

# Los Padres Press

*For Members of Los Padres Council, BSA*

*Santa Barbara & San Luis Obispo Counties*



**EXPLORING**  
DISCOVER YOUR FUTURE

## A Scout Is Helpful

Early on January 4<sup>th</sup>, with heavy rains forecast, St. Mark United Methodist Church in Santa Barbara was exposed to harm. Pastor Cynthia Huskey reached out to Boy Scout Troop 26 for help, since they meet at the church. She asked whether the troop might have volunteers who could fill, transport and place sandbags at critical points around the church structures. Scoutmaster Mike Schley put the word out to the troop families that morning, and he led six volunteers who were working that afternoon. While rain fell, some of the volunteers helped Tiffany and Kevin Kishiyama, church managers, to reposition older sandbags that were already on the site, while more Scouts and parents filled a total of 55 sandbags from County sites and delivered and positioned them around the church. This work helped prevent flooding of the church facilities and the preschool classrooms on the premises.



Though the flooding was prevented, the church suffered rain damage to several structures. Troop 26 volunteered for another work day, this last Saturday afternoon (Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>). Assistant Scoutmaster Forest Patton led a group of 15 volunteers who dug trenching around a portion of the church where walls had been saturated. They cleaned up the multipurpose room, Clemens Hall, where prior flood damage had required a replacement of the flooring and both the flooring and all stored furniture needed to be cleaned and the furniture moved. The volunteers also cleaned rain gutters around the church, to help prevent future problems.

The Los Padres Press Editorial Staff would like to give a shout out to the scouts of Troop 26 for helping their community prepare for the storms, as well as recover from the damages. Keep up the great work!

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*Has your troop gone some where cool?*

*Have your scouts helped out the community?*

*Do you have a fun scout story?*

*Feel free to reach out if you have anything you would like included in the next edition of the Los Padres Press!*

**Joseph Kamlet**  
Los Padres Press Editor  
[jskamlet@gmail.com](mailto:jskamlet@gmail.com)

## Save the Dates in 2023



### *District Camporee*

Both district camporees are approaching in the next few weeks, so make sure to pencil in the dates into your calendar. The locations for both camporees is TBD, so be sure to keep an eye out for more information from your district committees.

Cuesta District Camporee: **March 31<sup>st</sup> — April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Pacific Coast District Camporee: **April 21<sup>st</sup> — April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

### *National Youth Leadership Training, 2023*

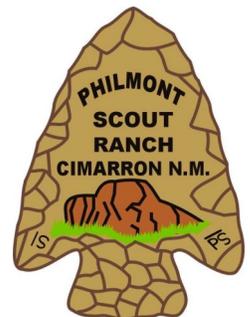
Los Padres Council is pleased to offer National Youth Leadership Training again this summer! Scouts who are First Class and will be at least 13 years old at the start of the course are invited to join us **June 26<sup>th</sup> - July 1<sup>st</sup>** to learn about teamwork, leadership skills, and more about Scouts BSA Troop organization, so that they can return to your units as stronger leaders.



Contact Sean Tashma ([cuestadistricttraining@gmail.com](mailto:cuestadistricttraining@gmail.com)) for more information.

### *Philmont Opportunity with Troop 322*

Scouts BSA, Troop 322 has 6 open slot for Philmont that they are looking to fill. The trek is scheduled for **June 22<sup>nd</sup> - July 4<sup>th</sup>**, 2023. If interested, please contact David Forrest at [slo6@verizon.net](mailto:slo6@verizon.net) or (760) 887-2222.



