



Alameda Area District

Golden Gate Area Council
Scouting America

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

Upcoming Events

Visit the [Upcoming Events](#) page on our district website for events in the extended future.

- Jul 11-13, 2025, [Family Vacation Camp](#), Camp Wolfeboro
- Jul 29 – Aug 2, 2025, Webelos and Arrow of Light Adventure Camp, Camp Royaneh
- Aug 2, [Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training](#), First Methodist Church, San Leandro 8 am - 1 pm
- Aug 2, [Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills](#) Part I, First Methodist Church, San Leandro, 2 pm - 6 pm
- Aug 13, Roundtable - Scouts BSA, Zoom
- Aug 13, 2025, [GGAC - Good Scout Award](#) dinner, Marina Community Center, San Leandro
- Aug 15-17, 2025, [OA End of Summer Induction](#), Camp Royaneh
- Aug 16-17, [Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills](#) Part II, Camp Tamarancho, Fairfax CA.
- Aug 22-24, 2025, [Muslim Camporee](#), Wente Scout Reservation
- Aug 28, 2025, District Gathering/ Fall Program Kick Off and Meet and Greet, Location to be determined
- Aug 29 – Sep 1, 2025, [Family Vacation Camp Labor Day](#), Wente Scout Reservation
- Aug 29 – Sep 1, 2025, [Family Vacation Camp Labor Day](#), Camp Royaneh
- Sep 6-7, [BALOO Training](#), Camp Herms
- Sep 12-14, 2025, [Wood Badge Fall 2025](#) Part I, Camp Herms
- Sep 13, 2025, [Cal Football Scout Day](#), UC Berkeley Stadium
- Sep 20-21, 2025, [Wilderness First Aid](#), Camp Herms
- Oct 3-5, 2025 [OA Fall Induction](#), Rancho Los Mochos
- Oct 4-5, 2025 [Web-O-Ree](#), Camp Herms
- Oct 5, 2025 [Rifle Merit Badge](#), Concord Police Association Range
- Oct 11-12, 2025, [Wood Badge Fall 2025](#) Part II, Camp Royaneh
- Oct 11-12, 2025, New Cub Scout - Boo Camp Camping Connection, Rancho Los Mochos
- Oct 18-19, [BALOO Training](#), Camp Herms
- Oct 18-19, Cub Scout [Boo Camp](#), Rancho Los Mochos
- Oct 25-26, [AOL-O-Ree](#), Camp Herms
- Nov 8, 2025 [Scouting For Food](#) Drop off door cards
- Nov 8, 2025 [Napa Mini Regatta & Bridge of Honor](#)
Napa Sea Scout Base, and the Native Sons Hall, in Napa, CA
- Nov 12, 2025 Roundtable – Scouts BSA Zoom
- Nov 15, 2025 [Scouting For Food](#) Gather Food
- Dec 6, 2025 [Winter Camp Awareness](#) Location to be determined
- Dec 10, 2025 Roundtable – Scouts BSA Zoom
- Dec 14, 2025 [Rifle Merit Badge](#) Concord Police Association Range



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

Finance

- Friends of Scouting
 - Over \$44,300 raised so far of our \$65,000 goal for 69.7%
 - Family FOS - \$36,630 of the \$39,000 goal for 93.92%
 - Community FOS - \$8,680 of the \$26,000 goal for 33..38%
- [GGAC - Good Scout Award](#)
 - Fund Raising dinner: Alameda Area District Good Scout Award Honoring **William McDonald Alameda County Fire Chief**,
 - Moved to August 13th, 2025, 5:00 - 8:00 pm Marina Community Center San Leandro.
 - This is a “No Cost Individual RSVP” event, though donations and sponsorships are available.
- [Popcorn](#)
 - Rick Wong of pack 765 is our district chair
 - Kick-off meeting July 19th, Alameda Office, 10 a.m.
 - [Popcorn Kernel Training](#) sessions on the 9th, 10th, and 11th of July on selling popcorn.
 - 4 new units have signed up to participate in the Popcorn sales.
 - **The Council is offering an incentive** for units that did not register to sell popcorn in 2024.
 - The first \$480 of popcorn will be provided free. This means the unit can keep all the profit.
 - Any popcorn beyond the initial incentive will be purchased and sold normally.
 - Contact [Rick Wong](#) our District Popcorn Kernel, or [Alex Garcia](#) our District Executive for more information.

