



Alameda Area District

Golden Gate Area Council
Scouting America

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

Upcoming Events

- 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](#)

Finance

- Friends of Scouting
 - Our district goal is \$65 thousand for 2025.
 - \$39,000 from Scouting families, currently 35.58% achieved.
 - \$26,000 from the community, currently 14.47% achieved.
- Of 51 units in the district:
 - 14 (27%) have completed their presentation
 - 17 (33%) are scheduled for the future
 - 7 (14%) declined
 - 9 (17%) unscheduled
- The district is developing a Good Scout event to encourage support from community groups, individuals, and businesses.

- We need volunteers willing to join the steering committee for this event. This committee only needs to meet 3 times.
 - [Good Scout Award Event Information - Community FOS](#)
- The council pays about \$300,000 per year for insurance on the council properties, and to provide coverage for specific events.

Membership

- Our district goal is to create six new packs this year.
 - We actually are 10 packs and 500 youth short of our goals for Cub Scouting.
- The district executive has been visiting Catholic parishes to investigate restarting lapsed packs.
- As part of a council wide strategy being executed on the District level by our District Executive, we are trying to schedule 15 School Sign-Up Nights in the Spring, with 25 in the fall, with the goal of recruiting 440 new Cub Scouts by the end of the year.
- District Volunteers needed
 - District Chair
 - District Nominating Chair
 - District Membership Chair
 - District Program Chair
 - District Commissioner and Unit Commissioners

Unit Service

- 3 units still have not been renewed
 - YPT training, change of position, and AB506 expiration are the issues.

Training

- Scoutmaster Specific training will be in the fall run by the prior Tres Ranchos training team. The date has not yet been set.
- Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS) is planned to be offered at the council Summer Camp sessions (Wente, Royaneh, Wolfeboro)
- BALOO training is available this month on the 22/23 hosted by Mission Peak District. <https://training.goldengatescouting.org/baloo-2/>

Advancement

- The [First Aid merit badge](#) is entirely different for 2025.
- Eagle Letters of Recommendation have changed. See the section below.
- There are three “experimental” badges that are being tested: auctioneering, wildland fire management and life skills. A scout could work on them with a registered adult and earn a certificate (not a merit badge, this badge would not count towards Eagle).
 - [BSA Test Lab](#)
 - [Test Lab overview](#)

Camping

- Camp Royaneh and Camp Wolfeboro still have slots open for Summer Camp.
- The district is still seeking information on units that are going out of council for Summer Camp this year.
- Our district’s Cub Scout Day Camp is going to happen this year. We have a Chair and a prospective Program Director. The location and date are still being worked out.

Activities

- April Camporee is ongoing. Waiting for units to sign up.
- May Camporee has reserved Camp Tamarancho, working on budget and final plans.
- 2026 District Camporee is tentatively scheduled for May 1-3, 2026
- 2026 District Jamboree is tentatively scheduled for Oct 2-4, 2026

- Peralta Cup was a success. Lots of youth, and a number of troops showed up to recruit and help run the event.
- Advancement Day at the Hornet is continuing the planning, Henry Ramos is the lead.
- The District Recognition event is looking for one volunteer from each of the legacy districts to help plan the program and awards criteria. We are looking for a location as well.

Program Highlights

UNIT METRICS

Unit Metrics are replacing the prior Journey to Excellence which is now retired.

The Unit Metrics consist of 5 characteristics that directly correlate whether a unit will renew or not. And a unit that renews will keep our Scouts engaged and involved! The five Unit Metric parameters are Training, Unit Size, Unit Growth, Advancement / Leadership, and Outdoor / Super Activity.

For more information, check out the [Unit Metrics post](#) on the District Website

GUIDE TO ADVANCEMENT CHANGES

Unit Leaders are encouraged to review the [2025 Guide to Advancement](#). Section **1.0.3.0 Significant Changes** is a quick overview of the changes.

Another overview of all 2025 advancement changes can be found in the [Aaron on Scouting blog of 1/27/2025](#).

- Advancement cannot be rescinded. (section 4.2.1.2)
- Group / Online instruction (section 5.0.8.0)
- Online Merit Badge classes (section 7.0.4.12)
- Use of Artificial Intelligence (section 5.0.8.0)
- Two week limit for a local council to document denial of Eagle Rank. (sections 8.0.4.1, 9.0.1.8)
- Two month for parents to file an appeal. (sections 8.0.4.1, 9.0.1.8)
- Changed the Eagle Scout References (section 9.0.1.7)
- Changes to [Advancement for Members with Special Needs](#). (Section 10)
This section has been completely reorganized and rewritten.

