

Los Padres PRESS

News You Can Use

For members of Los Padres Council, BSA Santa Barbara & San Luis Obispo Counties



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Council Executive Message



THANK YOU!

Los Padres Council's program has impacted youth and our community for 101 years now.

We have faced many challenges this year and still have others to face in 2021. While some of those seem insurmountable, together we can conquer them and thrive once again. The pandemic has slowed down our movement and with the BSA bankruptcy looming there are some things to worry about, but at the same time this experience has led us to focus on our core mission and guided us towards improvement.

The inability to physically meet taught us how to interact and keep scouting virtually. Our Scouts figured out innovative and impactful ways to do their good turn and give service to others. Our volunteers adjusted to make Scouting available to our youth virtually and in smaller controlled groups. Scouts kept advancing and making an impact in our community with a cheerful attitude and a positive outlook. For all of that I am thankful.

I realize that the recent news about the BSA's history of infiltrators taking advantage of our program to injure our youth can be saddening. I too am sad and angry for all those that were harmed with in Scouting and recommit to assuring that never replicates itself again. We can all agree that Scouting is an impactful and positive program that transforms a young person's life and together we can assure Scouting is afforded to all the that want to be engaged in it. In order to do this there are several things that we all must commit to and take part in. The safety of all our Scouts is the most important and that is why we must all commit to taking YPT on a yearly basis and be active protectors of our youth members. We must always be steadfast in following the Scout Oath and Law and conduct ourselves as an example to our youth. Most importantly we must keep Scouting, keep inviting new families, keep encouraging our youth to do their best, and keep improving ourselves.

We have a lot to be excited about in the coming months. Our first female Eagle Scout will be with us soon, Rancho Alegre will open its beauty to the masses in 2021, our Scouts will keep providing cheerful service, we'll keep working on being more diverse and inclusive, and we will keep molding positive leaders out of young people.

I am thankful for you as we take on the challenges together in order to assure all youth can be the best versions of themselves. I wish all of you a joyful holiday season and look forward to working with you in 2021.

Yours in Scouting,

Carlos Cortez
Scout Leader/Scout Executive

Council President Views

How can we “Zoom” out of 2020 and get “Real” in 2021? Like most of you, I had never heard of Zoom before Covid-19. I was used to an occasional video chat with my kids on my phone, but I did not have a permanent camera and special lighting set up at both my home and office to conduct multiple daily video calls. I am grateful that we have this technology to help provide a little level of normalcy to these strange and difficult times.

Using Zoom was also very important for our council this year to continue to honor special people at the “Celebration of Youth” event we usually hold in the fall. This year, we held a virtual event in November to recognize Terry Bartlett as the recipient of the Los Padres Council Legacy Award. Although we were very nervous about how this event would turn out, I must say it was very successful. Terry is a very deserving recipient of the legacy award. Although we were not able to be together in person, we had a fun timing honoring her with a pre-event wine tasting. Many guests participating on the Zoom event honored Terry with fun stories about their time together as youth. The main event included a wonderful, pre-recorded speech by Terry honoring her family’s legacy in scouting and speaking about the positive impacts scouting has on our community. Congratulations Terry and thank you for all you do for our council. I also want to thank our sponsors that helped make this a successful event for our council.



I know it has been tough, but I want to say thank you to all who have been trying to keep the scouting going even if it is by video conference. I am hopeful that we will be able to get “Real” in 2021 and camp and gather in a little more normal way. Please know that we are ready to help in anyway possible to make your scouting experience the best it can be!

I hope you and your family have a thankful and joyful holiday experience this year whether it is by Zoom or by Real... Scout on!

Trey Pinner
Council President

Council Commissioner Update



Scouts and Scouters,

I am constantly amazed at the ingenious and well-thought out ways that our Leaders and our Units are remaining active and engaged during this Pandemic. From public service events, to safely distanced Pack award events and Troop Courts of Honor to day hikes, Merit Badges, Den events and outreaches to grow our Units. Many of our Scouting and Youth leaders have truly initiated and completed remarkable activities and events during COVID-19. I encourage each and every one of you to continue to find and embrace safe ways for our Scouts to get together and continue the great work of Scouting in the fun and safe ways that you have been. There is always room for new great ideas on how to comply with local health department guidelines and still be active in Scouting. I am constantly impressed with the dedication, focus and ingenuity of each and every one of you!

Commissioner Corps

Our Los Padres Council Commissioners are here to help you as move through the 2021 re-charter process. Have questions about re-charter, need information or guidance, please reach out to you assigned Unit Commissioner. If your Unit does not have and assigned Commissioner, please contact me and I will either help you and or get one of our amazing Commissioners to help you. We are here to help!