*Also see Page 6 for a Flyer about the Sporting Clays Classic, to be held on **June 10<sup>th</sup>**, 2023.*

# LPC President Remarks

Greetings Scouting Family,

This past weekend your Los Padres Council had 7 of your executive team board members meet at the Irvine Scout Ranch for an NST Leadership Summit. The theme for the event was Re-envision, Re-ignite, and Re-invent Scouting, together. Here we were updated as to BSA goals and policies for the near and long term. This included general sessions for financial sustainability, legacy gift techniques, safety moments that celebrate near misses, membership, Chartered Partners, fun programs, and DEI opportunities for growth. We also had some breakout sessions on Development and Finance, Unit and Customer Service, and Challenges for Boards. They also took time out to present our own NST representative, Tom Parker, for the James E West award and knot. Like all Scouting events we also had a opportunity for some fun activities.



Congratulations to our Phoenix Committee led by Trey Pinner and their fundraising efforts on behalf of the Rancho Alegre Capital Campaign. They exceeded their December goal with nearly \$250,000 in gifts. They have a goal to raise \$200,000 each month for 2023 so we can open Rancho Alegre and The Outdoor School. Please go to our website or call Trey or myself if you wish to make a gift or know of someone we should ask. We rely on your networks and introductions to be successful with this capital campaign.

Rancho Alegre was not omitted from the damage caused by the most recent rainstorms. We have experienced some downed trees, erosion of roads and debris. While most of the buildings held up very well our wastewater holding tank floated off its foundation and our water line broke, which emptied the fresh water tank. Finally, the Larson Meadow bridge was backed up with debris and the creek found a new path around the bridge by taking with it most of the driveway at the bridge entrance.

New year for registration and youth protection updates. Please remember to update your Youth Protection Training which is only good for one year by LPC policy. Then you should have a clear path with your registration updates.

Both of these can be done online and are very simple to complete. I am delighted to report that we have also achieved our membership goal for the past year with our first year of growth since the start of the pandemic. Congratulations to all our leaders who helped with this year's membership efforts. Let's be sure to invite all Scouting age youth, boys and girls to be part of the Scouting family and journey.

Help me give a warm Scouting welcome and congratulations to our new Pacific Coast District chairman, David Watkins. David is a dedicated leader who has been in our Council for many years. While his son earned his Eagle rank, David had leadership positions as Den Leader, Committee Chair, Scoutmaster and many other hats. David has earned the District Award of Merit and the Silver Beaver. The Pacific Coast is getting a proven leader and outstanding Scout. As District Chair, David also joins our LPC board.

Another new face to the LPC board is Brian Hascall. Brian has been active in OA and will now head up Explorers units and endeavors. Similar to David, Brian has a long list of scouting accomplishments, awards, and accolades. Welcome Brian Hascall to our LPC Board.

On the horizon is our Annual Business meeting scheduled for **February 21<sup>st</sup>** in Pismo Beach. We welcome all our charter partners as we vote for next year's leadership team. Then in March our team is planning for our annual awards celebration where we acknowledge our volunteers and bestow some Silver Beaver Awards.

Be sure to show your Scout spirit and follow our LPC Facebook page. Feel free to post and brag about your Scouts and activities.

I want to thank all our Scouting family members, volunteers and staff alike, for allowing me to lead our Council over the past 2 years. It has been an honor and privilege to represent such an amazing group of dedicated and resolute leaders who love the Scouting movement and one another. I know you will assist with the same enthusiasm and persistence our next LPC Chairman Doug Scott. Doug is the quintessential Scout who is a distinguished NESA award recipient, and I am proud to call him my friend. Our LPC will be in capable and strong hands with chairman, Doug Scott. Thank you.

