



August 1, 2021 Volume 66

Your monthly news & updates



No Roundtable this month!

Save the date of August 12 when we will kick off the new Scouting year with a BBQ at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette.

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.



Upcoming Training, District or Council Events

Wednesday - Aug 3 - Eagle BOR Binder Check - Contact [Gordon Bell](#) for time and method

Wednesday - Aug 4 - [Dr. Luis Alvarez Supernova Award](#) - Summer 2021

Saturday - Aug 7 - [Shotgun Merit Badge](#) - United Sportsmen, Concord

Saturday - Aug 7 - [Dr. Charles Townes Supernova Award](#) (Science Fair) - Summer 2021 - Council Service Center, Pleasant Hill

Sunday - Aug 8-13 - [Powder Horn](#) - Wente Scout Reservation, Willits

Monday - Aug 9 - Eagle Board of Review - Contact [Bruce McGurk](#)

Tuesday - Aug 10 - Eagle Board of Review - Contact [Gordon Bell](#)

Thursday - Aug 12 - Briones Kickoff BBQ - 6-8 pm - Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Lafayette - \$5 @ Door

Sunday - Aug 15 - Adrianne Kordelos Memorial - 10 am - Camp Herms, El Cerrito

Sunday - Aug 15 - [OA Summer BBQ](#) - 1 pm - Camp Herms, El Cerrito

Thursday - Aug 19 - District Committee Meeting

Friday - Aug 27-29 - [CPR & Wilderness First Aid @ Family Camp](#) - Wente Scout Reservation, Willits

Friday - Aug 27-29 - [Family Vacation Camp](#) - Wente Scout Reservation, Willits

Saturday - Aug 28 - [Cub Scout Field Day](#) - 9:30 am - 12:30 pm - Camp Herms, El Cerrito

Saturday - Aug 28 - [Cub Scout Field Day](#) - 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm Camp Herms, El Cerrito

Wednesday - Sep 1 - Eagle BOR Binder Check - Contact [Gordon Bell](#) for time and method

Thursday - Sep 2 - Roundtable

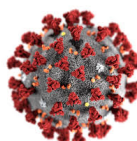
Friday - Sep 3-6 - [CPR & Wilderness First Aid @ Family Camp](#) - Wente Scout Reservation, Willits

Friday - Sep 3-6 - [Family Vacation Camp](#) - Wente Scout Reservation, Willits

Friday - Sep 3-6 - [Family Vacation Camp](#) - Camp Royaneh, Cazadero

Monday - Sep 13 - Eagle Board of Review - St. Monica Catholic Church, Moraga - Contact [Bruce McGurk](#)

Tuesday - Sep 14 - Eagle Board of Review - Contact [Gordon Bell](#)



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 \(ca.gov\)](https://www.ca.gov/covid-19/restrictions)

BSA Membership fee to change beginning Aug. 1, 2021

The Boy Scouts of America has worked to keep the annual membership fee as low as possible, but with rising operating costs, the fee will be increased to maintain the program.

Starting Aug. 1, the **membership fee** for Cub Scouting, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouting participants will be \$72, a \$6 increase from the \$66 fee enacted last August.

The fee for Exploring participants will be \$45, up from \$42.

The one-time \$25 joining fee for new program participants in Cub Scouting, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouting will still be required. There is no joining fee for Exploring, participants previously registered in any BSA program, those transferring from one program to another, council-paid memberships or adult volunteers.

Fees for all adult volunteers will be \$45, also up from \$42. That includes the cost of a background check. Council-paid memberships will remain at \$30 and the unit charter fee will stay at \$75.

Scouting remains a valuable investment. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, when Scouts were forced to stay home, they still learned skills that will benefit them for the rest of their lives. They still helped those in need. They still became leaders in their units and communities. Scouting is needed now in America, just as much as it was in 1910.

Your questions answered:

Why are the fees increasing?

The national annual membership fee is increasing because the costs associated with Scouting, including liability insurance, continue to increase. The organization is not able to subsidize the increased costs as it had in the past.

When will this increase take effect?

