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The Mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Our council's vision is to create a brighter future for our diverse communities by sharing Scouting's positive core values with all the youth and families of our Tri-County area.



The Oak Ridge Boys® Benefit Concert Set for June 29 at Golden State Theater

Council Vice President of Fund Development **Don Chapin** and benefit concert chair **Doug Lee** are pleased to announce that the award-winning band **The Oak Ridge Boys** will be performing in Monterey on June 29, with the proceeds to help Scouting here in our council.

For one day only, they will perform two shows in an intimate setting at the Golden State Theater on Alvarado Street, Monterey on Sunday, June 29, at 5:00 and 8:30 p.m. Tickets went on sale online on Friday, March 14th at www.oakridgeboysmonterey.com. Those interested in going should buy their tickets promptly, as both shows are expected to sell out soon.

The Oak Ridge Boys have one of the most distinctive and recognizable sounds in the music industry today. Their four-part harmonies and upbeat songs have sold over 20 million records and spawned 25 Number One hits including: Elvira, American Made, Bobbie Sue, Thank God for Kids, and Y'all Come Back Saloon. They have logged "number one records" across three fields of music- Pop, Country, and Gospel.

The band has earned Grammy, Dove, CMA and ACM awards over four decades, most recently receiving their 8th Gospel Music Association Dove award in 2007. The American Entertainment Magazine recognized them as the "Best Music Act" in 2007. Having performed at several National Jamborees and having created music just for Scouting, The Oak Ridge Boys were honored with the Silver Buffalo Award by the National BSA Council.

Council Celebrates 75th Anniversary in May

Marketing Vice President **Jennifer Evans** and Program Vice President **Renee Forrest** have been working together with a special committee to organize and promote a special celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the chartering of the Monterey Bay Area Council, Boy Scouts of America. Our council was first chartered by the National BSA Council on May 17, 1933.

The special committee selected the 75th Anniversary patch emblem designed by **Joshua Showalter, Cub Scout Pack 676**, chartered to the **Santa Cruz Moose Lodge** from among 17 entries submitted by local Scouts. The patches have been ordered and will be for sale to all interested youth and adults at the Open House and selected events.

Our special 75th Anniversary Open House is set for **Saturday, May 17**, from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. at the Haruda BSA Service Center, 55 East San Joaquin Street in Salinas. Youth members, adult volunteers, family, and alumni are all welcome to attend. Please RSVP your attendance to the service center staff, as we want to have adequate refreshments on hand.



Thoughts from Council President Tim Morgan

The United States is unique among nations of the world. It's the only country ever founded on ideals. Other countries trace their ancestries to common languages, ethnicity, or geography. But not our country. Its wellspring is the Declaration of Independence.

The ideals of the Declaration - that all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights - Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness - have been at the core of what has been called the Great American Experiment. Our Constitution's protection of private property rights and prohibition against arbitrary justice have provided the framework within which this experiment has flourished.

However, there is no *guarantee* that this noble experiment will succeed. The record of history is unkind to democracies.

Every generation must learn what it is to be uniquely American, or there will be little reason for future generations to

make the sacrifices that are required to preserve our freedoms.

As a nation of immigrants occupying a vast continental nation, we must strive to find ties that strengthen us as a people - and not exploit differences that drive us apart.

Scouting meets this need by bringing together boys of all ethnic, religious, and economic backgrounds. Through the methods of Scouting, organized around an exciting outdoor program, boys internalize the values reflected in the Scout Oath and Law. Over the last five generations, the Boy Scouts has helped shaped the character of nearly 100 million Americans throughout all parts of every state of our country. No other private organization is better able to teach succeeding generations what it is to be uniquely American.

If you care about the survival of our nation - if you are determined that our noble experiment in self-government should continue to flourish - then no work



is more important than advancing the cause of Scouting. Scouting is truly an investment in our country's future!