Yours in Scouting,

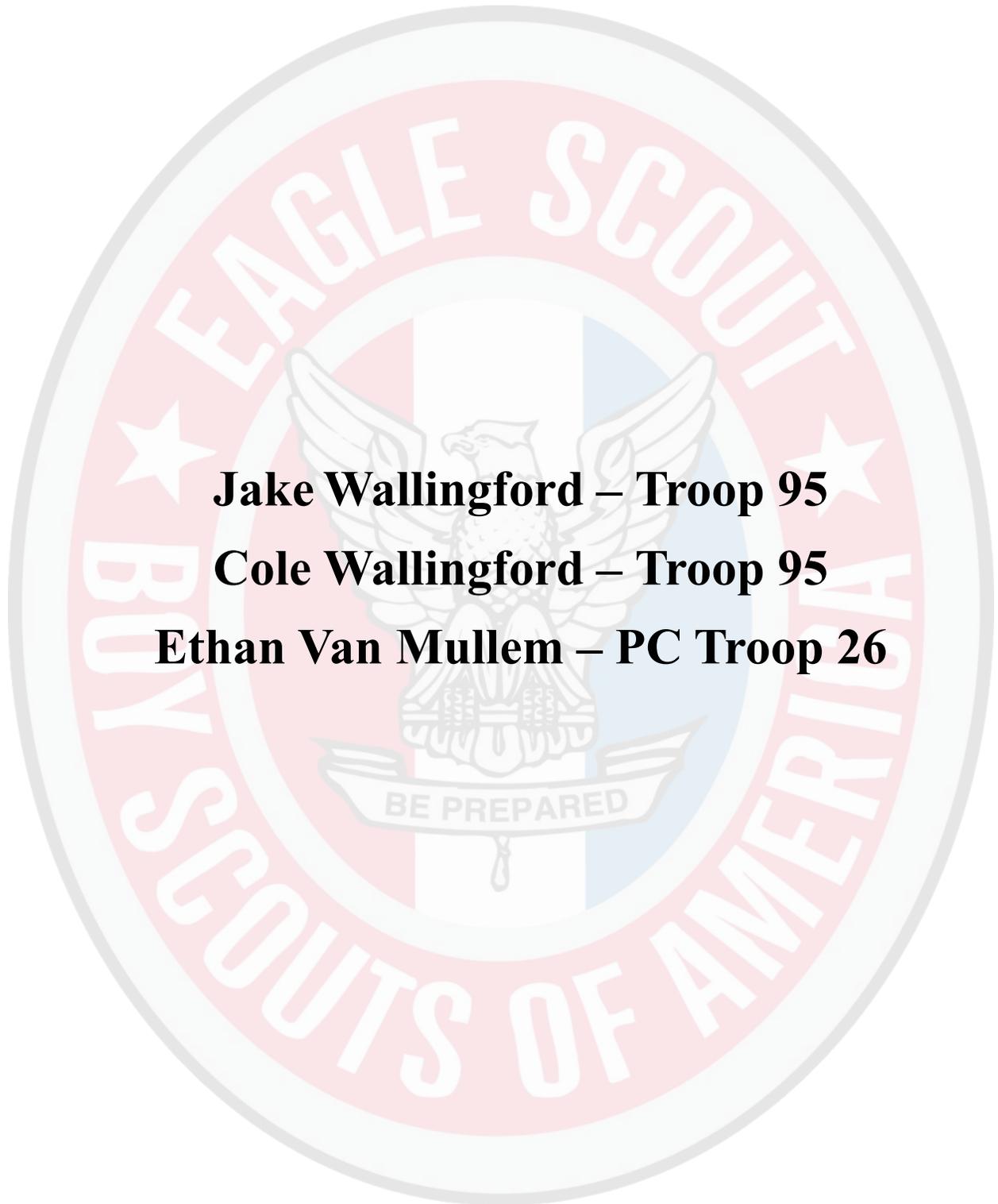
**David Brown**  
*Council President*

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.