The updated membership fees will take effect August 1, 2021. To recap, the **updated fees** will be:

- \$72 for Cub Scouting, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouting participants
- \$45 for Exploring participants
- \$30 for council-paid memberships
- \$45 for all adult volunteers (includes cost of background check)
- \$75 for a unit charter fee

Does the fee increase apply to council-paid memberships?

Council-paid memberships will be \$30 annually for youth members in fully funded council-paid units for low-income communities.

What will the money be used for?

The annual national membership fee and new-member joining fee help pay for the cost of essential services, including program resources, liability insurance, youth protection and other local council resources. It will not be funding a victims' compensation trust. The cost of background checks is paid for by the national organization, but it is not the driver of this increase.

In addition to the national membership fee, my council is implementing a council fee. Is that allowed?

Starting August 1, 2021, councils can also choose to charge a fee up to, but no more than, the national membership fee. The council fee can include local insurance costs, as well as the cost to administer unique local programming. Units can continue to assess activity fees.

What measures has the national organization taken to offset its financial challenges?

The BSA has continued to make efforts to streamline and simplify the organization, which included reductions last year as well as the consolidation of departments and elimination of some significant vendors. You can watch this year's National Annual Meeting business meeting [here](#), which includes a financial report.

Will the national membership fee continue to increase?

Although no decision about future increases has been made, the cost of operating our organization and services increases every year. Should it be necessary to increase fees in the future, the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America has agreed to evaluate the needs and make such decisions, whenever possible, at the National Annual Meeting so that decisions can be announced with as much lead time as possible to allow councils and units to plan accordingly.



On August 12th at 6pm we will have a BACK TO SCOUTING outdoor gathering in person.

Where: Our Saviors Lutheran Church lower parking lot (1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette)

When: August 12th 6-8pm

What: Kick off BBQ, food will be served and face to face fellowship is expected!

Theme: Briones is Back to Scouting. We will discuss the Roundtable schedule and themes for the year, special events, council business, international patches, LEAD, Wood Badge, etc.

Hot dogs and vegetarian dogs and chips and salad will be provided. Cost per person \$5 at the door. Use the link attached here to sign up. Questions or to HELP WITH SET UP at 5:30pm send email to **Mark Weyland** at jadesigns@sbcglobal.net.

Join with your fellow Scouters to kick off a new year of Scouting!!

[Sign Up Here!](#)



Mom & Cub Camp September 24-26 @ Camp Royaneh

Moms and their Cub (Lion, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos). Located in the beautiful coastal redwoods of Camp Royaneh. The staff will guide you through a weekend of fun and adventure especially designed to reinforce that mother-child bond. A great escape for Cub Scouts and their moms (or another adult female partner like grandmothers, aunts, etc.).

Tiger Cub Safari October 2-3 @ Wente Scout Reservation

Tiger Cubs from April 2020 to April 2021 and their Partners (new Tigers will have their very own event in 2022). Come to Wente Scout Reservation and catch up on all the Tiger Cub Camping you missed due to COVID

Cub Camping Connection October 23-24 @ Rancho Los Mochos

All new scouts and their Adult Buddy. This is the overnight campout for you! Bring along your family for a special introduction to Cub Scout Camping. Registration is pending.



Escape the great indoors! Join in Cub Scout fun at Camp Herms in El Cerrito on Saturday, August 28.

Morning and afternoon sessions are available.

Launch a rocket, learn some useful knots, practice pocket knife skills (8-10 year-olds only), learn sign language, race a Pinewood Derby car, set up a tent, and more.

Also, current Cub Scouts can choose archery or BB gun marksmanship, as space permits.

Current Cub Scouts, as well as boys and girls aged 5-10 who are not yet Cub Scouts, are welcome to attend. Which of your friends will you invite?

Each youth, Cub Scout or not, must have a parent or guardian in attendance. Register by August 21 to get in on the fun!

Prices are:

\$15 Cub Scout **with** Archery or BB gun marksmanship

\$10 Cub Scout **without** Archery or BB marksmanship

\$ 5 prospective Cub Scout (boy or girl aged 5-10)

(No Archery or BB gun marksmanship is available for non-scouts.)

