

March 1, 2021 Volume 61

## Your monthly news & updates



**Virtual Roundtable This Month**  
**Thursday, March 4, 2021**

**Theme for March is Recruiting, Bridging, Arrow of Light Ceremonies and how to get back to in person**

events. A representative of the OA will join us to discuss how they can help with ceremonies. We look forward to seeing all of you March 4th.

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

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 - Mar 1 - [Luis Alvarez Supernova Event](#)

Monday - Mar 1 - Yerba Buena Lodge LEC

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

Wednesday - Mar 3 - Spring into Scouting Webinar - 5PM

Thursday - Mar 4 - Commissioners Meeting via [Zoom](#) - 6:30 pm

Thursday - Mar 4 - Roundtable via [Zoom](#) - 7:00 pm

Thursday - Mar 4 - OA Chapter Meeting via Zoom 7:00 pm - Contact [Mr. Stanton](#) for link

Sunday - Mar 7 - Briones District Recognition Event - [Register Here](#)

Monday - Mar 8 - Eagle Board of Review - Contact [Bruce McGurk](#)

Monday - Mar 8 - [Luis Alvarez Supernova Event](#)

Tuesday - Mar 9 - Eagle Board of Review - Contact [Gordon Bell](#)

Sunday - Mar 14 - Daylight Savings Time

Monday - Mar 15 - [Luis Alvarez Supernova Event](#)

Wednesday - Mar 17 - St. Patrick's Day

Saturday - Mar 20 - First Day of Spring

Monday - Mar 22 - [Luis Alvarez Supernova Event](#)

Saturday - Mar 27 - Passover

Saturday - Mar 27 - [1-2-3-Go!](#) - A Cub Scout Nova Event Part 1

Sunday - Mar 28 - Palm Sunday

Monday - Mar 29 - [Luis Alvarez Supernova Event](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday - Apr 8 - OA Chapter Meeting via Zoom 7:00 pm - Contact [Mr. Stanton](#) for link

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

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

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

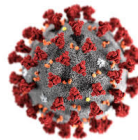


Our Virtual Order of Arrow Village meeting is Thursday, March 4 @ 7:00 pm. Email [Mr. Stanton](#) for the Zoom link if you do not receive an email with it. We normally meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. The meetings are approximately an hour long. More information about that below.

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.

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## 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 \(ca.gov\)](#)

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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](#)!

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## GGAC CUB SCOUT DAY CAMP 2021

### Patch Design Contest

"Down on the Farm"

The challenge . . .

Design our 2021 Day Camp patch.

The theme is "Down on the Farm".

The competition is open to all Cub Scouts in GGAC.

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

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## 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](#).

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# DISTRICT DINNER

COME CELEBRATE THE DEDICATED SCOUTERS THAT  
MAKE YOUR UNIT AND YOUR DISTRICT GREAT



Remind your families to join us for our Annual Recognition Event! This year, we will be holding it virtually. You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Mar 7, 2021 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYof-urrz0sHdU9GwtLS2l0iEwsyLKUd24e](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJYof-urrz0sHdU9GwtLS2l0iEwsyLKUd24e)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



Turn in Unit Scouter nominations by Wednesday March 3rd to Bruce Fukayama. This is a reminder to submit your selection for your Unit Scouter of the Year. We will be recognizing these nominees on Mar 7 at the Briones District Recognition Zoom Event. **Please send your nominations ASAP no later than March 3rd!** [Download the nomination form here!](#)



Camp Royaneh



Camp Wolfeboro



Wente Scout Reservation

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





### Cub Scout Nova Awards

#### 1-2-3-Go! Nova Award

Session #1—Sat. March 27<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am (PDT)

Session #2—Sat. April 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:00 am (PDT)

#### Fearful Symmetry Nova Award

Session #1—Sat. April 3<sup>rd</sup> 10:30 am (PDT)

Session #2—Sat. April 10<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am (PDT)

#### Science Everywhere Nova Award

Session #1—Sat. April 10<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am (PDT)

Session #2—Sat. April 17<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am (PDT)

### Scouts BSA Nova Awards

Whoosh!