**Jake Wallingford – Troop 95**

**Cole Wallingford – Troop 95**

**Ethan Van Mullem – PC Troop 26**



## Remembering Richard "Dick" Blankenburg

Dick was an amazing man and strong supporter of scouting. Dick spent many hours on the Camp French Committee and in Scouting around SLO. Our prayers go out to the Blankenburg family for their loss. Follow this link for further details:

<https://www.ksby.com/news/local-news/former-five-cities-newspaper-publisher-dies-at-86?fbclid=IwAR0KnBhxHE2-GIBWD3jME-d2GtAh76u8rB2SVCX1evh8oX6u9weyxmdkfkI>



## Changing Tides – from the Cuesta District

*“Never give up,*

*for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn.”*

*– Harriet Beecher Stowe*

Between the various challenges that we recently faced as the body of BSA National, and the pandemic, there have been times when I think many of us saw the end of the Los Padres Council at hand. Through it all you, our volunteers, continued looking for the best - and sometimes only - ways we could continue to serve the youth within our programs. Our hats are off to you all, as we are starting to see life being breathed back into our programs. Thank you all for not giving up; and thanks to you, we are prepared to take steps to resume live activities (when they make sense to).

With respect to a seeming return to a tempered normal, the Cuesta District has been attempting to involve a live aspect back into our District Committee meetings. We were looking to get a live component back in December and January – and in both cases, we had severe rains on those days. For the safety of our Committee, we pivoted back to a virtual meeting. If we can thank the pandemic for anything, I am thankful that we were forced to figure out how to engage in virtual meetings. This way when we have issues as with the recent storms, we can keep our members safe and still get the business of the District and the Council done. If you are interested, we will be trying again in February to have a live component of our District Committee meeting, on Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7PM. There will still be virtual access to the meeting, but for those going “live” we will conduct the meeting from the SLO Service Center. Feel free to reach out if you’d like to be involved.

Additionally, the Cuesta District will be having our first in-person Merit Badge PowWow in four years. There will be three sessions of four classes each day, starting shortly after 8AM, on the following dates: **February 25<sup>th</sup>**, **April 8<sup>th</sup>**, and **May 27<sup>th</sup>**. The merit badge will take place at St. Rose Catholic Church in Paso Robles. Complete details should be posted online very soon, along with the opportunity to register scouts for the PowWow. Stay tuned, and it is good to start seeing people again.

**Michael Britton**  
*Cuesta District Chair*

# Pacific Coast District

## *Give Recognition Where It's Due*

The past few years have presented many challenges for the Scouting program, and one challenge was the inability to hold banquets to recognize our amazing volunteers. But that all changed on January 28th, when we were able to have our first Recognition Banquet in three years. Originally the event was planned to occur at Rancho Alegre, but some convenient January rain forced some last minute changes. Luckily, we were able to work with the wonderful staff at the Dunn School in Santa Ynez Valley, and they let us hold our event in their beautiful Leadership Center. With a new location, a filled room full of smiles, and some hardware straight from an auto shop, we were able to recognize those who contributed to Scouting in 2020 and 2022. To list some of the flashier awards:

- District Awards of Merit were presented to Andy Wulfestieg and Len Kamlet for 2020.
- District Awards of Merit were presented to Paul Weakliem and Espiri Ferreira for 2022.
- Scout of the Year was presented to Ryan McLain (2020) and Ethan Earle (2022).

Those names are only about 10% of the people who were honored that day, so if anyone would like the program with the full list of awardees, any descriptions of an individual's merits, or if you were unable to attend, please reach out to [jskamlet@gmail.com](mailto:jskamlet@gmail.com). Once again, Pacific Coast District would like to thank the Dunn School, Sam Schley, Dr. Scott Harper, Alex Singleton, the scouts of Troop 50, and everyone else who helped make that day possible.

## *Meet the new District Chair: David Watkins*

David Watkins first joined scouting as a youth, and he has served in a plethora of roles in the program. He and his wife became Den Leaders when his son took interest cub scouts, and continuing through the program lead him to take the position of Scoutmaster for Troop 41. He has served as an Assistant Scoutmaster for our National Jamboree contingent, and he has a good number of amazing experiences with scouting. He strongly believes that Scouting is an amazing organization, and that it provides youth with a very strong moral compass to use in navigating their lives. With that introduction, we would like to welcome in our new District Chair: David Watkins!