Eagle Letters of Recommendation changes.

- Only four letters of recommendation are needed, and parents, unit leaders, and committee chairs are discouraged from submitting them.
- It is now the responsibility of the Scout to follow up with those writing the letters to ensure they are sent into the District Eagle Scout Coordinator.
- It is encouraged that Scouts use the [Scoutbook](#) or [Scoutbook Plus](#) tools instead of the generic [Eagle Application link](#) as the tools will automatically fill in much of the required personal, merit badge, and position of responsibility requirements.

For more information see the [Guide to Advancement, section 9 - The Eagle Scout Rank](#).

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](#)

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.

SCOUTS BSA - PERALTA EAGLE RECOGNITION 2025



June 2025

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

INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING



Upcoming International Scouting Events

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.

Summer Camp

Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) may be offered each week at GGAC long-term camps (Wente, Royaneh, Wolfeboro). Check with the camp upon arrival to see if it is being offered for your week.

Completion of Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills requires participation in an overnight hike & campout. Please bring a copy of your membership card or number for record keeping purposes. (not required but highly recommended)

District Volunteers Needed

Our District needs key volunteers to develop and guide the programs used by units and Scouters to provide the program for our youth. You may not see their effect everyday, but without them, the unit programs will be diminished.

If you know someone who has the interest to help, or are interested yourself, please contact our District Executive [Alex Garcia](#).

District Chair

The district chair is the top volunteer Scouting leader of the district, whose job is to motivate a talented team of people. District chairs preside at district committee meetings and represent the district on the council executive board. They are responsible for the membership, program, and fund development functions of the district.

District Nominating Chair

Leads a committee to locate, identify, and recruit the best prospective district officers and committee members.

District Membership Chair

This committee gathers information on prospective chartered organizations, helps organize new units, reorganizes dropped units and units not meeting, and recruits new members. It establishes and maintains mutually beneficial relationships with major community organizations and strategic alliances, both those with and without Scouting units.

District Activities and Program Chair

This committee oversees program visibility and a well-balanced schedule of activities for all Scouting units that are provided at the district level. It can provide assistance and coordination with other committees who provide specific activities, events, and training.

District Commissioner

A district commissioner recruits, trains, and leads a staff of commissioners who coach adult leaders of every unit to succeed. The district commissioner is responsible for the unit service function of the district.

Unit Commissioners

As friends, coaches, and counselors of unit leaders, unit commissioners generally operate in the background. They are effective communicators who provide the resources of the district and council to the units they serve.

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](#) [Ⓢ]

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.

The DOC will meet on the first Thursday of each month. It meets at the Alameda Program Office, [714 Everett Street, Alameda, CA 94501](#).

The **District Commissioner's meeting** will be held prior to the DOC meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the same location.

Interested Scouters are encouraged to contact our District Executive who is always looking for volunteers to aid in the various [District Committees](#).

Add these events to your calendar

Prior Wednesday meetings may be need manual deletion.

[Multiple date ICS file](#) [Ⓢ]

Training

Trained Leaders

Overall only 32.73% of district Scouters are trained for their positions. Committee Members and Assistant Scoutmasters are the least trained. Check out the [Training Status dashboard](#) below for unit and individual training status for each registered position.

The Golden Gate Area Council is very concerned about the number of untrained leaders in our districts and units. It is hoped that the units can reach out to their volunteers to encourage them to get their position specific training, so as to avoid the need to suspend untrained volunteers.

We encourage you to take advantage of the training opportunities described below. Most training can also be done online.

The Position Specific Requirements can be found [here](#).

The training courses are here:

[Cub Scouting](#) online training

[Scouts BSA](#) online training

[Venturing](#) online training

[Sea Scouting](#) online training

[Exploring](#) online training

You are encouraged to set a goal of doing the initial "Before the First Meeting" online courses, for your position, within the next 30 days. The total time commitment should be 20-70 minutes depending on your position.

Training Status Dashboard

You can check the training status of your self or your unit using our [Training Status dashboard](#).

If a Scouter's record is incorrect, please contact your Unit Commissioner, or the District Training Chair to have it corrected.

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](#) 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.

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 [Alex Garcia](#), the District Director, for more information.

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.

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](#)