Tim Morgan
Council President

Internet-based Advancement Simplifies Recordkeeping for All

Advancement in rank is one of the key elements of the Scouting program. As such, it is important that youth earning advancements be recognized both at a unit level and by having their achievements recorded at the Council Service Center. MBAC has recently switched to Internet-based Advancement software to make it easy and convenient for unit advancement coordinators to record those advancements and awards.

Internet-Based Advancement (IA), for those not familiar, is accessed through the www.boyscoutsmontereybayarea.org web site. Each advancement chair must have a unit identification number (obtainable from the office) and create an easily remembered password.

Once logged onto the IA system, the unit roster will appear. This feature allows units to see who is currently registered (and by absence, those who are not). We strongly recommend that you use this new IA system (rather than the old-fashioned carbon-copy advancement form, or the printed one from unit management software like TroopMaster), because with

the old methods, you may be likely to list Scouts who are not registered even though they have been participating with the unit. This creates problems, as the advancements cannot be posted unless the youth are currently registered.

Once all advancements and awards have been entered, the IA program will allow the advancement coordinator to print an advancement report that then can be brought to the BSA Service Center. The paper report must be presented any time advancements are purchased. The council copy is kept in a unit file for seven years.

For those units using TroopMaster or other unit management software, you can upload your records into the IA system. However, as previously mentioned youth can be in your system and not currently registered with the office. For those youth, the unit records will not be uploaded into the IA program or ScoutNET.

Any unit wishing to know the status of their advancements can access IA, or can contact the BSA Service Center and ask for a Unit Detail Advancement

Report. This report lists all currently registered youth and the records of advancements and awards the office has on record.

Please feel free to contact council registrar **Pat Friedrich** at (831) 422-5338 or pfriedri@bsamail.org for additional information regarding Internet-based Advancement, printed reports,

Coastal Clean-up to be September 20

Packs, Troops, Teams, and Crews — Grab your gloves and garbage bags and get ready for the **24th Annual Coastal Clean-up**, a collaborative effort between many community agencies and Scouting.

On September 20, 2008, Scouts and Venturers from Boulder Creek to King City, and Carmel to Hollister, will converge on local beaches and inland waterways to remove debris and garbage buildup. Look for more information at roundtables in May and June.

Four Volunteers Honored with Silver Beaver Award



The Monterey Bay Area Council honored four volunteer Scouters for distinguished service to youth at our recent annual recognition dinner on February 2 in Monterey. The Silver Beaver Award, a National Award and the highest honor that a local BSA council may bestow upon volunteers, was presented to **Leslee Bell** of Prunedale, **Jack Kent** of Hollister, **Jim von Schmach** of Aptos, and **Joe Yetter** of

Aromas. Each honoree received a pendant award and framed certificate from the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Leslee Bell has been a Cub Scout den leader, pack leader, unit commissioner, and district commissioner for

almost 18 years, active in community affairs, and Cancer Society Relay for Life coordinator. Leslee was thanked especially for her service as a coach and advisor as unit commissioner to many Salinas and Prunedale Scout leaders.

Jack Kent has been a troop leader and San Benito District committee member, and active with the Kinship Foundation and Sons in Retirement. He was honored as the San Benito County

“Scouter behind the scenes” for helping in so many ways with Cub Scout day camps and district activities.

Jim von Schmach is currently Scoutmaster of Troop 609, lodge advisor of Esselen Lodge #531 of the Order of the Arrow, and active in community activities including Saint Stephen’s Lutheran Church. During his award presentation, he was acknowledged for his many years of training Scout leaders over many years.

Joe Yetter is advisor to young men and women in Venturing Crew 568 as well as a troop leader, and very active in the Aromas Grange as well. He was cited for consummate service at all levels of the program and for training Boy Scout and Venturing leaders.

Over 80 Scouters total attended this year’s dinner at Casa Munras in Monterey. The program also included the installation of council officers for 2008, and all three districts were honored for achieving the 2007 Centennial Quality District Award.