## **Joseph Kamlet**

*Pacific Coast District Advancement Chair*

## Los Padres Council, BSA Presents **SPORTING CLAYS CLASSIC**

**Saturday, June 10, 2023**

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Check-in begins at 9:00 AM

San Luis Obispo  
Sportsmen's Association  
270 Gilardi Rd. SLO, CA

Scan to Register --->



Register your team at [www.LPCBSA.org](http://www.LPCBSA.org) or for more information contact April Wright-Litchfield at [April.Wright@scouting.org](mailto:April.Wright@scouting.org) or call (805)478-9375

## Rancho Alegre Updates Winter 2023

Winter Storm Damage: The storm of January 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> dumped approximately 12 inches of rain on Rancho Alegre. The good news is that the new buildings finished and under construction did well with no damage or leaking in upper camp. The sanitation system experienced damage and is out of order and pending repairs. The bulk of the damage done to property was along Alegre and Tequepis Creeks. The Larsen's meadow road has one downed tree and a portion of the road undermined by the Creek. The Bridge to Larsen's Meadow did survive the large debris flow but the creek took an unexpected turn and went around the bridge leaving that entrance unusable. Both creek crossings at Alegre Creek were damaged and currently unusable. All roads will need some repair. The camp is currently closed until we can make it safe for use again.



*Alegre Creek Crossing*



*Larsen's Meadow Bridge*

Dorm three is under construction! The Los Padres Council is moving forward with construction of the new camp dorms and is working with Frank Schipper Construction to bring dorm three into a usable building. The Council is committed to opening the Outdoor School on a limited basis in Fall of 2023. More buildings will be made available through the spring.

The Camp Swimming Pool is now functioning with a new filtration/pump system. The Council Program Committee will be recruiting an Aquatics Committee to set up swimming programs for next summer.



# Order of the Arrow

♪ *Softly falls the rain today, As our campfire floats away.* ♪

Most of the time when it rains, I find myself singing the tune of Scout WETspers. But the opening line doesn't seem *that* fitting given that the rain in January wasn't exactly soft, and that more than just a campfire floated away... (See the pictures on the previous page...) As a result of this rain and the damages, there are now a plethora of service opportunities. And as the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service, We Want YOU!

If you are wondering how you can get involved, there are a few ways.

## *For OA Members*

You can renew your membership for the 2023 year at <https://lpcbsa.doubleknot.com/event/2023-oa-dues-renewal/2953559>. If you have already paid your dues, you can get a free button at one of the up coming Lodge events. Be sure to check the Lodge Calendar (<https://chumashlodge90.net/calendar/>) for event dates and keep an eye on your emails for more information.

## *For Unit Leaders*

The Order of the Arrow (OA) provides opportunities to give your scout extra tools to bring back to your unit. These tools can range anywhere from additional leadership trainings to new ideas for fun trips, and we encourage youth to take advantage of this opportunity by joining the OA. Any youth (under 21) who meets the following requirements is eligible for the OA:

- Be a registered member of Scouts BSA, Venturing, or Sea Scouts.
- Have 15 nights of camping within the last two years. This must include a long-term camp (5+ nights), and 10 nights of shorter-term camps.
- Have attained the Scouts BSA First Class rank, the Venturing Discovery rank, or the Sea Scout Ordinary rank or higher.
- Obtain approval from their Unit Leader,
- Be elected by the youth members of their unit.

To help fulfill final requirement, our chapters will be reaching out to you to schedule your Unit Election in the next few weeks. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact [jskamlet@gmail.com](mailto:jskamlet@gmail.com). Also, we recommend that your unit looks at our calendar (<https://chumashlodge90.net/calendar/>) before you plan the dates of your next amazing campout.

