



February 1, 2021 Volume 60

Your monthly news & updates



Virtual Roundtable This Month
Thursday, February 4, 2021

For the Roundtable on the 4th of February we will be discussing the Eagle Scout process.

All Scoutmasters and interested parents should attend! Eagle Coaches and Advisors should attend as well!

**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

Tuesday - Feb 2 - Groundhog Day
Wednesday - Feb 3 - Eagle BOR Binder Check - Contact [Gordon Bell](#) for time and method
Thursday - Feb 4 - Commissioners Meeting via [Zoom](#) - 6:30 pm
Thursday - Feb 4 - Roundtable via [Zoom](#) - 7:00 pm
Thursday - Feb 4 - OA Chapter Meeting via Zoom 7:00 pm - Contact [Mr. Stanton](#) for link
Friday - Feb 5-6 - Scout Jumuah
Friday - Feb 5-6 - Scout Sabbath
Sunday - Feb 7 - Scout Sunday
Monday - Feb 8 - Eagle Board of Review - Contact [Bruce McGurk](#)
Tuesday - Feb 9 - Eagle Board of Review - Contact [Gordon Bell](#)
Friday - Feb 12 - Uncovering the Past - 6:30 pm
Sunday - Feb 14 - Valentine's Day
Monday - Feb 15 - President's Day
Monday - Feb 15 - Uncovering the Past - 6:30 pm
Wednesday - Feb 17 - Ash Wednesday
Saturday - Feb 20 - GGAC Volunteer Recognition Event
Sunday - Feb 21 - [Be the Change](#) - Facebook Live - 5:00 pm
Monday - Mar 1 - Luis Alvarez Supernova Event
Wednesday - Mar 3 - Eagle BOR Binder Check - Contact [Gordon Bell](#) for time and method
Thursday - Mar 4 - Commissioners Meeting via [Zoom](#) - 6:30 pm
Thursday - Mar 4 - Roundtable via [Zoom](#) - 7:00 pm
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Monday - Mar 8 - Eagle Board of Review - Contact [Bruce McGurk](#)
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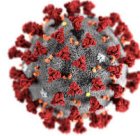


Our Virtual Order of Arrow Village meeting is Thursday, February 4 @ 7:00 pm. Email [Mr. Stanton](#) for the Zoom link if you do not receive an email with it. We normally meet on

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.



COVID-19 CALIFORNIA REGIONAL STAY HOME ORDER

Update December 4, 2020

In accordance with the December 3, 2020 California Regional Stay Home Order (Order), the Golden Gate Area Council (GGAC) will cease all in-person Council and District Scouting meetings, events, activities and camping trips when the Order is triggered. The Order will be triggered when your region enters the 15% and under ICU threshold. Check the Council website for the latest update. An update to the current restrictions is expected in the next couple of days.

Effective immediately, all Council camps and service centers are closed to visitors.

Considering the current increase of COVID cases and the imminent triggering of the Order, GGAC recommends no in-person unit meetings or activities. If in-person meetings or activities are needed and permitted by the Order and local authority (city or county), units should work with Chartered Organizations and utilize the [COVID-19 Pre-Event Questionnaire](#). Examples of activities that can occur are previously approved outdoor fundraising efforts as it falls under the retail exemption.

Scout Shops will remain open.

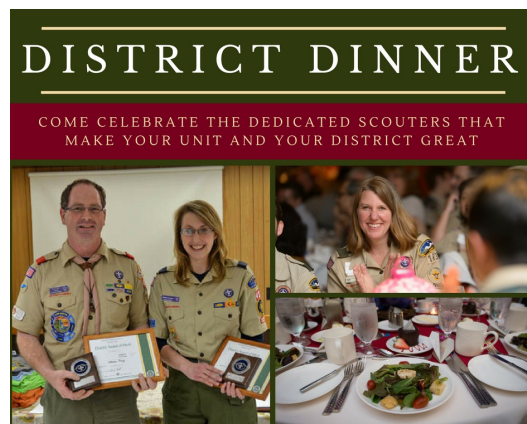
For more information regarding the stay at home order please visit the state website: [About COVID-19 restrictions - Coronavirus COVID-19 Response \(ca.gov\)](#)



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](#)!

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](#).



Save the Date Sunday March 7th, 2021



Congratulations to our very own **Tim Repp** for being selected to receive the Silver Beaver Award!

Congratulations to all of the Silver Beaver recipients. The following Golden Gate Area Council Scouters were selected to receive the Silver Beaver Award at the Council Dinner which is to be held on February 20, 2021

- **Jeff Airth**.....Mission Peak
- **Lee Amon**.....Mission Peak

- Kristine Biehl.....Twin Valley
- Stephanie Demeter....Meridian
- Roger Doering.....Tres Ranchos
- Ron Fedele.....Lake
- Doug LoveSilverado
- Suzanne Martin.....Alameda
- Susan PagliantiTres Ranchos
- James ReeveMeridian
- Tim Repp Briones
- Harry VellenoGolden Gate

Save the date - Saturday, February 20, 2021 at 7:00pm for the First Annual GGAC Volunteer Recognition Event.