Membership

- As of June 2025 our district serves 1224 youth in 60 units.
- Unit and Charter Organization updates
 - Pack 73 started with 5 cubs and is now at 50 and feels they are at their limit.
 - St Clement Church visit went well, the parent’s night followup had only a few attending.
 - All Saints Church is working to set up an evening event.
 - Franklin ELeментарy in Alameda is interested in a Pack, but going slow. Will continue to work on startup in the fall.
 - St Felicitas in San Leandro is waiting on the signing of the charter agreement for Pack 612 and then will start recruiting from the congregation and local community.
- GGAC Council has adopted guidelines for new units similar to National.
 - 3 youth and 3 adults to be registered with a recruiting plan.
 - The youth must be new youth. T ransfer and multiple youth registrations don’t count.
 - The adults can be multiple registered with existing units, but are expected to be active leaders.
- District Executive is looking to organize 25 signup nights at various schools in
 - San Leandro, Alameda, Oakland, Castro Valley and Hayward.

- Colonial Acres contact, the school principal, has show interest in assisting.
 - Castro Valley schools mostly will not allow on-campus recruiting
- Community Events
 - Castro Valley Fall Festival is Sep 6-7
 - Alameda Parade on 4th of July will have support from various troops and the OA.
 - San Leandro Cherry Festival had several units hand out flyers and candy. Pack 556, Troop 612, Troop 2612.
 - Roosevelt Elementary contact is being developed to aid Pack 506
 - Washington Elementary is a possible recruiting site for Pack 556, DE will contact the pack committee chair to pass on the school contact information.
- The suggestion was made to reach out to Back-To-School night coordinators for the various schools and PTA's. Flyers describing Cub Scouting fun have been successful in the past.
- Fil de Cal, the Twin Valley district executive, is working on contacting private schools.

Nominating Committee

- Mark Frey has started sending letters to prospective candidates
- Looking to restart the Committee Meetings, Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. Information will be sent to committee members.

Unit Service

- Trained Volunteer percentage is low, especially in the Cub Scout program.

Training

- The Council Training Page is the starting point for training information
- The Black Pug registration page can be checked for open event registration which includes training events.
- Safeguarding Youth Training is replacing Youth Protection Training.
 - Prior certificate is still valid until it expires.
 - Since SYT was released on 5/16/2025, all registered adults must take the new
 - SYT training by 5/31/2026.
 - SYT training must be retaken every year, but the renewal is currently a 15 minute course plus a quiz.
- Wood Badge - Fall 2025 Course
 - Camp Herms, Friday 09-12-2025 7 AM to Sunday 09-14-2025 5 PM and
 - Camp Royaneh, Saturday 10-11-2025 7 AM to Sunday 10-12-2025 5 PM
- [Philmont Course in September](#)
 - Hosted by other councils, but you can apply to join their course
- BALOO (Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation)
 - It's required for at least one adult to be BALOO trained for any Cub Scout overnight activity, including pack camping and Webelos den overnights.
 - Camp Herms
Saturday 09-06-2025 8:30am to Sunday 09-07-2025 1:30pm
Registration opens – August 12
 - Camp Herms
Saturday 10-18-2025 7:30 AM to Sunday 10-19-2025 12:30 PM
Registration now open
- Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters need to complete both Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training (SLS) and Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS) to be fully trained.
 - [Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training \(SLS\)](#)
Alameda Area District
Saturday 8/2/25 8:00 am -1:00 pm
First United Methodist Church 1600 Bancroft Ave. San Leandro

