



ROUNDTABLE MATTERS

Pacifica District, Greater Los Angeles Area Council, BSA
Gary Thompson, Roundtable Commissioner

September 13th, 2023
roundtable@pacificabsa.org

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAFETY MOMENT FOR SEPTEMBER According to Food Allergy Research & Education ([FARE](#)), one in every 13 children has a food allergy. Every 3 minutes, a food-allergy reaction sends someone to the emergency room. As you add new scouts to your roster, take a minute to have them fill out a medical form and note any allergies. Learn more on how your unit can prepare for food allergies [here](#).

SILVER BEAVER AWARD NOMINATIONS OPEN The Silver Beaver Award is to Scouters of exceptional character who have given distinguished service to youth within a council. This award may be given to any person within a council regardless of their service level – i.e. Unit, District, or Council. There are no pre-qualifications other than distinguished service to youth within a council. Self-nominations are not accepted; don't hesitate to discreetly [nominate a deserving Scouter](#) who's made an impact in your community. If you need help filling in the form, or have further questions, contact Susan Porter Griego at (310) 431-8826 and spgriego1@gmail.com

WEBELOS WOODS ISLANDS OF ADVENTURE OPEN TO ALL PACIFICA 4th & 5th GRADERS Webelos Woods [registration](#) is open! Please encourage all of your Webelos and their parents to attend! This two-night event (Oct 6-8 at Cabrillo Beach) is a great opportunity to meet local BSA units, hone new scouting skills and spark excitement to transition to a BSA Troop.

ADVENTURE PLANS MAKE DEN LEADERS' MEETING PLANNING EASIER Check out [this page](#) from our colleagues in Atlanta Area Council. Whether you're running a single grade den or had to combine grades to get a true den experience, Atlanta has a plan for you! Even better, most plans are formatted as a sign-up sheet, so parents can pitch in every time you meet. Many hands make light work!

WOOD BADGE 2024 Wood Badge Course 3-33-24 will be hosted by the Greater Los Angeles Area Council at the Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation the weekends of May 3-5, 2024, and May 18-19, 2024. Registration information will be available soon; feel free to contact the Course Director, Bob Hodgkiss, at hodgkisb@yahoo.com or 310-748-6543 if you have questions.

RENEW YOUR YPT! Pacifica's standard is that adults must have YPT certificates that are valid for the entire charter period. Please plan ahead and make sure that your returning team's certs expire no earlier than 1 October 2024.

Recharter info from Leah

FALL RECRUITING SEASON IS HERE! As families get ready for school to start, they're looking for fun activities for their kids. Be ready to offer Scouting as a great program the entire family can enjoy!

1. Have your leadership in place for the upcoming school year. Need more adult help? Check out these [resources from the Atlanta Area Council](#). The [Den Leader recruiting script](#) may be particularly relevant for Packs. Remember, with BSA's implementation of [Family Dens](#) in grades K-4, it's perfectly OK to have co-ed dens and multi-age/rank dens.
2. Have a Welcome Packet ready for distribution. See our helpful tips below.
3. Make sure your BeAScout.org listing (aka "pin") stands out! The [BSA Online Registration Page](#) has a great tutorial on the mechanics of building a pin. Click [HERE](#) for sample unit descriptions.
4. [Order your recruiting materials](#) early! Council can provide a wonderful variety of flyers, yard signs, give-aways and more.
5. [Request geofences](#) to help publicize your recruiting events.

Remember, you can accept online applications until the recharter "blackout" occurs, usually around September 25th. New members will show as "prepaid" on your renewal roster, so don't be afraid to recruit new members and renew continuing members simultaneously. As a reminder, National/Council membership fees are NONREFUNDABLE, so please make sure prospective families are ready to commit to a full 12 months of adventure when they sign up.

RECORDING TRAINING Take a moment to review your leader training from summer camp. [Here's a quick how-to article to record training.](#)

EARN A FREE WEEKEND AT FIRESTONE: Troops, our Boo Fest team is deep into planning another great event for Cub families Oct 20-22. They're now at the staffing stage--the event cannot move forward without sufficient volunteers. If your Troop provides this service as a unit, you can earn a **FREE** weekend (Fri-Sun) of camping at Firestone (programming not included) as a token of thanks. Please reach out to [Starlight](#) and let her know how many of your Scouts can help bring the fun and festivities envisioned to life.

