



Alameda Area District

Golden Gate Area Council
Scouting America

February 2025 newsletter.
For parents, Scouters, and professionals of Alameda Area District.

Upcoming Events

- Wed Feb 5- [District Operations Committee Meeting](#)
- Wed Feb 5 - [HAT Okpik Basic Snow Camping Awareness Indoor Session](#)
- Wed Feb 12 - [Roundtable](#)
- Sat Feb 15 - Mon Feb 17 [Klondike Derby- Units](#)
- Sat Feb 15 - Mon Feb 17 - [National Youth Leadership Training Session 1](#)
- Sat Feb 22 - [Peralta Cup Pinewood Derby](#)
- Sat Feb 21 - Mon Feb 23 - [National Youth Leadership Training Session 2](#)
- Sat Feb 22 - Sun Feb 23 [HAT Okpik Basic Snow Camping Awareness Outdoor Session](#)
- Thu Mar 7- [District Operations Committee Meeting](#)
- Wed Mar 12 - [Roundtable](#)
- Fri Mar 20 - Sun Mar 22 [Wood Badge - Spring 2026 - Weekend 1](#)
- Wed Apr 2- [District Operations Committee Meeting](#)
- Fri Apr 4 - Sun Apr 6 - [Camporee - Rancho Los Mochos](#)
- Wed Apr 9 - [Roundtable](#)
- Sat Apr 18 - Sun Apr 19 [Wood Badge - Spring 2026 - Weekend 2](#)
- Sat Apr 26 - Sun Apr 27 [Tiger Cub Safari - Session 1](#)
- Thu May 1- [District Operations Committee Meeting](#)
- Fri May 2 - Sun May 4 - Camporee - Camp Tamarancho
- Sat May 3 - Sun May 4 - [Tiger Cub Safari - Session 2](#)
- Fri May 2 - Sun May 4 - [Mom & Cub Camp - Session 1](#)
- Wed May 14 - [Roundtable](#)
- Fri May 16 - Sun May 18 - [Mom & Cub Camp - Session 2](#)
- Sun Jun 8 2025, 10:00am - Sat Jun 14 2025, 1:00pm - [NYLT Registration](#) for boy and girl troops at Rancho Los Mochos .
- Fri Jun 20 2025 - Sun Jun 22 2025 - [Wolf & Bear Adventure Camp](#) Rancho Los Mochos
- Tue July 29 - Sat August 2, 2025 - [Adventure Camp](#) for Webelos and AOL Scouts.

District Operations Committee Meeting Highlights



[Minutes for all DOC meetings can be found on the District Website](#)

New District Executive

- Alex Garcia was introduced to the District Operations Committee

Training

- The council has a plan for addressing current low training level of our leaders, merit badge counselors, and district members.
- They hope to encourage individuals and units to be fully trained so that suspending untrained volunteers will not be needed.
- Our district has only 33.12% of our volunteers trained in their position.
- Each unit should check the training status of all members. This can be done via the Training Manager - Report in My.Scouting.
- A summary of this month's training status is also available on the [Training Status dashboard](#).

Finance

Popcorn

- Our district fell short of our goal this year.
- The council wishes to start six Packs in the district next year to increase our sales.
- Popcorn sales help unit funding.

Friends of Scouting

- Our district goal is \$65 thousand for 2025. Last year's goal was \$113 thousand, and we brought in \$83 thousand.
- Currently less than 10% of Scouting families donate through Friends of Scouting. We need to encourage each family to donate something, even if only \$25 per year. FOS account for 10% of the Council Budgeted Revenue.
- Chris Dempsey and Alex Garcia will be working to schedule FOS presentations to each unit in the district. They are looking for FOS presenters. And they can use assistance in scheduling the unit presentations.
- A FOS presentation script is available, but the personal experiences of the presenters is the most important aspect of the presentation.

Membership

- Our district currently has 1441 registered participants, which is up 24% over last year's 1162 participants.
- Our district has 60 units, which is up 3.5% over last year's 58 units.
- Jeff Smith is the advisor to assist in starting new units.

