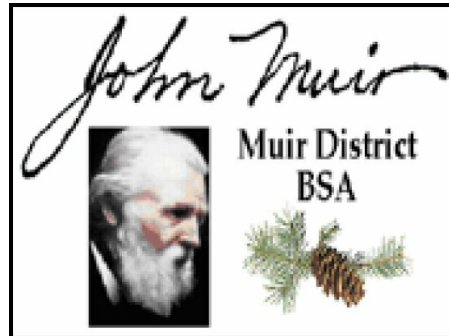


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Welcome to the Muir Newsletter for January 2021!



January 7, 2021 District Roundtable via Zoom with *Life to Eagle Presentation!*

The January 2021 Roundtable is scheduled for Thursday, January 7 at 7:00 PM, via Zoom.

Topic: Muir Roundtable

Time: Jan 7, 2021 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93269387328?pwd=cW5QTFZOCmNlbnhQM0EtTWml3dz09>

Meeting ID: 932 6938 7328

Passcode: 805390

One tap mobile

[+16699006833](tel:+16699006833),,[93269387328](tel:+193269387328)# US (San Jose)

[+12532158782](tel:+12532158782),,[93269387328](tel:+193269387328)# US (Tacoma)

Every month on the First Thursday, until Dec 2, 2021, 12 occurrence(s)

Jan 7, 2021 07:00 PM

Feb 4, 2021 07:00 PM

Mar 4, 2021 07:00 PM

Apr 1, 2021 07:00 PM

May 6, 2021 07:00 PM

Jun 3, 2021 07:00 PM

Jul 1, 2021 07:00 PM

Aug 5, 2021 07:00 PM

Sep 2, 2021 07:00 PM

Oct 7, 2021 07:00 PM

Nov 4, 2021 07:00 PM

Dec 2, 2021 07:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.
Monthly: https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?jvceCrpjwpGNwwz--VJezYotoHwex0_BSJ/ics?icsToken=98tyKuCrrD0jGdySsxuPRowqAl_oXenxiGZeY1KiwWoThZ5ZxnPGfZNGqV6Cljv

If you have any questions, please contact Sheila Rowntree - District Chair, rowntreesheila@att.net



Muir District Director's Message on behalf of the Council

Please review the COVID-19 update from the Golden Gate Area Council.

Yours in Scouting,

Alan Young

*Muir District Director
Golden Gate Area Council, BSA*

800 Ellinwood Way
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
P 925.674.6102
C 408.564.3385
alan.young@scouting.org
www.ggacbsa.org



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COVID-19 Update

Please visit [News & Briefings - GGAC \(ggacbsa.org\)](http://ggacbsa.org) and note the December 4, 2020 section. In particular, using the [COVID-19 Pre-Event Questionnaire](#) and working with your Chartered Organization so they know about your activities (usually providing your Chartered Organization Representative a calendar of activities, especially the ones that involve some face-to-face interaction and having him or her signing off on the calendar to approve the activities.

If someone ends up testing positive for COVID-19 after an activity, the information on the questionnaire will be sought to determine if enough precaution was used in holding the event and for possible contact tracing.



A Holiday Message from our Chair

Happy Holidays Everyone,

A new roundtable date has been added for January. Normally during January, Roundtable is dark.

At the December roundtable, it was decided to have a January roundtable. There will be a Life to Eagle seminar for both Scouts and leaders. Cubs will also have a program. Come one and come all.

Thank you everyone for helping the district reach its Friends of Scouting goal for 2020. This not only helps our Council keep the scouting movement alive, but it also helps our district with it's own program.

We all are busy trying to keep up the spirits of our loved ones and one another. There is nothing that can help us more than seeing the eyes of the young folks light up with wonderment as they look at the lights throughout our towns and neighborhoods. This can fill us all with hope. So mask up, stay home and we will see you in January.

Yours in Scouting,

Sheila Rowntree
Muir District Chair
Golden Gate Area Council, BSA

rowntreesheila@att.net
<https://ggacbsa.org>



District Commissioner's Corner

Welcome to the end of 2020. There is much promise ahead of us for 2021 and I know we're all looking forward to the opportunity to eventually return to more normal unit activities. Once this return starts, the desire for activity and adventure is likely to bring much growth to our units and the need for new units to start. The role of the Unit Commissioner is crucial to help advise units, suggest program enhancements, and connect the unit with information about District and Council resources and events. I want to thank all our current Commissioners for their efforts, as well as encourage anyone who might be interested in becoming a Commissioner to contact me.