New Eagle Scouts— November to February 2008

Daniel Lucas Rodriguez, Troop 436
 Brendan Lee Engebretsen, Troop 515
 Charles William Hall, Troop 90
 Jeffrey Michael Holden, Troop 43
 Patrick William McMillan, Troop 604
 Nicholas Nolan Trathen, Troop 504
 Tyler Douglas Hughes, Troop 232
 Blake Harrison Smith, Troop 93
 Nicholas Michael Ritchie, Team 602
 Randall Christopher Rose, Troop 123
 Matthew Robert VanWagenen, Troop 599
 Ian Marcus Wigg, Troop 90
 Sam Paul Brassell, Troop 623
 Jakelund James Cannon, Troop 515
 Jason Arthur Merz, Troop 504
 Scott Roswell Phillips, Troop 123
 Colin Garrett O’Connor, Troop 60
 Tucker Ray Verhines, Troop 232
 Alan Joseph Camarillo, Troop 400
 Philip Keith Caltabiano, Troop 436
 Christopher Jon Sandoval, Troop 428
 Christopher Taylor Bell, Troop 90
 Stephen Anthony Weber, Troop 436
 Sean Anthony Valley, Troop 558
 Austin Cole Huckvale, Troop 606
 Kyle Ryan Alessandri, Troop 505
 Alexander Van Weandelen, Troop 633

Council Commissioner’s Corner

To begin my first note to all Scouters in our council, I would like to thank **Michael Milligan** for his years of successful service as the council commissioner. Michael is now serving as the vice president for district operations. Together, Michael and I will provide support to your District Key Three (district chair, district commissioner, and district executive). Our goal is to assist all of you as you “Build Future Leaders”.

National BSA President **Rick Cronk** points out that young people — when assessing their satisfaction with the Scouting program — “simply vote with their feet.” President Cronk notes, “If a program was fun and the Scout was challenged and is proud of what he’s doing, he will return. If he was bored, confused, or not particularly impressed, he will walk out of that Scouting event never to return.”

Our goal in Commissioner Service is to help units ensure they offer a quality Scouting program, so Scouts reaffirm their satisfaction by “voting with their



feet” and walking back — time and again — to their next Scouting activity.

To introduce myself, I have served at the unit level (Cubmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, troop treasurer, and Venturing Crew Advisor of the Scotland Jamborette Contingent), the district level (district commissioner and district chair) and the council level (popcorn sales chair and council treasurer). I look forward to serving you as the council commissioner.

Alfred Friedrich
 Council Commissioner

Loma Prieta District News

District Chair Mark Tracy
District Commissioner Audrey Kavanaugh
District Executive Brian Russ

Outstanding Scouters Recognized at Ice Cream Social on April 13 in Santa Cruz

Over 120 Scouts and Scouters attended the annual Loma Prieta District Recognition event at the Latter-day Saints Stake Center in Santa Cruz. This year's celebration of volunteer service was an Ice Cream Social held at the time and place of the monthly roundtable.

Our master of ceremonies was district chair **Mark Tracy**, and the event was organized by the combined efforts of **Arline Rodgers-Adams** and various district volunteers. A new feature was the recognition of our previous year's Eagle Scout award recipients, who received a special recognition and certificate. We also honored 12 unit Scouters with the Unit Scouter of the Year Award for outstanding service as each was nominated by his/her own pack, troop, or crew.

The District Award of Merit, the highest award that may be presented at a district event, was bestowed upon **Mark Boos, Stephanie Covington, and Murray Fontes**. Others honored include **Denise Fischer** with the William D. Boyce Award for organizing the new Watsonville Pack 550 at MacQuiddy School, and **Fred Fischer** with the National Scoutmaster Award of Merit for outstanding service in that role.

New Leader Essentials Every Month

New Leader Essentials (NLE) training is now offered every month at 6PM before Roundtable (second Thursday of the month). NLE is a 90-minute basic training that all adult leaders and volunteers should go through at least once during their involvement in the Scouting program.

A big thanks to **Jim Sibley**, District Committee Member and Pack 608 Den Leader for volunteering as lead instructor.

Everyone Needs Friends

We are pleased to announce that Loma Prieta District is over 40 percent of the way towards achieving the district Friends of Scouting goal, but we need your help to get the rest of the way there.