Unit Service

Unit Renewals

- Training Requirements, Youth Protection Training, Hazardous Weather, and AB-506 Training are still issues with many units.
- We need to put together a "Lessons Learned" document to make next year's recharter smoother.
- Eleven units have not yet submitted their recharter request.

Advancement

- Mike Ransom is the new Council Advancement Chairman

Scoutbook Plus

- This is the new tool which will replace both Scoutbook and Internet Advancement. The site <https://advancements.scouting.org/login> uses the same credentials as Scoutbook

Advancement Guidelines

- The Guide to Advancement has been updated and effective 1/1/2025 <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>

- Section 1.0.3.0 Significant Changes, has the most significant changes, but there are minor changes throughout the document.
- The Eagle Project workbook is deprecated in favor of the Eagle Project process in Scoutbook Plus that can be reached from the Youth Profile for each Scout. Click on the Edit button start the process.
- The Eagle Scout Project service hours are also reported as part of this process. <https://help.scoutbook.scouting.org/knowledge-base/service-and-eagle-scout-project-activity-reporting/>

Eagle References.

- Only four references are needed. They are not restricted to specific roles or ages.
- Parents and relatives are discouraged from being references.
- Unit Leaders and Committee Chairs cannot be references as their signatures on the application is their endorsement.

First Aid Merit Badge

- This has been completely reworked. It has been improved and updated, but 100% different.
- Scouts starting the badge must use the 2025 requirements.

Citizenship in Society Merit Badge

- This is done via Zoom with mixed groups of boys and girls from different units. Youth must be First Class and older scouts have priority.
- Scoutmasters nominate the Scouts to participate and they and the Scout's parents should follow the emailed information to ensure that required responses are made to enroll in a session.

Domain Changes for email addresses.

- Due to the council's decision to change the domain name to reflect the new Scouting America name, please be aware that all email address are changing from ---@ggacbsa.org to ---@goldengatescouting.org.
- Merit Badge Counselor applications go to Nikki Maguire for now as the district Advancement Chair.

Training

- Only about 32% of our district registered leaders are trained.
- Those who took AB-506 training in 2023 or later will not need to retake the training unless the standards change. Those who took the AB-506 training before 2023 should take it again as their certification has now expired.

Order of the Arrow

Camporee – April

- The April Camporee is on target, Black Pug registration is awaiting final council budget project code clarification.
Update: [Registration](#) is now open.

Camporee – May

- Camp Tamarancho site has been obtained. Working on getting other plans finalized.

Camporee – 2026

- District Camping Chair, Ron Ratto, and the two OA Advisors are working to select dates for the 2026 Camporee and the 2026 District Campout and select sites.

Klondike Derby

- Feb 14-17. Need more OA Staff, but the event is sold out with a waitlist in place.

Induction Weekend

- March 28 - 30, 2025. This event is full, with a waitlist. Working to develop additional ceremonies teams to accommodate more candidates.

Service Hours

- Units and individuals are encouraged to report their Service Hours Use the Scoutbook Plus tool.
- Currently there is no way to enter for multiple participants, this may be upcoming in the future for Unit Key 3 and Key 3 Delegates.
- Alan Young is the staff advisor.

Summer Camp

One third of Scouts BSA units have not reported their summer camp or high adventure plans for 2025.

Program Highlights

RECRUITING RECOGNITION



Our council has a patch program for recruiters.

- If a scout recruits 3 youth to join, they can earn a special silver patch.
- 5 youth recruited earns a gold patch.
- Submit a request for the patch on Black Pug (link forthcoming)

Our council also has a limited number of gifts for brand new Scout Youth.

- A SF Giants camp with a special GGAC patch embedded.
- Contact [Mari Obledo](#), the District Director, for more information.

CUB SCOUTING - SHOOTING SPORTS DAYS



Saturday, April 5 - Camp Herms

The last Shooting Sports day had 80+ participants, but we had many last-minute cancellations. These also included wait list registrations which prevented those wanting to attend from registering.

Fall Shooting Sports Day - Rancho Los Mochos

The next fall event will be in conjunction with Family Camp at Rancho Los Mochos.

Details for both events to be announced in the future.

