

April 1, 2021 Volume 62

Your monthly news & updates



Virtual [Roundtable](#) This Month
Thursday, April 8, 2021

Theme for April is getting back to the Outing in Scouting: camping opportunities, camporees upcoming, and summer camps. We look forward to seeing all of you April 8th.

Our unit commissioners will meet from 6:30-7:00 and the roundtable will follow at 7:00pm.

Service Center and Scout Shop Closed April 2nd

Don't miss important information! Be sure to scroll all the way down! There's a lot of important information in the newsletter this month!!!! Detailed articles so you do not have to look for links.

Visit our Website



Upcoming Training, District or Council Events

Friday - April 2 - Good Friday

Wednesday - Apr 7 - [National Membership and Marketing Webinar, Tech Edition](#), 5:00 pm

Saturday - Apr 3 - [1-2-3-Go!](#) - A Cub Scout Nova Event Part 2

Saturday - Apr 3 - [Fearful Symmetry!](#) - A Nova Award Event Part 1

Saturday - Apr 3 - [Whoosh](#) - A Scouts BSA Nova Event Part 1

Sunday - Apr 4 - Easter

Monday - Apr 5 - [Luis Alvarez Supernova Event](#)

Wednesday - Apr 7 - Eagle BOR Binder Check - Contact [Gordon Bell](#) for time and method

Thursday - Apr 8 - Commissioners Meeting via [Zoom](#) - 6:30 pm

Thursday - Apr 8 - OA Chapter Meeting via Zoom 6:30 pm - Contact [Mr. Stanton](#) for link

Thursday - Apr 8 - Roundtable via [Zoom](#) - 7:00 pm

Saturday - Apr 10 - [Fearful Symmetry!](#) - A Nova Award Event Part 2

Saturday - Apr 10 - [Science Everywhere](#) - A Cub Scout Nova Event Part 1

Saturday - Apr 10 - [Whoosh](#) - A Scouts BSA Nova Event Part 2

Monday - Apr 12 - Eagle Board of Review - Contact [Bruce McGurk](#)

Monday - Apr 12 - [Luis Alvarez Supernova Event](#)

Monday - Apr 12 - Ramadan Begins

Tuesday - Apr 13 - Eagle Board of Review - Contact [Gordon Bell](#)

Tuesday - Apr 13 - [Leader's Meeting for Summer Camp](#)

Thursday - Apr 15 - District Committee Meeting via Zoom

Friday - Apr 16-17 - Virtual Order of the Arrow Induction

Monday - Apr 19 - [Luis Alvarez Supernova Event](#)

Thursday - Apr 22 - Earth Day

Monday - Apr 26 - [Luis Alvarez Supernova Event](#)

Monday - May 3 - [Luis Alvarez Supernova Event](#)

Monday - May 3 - Yerba Buena Lodge LEC

Wednesday - May 5 - Eagle BOR Binder Check - Contact [Gordon Bell](#) for time and method

Thursday - May 6 - Commissioners Meeting via [Zoom](#) - 6:30 pm

Thursday - May 6 - Roundtable via [Zoom](#) - 7:00 pm

Thursday - May 6- OA Chapter Meeting via Zoom 7:00 pm - Contact [Mr. Stanton](#) for link

Sunday - May 9 - Mother's Day

Monday - May 10 - Eagle Board of Review - Contact [Bruce McGurk](#)

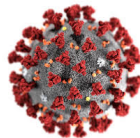
Tuesday - May 11- Eagle Board of Review - Contact [Gordon Bell](#)



Our Virtual Order of Arrow Village meeting is Thursday, April 8 @ 6:30 pm. Email [Mr. Stanton](#) for the Zoom link if you do not receive an email with it. We normally meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. The meetings are approximately an hour long. More information about that below.

The new Lodge name is Yerba Buena Lodge. Our Lodge will be putting together a very active and exciting year ahead with lots of fun activities mixed with exciting service projects. Escape Room, LEAD, Movie Night, Rock Climbing, Hope Walk, OA Trek, Canoe Trip, SF Scavenger Hunt, and Inductions are just a few of the activities that have been planned or done. I would hope that you will get involved and enjoy them with us.

This is your meeting, so come and ask your questions, get your answers and meet your fellow Arrowmen. You can help schedule fun activities to do.



Check www.ggacbsa.org/covid for latest info.

For more information regarding the stay at home order please visit the state website:

[About COVID-19 restrictions - Coronavirus COVID-19 Response \(ca.gov\)](#)



See the Recent Updates to FAQs for Youth Protection and Barriers to Abuse

The updates include answers to recent frequent questions and a new section on maintaining program integrity.