Please let **Mary Empson** or **Brian Russ** know:

1) When your unit FOS presentation will be, and how we can help?

2) Who is your unit FOS coordinator to help collect pledges?

3) That we can count on you to participate, and encourage others to do so. Thank you in advance for all your help with 2008 Friends of Scouting!

Loma Prieta Rendezvous Sept. 19-21

Mark your calendars now for one of the year's most memorable events – the 22nd Annual Loma Prieta Rendezvous. On the weekend of September 19-21, learn what it's like to live the life of a trapper during the 1840's by shooting black powder rifles, throwing tomahawks, and using candle lanterns to navigate Fort Pico Blanco.

All Boy Scout troops, Varsity Scout teams, and Venturing crews from all three districts are invited to attend. A big thanks to **Jim Adams** for organizing this stellar event.

Scouts Needed For Letter Carrier's Stamp Out Hunger! Food Drive

Second Harvest Food Bank needs Scouts of any age to volunteer and assist with the 16th annual Stamp Out Hunger! Food Drive. Scouts are needed to assist letter carriers in picking up donated food along their route on Saturday, May 10.

Survive the Wild at Council Camporee

The annual Council Camporee is set for the weekend of May 2-4. The Camporee will be held at Pico Blanco Scout Reservation and the theme is "Wilderness Survival."

The Camporee is held annually for all Boy Scout troops and Varsity Scout teams. Scouts will compete in skill competitions related to Wilderness Survival merit badge requirements, including building fire without matches, wilderness first aid, and building survival shelters. Complete Camporee information was mailed to Scoutmasters and Varsity Scout Coaches, and can also be found on our council website.

Sign up your unit today!

Stamp Out Hunger! is the annual drive run by the National Association of Letter Carriers. Since 1993, letter carriers have collected food donations from generous Americans every second Saturday of May and delivered them local food banks. Second Harvest Food Bank is so excited to partner with Stamp Out Hunger!

65,000 pounds of food is the goal. Scouts are needed at post office locations in Scotts Valley, Santa Cruz Main, East Santa Cruz, Soquel, Capitola, Aptos, and Watsonville. To register to help, please contact Food Bank Associate Kathryn Llewellyn-Herne at (831) 722-7110 x226.

Scouts are also welcome to volunteer at Second Harvest for Saturday Food Sorts and other service project opportunities.

Eagle Scout Honored by Food Bank

Eagle Scout **Austin Huckvale** of Troop 606 was recently honored at the Second Harvest Food Bank's *Annual Food Drive Award & Hunger Fighter of the Year Dinner*. Austin was honored with the prestigious Helping Hands Award for Outstanding Community Service. Austin's Eagle Scout project netted over 1,200 pounds of food for the food bank.

Council-wide Scouting for Food November 8 and 15

This November will feature an old event with a new attitude as the Monterey Bay Area Council introduces a coordinated Scouting for Food drive. The Monterey Bay Area Council will be joining forces with Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties and the Monterey County Food Bank to host one of the largest local food drives in the tri-county area.

All units are encouraged to join in on the Scouting for Food drive on Saturdays November 8 and 15. On the 8th Scouts will distribute information about the food drive to their local communities, and on the 15th, the Scouts will descend on those same neighborhoods to collect food.

For more information, please contact Brian Russ at bruss@bsaemail.org.

Santa Lucia District News

District Chair (to be announced)
District Commissioner Maria Papurello
Asst. Scout Exec. Charlie Howard-Gibbon

District Award of Merit and Unit Scouters of the Year to be Honored at May 15 District Recognition Dinner

The highest award that a district can present is the District Award of Merit. This award is for outstanding service to youth within Scouting, and can be for considerable service in one or more units and/or the district organization. Past recipients typically have been Scouters who have been involved for at least 5-10 years, and usually have provided service to the community in addition to Scouting. Nomination forms must be submitted to the council service center by April 30.

Our council also encourages each unit to submit their chosen nominee for Unit Scouter of the Year. We prepare the award certificates based on the units' recommendations. Preferably, your unit recognizes someone who has not yet previously received this award. Nomination forms for this recognition are also due April 30.