Are you looking for some other way to get involved in supporting Scouting? Consider becoming a Unit Commissioner. I believe it is one of the best positions in Scouting! Contact your District Commissioner or me for more information. We are always looking for great Commissioners!

Together we all have been through a lot this year, however our Scouting youth and their parents are depending on all of us. I know all of us are making a difference in the lives of each and every one of our Scouts. Keep up the great work!

Now is a great time to do what we can to help others as part of our service to our Communities. Take some time and work with your Unit to deliver some Scouting service to your community during this holiday season. Demonstrating the Scout Oath and Law is via action is how we remain visible and relevant to those who are not involved in Scouting.

On behalf of all our Commissioners, we hope you enjoy a safe and rewarding Holiday Season!

Bob Putney
Council Commissioner

Scouting Celebration: Virtual Event

On November 12th, Los Padres Council hosted a virtual fundraising event honoring Terry Bartlett with Los Padres Council's Legacy Award. This fundraiser also benefitted our Scouts and families in Santa Barbara County. The recording of the event will be posted on social media so anyone who wishes to view can see it! Although we originally planned to celebrate in person, we were thankful that we could highlight some of the things our Scouts have accomplished during this challenging year and recognize a very deserving member of our community and dedicated volunteer like Terry.



The event could not have happened except for the expertise of AV Solutions in San Luis Obispo in helping us record videos and produce the event. Of course, we need to thank Council President, Trey Pinner for being our master of ceremony.

During the broadcast, Los Padres Council announced that they are requesting council Eagles and their families to send pictures and a quick synopsis of what their Eagle projects that have been accomplished over the years. These projects will be showcased on our council website, <https://www.lpebsa.org/eagle-scouts-community-service-projects/> and social media! If you are interested in having your scout's Eagle project on the website, please reach out to Ken Miles at kenneth.miles@scouting.org.

THANK YOU TO OUR MANY SPONSORS OF THE CELEBRATION:



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Rechartering Your Unit

If you are reading this, you probably have just been asked to recharter your unit and are full of questions. You also may be a little anxious, wondering “what in the world have I gotten myself into?” because everyone else was so relieved when you agreed to do it.

RELAX. Unit recharter has earned a reputation as being difficult, but it doesn't have to be.

If there are hard parts, those parts are that some rules must be followed for each member and that you have to finish on time.

Need step by step instructions? [Read this.](#)

Units should plan to login into the internet recharter system and complete the following tasks:

1. Log into the recharter system and download the council's version of your unit's roster.
2. Compare the council roster to your unit's “working” roster. We recommend that you collect applications for ALL who are not included on the council roster and get them to the council office as soon as possible. Once these applications post, you can download the council roster again to refresh it.
3. Update addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses for all unit registrants.
4. If position changes are required for adult leaders, now is the time to make them. For example, if one of your Den Leaders is going assume the role of Cubmaster for 2021, that change can be made during the online recharter process without submitting an adult application. This is the only time this type of change can be made without submitting an application.

If I have a question or need help completing recharter for my unit, who can I ask?

Your Unit Commissioner or District Commissioner can help. Or you can call your District Executive, April Wright-Litchfield at (805) 478-9375 or email at April.Wright@Scouting.org

I'm having trouble accessing the online recharter system.

Call April Wright-Litchfield at (805) 478-9375 or email April.Wright@scouting.org

Where do I go to login to the recharter system?

[2020 Internet Charter Renewal](#)

Council Recognition Dinner

Save the Date

The Annual Los Padres Council Recognition Dinner is set for **Saturday, March 6, 2021 6:00 pm**. Plan on joining us in recognizing the 2020 Class of Silver Beavers recipients. Location details will be released in the next newsletter pending State and County Covid-19 Rules.

Order of the Arrow

The Chumash Lodge Order of the Arrow has continued to stay busy. In early November we held our annual banquet virtually. Our outgoing Lodge officers were recognized and honored, and we installed our new Lodge officers:

- Lodge Chief: **Joey M.**
- Lodge Vice Chief, Cuesta District: **Joseph C.**
- Lodge Vice Chief, Pacific Coast District: **Henri B.**
- Lodge Secretary: **Ben B.**
- Lodge Treasurer (and Medicine Man): **Jase M.**

James E. West awards were also presented in support of the council and in recognition of Joey Kamlet (our outgoing Treasurer and Medicine Man), and Len Kamlet (Associate Lodge Adviser).