Questions? Contact Janet McDonald at janetmcdonald5000@sbcglobal.net.

[Click here for a flyer!](#)

[Click Here to Register](#)



Camp Royaneh

September 3-6, 2021

Wente Scout Reservation

August 27-29, 2021

September 3-6, 2021

Family Vacation Camp Weekends are an exciting opportunity for your family to experience the scenic outdoors and fun adventures at the premier Boy Scout camp properties of the Golden Gate Area Council. Family Vacation Camp is a long weekend to hike, swim, enjoy nature, read a book, relax in the shade, or participate in many other exciting activities at a fraction of the cost of a hotel or resort vacation.

The families of anyone registered in the Boy Scouts of America (Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venture Scouts, Sea Scouts, Explorer Scouts, and Adult Leaders) may participate. You can bring along friends and relatives to camp with you as well. Family Vacation Camp is intended to provide a quality family atmosphere!

[Click Here for more Information!](#)



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](#)



Join Scouts Nationwide to help all corners of our communities!

As we have throughout our history, Scouting families have answered the call to work together in service of the greater good. From public health drives...to caring for the environment...to assisting neighbors in need...Scouts have always been a force for positivity and goodness in our communities.

The Summer of Service is a broad initiative for individuals, families, units,

districts and councils to participate, share, and report the amazing impact of serving the community.

Check out more about The Summer of Service at
www.scouting.org/summerofservice

[Click Here for Ideas!](#)



**Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, Pleasant Hill & Walnut Creek Eagle Scouts
July 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.



Jennifer Bauer - Troop 200G



Nicolai Bell - Troop 303



Kaden Finegold - Troop 219



Luke Franklin - Troop 237



Dylan Mandell - Troop 219



Ryan Mandell - Troop 219



Kirsten Meade - Troop 200G



George Rogers- Troop 243



Alex Sastokas- Troop 243

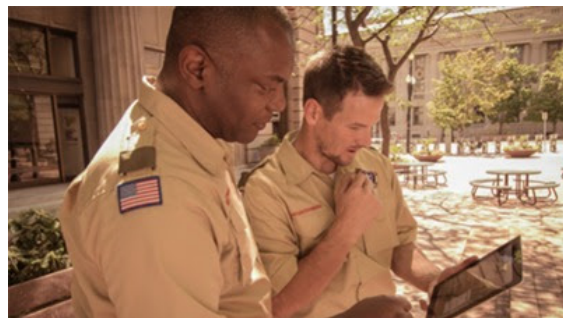


Luke Thomas - Troop 810



The 2021 Guide to Advancement, the official source for administering advancement in all BSA programs, is now available.

[Click Here to Download](#)



Information on the Planned Phase-Out of the Current Internet Recharter System

To improve systems and increase speed and efficiency in processes while reducing costs, the current Internet Recharter system will be phased out. All units with a charter expire date of December 31, 2021 and beyond will be submitted through a new system located in Internet Advancement 2.0 (<https://advancements.scouting.org>).

Additionally, for council staff, the new Registrar Tools will be released this fall to support the new Internet Rechartering system. Registrar Tools, located in

