dam - Standup Paddle Boarding
- Aug 23 Camp Trask - Mile Swim Award
- Sept 27 Camp Trask- Snorkeling Award

More to Come:

- Swimming and Water Rescue (available to adults as well)
- Continuous: National Outdoor Award, Aquatics

Contact:

Kricket McKay
kricket@waterbuggs.com

Desert Camping and Travel Training - 2026

- PURPOSE:** Acquaint the adult Scouter with an understanding and appreciation of the uniqueness and special qualities of the desert environment and to emphasize those backpacking skills that are essential to having a safe and enjoyable experience.
- DATE:** Seminar: Saturday 19 September 2026
Weekend outing: date to be arranged during seminar
- TIME:** 8:00 a.m. to about 4:00 p.m. (bring sack lunch)
- LOCATION:** Seminar: Cushman Watt Scout Center, 2333 Scout Way, Los Angeles
Weekend Outing: TBD Joshua Tree National Park.
- COST:** \$25.00 by 12 September 2026. If fewer than five sign ups are made prior to that date a cancellation notice will be sent. Otherwise a confirmation will be sent after that date.
- REGISTRATION:** **Online registration** with check, paypal or credit card is available at <http://glaac-hat.org/register>. For help with registration contact Hannibal Sullivan, Community Engagement Coordinator (SR) and HAT Advisor at (213) 413-4400 or email Hannibal.Sullivan@scouting.org.
- EQUIPMENT:** Paper and pencil, and lunch for seminar.
Each Scouter is responsible for obtaining the clothing, equipment, and food for the weekend trip.
- MAXIMUM SIZE:** 15 Students
- OVERVIEW:** During the seminar, we will select a date and plan for a weekend backpack trip to Joshua Tree National Park (The Park has a \$25.00 per vehicle entry fee). A backpack trip of about 5 miles, round trip, to a dry campsite, provides the opportunity to demonstrate the seminar topics. After setting up camp, we will climb Queen Mountain - a "good" cross country workout.
- REQUIREMENTS:** Completion of the Adult Leader Backpack Training is highly recommended. Annual Health and Medical Record (parts A, B, and C).
- QUESTIONS:** Tarin Casillas; Course Director (310)780-0074; e-mail ticasillas@msn.com



Look north and east, beyond the mountains that surround Los Angeles – it's a desert out there. Actually three – Sonora, Mohave, and Great Basin – and they provide numerous opportunities for hiking and camping. Completion of this training is recognized by the award of a special patch and is a requirement for earning the High Adventure Leader Award.

Hike Aid 3, "Full Dimension High Adventure Training", has a complete discussion of the training programs of the GLAAC-HAT. It may be downloaded from the Council High Adventure website at <http://glaac-hat.org/HikeAids.html>. Questions about any of them are to be directed to Michael Schlaifer; Vice Chair Training: (213)247-8808 (C); e-mail, michael@schlaifer.com.