[Read More](#)



Cub Scout Day Camp will be canceled for 2021 if we do not have two volunteers for Camp Director and Program Director. This is a fun job and you'll have an opportunity to work closely with our very own [Mark Woodman](#)!



GGAC CUB SCOUT DAY CAMP 2021

Patch Design Contest

"Down on the Farm"

The challenge . . .
Design our 2021 Day Camp patch.

The theme is "Down on the Farm".

The competition is open to all Cub Scouts in GGAC.

Interested? [Click Here for the Details](#)

How to Print Membership Cards and Charter Certificates For Unit Leaders

Now that rechartering is done, you may want to print membership cards for your members or a charter certificate to present to your charter organization. Click a link to download the

BSA Updates to Service Project Checklist and Safe Project Tool Use For All Unit Leaders



The safety of our Scouts, volunteers, employees, and communities is the top priority for the Boy Scouts of America. BSA revised two forms that should be used for conducting service projects, including Eagle Scout service projects. These two forms were mentioned recently in the Scouting Wire Newsletter. The [SAFE Service Project Planning Checklist](#) is intended to help with planning all types of service projects. Although this checklist should be used for planning Eagle Scout service projects, *it is not an added requirement*. The [SAFE Project Tool Use form](#) is an updated version of the previous “Age Guidelines for Tool Use and Work at Elevations or Excavations” form. It provides age-appropriate guidelines for tool use by Cubs, Scouts BSA, Venturers, and Sea Scouts.

To better understand the BSA’s approach to SAFE Scouting, please review the following links. The first discusses the [BSA’s approach to the four points of SAFE Scouting](#) (Supervision, Assessment, Fitness and Skills, and Equipment and Environment) to ensure the safety of all participants when delivering the Scouting program. The second includes some [real incidents in Scouting](#) where at least one of the four SAFE Scouting points was not followed, and tragedy ensued.

Finally, if it has been a while since you visited the BSA’s [Scouting Safely](#) webpage, please spend a few minutes checking out the wealth of material found there that helps us ALL deliver a Safe Scouting Program.



Camp Royaneh



Camp Wolfeboro



Wente Scout Reservation

[Leaders Guide is now available. Find it here!](#)

[Register here for adults pre-camp meeting April 13th.](#)



Follow This Campfire Guidance to Help Ensure a Safe Experience for Everyone

Scouts can use and share these tips to help educate fellow Scouts and others on the importance of campfire safety.

[Read More](#)

Join Us for the National Membership and Marketing Webinar, Tech Edition, on April 7

Register now for the April 7 webinar focused on using features of key technology platforms to grow Scouting.

[Register Here](#)

7 Pandemic-era Recruiting Strategies Proven to Work

For All Unit Leaders

The recruiting pitch starts off pretty well: “If you join Pack 123, you’ll get to have fun, make new friends and enjoy hands-on experiences you can’t get in any other organization for youth.” But then the realities of the pandemic settle in, and the wheels start to fall off like a half-finished Pinewood Derby car: “Oh, but wait. You’ll have to do all that at home, at least for now.” Recruiting new families to join Scouting during a pandemic is hard — whether your unit is conducting activities virtually or in person (while following state, local and BSA guidelines, of course). Their solution, outlined in the article, clearly worked. They helped the Northeast Illinois Council become the area’s top-recruiting council in 2020. And they did it through a multi-dimensional approach that relied heavily on the most important adults in Scouting: unit-level volunteers. [See the full article.](#)



2021 Scouts BSA Requirement Changes

Recently, BSA announced changes to First Class (4b) to require demonstrating GPS unit proficiency while on a campout or hike and modified wording on Life rank regarding earning the 3 additional merit badges from the list required for Eagle rank. In addition, the COVID-19 FAQs update on 01/14/2021 continues to allow Second Class (5b) and First Class (6a) swimming requirement to be deferred until each Scout's next rank, as necessary, through Life rank, but the requirements must be completed by Eagle rank. When conditions warrant, BSA will reinstate these requirements and communicate via BSA sites such as Bryan on Scouting and Scouting Wire with 30 days' notice. Units will be responsible for tracking deferred requirements. The current release of COVID-19 FAQs can be found [here](#).

Changes to the following Merit Badges also have been made: Archaeology, Collections, Digital Technology, Disability Awareness, Electricity, Electronics, Fish and Wildlife Management, Fishing, Fly-Fishing, Lifesaving, Motorboating, Photography, Public Health, Rowing, Sports, Theater, and Woodwork. Please see [this article](#) which identifies the updated requirement number and the revision in the merit badge.