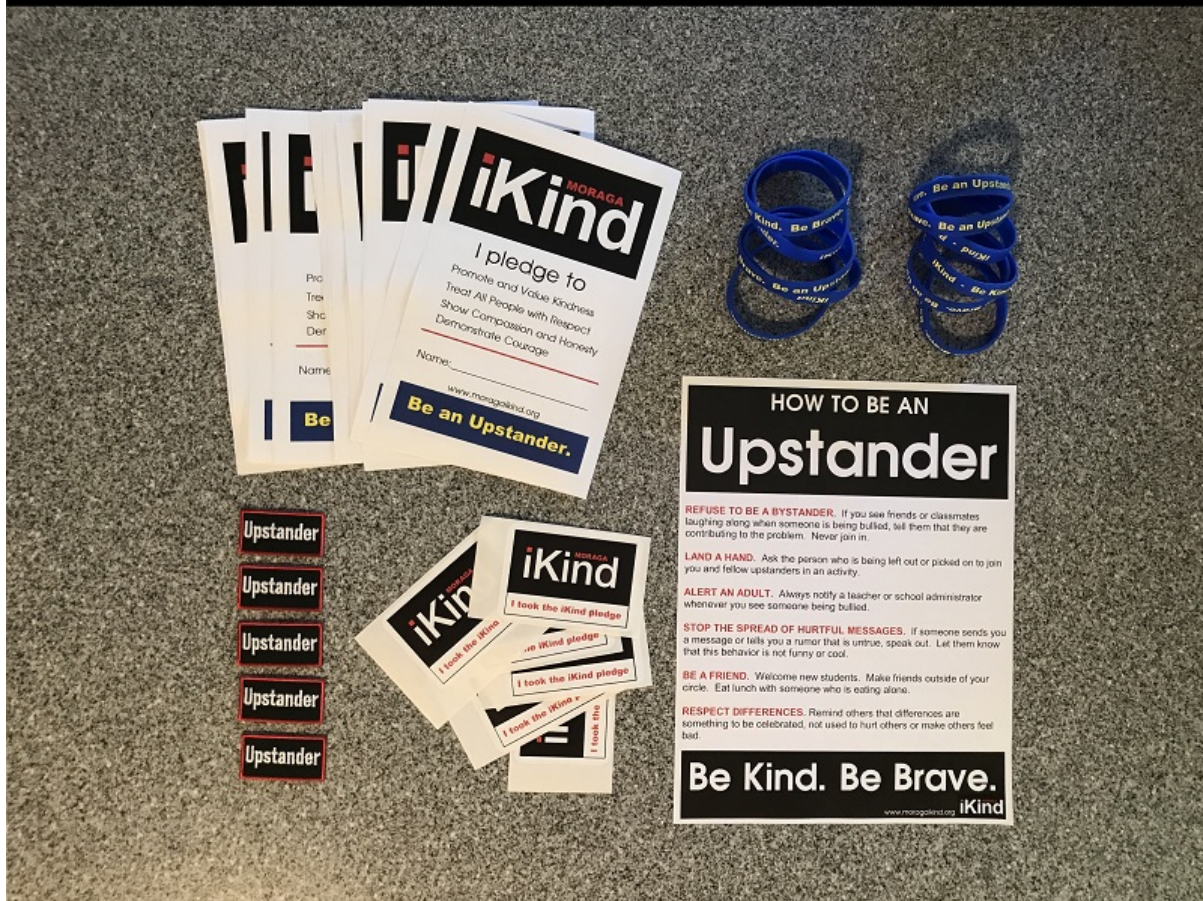
My.Scouting, will allow the processing of offline, paper charters as well as online digital charters beginning with charters expiring on December 31, 2021. This ONLY affects renewals with a charter expire date of December 31, 2021 or later. All other renewals will continue to take place in the current Internet Recharter system (ScoutNet).

More information and training materials will be released soon.

[Click Here for FAQ](#)

Turn your Cubs into a Pack of Upstanders

With Free pledge forms, wristbands, stickers, patches and posters



Request free materials from the Moraga iKind Project by sending an e-mail to: wendell@able-baker.com

iKind MORAGA

Be an Upstander.



Mark Woodman needs your help with our upcoming Popcorn Sale. Please email [Mark](#) letting him know the following:

1. Your Scout Unit *will* sell BSA Popcorn this fall, but you have not yet signed up online.
2. Your Scout Unit *will* sell BSA Popcorn this fall, and has already signed up online.
3. Your Scout Unit has not yet decided on whether or not to participate in BSA Popcorn Sales this fall.
4. Your Scout Unit *will not* participate in the BSA Popcorn Sale this fall.

Please sign up your Scout Unit using this link: <https://www.trails-end.com/unit-registration>

If you are unsure about selling popcorn this fall, there are some great short webinars to attend to help make that decision easier, please go to: <https://www.trails-end.com/webinars> to sign up.