- [Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills \(IOLS\)](#)
Alameda Area District
Part One Saturday 8/2/25 2:00 - 6:00 pm
First United Methodist Church 1600 Bancroft Ave. San Leandro
Part Two Saturday 8/16/25 7:00 am till 1:00 pm on Sunday 8/17/25
Camp Tamarancho 100 Iron Springs Rd, Fairfax, CA.
- [Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills \(IOLS\)](#)
Briones & Herms District
Camp Herms
Saturday 10-18-2025 7:30 AM to Sunday 10-19-2025 12:30 PM

Camping

- The Camping Committee is reaching out to units that are not attending our council camps to find out where they are attending long term camps and how many youth are attending.
- **Scouts who were unable to signup for long term camp, can now sign up with incentives.**
 - This applies to all three council long term resident camps.
 - This applies to the remainder of the camping season.
 - Provisional campers as well as those who will attend with their units will all qualify.
 - Scouts can get a \$100 discount, and there will be no late fee.
 - Contact [Alex Garcia](#), our District Executive, for more information.

Program Highlights

Fundraiser - Popcorn Sales



[Popcorn Kernel Training](#) sessions on the 9th, 10th, and 11th of July on selling popcorn.

The Council is offering an incentive for units that did not register to sell popcorn in 2024.

- The first \$480 of popcorn will be provided free. This means the unit can keep all the profit.
- Any popcorn beyond the initial incentive will be purchased and sold normally.
- Contact [Rick Wong](#) our District Popcorn Kernel, or [Alex Garcia](#) our District Executive for more information.

Summer Camp Incentives



Scouts who were unable to signup for long term camp, can now sign up with incentives.

- This applies to all three council long term resident camps.
- This applies to the remainder of the camping season.

- Provisional campers as well as those who will attend with their units will all qualify.
- Scouts can get a \$100 discount, and there will be no late fee.

Contact [Alex Garcia](#), our District Executive, for more information.

Safeguarding Youth Training



Scouting America has updated its essential safety training, changing the name from Youth Protection Training (YPT) to Safeguarding Youth Training (SYT).

This refreshed training offers a stronger focus on the SAFE initiative, includes updated guidance on technology and online threats, and features real volunteers in authentic Scouting scenarios.

SYT is now available on [my.Scouting](#), and all leaders, parents, and volunteers, are encouraged to complete it to help maintain a safe and supportive environment for every Scout.

Your prior YPT training certificate is still valid until it normally expires.

This new course was released on 5/16/2025, all registered adults must take the new SYT training by 5/31/2026.

Please check out these Scouting Wire pages

- [How to Spot Hidden Cameras.](#)
- [Hazardous Trees in Scouting](#)
- [Transporting Scouts Safely](#)
- [Incident Reporting in Scouting](#)

Venture Crew Officer Training



The National Venturing Committee offers two key tools to help Venturers lead their adventures. Check out the [Aaron on Scouting article](#) for details and links to facilitator guides.

Crew Officers Orientation

This training will help Venturing crews better understand the roles and responsibilities of crew officers. It will also help Venturers learn how to

effectively plan and lead meetings and events.

Completion of this training is required for advancement to the Discovery Rank.

Crew Officer Seminar

This brand-new training resource is the unofficial sequel to the Crew Officers Orientation. Also known as the Planning Session, it allows crew members to understand and create their annual program.

The training covers the three [Tiers of Adventure](#), reviews the [Venturing ALPS model](#), explores recruitment ideas and walks through the steps of planning for an event or activity.

New Aquatics Supervision Manual



Scouting America has released an updated version of the Aquatics Supervision Manual, providing the latest safety guidelines, training standards, and best practices for aquatic activities, including swimming, canoeing, paddleboarding, and snorkeling.

This resource is designed to support unit leaders, camp staff, and volunteers in delivering safe and effective aquatics programming. The revised manual is now available online: [Aquatics Supervision Manual](#).