An important training opportunity for Commissioners (or those interested in learning about the Commissioner role) is coming up on **Feb 27, 2021**. Commissioner College is the primary annual training event and this year will be 100% virtual and a collaboration of 11 councils. Yes, 11!

More information on Commissioner College as well as registration for this event is available at <https://www.norcalcommissioner.org/>. I hope to (virtually) see you there!

Happy Holidays to all!

Steve Loyd
Muir District Commissioner
Golden Gate Area Council, BSA

steve@loydzone.com
<https://ggacbsa.org>



GOLDEN GATE AREA COUNCIL BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

COVID-19 CALIFORNIA REGIONAL STAY HOME ORDER

Updated December 4, 2020

In accordance with the December 3, 2020 California Regional Stay Home Order (Order), the Golden Gate Area Council (GGAC) will cease all in-person Council and District Scouting meetings, events, activities and camping trips when the Order is triggered. The Order will be triggered when your region enters the 15% and under ICU threshold.

Effective immediately, all Council camps and service centers are closed to visitors.

Considering the current increase of COVID cases and the imminent triggering of the Order, GGAC recommends no in-person unit meetings or activities. If in-person meetings or activities are needed and permitted by the Order and local authority (city or county), units should work with Chartered Organizations and utilize the [COVID-19 Pre-Event Questionnaire](#). Examples of activities that can occur are previously approved outdoor fundraising efforts as it falls under the retail exemption.

Scout Shops will remain open.

For more information regarding the stay at home order please visit the state website:

[About COVID-19 restrictions - Coronavirus COVID-19 Response \(ca.gov\)](#)

S.A.F.E. Restart Scouting Checklist

The Checklist *That Must Be Used* for Holding Any In-Person Meetings/Activities

"As always, the safety of our Scouts, volunteers, employees and communities is our top priority. This checklist outlines several minimum guiding protocols that adult leaders/ volunteers must consider while working with local and state health departments, local councils, chartered organizations and Scouting families on when and how to resume meetings, service projects, camping and all other official Scouting activities.

If it is not practical to meet these minimal protocols, do not restart in-person activities."

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-693.pdf>.



General Support

Need support at 2AM? The Golden Gate Area Council User Support Page came about through your questions [User Support - GGAC \(ggacbsa.org\)](#). There is a lot of FAQ-format information as

well as a way to route questions to more efficient responses. (Leaving a voicemail on the general line will lead to a wait before that voicemail box gets cleared out during our current Stay-At-Home period through January 4th.)

Another contact through the service center is calling Alan at 925-674-6102 or through email at alan.young@scouting.org.

Recharter

Remember that unit's tenure expires December 31st, and recharterers need to be submitted. If you need help, please reach out to your Unit Commissioner or to Alan (information above).

Good turn

Two brothers and their friend were recently on a hike to get some fresh air when they noticed some smoke. They quickly returned home, and their family called the fire department. Emergency vehicles responded and quickly extinguished a transient's fire that had gotten out of control. Thanks quick, calm thinking, and decisive action, J and J of Pack and Troop 444 and their friend got the right type of help before a smallish problem became a dangerous situation. Congratulations!



Commissioners Wanted

If you are a Scouter or parent interested in helping units grow and prosper, consider becoming a Commissioner. The overall vision of the Commissioner Service is for every member of the BSA to have a great Scouting experience.

If you are interested, please contact: steve@loydzone.com

District Committee Positions

Calling all adults over 21 years of age. If you would like to know how you can help Scouting in our area, contact our District Chair Sheila Rowntree at rowntreesheila@att.net. We are looking for a Finance Chair, Membership Chair, Activities Chair, Merit Badge Dean, and Popcorn Chair.

Muir District News

If you or other members of your unit would like to receive the latest information regarding Scouting in our community, please check out our Muir District – GGAC Facebook group page by following the link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/325497627480390/>



Friends of Scouting 2020

Muir District just topped its pledge goal by \$151!! While that is a great achievement, it means that every person or company must pay 100% of his or her pledge for the district to reach its goal. If you, or

someone who you know, is in a position to help keep Scouting alive locally in 2021, please visit [Giving - GGAC \(ggacbsa.org\)](http://Giving-GGAC(ggacbsa.org)) to learn how to help. Thank you for your support during a most challenging time!