Add this event to your calendar
[Apple/ICS](#) [®] [Google](#) [Outlook](#) [Yahoo!](#) [AOL](#)

PERALTA CUP - PINEWOOD DERBY



Peralta Cup

Saturday, February 22, 2025.
Impound opens at 8:30 a.m.
Race commences at 10 a.m.
[KaiserAir, Inc. - Oakland Jet Center](#)
8735 Earhart Rd. Oakland CA, 94621

Add this event to your calendar
[Apple/ICS](#) [®] [Google](#) [Outlook](#) [Yahoo!](#) [AOL](#)

SCOUTS BSA - CAMPOREES



April 4 - 6, 2025

Rancho Los Mochos
More information on the [Camporee](#) page.
[Registration](#) is open.

Add this event to your calendar
[Apple/ICS](#) [®] [Google](#) [Outlook](#) [Yahoo!](#) [AOL](#)



May 2 - 4, 2025

Camp Tamarancho
Details to be announced in the future.

Add this event to your calendar
[Apple/ICS](#) [®] [Google](#) [Outlook](#) [Yahoo!](#) [AOL](#)

DISTRICT RECOGNITION GATHERING



May 14, 2025

At the May Roundtable

Details and Nomination forms to to be provided
in the future.

Add this event to your calendar

[Apple/ICS](#) [®] [Google](#) [Outlook](#) [Yahoo!](#) [AOL](#)

CUB SCOUTING - POSITION SPECIFIC TRAINING



Spring 2025

Details to be announced in the future.

CUB SCOUT CAMPING

Check out the [GGAC Cub Scout Camping](#) page



[Twin Valley Day Camp](#)

- June 23-27
Dublin - Fallon Sports Park

[Herms Day Camp](#)

- July 8-11
El Cerrito - Camp Herms

[Camp Yunakin](#)

- June 16-20
San Francisco - Golden Gate Park



April 26 - 27, 2025 or May 3 - 4, 2025

The "World-Famous" Tiger Cub Safari is truly the HIGHLIGHT of the TIGER CUB Year!

Fun activities for the Tiger Cub and one Adult Partner include Archery, BB Gun, Fishing, Row Boats, Nature hikes, Arts & Crafts, and great memories at beautiful Wente Scout Reservation and its 80-acre lake.

[Sign up](#) or check out the [Tiger Cub Safari](#) page.



May 2-4 or May 16-18, 2025

[Mom and Cub Camp](#)

A weekend of fun and adventure especially designed to reinforce that mother-child bond. A great escape for **Cub Scouts and their moms** (or grandmothers, aunts, etc.)

A weekend of fun in the beautiful coastal redwoods of Camp Royaneh.



June 20-22, 2025

[Wolf and Bear Adventure Camp 2025](#). All current **Wolves and Tigers** who will become Wolves and Bears by June, are invited to a special weekend camping outdoors for new skills and exciting adventures at rustic Rancho Los Mochos Scout Camp in the scenic Livermore Hills!

This is a unique two-night camping program for Wolf & Bear Cub Scouts and their adult partners to be challenged at Archery, BB guns, Nature, Crafts and so many more fun activities!



July 29 - August 2, 2025

[Adventure Camp](#). Our one and only opportunity for **Webelos and Arrow of Light Cub Scouts** to experience 4 full days of resident camp in the great outdoors! Come to our beautiful redwood forest at Camp Royaneh to experience where Cub Scouts understand the importance of Scouting.



June 2025

Traditional event to recognize Eagle Scouts in Oakland.
Details to be announced in the future.

INTERNATION SCOUTING



Upcoming International Scouting Events with BSA Contingents

For more information visit the [GGAC International Scouting](#) page.



- [Norway Jamboree 2025](#) – Gjøvik, Norway
5th of July – 12th of July 2025
The Norwegian National jamboree, “Speidernes landsleir”, is held at Gjøvik from July 5th to July 12th, 2025. The camp is located near Norway's largest lake; Mjøsa, with a view towards Gjøvik city.

All guides and scouts in the age 10-15 and rovers in the 16-25 are invited to the camp as participants. Adults (age 25+) are welcome to join as IST (International Service Team). Jamboree registration is \$350 per person



- [Portugal Moot 2025](#) – Portugal
25th of July – 3rd of August 2025
Join us at this moot events, where the spirit of scouting transcends borders and cultures.
Immerse yourself in a vibrant tapestry of diversity as you connect with fellow scouts from around the globe, forging lifelong friendships and memories.

