



August 1, 2022 Volume 78

Your monthly news & updates



NO ROUNDTABLE

Enjoy your summer! Get out and camp!

Briones District Kickoff
August 11, 2022
Our Saviors Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

Cost \$10.00
RSVP [Mark Weyland](#) by August 9th

Scout Shop & Service Center Update

The Council Service Center in Pleasanton is open, 6601 Owens Drive, Suite 100, Pleasanton 94588. The main phone number and professional staff extensions are unchanged.

The new Scout Shop is open. 508 Contra Costa Boulevard, Suite K2, Pleasant Hill 94523

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

Monday - Aug 1-6 - Webelos Resident Camp - Camp Royaneh, Cazadero

Tuesday - Aug 2 - Eagle Board of Review - St. Monica Catholic Church, Moraga - See Eagle info below for more details

Wednesday – Aug 10 - Eagle BOR Binder Check - Contact Gordon Bell for time and method

Thursday – Aug 11 - Briones Kickoff BBQ - Our Saviors Lutheran Church - 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

Friday - Aug 12-14 - Golden Gate Area Program Planning Retreat - Rancho Los Mochos, Livermore

Wednesday – Aug 17 - Eagle Board of Review - Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek - Contact Gordon Bell

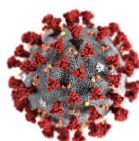
Friday - Aug 26-28 - Family Vacation Camp - Wente Scout Reservation, Willits

Tuesday - Aug 30 - Council Coordinated Meeting - Zoom

Tuesday - Sep 6 - Eagle Board of Review - St. Monica Catholic Church, Moraga - See Eagle info below for more details

Wednesday – Sep 14 - Eagle BOR Binder Check - Contact [Gordon Bell](#) for time and method

Wednesday – Sep 21 - Eagle Board of Review - Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek - 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)



Our next Order of Arrow Village meeting is in person in August Thursday, Aug 11th @ 6:30 pm at Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette.

If you would like to join the Briones District Kickoff BBQ, please RSVP to [Mark Weyland](#) and bring \$10.00 for dinner.

We normally meet on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. The meetings are approximately an hour long. More information about that below.

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.

Golden Gate Area Council (GGAC) Community:

The national fee structure for the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is being updated as of **August 1, 2022**. Overall, there are modest increases to unit charter/affiliation fees (\$25 increase) and minor increases in the cost of registration for youth members (\$3) and for a *Scout Life* magazine subscription (\$3).

The value of Scouting is undeniable for those within the program and the greater public, and the BSA is committed to continuing to offer this unmatched opportunity to young people and families nationwide.

As costs on many daily goods and services continue to rise dramatically, the BSA has worked to keep its membership fee as low as possible. However, these external pressures continue to have an effect, and the annual national membership fee must be increased to address the fiscal realities necessary to continue delivering a safe and quality Scouting program.

To ensure the organization has the resources to fulfill the promise of Scouting, the following national membership fee structure will take effect **August 1, 2022**.

- **\$75** for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts participants (\$3 increase)
- **\$45** for Exploring participants (no change in cost)
- **\$30** for council-paid memberships (no change in cost)
- **\$45** for all adult volunteers (no change in cost, includes cost of **National Council** background check - the separate LiveScan check to meet AB506 requirements is **not included** in this fee.)
- **\$100** for a unit charter/affiliation fee (\$25 increase)
- **\$25** one-time joining fee for new program participants in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts (Not pro-rated, no change in cost)
- **\$15** for Scout Life magazine; this is the first price increase since 2005 (\$3 increase)

The national membership fee helps cover the cost of essential services, including program resources, liability insurance for those participating in approved Scouting activities, criminal background checks, youth protection, and the development of intellectual property for national, council, and unit programs. As BSA moves forward, the organization will continue to look at the membership fee structure and how we deliver the Scouting program for future generations.