BETHECHANGE

HISTORIC INAUGURAL FEMALE EAGLE SCOUT EVENT
FEBRUARY 21, 2021 8 PM ET / 7 PM CT / 6 PM MT / 5 PM PT



Eagle Scouts have been leading positive change in their communities for more than a century. That tradition continues with the historic inaugural class of Female Eagle Scouts. Help celebrate the leadership accomplishments of the inaugural class as we highlight the positive impact Scouts make in communities every day.



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. Briones Scouts who need their EBOR should contact **Gordon Bell** at gordon.ed.bell@gmail.com, or **Bruce McGurk** at brucemcgurk@comcast.net.

Inaugural Class of Female Eagle Scouts

The window for Eagle boards of review of the Inaugural Class of Female Eagle Scouts is from October 1, 2020 to February 8, 2021. As such, all Eagle Scout credentials will be dated February 8, 2021 so that we commemorate this milestone alongside the recognized "birthday" of the Boy Scouts of America.

This adjustment was implemented so that Scouts were not unfairly prohibited from being part of the Inaugural Class due to COVID-19; however, we recognize that the extended window means that participating Scouts could experience a delay in receiving their Eagle Scout credentials if we waited to process all of the applications as originally planned. [For more details click here.](#)

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
January 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.



Jon Clark Troop 219



Hayden Fox Troop 1811



Jacob Griessel Troop 303



William Innenberg Troop 204



Raymond Smith Troop 302



Roenigk Straub Troop 237



Alexia Tzortzis Troop 402



Stephen Vojta Troop 200



Dylan Welch Troop 57



Build a hygiene kit to support a homeless / at risk person during the month of February. During the shelter in place, we are offering a at home service project where you can help the homeless.

Take a large Ziploc bag and fill it with some of the following items: soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, band-aids, face mask, hand sanitizer, shampoo, conditioner, snacks, socks or underwear (men or women) and a note of encouragement. Please see an example below. We made this one buying things at the Dollar Tree, a few things from home and a few items from CVS. The shelter serves both men, women and children so you are welcome to build a hygiene kit for a woman, man or child.

Please drop the kits before February 28th to the collection box in front of the office at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church or The collection box at 1070 Larch Ave, Moraga.

These kits will be delivered to the Bay Area Rescue Mission in Richmond. They are experiencing extremely high volumes of clients at the

Mission and are in need of these kits. The kits are handed out to their clients as they enter the shelter for their stay. For more information about the shelter, please visit: <https://www.bayarearescue.org/>

Thanks for helping someone out during the shelter in place.



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.](#)



Each year on Feb 8, the Boy Scouts of America celebrates its birthday. It's a date officially known as Scouting Anniversary Day. It's when packs, troops, crews and ships honor a Scout's "duty to God." Through a trio of faith-based celebrations known as Scout Sunday, Scout Sabbath and Scout Jumuah, young people give back to the chartered organizations that give them so much.

This is an opportunity for Scouts to publicly demonstrate the 12th point of the Scout Law: A Scout is Reverent. That might mean an act as simple as wearing the full field uniform to worship services. It might mean participating in services by doing a reading, singing a song, or presenting religious emblems and awards to Scouts and Scouters. Or it might be something as grand as a service project to benefit a religious organization in the community. However you choose to celebrate, it's essential this year to do so safely. And so in addition to sharing dates and information about Scout Sunday, Scout Sabbath and Scout Jumuah, we've also shared some suggested pandemic-era modifications. [Learn More.](#)



February 27, 2021

2021 brings us a virtual Commissioner's College. Learn safely from the comfort of your home. Program will run from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. You do not have to be a commissioner to attend. Registration \$20 until February 14th.

Courses for every level of Commissioner and every level of Commissioner experience, including Associate, Bachelors, Masters and Doctorate of Commissioner Science Degrees with Continuing Education Degree sessions.

All participants should be up to date on BSA Youth Protection

[REGISTER](#)



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...).



Scholarships!
Eagle Scout of the Year
Application due to your local VFW post by March 1, 2021

Every year the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) conducts a competition for Scout of the Year. The deadline for entering the competition is rapidly approaching. This program seeks to recognize outstanding youth by calling attention to their achievements in scouting. Tangible recognition in the form of cash prizes at every level of the competition is also available. Scouts, both male and female, who may have attained one of the following by January 31, 2021 are eligible to participate: BSA Eagle rank, Sea Scouts Quartermaster, Venture Summit Award, and Girl Scouts Gold Award. The requirements for a submission are detailed on the application form. Very little additional effort beyond the rank already

earned is required. This is free money and a great opportunity for youth. If you know someone who is already eligible, or will become eligible before January 31, 2021, please pass this information along to them. For further questions contact either **Ed Isely** at 925 286-9363 or **Bill Lew** at 925 381-4588.

[Get the scholarship brochure and application.](#)

Contact **Ed Isley** ekisley@comcast.net or **Bill Lew** wm_lew@yahoo.com for more information.



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

Prinda, 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.