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

Sep 15-17	Golden Nugget Weekend (Webelos) Camp Cherry Valley
Sep 16	Operation On Target (Older Scouts BSA)
Sep 16	HAT Desert Camping and Travel Training (Scouters) Cushman Watt Scout Center
Sep 16-17	IOLS (Scouters) Camp Trask Scout Reservation - GLAAC
Sep 20	Fireside chat w Scout Executive
Sep 22-24	Golden Nugget Weekend (Webelos) Camp Cherry Valley
Sep 23	Cars & Careers Show(Scouts & Scouters) Santa Anita Park
Sep 23	Cabrillo Merit Badge Day (Scouts BSA) Cabrillo Beach Youth Waterfront Sports Center
Sep 30	Rifle MB (Scouts BSA) Firestone Scout Reservation
Sep 30 - Oct 1	NRA Rifle Instructor Course (Scouters) Firestone Scout Reservation
Oct 6-8	Scout Fair (Classmates, Friends and Prospective Scouts) Camp Trask Scout Reservation - GLAAC
Oct 6-8	Webelos Woods (Webelos & their parents) Cabrillo Beach Youth Waterfront Sports Center
Oct 6-8	Pio Pico Camporee (Scouts BSA) Prado Regional Park
Oct 7	Catholic Scout Retreat (Scouts BSA) Camp Verdugo Oaks
Oct 14	Dynamic Skills Merit Badge (Scouts BSA) Camp Trask Scout Reservation - GLAAC
Oct 14	NRA Range Safety Officer (Scouters) Firestone Scout Reservation
Oct 20-22	BooFest (Cubs) Firestone Scout Reservation
Oct 20-22	HAT - BSA Climbing Level I (Scouters) Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation
Oct 21	Cabrillo Merit Badge (Scouts BSA) Cabrillo Beach Youth Waterfront Sports Center
Oct 28-29	BALOO (Scouters) Camp Trask Scout Reservation - GLAAC
Nov 3-5	OA Induction Weekend (Scouts/Scouters) Firestone Scout Reservation
Nov 3-5	Cub Shooting Sports Weekend (Cubs) Camp Trask Scout Reservation - GLAAC
Nov 11	Shooting Sports Merit Badge (Scouts BSA) Camp Trask Scout Reservation - GLAAC
Nov 11	Legal Eagles - Law Merit Badge (Scouts BSA) Loyola Law School, Los Angeles
Nov 12	Scout Night with the Chargers (Scouts, families, and friends) SoFi Stadium
Nov 17	Graphic Arts/Pulp & Paper MB (Scouts BSA) International Printing Museum
Nov 17-18	Pumpkin Smash (Scouts BSA) Firestone Scout Reservation
Nov 17-19	HAT - BSA Climbing Level 2 (Scouters) Cushman Watt Scout Center
Nov 24	10 Commandments Hike (Scouts BSA) Pan American Park

CATHOLIC SCOUTING ACTIVITIES Please see the flyer in Roundtable for upcoming Catholic Scouting Activities.

ATTENTION MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS Let all the merit badge counselors in your unit know that now is the time to acknowledge that they would like to continue to serve our district as a Merit Badge Counselor for the calendar year 2024. All merit badge counselors should have received an email from the Merit Badge Dean asking if they want to renew for next year. Ask them to respond to the email, update YPT such that it expires in 2025, and update all other required training according to their merit badge. And finally but most importantly, thank them for committing to our youth.

RECHARTER TASKS THIS MONTH Re-registration will be here before you know it. Here is a [handy graphic of the timeline](#) that we're shooting for. Key tasks for units this month include:

- Keep working on YPT and position training.

- Make sure you can log into the Online Recharter Tool in Internet Advancement 2.0
- Collect payment from returning youth and adult members. If unit families need financial assistance beyond what the unit can provide, have them apply for Financial Aid from GLAAC [HERE](#).
- Get your Annual Charter Agreement signed
- Reserve a date & time to submit your renewal as soon as appointments are released at the end of August.

Contact your [servicing Commissioner](#) if you have any questions

REPORTING CHANGE IN CONVICTIONS As we approach recharter, please share with your Scouters that any convictions (DUI, misdemeanors, etc) that have occurred since your background check or previous year's recharter need to be reported to a member of the Key 3 who will inform a Council Representative to proactively work with the Scouter.

GET READY FOR A NEW SCOUTING YEAR! This is a great time to plan adventures for the upcoming year!