All of these awards, along with other special recognitions, will be presented at the **Santa Lucia District Recognition Dinner on Thursday, May 15, 6:30 p.m.** at **Cypress Community Church** (which is combined with the monthly roundtable). Details will be mailed out to unit leaders and committee chairs in April. Watch your mailbox for the registration information!

2008 Family Friends of Scouting Campaign is Underway

We are pleased to acknowledge and thank so many of you who have already held your unit's annual Friends of Scouting family enrollment at a Blue and Gold Dinner, troop court of honor, or other gathering of parents. So far, the district has achieved close to 30 percent of its 2008 goal of \$76,000. The district leadership would like to especially acknowledge and thank **Pat Friedrich, David Nikssarian, Mary Nikssarian, and Michael McCann** for helping the units as guest FOS presenters.

We need to finish scheduling the remaining units in April, May, or early June, so please contact our Assistant Scout

Executive **Charlie Howard-Gibbon** to have the pledge cards, information brochures, and FOS thank you recognitions on hand for your unit's meeting of parents.

We also need all units, including those that have already started their enrollment, to follow up with those families who need to return their pledge cards, so that we can hit our Family FOS goal by June 30.

North County and South County Cub Scout Day Camps Set for June

Congratulations to **Steve Earley, Christy Hertsch, and Jill Hanneman** for completing camp director training at the recent National Camp School held in Petaluma in March. These three directors, along with **Kelly Royslance**, are leading day camps set for June in the Marina area and King City area. Jill went for her second certification—thank you for going again!

Cub Scout day camp registration flyers will be mailed to boys and leaders in early April, with all the details of how to sign up. Locations are being finalized as we go to press, and will be announced in the flyers. The **North County Day Camp will be June 16-20**, and the **South County Day Camp will be June 23-27**. We look forward to seeing many current Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, and Webelos Scouts signing up for one of these two weeks of fun.

If you would like to serve as an adult volunteer with either camp, please contact Charlie at the BSA service center, and he will get you placed with one of these two fine leadership teams. We hope to have lots of boys and adults at both camps, kicking off summer vacation with a great week of outdoor program at both locations.

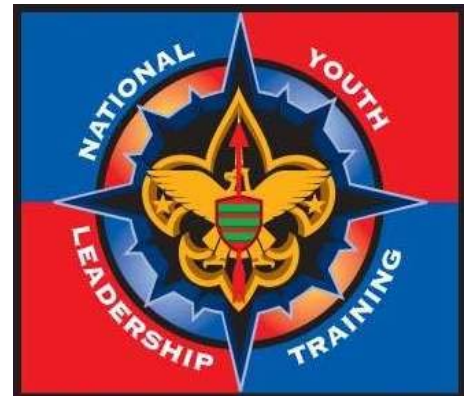
New District Volunteers Announced

We are pleased to report the following new district members-at-large: **Mike Djubasak**, helping with advancement, **Mike Semeniuk** and **Matthew Fleming**, helping with training, and **Cheryl Gardner**, who will be organizing our membership recruiting efforts. Please extend your thanks to these wonderful adults who have agreed to help staff our district volunteer team.

The Order of the Arrow chapter is

also pleased to report the election and anticipated Ordeal induction of new Scouts/Scouters under newly appointed chapter chief **Robert Willoughby** and chapter advisor **Mike Soto**. The chapter meets monthly on the third Thursday of each month at Cypress Community Church in western rural Salinas (same date/time as roundtable), so encourage your troop's Arrowmen to attend.

NYLT Still Open



The National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) Course is being held again this year July 6-12 at Pico Blanco Scout Reservation for all Boy Scouts ages 13-17 and First Class Rank or above, who want to learn and practice leadership skills in a hands-on, fun way in an outdoor setting as part of a model troop.

Applications are still being accepted, and can be found on our council website. Be sure to get your application in on-time to attend NYLT at the reduced fee. For more information, please contact **Dave Rigmaiden** at (831) 236-5206

Calling All Scouts, Venturers, and Scouters:

Photos Wanted!