In addition to the national fees, GGAC charges a council program fee at the time of registration. The CPF is designed to support the basic services that a unit receives from GGAC. The vast majority of the fee (85%) is intended to support program and activities. It is an anchor that allows GGAC to build on those services with additional income from fundraising streams, activity fees, popcorn sales, and endowment revenue. Exploring members are not currently required to pay the CPF. The GGAC Executive Board is evaluating the current CPF and will take action at the August board meeting if any changes are necessary, but the fees remain the same for now (\$66 youth, \$42 adult).

Across the country and in each of our communities, we know that Scouting remains one of the most valuable investments we can make in youth today so they can become the leaders we will turn to tomorrow.

Our dedicated volunteers, staff, and Scouting families make this possible. Thank you for continuing to support one of the most valuable opportunities available to young people today.

Dan Walters
Council President

Mike Hale
Scout Executive

Michael Allison
Council Commissioner



Citizenship in Society Merit Badge

NOW Eagle Required July 1, 2022

Scoutmasters: Thank you for helping your Scouts in their journey through Scouting. The new merit badge, Citizenship in Society, is now “Eagle Required.” The Advancement Committee has adopted a process focused on serving those youth who will “age out” this calendar year. Both Scouts and Counselors participating in National’s pilot reported that results were enhanced working with a group of 6 to 8 high school aged Scouts who were within 2 years of age.

The process prioritizes 17-year-old Life Scouts who will not complete the Eagle Scout requirements (less an Eagle Board of Review) prior to June 30, 2022. Participation will be expanded for other Life Scouts (and other ranks) as the demand by 17-year-olds diminishes.

Please:

Review the Citizenship in Society requirements.

Review the Scout’s record of completed merit badges.

Discuss cohort participation with Scout and parent. Determine readiness.

Complete the on-line form: <https://forms.gle/rxgjiH2zU8b8aofyf8>

Please assure the parent is connected to Scout in Scoutbook as all communication and Merit Badge sign-offs will occur through Scoutbook

What will happen:

Parent will be sent coupon code and instructions for Scout to:

Review Available Citizenship in Society Cohorts

Select Cohort with compatible schedule

Register using a one-time Coupon Code or pay \$1,000 (this is there to ensure scout has a coupon code!).

Scoutbook will be used for all communications.

Virtual meetings such as Zoom, Goggle Teams, etc.



WOOD BADGE

One amazing opportunity over two fun filled weekends!

Who is Wood Badge for?

Wood Badge is for all adults in Scouting: anyone age 18 or older, male or female, involved with Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts, Exploring, district, or council.

The only requirements for attending Wood Badge are:

- You be registered in the Boy Scouts of America,
- You have taken the basic training for your position, most of which can be taken online through www.my.Scouting.org
- Have completed the outdoor skills training programs appropriate for their Scouting positions.
- Be capable of functioning safely In an outdoor environment.
- Completion of the BSA health form parts A, B & C.

How do I register?

You can register TODAY by going to: <https://ggacbsa.org/wood-badge/>

Sign up TODAY! Registration is limited, only a couple of openings remain!

[Click here for more information!](#)



Journey to Excellence

The Boy Scouts of America has released the latest update to the annual [Journey to Excellence scorecards](#), which list the unit evaluation items that go into determining a unit's JTE status at the end of the year. We've always encouraged unit leaders to use the scorecard a few times a year to see how they're doing. Now is a good time to see how the first half of the year went and what might need to be improved upon going forward.



Minor Modifications to Scouts BSA Rank Requirements

In 2021, all outdoor-related rank advancement requirements were reviewed and realigned based on guidance from the National Outdoor Ethics and

Conservation Subcommittee. These adjustments will help more effectively build a Scout's outdoor ethics knowledge and align with the information in the Scouts BSA Handbook and Fieldbook. The requirements now build in a logical way through the ranks, with Leave No Trace (LNT) and the Outdoor Code (OC) used as references throughout.

Beginning August 1, 2022, these minor modifications to the Scouts BSA requirements for the ranks of Scout through Star will take effect. Scouts may continue using the existing requirements for the rank on which they are currently working, or they may choose to use the new requirements. Scouts must use the new requirements once they advance to their next rank. On January 1, 2023, all Scouts must use only the new requirements.

The specific changes are detailed below.