After the awards, a short online fellowship continued with existing members and Ordeal candidates (also invited to the meeting) who were able to play some online games. The following day the Lodge held its annual Lodge Leadership Development training.

In addition, our Vigil class which had been elected in 2019 was finally announced. Jase M., Brendan H., Mr. Paul Bowen, and Dr. Len Kamlet were elected to Vigil. Inductions have begun so that each can complete their Vigil. Our Lodge also held Vigil elections for 2020, which had been postponed from May.

The planning has begun for 2021; while dates for all events are still somewhat fluid, we are hopeful that as the nation turns the corner we will once again be meeting in person. Stay tuned for 2021 dues announcements, and we look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year!

Len Kamlet

Associate Lodge Adviser



Los Padres Council is proud to congratulate the following Scouts in achieving the highest rank in Scouting, The Eagle Rank. These young people committed to becoming the best versions of themselves and strive to be examples to others as they lead the path forward. In achieving this rank, they have just begun their journey of leading progress that will improve the life of many and change our world for the better.

Alexandre Moisan - Troop 41

Braeden Kirby - Troop 41

Cameron Knight - Troop 41

Brendan Haydon - Troop 51

Albert Barber - Troop 50

Jesse Muth - Troop 60

Christopher Gundrey - Troop 42

William Fittipaldi - Troop 105

Logan DeLeon - Troop 42

Dylan Richardson - Troop 4

Jacob Hensley - Troop 2103

James Philson Jr. - Troop 450

Charles van Gool - Troop 4

Ryan Dostalek - Troop 308

Advancement News:

Diversity and Inclusion Merit Badge:

In July, the BSA announced that it would be introducing a new Diversity and Inclusion Merit Badge which would be Eagle-Required, and that it would work on a relatively fast timeline to introduce this new Merit Badge. We now have some more details about the rollout of this merit badge:

- Information about the requirements should be announced in December 2020 or early January 2021.
- Merit Badge Counselors can sign up to be a counselor starting in January 2021. Remember that Merit Badge Counselors are approved by the Districts and not by individual units. To sign up to be a Merit Badge Counselor for this (or any other Merit Badge), contact your District Advancement Chair or Council Advancement Chair, or reach out to Glen Goddard (Program Director) or April Wright-Litchfield (Senior District Executive).
- Scouts in Scouts BSA can start to earn this merit badge starting in January 2021.
- This requirement replaces the need to earn one of the elective merit badges. In other words, Scouts will still be required to earn only 21 merit badges; now they will earn 14 required and have seven elective badges.
- Life Scouts who have not had their Eagle Scout Rank Applications verified by May 1 will need to earn the Merit Badge to qualify for the rank of Eagle.

More details about the merit badge will be shared when they are available.

Virtual Merit Badges:

In August and September, Jeanne Gard (Cuesta District Advancement Chair) successfully ran our Council's first online Merit Badge Pow Wow, enrolling over 100 Scouts earning hundreds of merit badges.

While this was an incredible success, and we will be looking to offer additional opportunities in the future, we also learned that the mechanics to connect Scouts to Merit Badge Counselors (MBCs) was new for a number of our leaders in each role. This presented a training opportunity, and we have responded with a pair of documents instructing Unit Leaders and MBCs on ways to make these connections in line with BSA methods for earning merit badges. For those who are not completely familiar, a Scout should get approval from their unit

leader before working with a MBC (and in some cases, must start working with the MBC before working on aspects of a merit badge). There are two approved paths for this: the Blue Card, and now a unit-approved connection through Scoutbook. Step-by-step guidance is provided, and these instructions are in the process of being sent to unit leaders and MBCs. A copy of these documents will also be posted to the Los Padres Council website in the Advancement links within the Program Menu header.

Arrow of Light / Den Rank Advancement:

For our Webelos II (AOL) Scouts, we recognize that this has been a challenging year so far, and advancement for this highest rank award in the Cub Scouting program can be difficult for some of our Scouts and some of our Dens and Packs. Know that the Council is committed to doing all we can to help you along the process and achieve this goal. If you are facing any challenges and need assistance, reach out to your Unit Leaders, or Unit, District, or Council level Advancement Chairs and Commissioners; we are all here to help you. This offer is not limited to AOL dens, it is for any and all dens needing assistance; but we do recognize that it may be most critical for this final award at the Cub Scout level. Remember that the Cub Scout Motto is "Do Your Best".

Veterans Awards:

As we complete our unit rechartering, now is a great time to ask your leaders about their time in Scouting, both as a Youth and as an Adult Leader. Veterans Awards are a great way of recognizing the contributions you have made in Scouting; they are available for every five years registered in Scouting. [You can download the application here](#), or contact Glen Goddard or April Wright-Litchfield if you have further questions.