Individual Scouts can sell popcorn, even if your Scout Unit is not participating as a whole. If you have a Scout Family that would like to participate individually, please direct them to Mark.

If you have questions about popcorn sales please reach out to me or our District Popcorn Kernel **Dave Melfi** at dmelfi88@gmail.com

Earn additional unit commission by attending one of the GGAC Virtual Popcorn Kick-off's!!

Let's make 2021 a historical year!!

Please register in advance to one of the three Kick-Off's:

August 4th (Noon), August 5th in-person & virtual (7PM) or August 9th (6:30PM)

[REGISTER TO SIGN-UP FOR A KICK OFF!!](#)

Help Your Scouts Sell Over \$1,000 in Under 8 Hours

[CLICK HERE](#) to download a how-to guide to share with your Scouts about how they can fund their entire year of Scouting in under 8 hours! When broken down into achievable time commitments, the goal seems much more attainable to both Scouts and parents. Check it out today!

Trails-End Webinars

[NEW KERNEL WEBINARS:](#)

An intro to the world of popcorn for all new Popcorn Kernels! Offering in depth training of the Trail's End Portal, Trail's End App & Best Practices to help get

[RETURNING KERNEL WEBINARS:](#)

Training on updates to the Trail's End Portal, Trails End App and Best Practices for 2021. 30 Minute Training + Q&A

MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Effective July 12, 2021 all merit badge counselors who are not officially approved by their council to counsel a badge will have that badge removed from their approved list of badges to counsel in Scoutbook. If a merit badge counselor is connected to a Scout to counsel an affected badge that connection will be removed. The only changes to Scouts would be to drop the merit badge counselor connection for the affected badges. Scoutbook will not remove any MB progress approved by the affected merit badge counselors.

Merit Badge Counselors can check if the badge they are counseling in Scoutbook is approved by their council by going to My Dashboard, Administration, My Account, My Positions: their positions and if the badge has a blue checkmark it is approved; if the badge has a green checkmark it is not approved and you should contact your council to continue counseling that badge.



Beth Smith with City of Walnut Creek CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and is looking for a very special scout to take on a new Eagle Project. The project involves setting up a completely self-contained communication system that will transmit emergency messages from laptop computers at CERT command posts via radio to the city's Emergency Operations Center at city hall. The scout should have a basic understanding of computer networking, ham radio communications and electronics.

This will be a fairly expensive project, so CERT is actively looking for outside funding sources, but the scout would be expected to help with this process. As funding organizations are identified, the scout and his CERT technical advisors will make a presentation to that organization to explain the project and to request funding.

This project is time sensitive, so the scout must be motivated to complete this project as efficiently as possible.



Boardwalk Fall Scout Overnight
Friday, October 8 - Saturday, October 9, 2021

Enjoy camping under the stars and a whole lot of Boardwalk fun at this epic overnight event!

[Register Your Unit Now](#)

Event will operate in compliance with any State or local COVID-19 safety guidelines.



Reminder of several aspects of the Eagle Scout Rank process that have been missed by many of our Scouts lately. Please read them below and share the information with your Unit Leadership and Eagle Scout Candidates. If the Scout needs to have an extension of time, please have them complete the form found here: <https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/GTA-11.2.0.0-form-2021.pdf>. This form then needs to be emailed to our Briones District Advancement Chair **Mrs. Bonnie Hazarabedian** (bonzai@flash.net), our Council Advancement Committee Chair **Mr. Merl Nygren** (nygreme@att.net), and our Council Advancement Committee Advisor **Mr. Michael Charlesworth** (michael.charlesworth@scouting.org) for review.

Please note that our council can only grant up to a six-month extension. Any time beyond that needs to be approved by our National Office. Also, our Council Advancement Committee only meets once per month to discuss extensions, please make sure to have your Scout complete the extension form and turn it in at least a few weeks before their 18th birthday. They are to continue to work towards completing their Eagle Rank even if they have not heard back from the committee about their extension.