1. Review your roster in My.Scouting (not Scoutbook). Do all your members appear on it? If not, have them [apply online](#) using your unit's unique code in Invitation Manager.
2. Create your annual plan and budget. ([Journey to Excellence guidebooks](#) include resources for Packs, Troops, Ships and Crews)
3. Draft your recruiting plan using the Membership Growth plans posted with [June's Roundtable materials](#). Freshen
4. Update your [Annual Health and Medical records](#). Part A serves as a talent release form. Make sure you have one on file for ALL participants (parents, siblings, etc.) As a reminder, BSA policy prohibits email transmission and/or electronic storage of health forms--keep paper copies in a confidential medical file for quick access.

WHAT'S IN YOUR WELCOME PACKET? Suggested items include:

- A simple calendar for the next 3–6 months (or for the year if the unit is well organized). (Click [HERE](#) for samples from Atlanta Area Council.)
- Contact information for unit leaders.
- A letter that includes basic (and brief) information about uniforms, camping, general leadership structure, the role of the parent, youth protection policies and a link to the unit's webpage or social media platform. (Check out [BSA's guide for new Cub families](#))
- A list of anticipated costs for the next year along with fundraising opportunities to address those costs. (BSA's budget templates for [Packs](#) and [Troops](#) may be helpful)
- Flyer from the Scout Shop for 10% off new member uniforms (flyer is included in [July RTM](#))

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION SAR has some programs that your scouts may be interested in. They offer [Eagle Scout Recognition](#), [America 250 Programs/Badges](#) and [Arthur M. & Berdena King Eagle Scout Award](#).

EAGLE ADVANCEMENT Eagle candidates please review the "[2023 Path to Eagle](#)" (Rev. 4/2023). See these [great tips from Scouting Magazine](#) on helping Scouts, especially those who are neurodivergent, on their path to Eagle. 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. Scout profile and join date will be requested from Council and Scout will be assigned a book check person. Please do not contact 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.

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. National OA guidance on counting virtual camping for OA membership eligibility was updated in December 2021 and may be found [here](#).

The next Monthly Lakota Chapter Meeting is scheduled on the fourth Tuesday of September (26th) and is planned to be held at the Torrance Scout Center. Chapter members will be sent an email with the details as soon as they're finalized. Other Chapter activities may be planned for different weeknights and/or weekends to enable maximum by our members.

Arrowmen should have received notification to pay their 2023 Lodge dues. Payment may be made on the Lodge's website [here](#).

The Fall Induction Weekend will be held November 3-5, 2023, at Firestone Scout Reservation. Lodge members and Candidates who haven't yet completed an Induction Weekend will be contacted directly by the Lodge with details; additional information may be found at the Lodge website, www.tukuut.org.

The Section G18 Conclave is scheduled for September 22-24, 2023, at Camp Josepho in Pacific Palisades. Arrowmen will be sent registration details later this Summer.

To request a Unit Visit, Unit Election, or Camp Promotion visit please contact the Lakota Chapter Chief at lakotachief@gmail.com and the Chapter Adviser, Bob Hodgkiss, at oachapteradviser@pacificabsa.org.

CUBS SOON CAN CAMP TWO CONSECUTIVE NIGHTS The BSA is putting out updated guidance for Cub Scout camping. [HERE](#) is a link to an article from Aaron on Scouting that talks about the coming update which allows units to plan events with two consecutive nights of camping. The updated policy also applies to Webelos and Arrow of Light dens, who can now conduct campouts for up to two consecutive nights.

SIGN UP TO SELL POPCORN Our [popcorn campaign](#) is more than a fundraiser! Scouts who participate learn teamwork, public speaking & math skills, salesmanship & perseverance, money management, and the value of hard work. Learn more at our [webinar August 21st at 7pm](#). Don't miss out on this invaluable opportunity to gather all the information you need to make this campaign a success for your youth, your unit, and our District!

ESSENTIAL CAMPING GEAR GRANTS In support of the ideals set forth by the Worldwide Scouting Movement and in order to promote wilderness camping experiences, The Memorial Scout Camp has established the [MSC Camping Essentials Program](#). This program makes essential camping equipment available to any scout in need upon the recommendation of their scout group leader. Items include boots, backpacks and sleeping bags; a scout may receive one item per year based on need and recommendation from their leader.

CHECK US OUT!

Virtually all info is available online: Events, Dates, Fliers, Contacts, Training, Etc.
Pacifica District Website: www.pacificabsa.org GLAAC Website: www.GLAACBSA.org

CALL FOR SCOUTS TO OPEN ROUNDTABLE Do you have scouts in your pack, troop or crew who are interested in performing the opening ceremony for Roundtable? We're open to real-time or recorded events. Contact roundtable@pacificabsa.org to get on the schedule!

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.