Do you have recent Scouting photos that you would like to see in *The Knapsack* or other council promotional materials? For example, photos of Scouts at Pico Blanco, Venturers at a community service project, Tiger Cubs enjoying the Pine-wood Derby, etc.?

If so, e-mail your digital photos of Scouts in action to Desiré Brown at debrown@bsamail.org. Who knows, maybe your photo will be selected for the cover of the next *The Knapsack*.

San Benito District News

District Chair Mary Damm
District Commissioner: Michael Biechman
Senior District Executive Todd Bullman

Andy Anderson Honored with 2008

District Award of Merit

George “Andy” Anderson of Hollister was honored with the District Award of Merit at the San Benito District Dinner on Thursday, January 17.

Andy has been active in community activities all of his life. He actively supported the Community Pantry for many years, picking up food with his friend **Herb McAbee**. He was the “voice” for the San Benito High School Haybalers varsity football team for 16 years. Other activities include support for the SBHS swim team and school band. Andy helped organize and played on the semi-pro baseball team, the “Hollister Merchants”. Andy served for 15 years on the SBHS board of trustees.

In Scouting, Andy was a Scout in Troop 428 where he attained the rank of Star Scout, as well as an adult leader in local Scouting programs. Andy was instrumental in starting the Soccer & Scouting program in San Benito District. He is the district Eagle scholarship coordinator, and is chartered organization representative for Hollister Elks Lodge Pack and Troop 455, and faithfully attends every monthly pack meeting.

Congratulations to Andy on your well-deserved recognition!

Michael Biechman and Jan Padrick Join District Leadership Team

Mary Damm is pleased to announce that she has recommended, and the council has approved the appointment of **Michael Biechman** as our new district commissioner. She is also pleased to announce that **Jan Padrick** has agreed to become the district training chair (taking over **Angela Shelton**, who served in this role for several years—thank you Angela).

Mike and Jan are very experienced Scouters who have already helped in many unit and district positions. Michael is a past Cubmaster of Pack 444, and Jan is currently Crew Advisor for Venturing Crew 400.



Troop 400 attended for the second year in a row the BearPaw Snow Camping adventure in the Sierras up by Donner Pass. 15 scouts along with the Big Kahuna adult patrol spend the night camping in tents and snow caves in sub zero freezing conditions.

The scouts used lessons learned from last year as well as the indoor training provided to learn how to live, cook and sleep utilizing COLD, which stands for :

Stay Clean, Avoid Overheating, Wear loose Layers, and most important, Remain Dry

If you are interested in helping our local leaders with basic support, let Mike know of your interest. If you would like to help with basic leader training, call Jan at 637-6936 and let her know that are ready and able.

Family Friends of Scouting Effort Needs Everyone

Every year, our district solicits each leader and family for voluntary Friends of Scouting donations to support our council and district.

Please be sure that your unit designates a unit coordinator to help collect pledges from your leaders and families. If you need help, contact **Mary Damm** or **Todd Bullman**, who would be happy to come and assist. Our 2008 district goal is \$23,000, so we need everyone’s help!

Welcome to Hollister LDS Wards

The district commissioner staff and district committee welcomes the Scouts and Scouters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to our district. **Hollister First Ward** charters Pack, Troop, Team, & Crew 777, and **Hollister Second Ward** charters Pack, Troop, Team, and Crew 787.

The eight units were previously with the Santa Clara County Council, but decided to realign to our council and district in order to be actively involved in local training, activities, camping, and roundtables. They have a great cadre of dedicated Scouters, and a large number of Scouts advancing to Eagle.

We welcome you all to San Benito District, and look forward to having you involved as part of the district volunteer team and building the Scouting program.

Please visit our website regularly for updates on events, trainings and council news.

www.boyscoutsmontereybayarea.org

Pico Blanco Summer Camping Season Awaits Your Unit

Pico Blanco Scout Reservation is located in Big Sur, California, 13 miles inland of Highway 1 on Palo Colorado Road. The camp is situated on 800 plus acres of wild country along the North Fork of the Little Sur River, surrounded by the Los Padres National Forest and bordered by the Ventana Wilderness.