Feedback:

Our Council Advancement Committee will look to provide more updates in future Los Padres Press newsletters, and would like to make sure we are addressing your needs and questions. Please provide any suggestions for future articles, or share any more immediate questions, to Len Kamlet, Council Advancement Chair, at lkamlet@gmail.com or (978) 806-6556.

Rancho Alegre Construction Update **Larsen's Meadow Available for Activities**

Limited construction of buildings continues at Rancho Alegre. The three bedroom staff house with garage is complete. The two bedroom staff houses with garage are anticipated to be completed by end of December. A big thank you to Idler Home Furnishings for securing donated appliances (refrigeration and stoves) from Whirlpool for the houses.

The new dorms all have the walls up with interior framing, and rough plumbing and electrical is completed. Alpha Fire of San Luis Obispo continues to install the fire suppression system, thank you Alpha Fire! Painting on the exterior walls on two dorms is pending.

The Storm Water Protection Program has been put in place for this winter. Due to the recent grading and building there is a lot of recently disturbed areas that need to be protected from water run-off. Fiber rolls and sand bags have been set in the most likely places for water flow during a rain event.

Recently, the Chumash Lodge, Order of the Arrow spent a day weed-whacking around buildings to protect from fire danger. Thank you to the Lodge Members for helping to protect camp. This spring after the rainy season we will need more volunteers to help control weeds around the buildings and the roadways. If you are interested in helping out please contact Glen Goddard at glen.goddard@scouting.org.

SAGE Trail Alliance continues to build the new practice bike trail. The trail will be part of a future bike program for Scouts to learn how to ride, repair and maintain bikes.

Please continue to support the reconstruction of Rancho Alegre!

We are currently allowing day use of the Meadow to groups smaller than ten individuals. This is great for den and patrol size activities. When the County and State loosens restrictions for gathering, units can reserve Larsen's Meadow at Camp Rancho Alegre for larger group program activities. As the pandemic eases, overnight use for groups will be allowed. For more information please contact Glen Goddard, Camp Manager, at glen.goddard@scouting.org.

Youth Protection Training

Youth Protection Training (YPT) Begins With You! **Youth Protection Training is required annually** and is now mandated by the National BSA for all registered leaders. Leaders who do not have YPT for the current year cannot be registered when their unit re-charters. YPT Process: Login to the My.Scouting.org portal, Click Menu (top left of screen), then My Dashboard from the menu list. The "My Training" screen shows YPT options, click on "Take Course" Complete YPT, print certificate.

Friends of Scouting

As some of you know, December 1st is #GivingTuesday! It has been over half a year since COVID19 changed the way California works, lives, and interacts with others. Los Padres Council has made it a priority to make sure local Scouts and their families stay safe by practicing social distancing. Although it has been impossible to do things how we used to, there are still some traditions that we can continue—GivingTuesday is one of them! "GivingTuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Over the past 8 years, this idea has grown into a year-round global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity." There are so many things we had to do differently this year, but let's make sure GivingTuesday isn't one of them.

In order to keep serving you and slowly bring some services back, we need your help. Any support you can afford our Scouts makes a world of difference. We hope that you will be a part of helping us prepare our future leaders. You can give online by going to www.lpcbsa.org or you can look at the picture below for instructions on giving via text message.



Give More - Get More Tax Benefits

The Cares Act's charitable giving incentives expires in 2020:

Though you may give to Scouting, The Outdoor School, or other nonprofit because you want to support their missions, a personal charitable deduction on your taxes can be financially helpful and a motivation/opportunity to increase your giving.

[Here is a link](#) that explains The Cares Act charitable giving incentive that expires in December 2020. The primary benefits include:

- Individuals who itemize deductions on their personal income tax return (including couples filing a joint return) can deduct qualified cash charitable donations limited to **100% of their adjusted gross income (AGI)**, beginning with donations made in 2020. Under previous law, such contributions were included in the 60% of AGI limit.
- Also, for 2020, individuals who do not itemize deductions can deduct up to \$300 per taxpayer in annual cash charitable contributions as an above-the-line deduction. This deduction is allowed in addition to the standard deduction allowable to those taxpayers.

Corporations may increase their limit on charitable deductions up to 25% of their taxable income with a qualified contribution to a charitable organization. Previously, the charitable deduction limit for regular corporations was 10% of taxable income.

Taxpayers will want to work with their tax advisor to coordinate the added charitable deduction with other deductions and credits to achieve maximum benefit.