BSA also announced that they will no longer publish the annual Scouts BSA Requirements book with current year rank requirements and merit badge requirements. All Scouts BSA rank and merit badge requirements, including changes, will be listed [here](#).

Walnut Creek

Community Food Drive

APRIL 17, 2021



Pop-up Food Collection:

Donate food at local grocery stores ...
OR staff a grocery collection station.

[Learn More](#)



Neighborhood Food Drive:

Promote donations with neighbors.

[Learn More](#)



Group Food Drives:

Organize a food collection effort for
your business, club, faith community,
neighborhood, or school.

[Learn More](#)



Funds for Food:

Make a cash donation
to the Food Bank through
www.Walnut-Creek.org/Service.

[Donate](#)



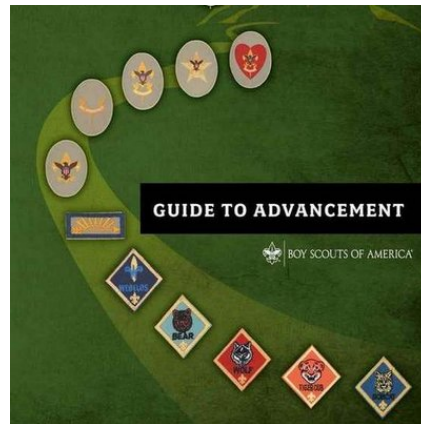
In Rossmoor:

Drop off food and monetary
donations at Rossmoor Rotary
collection station at Gateway
Clubhouse (8:30 a.m. – noon).

Have General Questions?

Email us at wcserviceday@gmail.com

2021 Community Service Day Committee



ADVANCEMENT NEWS

March/April 2021

The latest edition of the Advancement News is now available. Read the newsletter for updates and information on advancement topics, awards, and policies and much, much more.

[READ THE NEWSLETTER](#)



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SCOUTS ON TRAIL TO EAGLE

Briones District Troops & Scouts on the Trail to Eagle

Starting now and until the Bay Area Health Officers end the Shelter in Place ruling that is now in place, the following guidelines are in effect for Life Scouts who are following their Trail to Eagle.

- We will continue to offer Zoom-based review boards for Project Proposal reviews. Check the District website for the procedure.
- We will continue to offer Zoom-based review boards for Rank Advancement reviews. Check the District website for the procedure.
- Scouts may work on developing proposals and preparing the planning section of the Workbook for approved projects. For Scouts who have finished their project, they are encouraged to complete the Report section of their workbook. And, if they have met all the other requirements for Advancement, they should forward their Application to our District Executive to get Council's verification signature . . . again, check the District website for how to do this.
- Eagle projects can now be done with small fixed groups with masks and distanced as much as possible.

Briones Eagle Boards of Review

EBORs are available for Scouts who have completed all their requirements. Boards may be done virtually or socially distanced and masked in person outdoors. Briones Scouts who need their EBOR should contact **Gordon Bell** at gordon.ed.bell@gmail.com, or **Bruce McGurk** at brucemcgurk@comcast.net.

Eagle Project Ideas

Eagle project ideas can be found in the Conservation section of this newsletter or on the Briones District [webpage](#).



20 ideas for unique Eagle Scout service project beneficiaries

[Read More Here](#)



Wanted: Pictures, Videos, and Stories

To be shared by the GGAC as part of our spring recruiting program. If you have any pictures, videos, or stories featuring scouts (preferably in masks) that you are willing to have shared over social media please send them to: **Wendel Baker** wendell@able-baker.com or **Lew Sisson** lew.sisson@scouting.org

The council will be promoting scouting over Facebook and Instagram.



Has your Eagle Scout aged out? Wondering how you can help?

The District is in desperate need of additional volunteer commissioners to help units. While the job may seem large **Mark Weyland**, our district commissioner, has picked out the 6 key functions a commissioner.

The unit commissioner is a friend to the unit, but what does that mean:

1. They check in with the unit's adult leadership and committee at least 5 times a year to gauge the success of the unit's program and offer suggestions for improvements or praise for their work.
2. They help the unit as needed to interact and engage with online BSA resources, and live or virtual roundtables
3. They help the unit recruit and maintain youth
4. They help the unit recharter
5. They help the unit resolve issues that may arise that the unit may not be able to solve on their own (act as a diplomat for the district and the council)
6. They set the example in action and in presentation

There's an opportunity to learn more later this month at the Northern California Commissioners College of Science. You do not have to be a commissioner to attend. It's virtual. For more information contact [Mark Weyland](#). [Click here to register](#) for the Commissioners College.



Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, Pleasant Hill & Walnut Creek Eagle Scouts
March 2021
Congratulations to our newest Eagle Scouts

Are you wondering where some of the Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda Eagle Scouts are? PARENTS: In this time of Sheltering in Place, please send pictures of your Scout in

uniform to **Norman Gee** with the information of the date and the unit the Scout earned their Eagle Scout rank. We want to make sure EVERY EAGLE SCOUT receives recognition for their achievement! Contact **Norman** normgee50@gmail.com or **Bonnie Hazarabedian** bonzai@flash.net.



Liam Bodner - Troop 204



Foster Cole - Troop 204



Tom Gallagher - Troop 810



Watson Luke - Troop 219



Paul Munnely - Troop 204



Sam Pickett - Troop 221



Vijay Sen - Troop 202



Thomas Tony - Troop 246



To commemorate the agency's 50th anniversary last year, the **Boy Scouts of America** and **EPA** signed a memorandum of understanding to create a **special award**, encouraging those in the Scouts BSA program to strive to protect the environment. The award, which features a patch, requires Scouts to earn environmental and community health-focused merit badges and participate in a service project.

[Read all about the award at Bryan on Scouting.](#)



Did you know that your units need to record their hours spent volunteering service to others? Every unit has a unique id number that they can use to record the hours. In order to make it easier for units, the District has set up an email address where you can report your hours, what the service was, and the number of Scouts that worked on it. Send an email listing the service, location, the total number of hours (# of Scouts x number of hours) to Briones.service.hours@gmail.com. Recording service hours affects everyone's Journey to Excellence scores (units, districts, councils, sections, etc...).



SAR Eagle Awards Contest

Information can be found at www.californiasar.org under programs/youth programs, or they can email me directly.

[Derek Brown](#)

President

California Society Sons of the American Revolution (CASSAR)



You too can help!

Your District Committee needs your help, we have many openings. While we're listing only the primary position, every position can use additional help even those not mentioned. The more folks who volunteer the easier the work. Let [Bruce McGurk](#) or [Mark Weyland](#) know if you're interested in helping.

Roundtable

We are in desperate need of a Roundtable Commissioner (their job is coordinate the Roundtable meetings from September thru June).

Scouts BSA Roundtable

We are equally desperate in our need of a volunteer to coordinate and present programs for troops each month.

Cub Scout Roundtable

We are equally desperate in our need of a volunteer to coordinate and present programs for packs each month.

Conservation Chair

We are in need of someone to be our Conservation Chair. You will be responsible for keeping track of conservation related opportunities in the District and sending the information with the newsletter editor.

Day Camp Directors

Will you miss not having day camp for your Cub Scouts? We need at least two people to step up and start planning next years day camp. Planning started in September for 2021. **There will be no day camp if no one steps up to chair it.**

Unit Commissioners

This is a rewarding fun job for those who have stepped down from working with their units. It's a great opportunity to share your knowledge with units who need help or just a little advice on the best way to do things.

USEFUL SCOUTING LINKS

[Golden Gate Area Council](#)

[BSA Scouting Forums](#)

This forum has a treasure trove of great info – Scouters helping Scouters! Just a heads up, though - all content, information, and opinions shared on this forum are those of the author, not the BSA.

[Bryan on Scouting](#)

A blog for BSA's Adult Leaders

[Scouting Wire](#)

The Official Blog of the Scouting Movement

Conservation Corner

Gardens & Landscape

- **Pleasant Hill Instructional Garden:** Learn about native, drought tolerant and wildlife gardening. Work parties on Sunday, check their website for dates <https://phig.webs.com/>. Eagle Scout Projects available. Inquire with **Monika Olsen**, phigarden@gmail.com.
- **Rodgers Ranch Urban Farm:** Learn about permaculture and biodynamic gardening at a historic farm in Pleasant Hill. Work parties every Saturday. <http://www.rogersranch.org/rodgers-ranch-urban-farm.html>. For Eagle Scout projects, contact **Marian Woodard**, marian@thequantumbusiness.com
- **Friends of Wagner Ranch Nature Area:** Join in every Sunday from 9 am - 1 pm to help out with gardening, general maintenance and light construction. Eagle Scout projects are also available. Contact them at <https://fwrna.org/contact/>
- **John Muir National Historic Site:** Garden and landscape volunteers assist with manual labor in the park's fruit/nut orchards and the Mt. Wanda open space areas. Biological internship also available. Contact the Volunteers In Parks Corps at 925-228-8860.