The Pico Blanco region was once the home of the Esselen Indians. They believed that the mountain named Pico Blanco was the place where men were first created by the Coyote, the Eagle, and the Hummingbird. Remains of the Esselen Indians can still be found in the forest.

Pico Blanco Scout Reservation stands on this land, set aside to the sole end that it be preserved as a primitive area where American boys can have the inestimable experience of untouched wilderness and unspoiled natural beauty. It is a reservation for young people, away from civilization, intended to offset the softening influence of our modern social life, and to help in the development of America's future men and women to be self-reliant, of strong character, and physically fit.

Owned by the Monterey Bay Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America,

the land was first purchased from the William Randolph Hearst Family in 1948. Today, the camp offers a variety of Scouting skills program areas and endless adventures throughout the area.

Scouts and Scouters of all ages can experience the serenity of the coastal redwood, waterfalls, and the wonders of Ventana Wilderness.

Tips for an Awesome Camp Experience:

1. **Scout Planned.** Planning the troop's summer camp program is a part of the growth process of Scouting; the Scouts themselves should be involved with the planning process. The senior patrol leader, with guidance from the Scoutmaster, should see that the troop program reflects the individual goals and the collective aims they feel the troop should work toward.

2. **Balanced.** A healthy balance between recreation, advancement, free time, structured activity, group events, and individual pursuits is important to the Boy Scout experience. Each Scout should be allowed enough free time to enjoy his surroundings, pursue his interests, and build friendships.

3. **Individualized.** A successful camp program reflects the different ages, rank,

and skill levels of the troop. While it is good for the troop to conduct some activities as a whole, other programs should be geared to the various personal needs and goals of troop members.

4. **Practical.** The realities of camp life should be taken into account in planning your trip. Remember that no troop can participate in all the activities during one session at camp. You should allow sufficient time in your program for eating, sleeping, and cleanup.

5. **Flexible.** Remember that there are at least a dozen other troops planning a program that involves the staff and facilities at the same time your troop will be using them. Luckily, the majority of the time our capacity is great enough to meet the demand, but sometimes it is necessary for one or more troops to rearrange a part of their program to enable us to serve them properly. Please be prepared for this possibility and have enough flexibility built into your program that a couple of changes won't ruin it.

Contact our helpful staff at the Haruda BSA Service Center and let us help you with your Camping needs. Thanks!

Order of the Arrow Lodge has Plans for Arrowmen

The Esselen Lodge of the Order of the Arrow celebrated its 50th anniversary at Pico Blanco in August with over 100 attendees. We had a successful Ordeal at Pico Blanco and excellent Fellowship at Camp Loma.

We achieved Quality Lodge status – only six of the eight local lodges did so, and that is better than the national average. The fun and great experiences we've had this past year are due to the hard work of many youth and adult Arrowmen – we couldn't have achieved what we did without them. Kudos to them all!

The New Year Dawns with Many Opportunities for Fun and Service...

We inducted our newest group of Arrowmen into the order at our Spring Ordeal at Pico Blanco on April 4th-6th. Does your troop need an election before

the Ordeal? Contact your chapter chief or chapter advisor to arrange for OA youth members to come out to assist your troop.

Has it been more than 10 months since your Ordeal?

If so, you are eligible for Brotherhood membership – those who are eligible will also be getting information in the mail. We need the help of our other Arrowman as well to lead and supplement our newest members as we help prepare Pico Blanco for the new camping season.

Leave No Arrowman Behind!

At the end of the month, on April 25-27, Section W3A (a grouping of the eight local OA Lodges) will be holding their annual Conclave at a truly memorable site – Coast Guard Island in the Oakland-Alameda estuary.

This year's Conclave focus is on membership retention and the theme is "Leave No Arrowman Behind"! It will feature fellowship, fun, competitions, and training. Any dues-paid OA member can go, so register now to save money.

