



January 1, 2021 Volume 59

Your monthly news & updates



Virtual [Roundtable](#) This Month

For the Roundtable on the 7th of January we will be discussing the "Cleaner Contra Costa County" challenge and how units can get involved once we get out of our lock down. We are hoping to have a special presenter from the organization as well as having **Bruce McGurk** present on several merit badges related to the initiative. **Mark Woodman** will have announcements and can talk about Cub Scout pins related to the environment.

Join the [Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge](#) to create a cleaner, healthier community and save money!

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

Visit our Website



Upcoming Training, District or Council Events

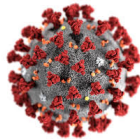
Friday - Jan 1 - New Years Day
Wednesday - Jan 6 - Eagle BOR Binder Check - Contact [Gordon Bell](#) for time and method
Thursday - Jan 7 - Commissioners Meeting via [Zoom](#) - 6:30 pm
Thursday - Jan 7 - Roundtable via [Zoom](#) - 7:00 pm
Thursday - Jan 7 - OA Chapter Meeting via Zoom 7:00 pm- Contact [Mr. Stanton](#) for link
Monday - Jan 11 - Eagle Board of Review - Contact [Bruce McGurk](#)
Tuesday - Jan 12 - Eagle Board of Review - Contact [Gordon Bell](#)
Saturday - Jan 16 - [Winter Camp Awareness Training](#) via Zoom
Monday - Jan 18 - Martin Luther King Day
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
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](#)



Our Virtual Order of Arrow Chapter meeting is Thursday, January 7 @ 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.

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 \(ca.gov\)](#)

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](#).



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 Love**Silverado
- **Suzanne Martin**.....Alameda
- **Susan Paglianti**Tres Ranchos
- **James Reeve**Meridian
- **Tim Repp** Briones
- **Harry Velleno**Golden Gate

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



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.

No in-person activities are allowed until the current restriction is lifted; currently, that's January 14, 2021. In effect, it means there can be no project work involving two or more individuals inside or outside.

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](#).



**Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, Pleasant Hill & Walnut Creek Eagle Scouts
December 2020
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.



Caroline Bronte Troop 224G



Sriram Diyyala Troop 810



Ilhan Evrenosoglu Troop 204



Edward Gray Troop 204



Christine Mlynek Troop 402



Spencer Persin Troop 57



Jason Sabbadini Troop 224



Troop Open Houses

Troop 221 Pleasant Hill

Troop 221 is hosting a virtual Open House, Monday, January 11th 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Come "Into the Woods" with Troop 221. At the beginning of the meeting we will discuss all about Troop 221. Then, learn about our forests while we work on requirements for the Into the Woods Adventure pin!

We are chartered by Christ the King Church and meet in person at the Sequoia Middle School (265 Boyd Rd, Pleasant Hill) every Monday at 7:00 pm. Unfortunately, this recruitment event will be held virtually. Please join us on Zoom at the following link (Meeting Link) using the following info:

Meeting ID: <https://zoom.us/my/sapst6?pwd=QXdjRE9SUHZiTmt3czVsNGI5WVZCUT09>

Check out our website www.troop221.org and Instagram: troop221_mdsc

Please RSVP to **Steve Lubeck** – Scoutmaster, Troop 221 at troop221info@yahoo.com

Troop 405 Pleasant Hill

Troop 405 is hosting a virtual Open House, Saturday, January 23rd.

11:00am – 11:20am: The youth leadership will discuss what Troop 405 is all about and answer any general questions about the Troop.

11:20am – 1:00pm: Any Scouts interested can stick around and discover what it means to be a hero, and while you are at it work on requirements for the Build My Own Hero Adventure!

While we usually meet in person at the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection (399 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill), this recruitment event will be held virtually. Please join us on Zoom at the following link ([Meeting Link](#)) or using the following info: Meeting ID: 957 9228 6382 / Passcode: 597843

Please RSVP or direct any questions to **Chris Farajian** – Scoutmaster, Troop 405 at CFarajian@sbcglobal.net.



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/rodders-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.