Pack Meeting Resources



Whether you're a new or experienced Cub Scout Leader or somewhere in between, whether you have a giant pack or a tiny pack, Scouting America has created a new [Cub Scout pack meeting resource page](#) for you.

Some topics provided include:

- The 4 types of Pack Meetings
- Parts of a Pack Meeting
- Pack Meeting Plans
- Cub Scout Fun and Games
- Cub Scout Presentations and Ceremonies

Resource Links



Scouting America has created a [Commissioner Resource Links PDF](#) to make it easier to find important online documents and other resource.

These links also include resources that are useful for all Leaders and Committee Members.

It includes:

- General Tools For Commissioners
- General Resources for Unit Leaders.
- Resource links for Cub Scouts
- Resource links for Scouts BSA
- Resource links for Venturing
- Resource links for Sea Scouting
- Resource links for Exploring

CUB SCOUT CAMPING

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



One Day camp opportunity is still available for your Cubs:

[Herms Day Camp](#)

- July 8-11
El Cerrito - Camp Herms



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.



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](#)

INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING



Upcoming International Scouting Events with BSA Contingents

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



- [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.



Check out the [GGAC International Scouting](#) page. for details on upcoming events.

[Denmark Jamboree 2026](#) – TBA

Over the past 11 years, the Guides and Scouts of Denmark have successfully organized three national Jamborees (Spejdernes Lejr in 2012, 2017, and 2022), each held in different locations and drawing an average of 35,000 participants. Moreover, we are currently planning two more Jamborees for 2026 and 2030.

[The 26th World Scout Jamboree 2027 – Poland](#)

30th of July – 8th of August 2027

World Scout Jamboree is a worldwide youth camp held every four years with the aim of cultural exchange and building friendship. It is the world's leading international youth event with more than 50,000 teenagers from 169 countries.

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



[Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training \(SLS\)](#)

Alameda Area District

Saturday 8/2/25 8:00 am -1:00 pm

First United Methodist Church

1600 Bancroft Ave. San Leandro



[Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills \(IOLS\)](#)

Alameda Area District

Part One Sat 8/2/25 2:00 - 6:00 pm

First United Methodist Church

1600 Bancroft Ave. San Leandro

Part Two

Sat 8/16/25 7:00 am to Sun 8/17/25 1:00 pm

Camp Tamarancho

100 Iron Springs Rd, Fairfax, CA.

[Briones District hosted](#)

Camp Herms

Sat 10/18/2025 7:30 AM to

Summer Camp

Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) **will** be offered each week at GGAC long-term camps (Wente, Royaneh, Wolfboro). 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 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.

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.

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.

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 currently meets at the Alameda Program Office, [714 Everett Street, Alameda, CA 94501](#).

Starting in September, the DOC location will be moved to the Joaquin Miller Community Center [3594 Sanborn Dr, Oakland, CA 94602](#)

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

Add or update these events to your calendar

Prior meetings may be need manual deletion.

[Multiple date ICS file](#) [Ⓢ]

Training

Trained Leaders

Every Scout deserves a trained leader.

Overall only 45.4% of district Scouters are trained for their positions. While this is improving we have a long way to go . 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 current training requirements for all positions can be found on the Scouting America [Position Trained Requirements](#) page.

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: 2025-02 Training Report date: 2025-04-19-11-51-03							
Cub Scouts	Trained:	25%	(40 of 160 Scouters)				
Scouts BSA	Trained:	40%	(254 of 625 Scouters)				
Venturing	Trained:	38%	(20 of 52 Scouters)				
Exploring	Trained:	4%	(2 of 44 Scouters)				
Sea Scouting	Trained:	38%	(8 of 21 Scouters)				
Commissioners	Trained:	100%	(14 of 14 Scouters)				
District Committee	Trained:	86%	(135 of 156 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.

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

-- Open --

District Executive

Alex Garcia