You need to be at least 18 years old to participate.

CUB SCOUTING - FALL RECRUITMENT 2025



This will be held in the August / September timeframe.
Details to be announced in the future.

SCOUTS BSA - ADULT TRAINING

Scoutmaster Specific Training Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills



October 2025

Details to be announced in the future.

Scout Recognition



Do you know a Cub, Scout, Venturer, Sea Scout, or Explorer who has lived the Scouting ideals in a commendable way. Let us know and we will recognize them in next month's newsletter and on the district webpage.

Send a short message to the [communications team](#) with the "Who, What, When, Where, How" information, and perhaps an image. Make sure to include a copy of the Part A medical form that includes the permission form and parent's signature.

District Meetings

Roundtable

[Cub Scout and Scouts BSA roundtables](#) are a time to share ideas and information on making the unit programs excel in serving the youth of the units. They are also a time to get advice from experienced Scouters on being a leader or committee member.

Roundtables will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month starting in September, starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Joaquin Miller Community Center [3594 Sanborn Dr, Oakland, CA 94602](#)

All Unit Leaders and Committee Chairs are encouraged to attend, but it is open to anyone interested.

Add these events to your calendar

[Multiple date ICS file](#) [Ⓜ]

NOTE: There will be no roundtable gathering in December.

District Operations Committee (DOC)

The DOC meets to coordinate the many activities, teams, and events of the district which allow us to provide program opportunities and aid to the units and to the various Scouting programs.

Overview

Cub Scouts

Scouts BSA

Venturing

Sea Scouting

Exploring

Commissioners

District Committee

Requirements date: 2024-12

Training Report date: 2025-02-06-16-06-35

Cub Scouts	Trained: 22%	(41 of 182 Scouters)
Scouts BSA	Trained: 37%	(265 of 699 Scouters)
Venturing	Trained: 39%	(25 of 64 Scouters)
Exploring	Trained: 0%	(0 of 40 Scouters)
Sea Scouting	Trained: 36%	(9 of 25 Scouters)
Commissioners	Trained: 100%	(15 of 15 Scouters)
District Committee	Trained: 22%	(40 of 180 Scouters)

Resources



Unit Leaders

Are you able to connect with every Scout in your unit?
Do you notice any who struggle with some aspect of scouting, but you don't have a solution in sight?
(And who doesn't sometimes?)

Never fear, resources are here! Two in fact that are one click away:

- The [Special Needs Committee of GGAC](#) page.
- The [Inclusion Toolbox from ABLESCOUTS](#)
- The [Abilities Digest](#).

- Your friendly Alameda Area district Special Needs Committee

Recruiting

Social Media

The Golden Gate Area Council can help promote your community recruiting event. They can target ads on Meta platforms (Facebook, etc.) to your local area. For more information contact the [District Webmaster](#).

BeAScout

[BeAScout](#) is the primary way for interested parents to find a local unit, and contact you. Please check your entry for accuracy and completeness. The [BeAScout dashboard](#) on our District Web Page can help you. We will be contacting Unit Leaders and Committee Chairs to work with you to ensure your entry will help recruit new members.

Invitations and Applications

A [membership tool](#) is available to give Unit Leaders and Commissioners a quick overview of the status of current invitations and applications to join Scouting.

Unit Websites

If your unit does not have a website, please contact the [District Webmaster](#), as we can host a simple webpage to give your prospective recruits information about your unit. Checkout the [samples](#) to see what we can do for you. Currently we are posting only a limited number of images, of small size, for each unit.

District Information

Social Media

- Our [District Website](#), where you can find information on upcoming events, training, and activities.
 - Our [District Facebook page](#), for discussions about district activities, and to get ideas and help from experienced volunteers and professionals.
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Our District Key 3

District Chair

-- Open --

District Commissioner

Rose Godfrey

District Executive

Alex Garcia

Golden Gate Area Council - Scouting America, 6601 Owens Drive #100, Pleasanton, CA 94588

[Manage Preferences](#)