Keep The Spirit Alive,

**Joseph Kamlet**

*Chumash Lodge Adviser*

## Congratulations Zea, Joseph, and Peter Bauer!

Congratulations Zea, Joe, and Peter on receiving the Thomas Nishikubo Award from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for your work on the Catholic Committee on Scouting. We are proud to have you in our council and look forward to seeing you receive the honor on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> the Long Beach Sea Base.

For those that like to show support visit <http://www.ccsala.org/events/awards-banquet/index.html>

# Program Updates

## **TRAINING:**

We're pleased to announce that we are working on holding a University of Scouting. Stay tuned for specific date and details! If you'd like to help lead individual sessions for our University of Scouting, contact Len Kamlet at [lkamlet@gmail.com](mailto:lkamlet@gmail.com).

As a reminder, our council requires Youth Protection Training (YPT) annually. Even though your training record will show as current with National BSA, if you haven't retaken YPT in the last 12 months please retake it as soon as you can.

Scouts – if you will be 13 years or older and First Class by **June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, you should attend National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)! This training equips young people with leadership skills to help them succeed in their scouting program and in life. NYLT brings together scouts from all over the council to learn and practice and leadership techniques in a risk free, scout friendly environment. The scouts learn and practice leadership skills and styles together.

## **CAMPING:**

Rancho Alegre is temporarily closed after the major rains we had, but we are working to quickly reopen. We are thankful that no buildings were damaged.

## **AWARDS:**

If you know a deserving adult leader in the council, download the nomination form (found at <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/92-103.pdf>) and submit the completed form to Len Kamlet, at [lkamlet@gmail.com](mailto:lkamlet@gmail.com).

**Please Submit by February 10<sup>th</sup>**

## **ADVANCEMENT**

The Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook has been updated! Download and work with the latest version found at <https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/eagle-scout-workbook/>. Eagle Scout Service Projects service can now be recorded in Scoutbook! If you look at your Life Scouts' progress, there is now space to enter the Eagle Scout project information.

A large number of Merit Badges have also been updated. For example, the Hiking Merit Badge changed the hiking requirement (#4) to four 10-mile and one 20-mile hike. The old requirement had been one 5-mile hike, three 10-mile hikes, one 15-mile hike (requirement #4) and one 20-mile hike (requirement #5). If you are already actively working on a changed merit badge, you can continue following the old requirements, or change to the new requirements, but should discuss this with your merit badge counselor. Scouts starting a merit badge should always use the current requirements. For a list of all of the changed requirements, go to <https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/all/>.

Yours in Scouting,

**Len Kamlet**

*Council VP of Program*



## Scout Executive Message



*Happy 2023!*

Due to your dedication and support our council has had a successful 2022. We had a 1% total membership growth with 9% Cub Scout growth. 2023 presents a great opportunity for our scouts and for scouting in general. LPC and our units are uniquely positioned to support youth growth and help families achieve the goal to raise confident, caring, responsible youth. Whether it's a Lion Cub Scout learning to tie a knot in reference to their shoe laces or a Life Scout preparing for their Eagle project, our council will provide them all the tools necessary to be successful. You are the most important part of that success, by contributing your time, talent, and treasure you assure our scouts will be supported in their efforts.

We are ready to take on the 2023 trail to the peak with you. There are several resources available to you to help unit health and growth, contact your local District Executive for details. Follow us on our Facebook @LPCBSA or visit the council website [www.lpcbsa.org](http://www.lpcbsa.org) to see the latest information on everything program as well.

As we move forward we are working on re-opening San Luis Obispo Service Center and add staff to the Santa Barbara Service Center. If you know anyone that would be interested in our customer service position in Santa Barbara or San Luis Obispo, please have them email me at [carlos.cortez@scouting.org](mailto:carlos.cortez@scouting.org)

We are excited about the opportunities 2023 will present to us and remind you we are your Scouting family and are here to support each other. Together we will assure our scouts are prepared for everything the future will bring.

Thank You!

**Carlos Cortez**

*Scout Executive & Unit Leader*