Golden Gate Area Council Founder Patch

New Golden Gate Area Council Founder patches are now available. If you want a special keepsake and have not had a chance to donate to the 2020 Friends of Scouting campaign, you may do both. Visit the bottom of this link: <https://ggacbsa.org/donate/#FoundersCampaign> to donate to the 2020 GGAC Founders Campaign.

A \$100 donation or higher levels will help keep Scouting going in Muir District and will net you a Founder version of the Golden Gate Area Council shoulder patch!

Scouter Recognition

It has been a different year in Scouting in 2020. Despite the frequent rule changes and challenges imposed on public and group gatherings, I want to thank our volunteers for continuing to persevere and provide the Scouting program while safeguarding the safety of our youth. With that, I am soliciting nominations for 2020 Unit Scouter of the Year, and District Award of Merit in preparation for our recognition event in 2021.

Attached is a copy of the Unit Scouter of the Year. Also attached is a link for the District Award of Merit Nomination form.

[Unit Scouter of the Year Nomination Form](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33720.pdf)
<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33720.pdf>

We do not have a location or date yet due to the current gathering restrictions, but I can start collecting the information for our program.

Arnel Jaime

*Associate Development Director
Golden Gate Area Council, BSA*

800 Ellinwood Way
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
925.674.6105
arnel.jaime@scouting.org
www.ggacbsa.org



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Eagle Rank Process

Please spread the word to all Scouts, Venturers, and Sea Scouts with Life rank that January's Roundtable (January 7) topic is for them. Our advancement team will be detailing how to navigate the Eagle Scout process (see elsewhere for how to join the Zoom meeting).

On a related note, if said Life rank-holder is nearing age 18, please have him or her visit [COVID-19 Top Rank Extension Request](#).

This was announced on 11/02/2020.



2020 Registration Assistance Program

The generosity of donors contributing to our Friends of Scouting campaign paired with our Council Program Fee has made it possible for the Golden Gate Area Council to create a Scout registration assistance fund. The purpose of the fund is to ensure that every youth has the opportunity to participate in our program by offsetting registration fees.

Registration assistance requests are available to families based on need, and are submitted through a member of the unit key 3. While assistance can be requested up to the full amount of the council CPF and national registration costs, we encourage units to determine if the families or units can contribute any portion of the cost. This will make it possible for us to extend the funding to as many Scouts as possible.

Please [click here](#) to visit our CPF page where you can find the Registration Assistance Request Form.

See the announcement about the updated Registration Fees from the Golden Gate Area Council on the pdf here: <https://ggacbsa.org/cpf/>

BSA has new registration fees that will go into effect in August for new members and at the time of recharter for existing members. The Golden Gate Area Council is committed to ensuring that every youth has an opportunity to be a Scout, so please speak with your district staff members if the BSA registration cost is a barrier for any family. Thank you for delivering the promise of Scouting to youth of the GGAC!

[Details here](#) | [FAQs here](#)

This was updated on 11/01/2020.



Pleasant Hill Scout Shop Updated Hours of Operation (as of November 1, 2020)

The Scout Shop is open as a retail entity (similarly your unit's Christmas tree pick up, mistletoe sales, etc. could be too). Please visit [GGAC Scout Shop \(ggacbsa.org\)](http://ggacbsa.org) for information before you go. Store hours (including lunch break), available items, how to order ahead, and other useful tips are there.

For the time being, we are open from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm on Tuesday – Friday & 10:30 am – 3:00 pm on Saturday (store will close for lunch break from 1:30 pm – 2:00 pm everyday) and we are closed Sunday and Monday.

Ordering Advancement items through Scout Shops (Two options):

1. Email PleasantHillScoutShop@scouting.org and attach your Purchase Order with the Advancement Report. Please indicate what you would like to add to your order such as rank cards and parent pins. Also, please specify when you would like to pick up your order(s).
2. Click this link to place advancement orders with local Scout Shops that have reopened: <https://www.jotform.com/gpetza/advancement-order-form>. Please attach the relevant Advancement Report(s) to the online form.

There is a shipping option and a "pick-up at store" option currently available.



Scout Shop Thorlo Socks Promo

From November 9, 2020 through January 2, 2021, you can purchase two or more pairs of Thorlo socks and receive 25% OFF your sock purchase!