San Francisco Excursion – Spring Fellowship

We will tour San Francisco by BART and camp in Marin. More details to come!

If you haven't sent in your dues for this year, please do so now to preserve your eligibility to attend the cool events we have in store for you! Look at our website www.esselen531.org for the latest up-to-date info!

Jim von Schmacht
Esselen Lodge Advisor

MBAC-BSA Council Officers

President

Tim Morgan

Commissioner

Alfred Friedrich

Scout Executive

Albert Gallegos

Immediate Past President

Ernie Mill

Vice Presidents

Don Chapin, Jr.

Mary Damm

Jennifer Evans

Reneé Forrest

Michael Milligan

Harry Robins

Pete Scudder

Treasurer

Ed Fischer

Assistant Treasurer

Kerry Varney

Council Staff

Scout Executive

Albert Gallegos

Assistant Scout Executive

Charlie Howard-Gibbon

Senior District Executive

Todd Bullman

District Executive

Brian Russ

Office Manager

Pam Jenkinson

Office Staff

Desiré Brown

Pat Friedrich

Claudia Sanchez

Camp Ranger

Gordon da Silva

Venturing BSA 10th Anniversary Photo Contest

What images do you think best reflect the essence of Venturing? Capture them with your camera and then enter your favorite photographs in the *Venturing 10th Anniversary Photo Contest*.

The contest is open to all registered youth members in Venturing crews and Sea Scout ships. Photos will be judged in four categories: 1) Wildlife, 2) People, 3) The Spirit of Venturing, 4) Spirit of Patriotism. The judges will be looking for the photographs that best exhibit **creativity, originality, and visual beauty**. A winning photograph will be selected for each of the four categories, and from the four winners, one photograph will be selected as the Grand Prize Winner.

The winner from each of the four categories will receive a \$200 BSA Supply gift card. **The Grand Prize Winner** will receive a \$400 BSA Supply gift certificate, and a three-day, all expenses paid trip with his/her parents to New York City to attend the annual Explorers Club meeting as the guest of **Richard Wiese**, the youngest ever president of The Explorers Club. The Explorers Club members include **Neil Armstrong** (space), **Robert Ballard** (ocean exploration), **Scott Carpenter** (space), **Jim Fowler** (zoology), **William Koch** (sailing), **Steven Squyres** (space), and **Charles "Chuck" Yeager** (test pilot).

The winners and their photographs will also be shown on the National Venturing web site.

Rules for Entering the Photo Contest:

- Open to all registered youth members of the Venturing program. **Entries must be received between March 1, 2008, and August 1, 2008.**
- No more than three entries per person. Contest entrants may go to the link provided by www.scouting.org/venturing to upload their digital images for this contest.
- **All entries** should be submitted digitally. Digital photographs should be taken using the camera's highest quality setting. Pictures cannot be altered in any way, including using software such as Photoshop, etc.
- All photographs must be submitted with youth member's name, address, daytime and evening phone numbers, crew/ship number and position (if applicable), council name and e-mail address

For the purpose of the contest, all entries become the property of the National Council, Boy Scouts of America. Winners must certify that photographs are their own original work. The decisions of the national judges are final.

April - July 2008 MBAC Calendar Highlights

April

25-27 OA Section W3A Conclave, CGI Alameda

May

2-4 Council Camporee at Pico Blanco Sct.Res.

17 MBAC 75th Anniversary & Open House at BSA Haruda Service Center, Salinas

23-26 Memorial Day Family Camp, Pico Blanco

30 Cub Resident Camp Parent Orientations at BSA Haruda Service Center, Salinas

June

22-26 Eagle Requirement Camp at Pico Blanco

29 Oak Ridge Boys MBAC Benefit Concert

29-7/2 Cub Scout Resident Camp Session 1

July

6-9 Cub Scout Resident Camp Session 2

6-12 National Youth Leadership Training

13-19 Boy Scout Summer Camp Week 1

20-26 Boy Scout Summer Camp Week 2

27-8/2 Boy Scout Summer Camp Week 3

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