Eagle Scout Project Proposals need to be reviewed and approved by either **Mr. Ed Isley** (ekisely@comcast.net) or **Mr. Mark Paulson**

(eagleworkbook@gmail.com) prior to any work being done on the project. They will sign in the “Council or District Approval” section on Proposal Page H in the Workbook (<https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/EagleProjectWorkbook2021c-v2.pdf>).

If the Scout needs to complete an Eagle Scout Project Fundraising Application (Fundraising Application Page A in the Workbook), the “Authorized Council Approval” is for only **Mark Woodman**, as District Director, to sign after signatures of the Beneficiary and Unit Leader are received. Please have the Scout email him at mark.woodman@scouting.org and make sure to include at least one other adult in that email.

Once the Scout has completed their Scoutmaster Conference for Eagle, they need to send their completed Eagle Scout Rank Application to **Mark** (mark.woodman@scouting.org) to review the application before it gets verified at our Council Office. The latest this step can be done is the day before the Scout’s 18th birthday, or the final day of their approved extension. If the Scout has an extension, please have them let **Mark** know that final date of their extension at this time.

A few notes on the Eagle Scout Rank Application
(https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-728_WB_fillable.pdf):

An Eagle Scout Rank Application can be downloaded from ScoutBook with all of the dates preloaded into the correct fields, by using the information provided on the attached PDF.

Each line on the application must be completed through the signature of the Unit Committee Chair on page two. With the exception of the employer reference, if the Scout is not employed.

All information for each reference must be included: name, address, telephone, and email. If the Scout does not have a religious reference, they must include a parent or guardian in that field.

The Grand total of hours under Requirement 5 on page two is the total number of hours the project took to complete, counting everyone’s involvement, not just the Eagle Candidate. Please encourage your Scouts to start this tally of hours as they are starting to research project ideas.

If even one number on a completion date is incorrect from the Scout’s official records, **Mark** will send the application back to the Scout to be corrected.

If there are missing dates for items that have not yet been entered into the Scout’s Advancement Records, please include a BSA Advancement Report (<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34403.pdf>) with the application. This report authorizes our Council to enter in the missing dates. If **Mark** finds a missing date on an application, **Mark** will reach out to you individually for this report.

Once the Eagle Scout Rank Application is correct, **Mark** will then send it to our Council Registrar **Mrs. Masouda Ibrahim** (masouda.ibrahimi@scouting.org) for the Council Verification step on page two. This process may take a day or two, depending on workload, vacation schedules, etc.

After the verification has been complete, **Mrs. Ibrahim** will email a scan of the application back to the candidate, cc’ing **Mark** and our Council Advancement

Committee Chair **Mr. Merl Nygren** (nygreme@att.net).

Scouts can then schedule their Eagle Scout Board of Review with **Mr. Bruce McGurk** (brucemcgurk@comcast.net) for the Lamorinda Area, or **Mr. Gordon Bell** (gordon.ed.bell@gmail.com) for the Walnut Creek/Pleasant Hill Area. After the Board of Review is complete, paperwork is sent to our National Office for final verification and certification. About 3-4 weeks later (sometimes up to 6 weeks), the Eagle Scout's National Certificate and final paperwork is mailed back to our Council Office. Once they are received, the Scoutmaster or Committee Chair will be notified that the Eagle Credentials and Award Kit is available for pick up. Since the office is closed at this time, we will arrange a pick up time, or Mark would be happy to drop off the items at your home or place of work.

Please remind your Scouts to always include at least one other adult while emailing any of the people mentioned above. This keeps everyone within Youth Protection and CyberChip guidelines. If a Scout forgets to do so, Mark will kindly remind them of this policy in his email reply, in which he will include you.

We know that this is a long and complicated process. It can go smoothly by following these few steps.

Thank you and please let Mark know if you have any questions.

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 how-to PDF: [Charter Certificate](#), [Membership Cards](#).



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](#)



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
-



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 to 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 will start in September for 2022. **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-](http://thecrayoninitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/170604_TCI_Scouts_Program_Guide.pdf)

[content/uploads/2017/12/170604_TCI_Scouts_Program_Guide.pdf](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 centralsan.org/index.cfm?navId=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?navid=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>

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

Other Local Organizations

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

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