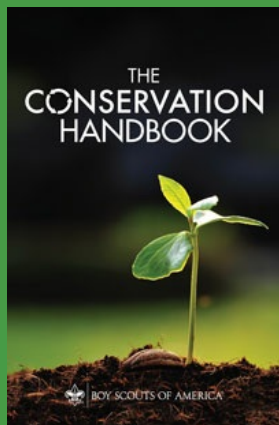
Powerful Cub Scout leader resources

A lot of useful content is being posted on Scoutingwire at: <https://scoutingwire.org>.

From giving your new Den Leader instant meeting plans: <https://scoutingwire.org/this-new-video->

To a host of other ideas like leading Zoom meeting for Cub Scouts, Virtual fall recruiting (including the use of digital applications and payment), and BeAScout tips, <https://scoutingwire.org/marketing-and-membership-hub/>.

This was announced on 10/13/2020.



Conservation awards program changes

The Hornaday Award will be replaced by the BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award.

More information will be unveiled on November

1st at: <https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/conservation-and-environment/>.



Summer Camp 2021

Plans are in the works for in-person summer camps at a significantly decreased attendance. Reservations are being accepted now, as are applications to be a staff member at Royaneh, Wente, and Wolfeforo. To stake your claim, fill in a reservation form for your

favorite camp at: <https://ggacbsa.org/camp-facilities/>. If you have someone interested in an exhilarating summer job in the outdoors, direct him or her to: [Job Listings - BSA Golden Gate Area Council Jobs \(workbrightats.com\)](#).

This was announced on 08/01/2020.

Journey to Excellence revised for COVID-19

Unit JTE Scorecards have been updated for COVID-19. Check out the revisions below!
<https://www.scouting.org/awards/journey-to-excellence/unit/2020-scorecards-english/?fbclid=IwAR1ZqgAhkmiVR9YJhwy7xKih8Wym7Vbqb8QSIrgmTaDGj-qa7VD8gGUakDg>

Note: troop members that participated in Exploration Camp or STEM camp would count as the "council-offered alternatives" referred to in the modified troop JTE, or another council's virtual camp that had a weekend's duration. Consult your District Director at Alan.Young@scouting.org for further clarification.

This was last updated on 4/22/2020.

Youth Protection During COVID-19: Digital Safety and Online Scouting Activities

"As Scouting moves to virtual and online platforms, we offer the following reminders to help keep kids safe. The below guidelines applies to all online Scouting activities and meetings."

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/digital-safety-and-online-scouting-activities/?fbclid=IwAR0NRPabsRGXTPz3BFJS7o5ZuisgV7WzfG3IJE2wf7xcc67qfRz47QkyTTY>

Cub Scouting/Scouts BSA/Venturing/Sea Scouting Rank Advancement and the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Questions and Answers

The following questions regarding advancement have arisen as we deal with closures, cancellations, or other issues caused by the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Although there are difficulties and constraints, advancement can continue. Youth, parents, and leaders should work together to implement creative, common sense ways to facilitate advancement while adhering to the Guide to Safe Scouting and following the rules of Youth Protection training.

Please follow this link to the [Guide to Advancement \(GTA\)](#), which remains the primary source for information related to Scouts BSA advancement. It is referenced throughout the answers provided here.

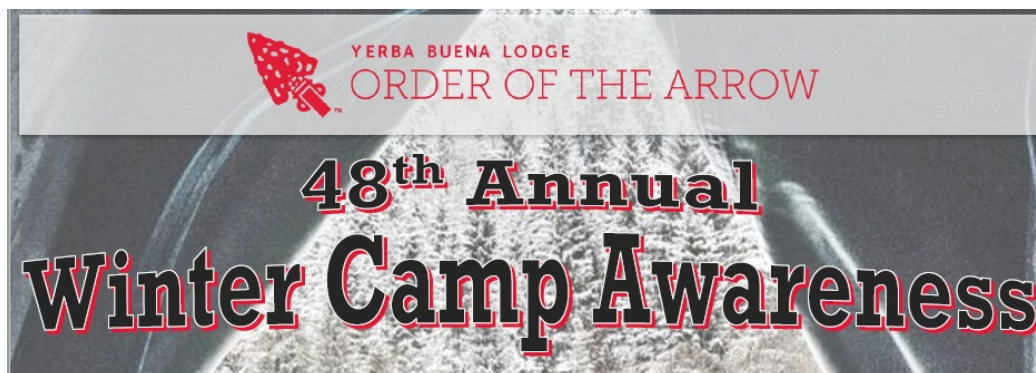
Please send additional questions to advancement.team@scouting.org.