[A Nonprofit's Guide to Informing Donors: How the CARES Act Impacts Personal and Corporate Giving](#) [Warren Averett CPAs & Advisors](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a tremendous impact on the world and our nation, and nonprofits are no exception. On March 27, 2020, The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which includes a \$2+ trillion economic stimulus package, was enacted to provide needed support to U.S. individuals and organizations.

warrenaverett.com

We hope you find the above information helpful as you consider your year-end giving in 2020. Your gifts of time and treasure is deeply appreciated as it instills values in our young people and prepares them to make ethical choices over their lifetime in achieving their full potential.

Cuesta District Highlights

As we continue to move ahead as best we can under the threat of COVID-19, I continue to be reminded of several things that connect me and my family and the way that we respond to the world around to the life of Scouting that I grew up with. The Scout Motto – Be Prepared – strikes me as one aspect that altogether symbolizes our daily activities under COVID-19.

While many scout leaders and volunteers have taken measures to be prepared on behalf of scouts, as it relates to weather and outdoor activities, it was not until 2018 that BSA made Hazardous Weather Training mandatory for volunteers engaging scouts in outdoor activities, especially camping. As we all know, weather hazards can present themselves suddenly and unexpectedly, and can turn a camping experience into a nightmare. By requiring scouting volunteers to BE PREPARED to take into account weather information, and to BE PREPARED to cancel outings or at least BE PREPARED to pivot and find another activity to engage in, we are demonstrating by example the mindset we wish for scouts in our charge. We do this not out of fear, but out of an abundance of caution, and a healthy respect for the natural world around us.

Similarly, social distancing and the wearing of masks is demonstration of the Scout Motto, BE PREPARED. My wife and I wear masks when we are out in public, and I am required to wear one full time in my work for the County of San Luis Obispo, as a Public Works employee. We wear them not out of fear, but out of a sense of being prepared, to minimize our chances of catching COVID-19. We wear masks because it is the epitome of BEING PREPARED; of demonstrating that we understand there is a virus out there in the world that wishes us harm. And if we do catch it, we also minimize our chances of spreading it to others.

I urge you all to BE PREPARED – wear your masks and social distance as much as possible. Do not let others make you feel as if BEING PREPARED is the same as living in fear. Scouts have always BEEN PREPARED. Scouts have responded when needed since the early 1900's. BEING PREPARED should never be mistaken for acting out of fear. For in BEING PREPARED, we will be ready when we are needed to act.

Michael Britton

Cuesta District Chairman

Pacific Coast District Highlights

Zoom me Up!

Remember the Star Trek line “Beam me Up”? Now with COVID restrictions and meetings via Zoom how do we make them interesting and engaging? The new line is “Zoom me Up”. I wanted to share an idea that come from another Council friend of mine. The idea is simple. With each Zoom meeting invite alumnus of your unit to answer questions toward the end of the meeting. Most everyone can make time for a 15-minute Zoom appearance.

Tell them a past member of your unit will be joining the meeting, and give clues about their profession, company, Scoutmaster or Pack Master at the time in Scouting to build up the presentation. At the meeting ask the guest alumni their favorite campout, merit badge, how Scouting shaped their past to present or how they use what was learned in Scouting today.

If you need help with this and finding alumni, contact your unit commissioner or committee chair of your unit. These alumni scouters are more than happy to help and share their history with you. They are very interesting and illustrates how scouting has impacted their life.

In this process, if you find an extraordinary alumnus, let us know about them and perhaps we can feature them on our website with a video blog.

I am amazed at the creative and unique way our leaders are bringing Scouting to our units each and every day. COVID will be in our past before long. We as a youth program are some of the only programs left standing. All youth sports have missed their season. No fair for 4H and FFA to sell their livestock projects. Our Scout program has not just withstood the COVID constraints but thriving in the process with such awesome leaders and creative ideas. Keep it going through the end of the year and strong into the next.

Yours in Scouting,

David Brown

Pacific Coast District Chairman

2020 Popcorn Sale Top Selling Units

Congratulations to our top selling units!

1st - Pack 425 - \$12,115.00

2nd - Pack 102 - \$9,620.00

3rd - Troop 4 - \$7,356.00

This year's Popcorn sale was more important than ever for both the unit and the Scout. The COVID-19 virus has taken so much away from all of us. The ability to gather, the chance to learn important Scouting skills, and our opportunities to build stronger units through fundraising. All of the Scouts who participated in the sale this year did their very best to make the most out of a difficult sale. Thank you to all of the units who participated in the 2020 Popcorn Sale!

Look for our top selling Scouts in the next issue of Los Padres Press!