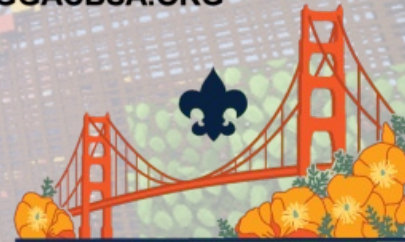
Session #1—Sat. April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1pm (PDT)

Session #2—Sat. April 10<sup>th</sup> 1 pm (PDT)

\$15 Each

Registration Links

@ STEM.GGACBSA.ORG



**GOLDEN GATE AREA COUNCIL  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**



## 2021 Scouts BSA Requirement Changes

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

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

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



On March 3, at 7 pm CT, the "Spring Into Scouting" webinar will discuss Cub Scout retention and recruiting new members! Watch for more information in [Scouting Wire!](#)

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# BETHECHANGE

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



Watch the replay here <https://youtu.be/EZbHsoWHzWg> if you missed the live event.

"For more than 110 years, Scouts have been a positive change in their communities, building a legacy of servant leadership and making a difference in the world. Every year, thousands of these Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award, the pinnacle rank in the Scouts BSA program. This year, young women joined the prestigious ranks of the more than 2.5 million Eagle Scouts who have earned the award since the first in 1912. It's a difficult road to reach the Eagle Scout rank, with about 4% to 8% of all Scouts earning it during any given year. This year's class of Eagle Scouts, including hundreds of young women, was a particularly driven and resourceful group, forced to lead their peers, earn merit badges, and plan and carry out service projects in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic." - excerpt from *Special Edition February 2021 of Scout Life: Saluting the Inaugural Class of Female*





## 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](mailto:gordon.ed.bell@gmail.com), or **Bruce McGurk** at [brucemcgurk@comcast.net](mailto: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](#)

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**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](mailto:wendell@able-baker.com) or **Lew Sisson** [lew.sisson@scouting.org](mailto:lew.sisson@scouting.org)

The council will be promoting scouting over Facebook and Instagram.

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**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



**Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, Pleasant Hill & Walnut Creek Eagle Scouts  
February 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](mailto:normgee50@gmail.com) or **Bonnie Hazarabedian** [bonzai@flash.net](mailto:bonzai@flash.net).



**Peter Barber Troop 237**



**Jarod Bogantinoff Troop 302**



**Chongwoo Chang Troop 246**



**Joshua Gohres - Troop 204**



**Benji Hird Troop 237**





**Derek Kotarba Troop 219**



**Logan Lindberg Troop 237**



**Christian McCulloch - Troop 810**



**Colin Moore - Troop 226**



**Ben Murphy Troop 237**



**Cole Skillern Troop 302**



Ben Thiselton-Dyer Troop 204



Charlie Wheeler - Troop 304

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**SAVE THE DATE**

Walnut Creek Community Service Day Committee is planning another Community Food Drive for **April 17th**. Great opportunity for Scouts to earn service hours.

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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.





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](mailto:Briones.service.hours@gmail.com). Recording service hours affects everyone's Journey to Excellence scores (units, districts, councils, sections, etc...).

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**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 Isley** at 925 286-9363 or **Bill Lew** at 925 381-4588.

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

Contact **Ed Isley** [ekisley@comcast.net](mailto:ekisley@comcast.net) or **Bill Lew** [wm\\_lew@yahoo.com](mailto:wm_lew@yahoo.com) for more information.

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Information can be found at [www.californiasar.org](http://www.californiasar.org) under programs/youth programs, or they can email me directly.

[Derek Brown](#)

President

California Society Sons of the American Revolution (CASSAR)

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### **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.

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## **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

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jcartan@savemountdiablo.org)

- **Volunteers of Outdoor California:** Trail work and camping. Visit [www.v-o-cal.org](http://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](mailto: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.centernalsan.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.centernalsan.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](mailto:Adriana.Medina@garaventaent.com)
- **Central San Treatment Plant Tours:** Central San offers free virtual tours of its award-winning wastewater treatment plant. <https://www.centernalsan.org/virtual-plant-tour>

Here are links for teachers::

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

<https://www.centernalsan.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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### 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](mailto:normgee50@gmail.com) and put Briones News in the subject line.