Link below: https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus/covid-19-faq/?utm_source=scoutingwire&utm_campaign=swvolunteer52020&utm_medium=email&utm_content=

Advancement & Recognition

If you are a Scout who is nearing age 18 and it looks like you may need an extension to work on your Eagle Scout rank after your birthday, it will help greatly if you start completing the form well before your birthday. Similarly, completing most of your Eagle Scout Rank Application and getting the "Council Verification" early will ease your anxiety. Contact Mark.Woodman@scouting.org to request an extension.

Applications for the Silver Beaver Award (the highest award that a council may bestow to a volunteer Scouter) are being accepted now. The selection committee will be meeting in mid-December, so time is critical to complete and submit the form filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-103_WB.pdf.



Winter Camp Awareness Training

Want to learn more about having safe cold weather activities? This is your chance to learn how from your warm house on Saturday, January 16th from 9AM to 3PM. Registration is \$6 per person and is hosted by the Golden Gate Area Council Order of the Arrow lodge. For more information head to: <https://ggacbsa.org/order-of-the-arrow/>.

Speaking of the **Order of the Arrow lodge**, the new lodge name is Yerba Buena. More information is coming soon on the lodge totem, activities, etc. Keep your eyes on the link above for updates.



Adventures in Cub Scouts

This guide [Adventures in Cub Scouts - GGAC \(ggacbsa.org\)](https://ggacbsa.org) builds on the National BSA video presentations for Cub Scout Core and Elective Adventures. If you are feeling lost on how to guide the Cub Scouts in your den, these resources will lead you out of the woods. If you have kids who want to know how things work, you might visit the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Activities & Awards section at the bottom of the page.

The Golden Gate Area Council STEM Committee will be adding videos that may be used to check off STEM-related requirements. One of our favorites is making a Cartesian Diver - <https://youtu.be/0lqbaWj8QUs>.



Congratulations to the Newest Muir Eagle Scouts!

- Justin Alexander Ruhl, T484, 12/3/2020.
 - Project Name: "Beehives for Roverview Middle School".
 - Project Description: Construction of two beehives in the garden at the school, addition of 2 colonies of bees. The project caught one colony of bees in a tree in the scout's yard using a swarm trap. That colony populated the first hive. A beekeeper donated a swarm and it populated the second hive. Fundraising on GoFundMe, and by mowing the family lawn. Home Depot donated three bags of gravel for the foundations of the hives.
 - Timothy James Shargel, T484, 12/10/2020.
 - Project Name: "Seven Hills School Sunshine Fence".
 - Project Description: construction of a pressure treated redwood fence along the boundary line of the school, to provide better demarcation, and protect kindergarteners who walk through the area during the school year. The fence is 45 ' long, with five foot sections of redwood with wire centers, replacing hazardous barbed wire fencing. Considering CDC and California guidelines, the scout created coronavirus procedures, and also had workers complete a health form. The school paid for construction materials needed.
-

ALL BSA TRAINING IS ONLINE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE



Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters. To be registered as TRAINED in your role you need to complete the following courses

- Scoutmaster/ Assistant Scoutmaster Position Training
- Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills
- Hazardous Weather
- YPT Youth Protections

HAZARDOUS WEATHER TRAINING

Please take or update your training before your first outdoor or camping activity.

Since April 2018 BSA has required adult volunteer direct-contact leaders in all outdoor programs to take the most up-to-date (April 2018) *Hazardous Weather Training* (SCO_800). This training is [available online](#).

This change affects [basic position-specific leader training](#) for:

- Cub Scouting (Cubmaster, Assistant Cubmaster, Den Leader, Assistant Den Leader)
- Scouts BSA (Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster)
- Venturing (Crew Advisor and Associate Advisor)
- Sea Scouts BSA (all Adult Leaders)
- Exploring (Advisor and Associate Advisor)

Working on Eagle? Here are your contacts:

District Advancement Chair: Bill Spalding: 925-586-9136, spaldingwilliam62@gmail.com

District Eagle Project Approval: Carl Bodin: 415-816-7307, cbodin@usa.net

District Eagle Board of Review: Karen Hansen: 925-825-9132, eaglechairkarenhansen@gmail.com

District Committee Leadership

Alan Young - District Director, alan.young@scouting.org

Sheila Rowntree - District Chair, rowntreesheila@att.net

Steve Loyd - District Commissioner, steve@loydzone.com

Quick Links

Muir District Facebook Group



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Council Facebook Page



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