Reduce Reuse Recycle

- **The Crayon Initiative:** More than a half million pounds of crayons are discarded every year, turning into a waxy sludge that clogs our landfills and never biodegrades, and is also a waste of resources. The Crayon Initiative collects donated crayons from restaurants, schools and homes across the country, then melts them down and remanufactures them, reducing waste. Better yet, the recycled

crayons are distributed to art programs at children's hospitals across the US, brightening the lives of young patients during their stay. Get your troop involved collecting crayons! Learn more with this guide for

Scouts: http://thecrayoninitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/170604_TCI_Scouts_Program_Guide.pdf

- **Volunteer with RecycleSmart and Republic Services!** Multiple Farmers Markets in Orinda, Moraga, Danville and Walnut Creek- Scouts can assist with waste sorting stations and the RecycleSmart booth. Annual events like Pleasant Hill's Art Jazz & Wine can also use help with waste sorting stations. For more information, contact **Ashley Louisiana**, Ashley@recyclesmart.org
- Any troop can participate in a Vermicomposting (Worms!) and Bin Building Workshop with RecycleSmart. It's \$20 per family and includes all bin supplies, two hours of instruction and worms! It's a great deal and such a fun experience. For more information, contact **Ashley Louisiana**, Ashley@recyclesmart.org

Restoration

- **Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation:** Work parties most weekends; minimum volunteer age is 14, but can be opened to younger children by prior arrangement with a leader (see link below). Eagle Project opportunities include site prep and planting of native plants, as well as invasive species removal. Other projects depend on scout interest. <http://www.wcosf.org/calendar/events.html>
- **Save Mt. Diablo:** Join the Diablo Restoration Team (DiRT)! Dedicated to the conservation and enhancement of natural resources in Contra Costa County, volunteers meet monthly to get DiRTy and contribute to the stewardship of habitat for sensitive and endangered species. Contact **Jim Cartan**, jcartan@savemountdiablo.org
- **Volunteers of Outdoor California:** Trail work and camping. Visit www.v-o-cal.org
- **Friends of the Creeks:** Help transform a weedy area of creek bank in Civic Park in Walnut Creek into a meadow of wildflowers and native grasses. Restoration days monthly on the second Saturday. Email contact@FriendsOfTheCreeks.org.

Water Conservation and Wastewater Treatment

- **Residential Recycled Water Fill Station:** Monday-Friday, 9 am - 4 pm. (During wet weather and holidays, please call 925-335-7717.) <http://www.centalsan.org/index.cfm?navld=1348>
- **EBMUD Resources:** In 1978, EBMUD began an education outreach program so that students can learn about water conservation, pollution prevention and watershed stewardship. EBMUD offers classroom materials in English and Spanish at three grade levels, outdoor classroom programs from November to April, and participates in regional education outreach programs. <http://www.ebmud.com/recreation/teacher-resources/>
- **Rotary Rain Harvesting Project:** Get involved with installing rain barrels and other rain harvesting and water conservation techniques.
- **Central San Student Programs:** CCCSD is pleased to offer the following education programs to teachers and schools to help students learn about protecting their environment. <http://www.centalsan.org/index.cfm?navld=161>

Wildlife

- **Lindsay Wildlife Experience:** A variety of wonderful classes and leadership opportunities are available for youth: <https://lindsaywildlife.org/event-category/teen-programs/>

Tours

- **Contra Costa Transfer & Recovery Station Tours:** Ever wonder what happens to trash after it's whisked away from the curb? Gain an eye-opening glimpse into the world of garbage on these free tours.
- **Mt. Diablo Recycling Tours:** Learn what happens to recycling after it leaves your curb! Contact **Adriana Medina**, Adriana.Medina@garaventaent.com
- **Central San Treatment Plant Tours:** Central San offers free virtual tours of its award-winning wastewater treatment plant. <https://www.centalsan.org/virtual-plant-tour>

Here are links for teachers::

<https://www.centalsan.org/post/poop-principle>

Other Local Organizations

- Sustainable Contra Costa: <http://sustainablecoco.org/>
- Sustainable Lafayette: <http://www.sustainablelafayette.org/>
- Contra Costa Climate Leaders: <http://www.ccclimateleaders.org/>

Your newsletter editor wants to hear from you!

The Briones newsletter is sent out around the first of each month to those on the Briones email distribution list. If you wish to have something published in the newsletter, please send it to **Norman Gee** at normgee50@gmail.com and put Briones News in the subject line.