In addition, beginning July 1, 2022, the Citizenship in Society merit badge becomes required for the rank of Eagle.

Finally, new videos were created to support "Personal Safety Awareness" (chapter 13) of the Scouts BSA Handbook. These can be used as an alternative to earning the Cyber Chip.

The specific changes can be found [here](#).



July/August 2022

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.

From the Guide to Advancement:

Trained "Agents" Produce Retained Scouts

- On Increasing Advancement: Positions of Responsibility – The Quartermaster
- Cub Scouts: Helping Cub Scouts Learn to Protect Themselves (amended)
- Merit Badges: Virtual MB Classes –New Freedoms, Renewed Responsibilities;

Best Practices for Approving Merit Badge Counselors (Part 1 of 3)

- Special Needs Interests: "The Toolbox" – A-to-Z Online Resource Launched
- Awards: STEM/NOVA Awards Program - Now Council-Administered
- Worth Repeating: Service Projects – At the Core of Scouting (August-

September 2012)

- Helpful Links: Advancement Resources: Abilities Digest

[Read Current Newsletter](#)



The Fall Leave No Trace Trainer Course will be held October 22-23, 2022 at Rancho Los Mochos. Download the attached a [flyer](#) in case you or someone in your unit or district is interested. **Lilli Remer** would appreciate your help publicizing this course. On line registration is now open at <https://www.scoutingevent.com/023-LNTTFall2022>.



Order of the Arrow Elections

Last Call for unit elections! There is still time to schedule an Order of the Arrow election for your Scouts BSA units before the last induction weekend in August. Contact [Michael McDowell](#), Village Adviser to Schedule.



July 19-28, 2023
Summit Bechtel Reserve, West Virginia

Scouting's flagship event is coming and you don't want to miss it! For 10 days, the Boy Scouts of America comes together for a gathering of approximately 40,000 Scouts, leaders, and staff that showcases everything that is great about

the BSA and its members. The result is the National Scout Jamboree. To keep up with the latest information, visit the [Summit website](#).

Scouts and Scouters will have all kinds of adventures—stadium shows, pioneer village, Garden Ground hikes, adventure sports, patch trading, and more—in the heart of one of nature's greatest scouting venues – Bechtel Summit.

Jamboree is a fantastic experience to learn, meet new friends from around the country, and explore new skills and have an experience of a lifetime.

[Click here for information on the Golden Gate Area Council Contingent!](#)



The annual Friends of Scouting campaign has started! [Jill Tarkoff](#) is leading our family FOS efforts!!! One thing that we can do to help get keep the ball rolling is to get the dates and times that your unit is planning to have your FOS presentation if you have not already done so. Please reach out and let [Michael Charlesworth](#) and [Jill Tarkoff](#) know what date you are planning on having your presentations. Once we get your date, we can get the volunteers to give the presentations and then we can fund the program that we all love! Thank you all for everything that you do.



**Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, Pleasant Hill & Walnut Creek Eagle Scouts
July 2022**

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.



Colin Fllippini- Troop 405



Sean Hanley - Troop 221



Timothy Lambert- Troop 810





Dawson Sweet- Troop 1811



MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS

Merit Badge Counselors :If you are planning to do any group merit badge sessions that are planned and advertised as such, according to the Guide to Advancement these must be pre-approved by the Council Advancement Committee, this does not include something being done within your unit. As a reminder there should be no charge for Merit Badge counseling. If you have any questions on this please feel free to contact [Ron Fedele](#).

Explanation video for registration and re-registration of Merit Badge Counselor, Nova Counselors and Super Nova Mentors: <https://youtu.be/rM7p2d0K-v0>

These are the web pages referred to in the video:

MBC re-registration video: <https://ggacbsa.org/mbc-renewal/>

MBC registration:(includes explanation video) <https://ggacbsa.org/merit-badge-counselor-application-update-start-page-cloned-34386/>

Nova Counselor registration (includes explanation video):

<https://ggacbsa.org/stem-nova-counselor-application-update-start-page/>

Super Nova Mentor re-registration (includes explanation video):

<https://ggacbsa.org/stem-super-nova-mentor-application-update-start-page/>

The registrars email address is michelle.behrendt@scouting.org

Emails will go out shortly regarding re-registration. Your current MBC status expired on June 30, 2022 and if you choose to renew it will be for 6 months as we are shifting Council and District position expirations to 12/31. If you do not respond to the email you will NOT be renewed. Please check with other MBC's

in your unit to ensure they have received this email. If they have not they should check their email and MBC status in Scoutbook.

<https://help.scoutbook.scouting.org/knowledge-base/scoutbook-merit-badge-counselor-guide/>

To put us in sync with **Golden Gate Area Council requirements** please note the following: You must have YPT to the end of the registration period (12/31/2023) if you do not you will NOT be renewed. You must have completed the AB506 requirements (Training and Live Scan) see californiascouting.org. You must submit updated certifications for Merit badges that require them (more info to come).

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out.

"Every Scout deserves a trained leader" - **Lord Baden Powell** of Gilwell

Ronald E. Fedele

Assistant Council Commissioner for Technology

Council Merit Badge Dean

Ronfedele@jazzyjelly.com



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. Matt Lindberg** 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. Chris Kolm** (cjkolm@hotmail.com) or **Mr. Mark Paulson**

(eagleworkbook@gmail.com) prior to any work being done on the project. Mr. Kolm will review projects via email and then arrange meetings at his residence in Moraga by appointment on Monday evenings. 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 **Michael Charlesworth**, as interim District Executive, to sign after signatures of the Beneficiary and Unit Leader are received. Please have the Scout email him at michael.charlesworth@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 **Michael** (michael.charlesworth@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 **Michael** 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, **Michael** 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 **Michael** finds a missing date on an application, **Michael** will reach out to you individually for this report.

Once the Eagle Scout Rank Application is correct, **Michael** will then send it to our Council Registrar **Michelle Behrendt** (michelle.behrendt@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, **Ms. Behrendt** will email a scan of the application back to the candidate, cc'ing **Michael** and our Council Advancement Committee Chair **Mr. Merl Nygren** (nygreme@att.net).

Scouts can then schedule their Eagle Scout Board of Review with **Mr. Herb Lederman** (herblederkop@gmail.com) for the Lamorinda Area, or **Mr. Gordon Bell** (gordon.ed.bell@gmail.com) for the Walnut Creek/Pleasant Hill Area. Scouts working with **Mr. Lederman** for their Board of Review need to send their workbook to **Mr. Bruce McGurk** for pre-board processing. 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.

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, **Michael** 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 **Michael** know if you have any questions.



Fifty miles is a long way to travel, whether you're hiking, bicycling, boating or canoeing. That's why the BSA's **50-Miler Award** exists — to recognize these achievements and to promote activities that improve personal fitness, self-reliance, knowledge of the outdoors.

Learn more about the award's requirements in [the story from the March-April 2011 issue of Scouting magazine](#).



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](#).



For Scouts, Unit Leaders, Advisers, and Parents - here's the complete Life to Eagle Trail. Step by step with no step missed!

**Check it
out!**



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 in person or 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. Scouts can then schedule their Eagle Scout Board of Review with **Mr. Herb Lederman** (herblederkop@gmail.com) for the Lamorinda Area, or **Mr. Gordon Bell** (gordon.ed.bell@gmail.com) for the Walnut Creek/Pleasant Hill Area. Scouts working with Mr. Lederman for their Board of Review need to send their workbook to [Mr. Bruce McGurk](#) for pre-board processing.

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?

Join the Power Team of commissioners! 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



Boardwalk Fall Scout Overnight
Friday, October 7 - Saturday, October 8, 2022

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

[Register Your Pack/Troop Now](#)



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!

Join your District's Power Team, 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 need of a Roundtable Commissioner (their job is coordinate the Roundtable meetings from September thru June).

Scouts BSA Roundtable

We also need a volunteer to coordinate and present programs for troops each month.

Cub Scout Roundtable

We also 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 2023. **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.

[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?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/>

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.