Scoutreach Division Announces Visionary Award Reception

The Scoutreach Division will honor recipients of the Visionary Award on October 30, 2014. This year’s recipients include Stuart Waldman, President of the Valley Alliance and Commerce Association; V & A, Inc., a Civil and Traffic Engineering firm; and District 39 Assemblymember Raul Bocanegra. This event is sponsored by and will be held at Galpin Ford in their amazing Aston Martin Showroom.

The reception begins at 6:30 pm on Thursday, October 30 at 15500 Roscoe Boulevard in North Hills (San Fernando Valley, 91343).

The cost is $50.00 per guest. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Maricela Orendain at maricela.orendain@scouting.org or (818) 933-0120.

Bill Hart Leaders of Character Dinner: October 17

The Bill Hart District will honor six Santa Clarita Valley residents this October for their exemplary contributions to the community and as examples of character with the annual Leaders of Character award.

The six honorees—three couples—are Arif and Pam Halaby, Michael and Mary DeLorenzo and Scott and Vanessa Wilk. This ninth annual recognition dinner will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel at 24500 Town Center Drive in Valencia at 6:00 pm on Friday, October 17. Tickets are $150.00 and sponsorships

Patrol Challenge Returns in 2015

Mark your unit calendars for October 16-18, 2015 for the return of Patrol Challenge. Patrol Challenge VII is a weekend activity that aims to teach Boys Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts, team-building, problem solving, decision making patrol unity, camaraderie and leadership skills in a fun, exciting environment. All units will compete against each other in their own category, for example Boy Scouts vs. Boy Scouts, Wolves vs. Wolves.

To get a better idea of what Patrol Challenge is and what it involves, check out the following YouTube link. Patrol Challenge even has its own website, patrolchallenge.com. While the challenge starts in October (2015), clues to earn bonus points can be earned starting in May 2015. You can even send an email to pauloliver@roadrunner.com to get the secret password to see last year’s clues!

To register your Scout unit or with any questions see the website or contact Paul Oliver at pauloliver@roadrunner.com.
12th Annual Merit Badge Midway & Trail to First Extravaganza

Troop 36 and the Cahuenga District are excited to hold their 12th annual Merit Badge Midway & Trail to First Extravaganza. Mark your calendars for October 12, 2014 from 2:00-6:00 pm. This special, annual event will be held at Temple Beth Hillel at 12326 Riverside Drive in Valley Village (91607).

This is a fine opportunity for Scouts to earn merit badges and work on selected Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class requirements! A total of fourteen merit badges, including four required for the Eagle Scout Award will be available at this event. And the cost—get this—only $5.00 ($6.00 at the door)!

For further information, please contact Larry Turner at ljturner@turner-law.com or by phone at (818) 386-9485. Merit badge counselors and volunteers are needed for this event. If you can help, please contact Mr. Turner.

Midway Merit Badge Mania Returns to Balboa Oaks District

On Saturday, October 25, 2014, the Balboa Oaks District is hosting one of two annual Merit Badge Midways at the LDS Church at 17101 Plummer Street (on the corner of Plummer and Amestoy, just west of Balboa) in Northridge from 9:00-4:30 pm. Registration and check-in is at 8:00 am. A number of merit badges are being offered, including the Sustainability Merit Badge, an optional requirement for the Eagle Scout Award.

The midway schedule information and additional registration information are available on the web at balboaoaks-bsa-la.org/merit_badge_midway.php#scouts. Space is still available for some badges, but classes are filling fast (and on a first come, first served basis).

Nominations for Silver Beaver Award Accepted Until October 10

The Silver Beaver Award is the Council-level distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America. Nationally, all recipients of this award are registered adult leaders who have made an impact on the lives of youth through service given to the Council. The Silver Beaver is an award given to those who implement the Scouting program and perform community service through hard work, self-sacrifice, dedication, and many years of service. It is given to those who do not actively seek it.

The deadline to nominate a Scouter for the Silver Beaver Award is October 10, 2014. The nomination form is available online here and must be submitted to the Council directly. Completed forms should be submitted to Maricela Orendain at the Council’s Van Nuys office. Maricela can be reached at Maricela.Orendain@scouting.org or by phone at (818) 933-0120.
**Popcorn Campaign Update**

Only a few short weeks ago, popcorn started arriving and annual sales began in earnest. All reports received indicate that booth sales are going better than in prior years. Many units have requested additional popcorn inventory to meet this higher demand. If your unit needs additional popcorn, contact your district Popcorn Kernel or send an e-mail request to popcorn@bsa-la.org.

A reminder that a 50% payment is due on October 10th for all inventory checked out to date. This payment must be postmarked or dropped off by October 10th in order to receive a 2% commission bonus for on time payments. Checks should be made out to WLACC, and popcorn should be written in the memo section. Please see the mailing address below:

Boy Scouts of America  
16525 Sherman Way, C8  
Van Nuys, CA 91406

If your unit is struggling to sell the product you have checked out, please contact Andrew Sisolak to discuss your options. We may be able to help you schedule booth locations, exchange popcorn with another unit, or consider early popcorn return.

Below is a snapshot of how each of our Districts is doing. Congratulations to the Antelope Valley District for being the first District to grow their sale in 2014!

Don’t forget that online sales are a quick way to boost your Scout’s sales. Check out our leading Districts, Units, and Scouts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top Districts</th>
<th>Top Units</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Pack 575, Bill Hart</td>
<td>$2,052.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>Pack 5, Crescent Bay</td>
<td>$1,826.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Place</td>
<td>Troop 22, Las Colinas</td>
<td>$1,494.75</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Top Individual Sellers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Ben Z.</td>
<td>Troop 22, Las Colinas</td>
<td>$1,494.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Jordan Y.</td>
<td>Pack 5, Crescent Bay</td>
<td>$579.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Ryan W.</td>
<td>Pack 311, Cahuenga</td>
<td>$379.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Quick Tips for the next 10 Days**

- Encourage each boy to begin selling as soon as he is provided with his Family Guide and sales order form.

Online sales are easy and have already been opened up for Scouts to start to sell! Have each boy in you unit register by clicking here or visiting the link below.

- Plan your Unit Kickoff so that your boys can get excited about the sale.
- Schedule your ‘Show and Sell’ booth locations.
- Coordinate your popcorn pickup plan.

New units will need to contact us so their Unit Accounts can be created. Email us at popcorn@bsa-la.org.

**Quick Links**

- Online Registration for Scouts: sell.trails-end.com/scout/register
- Unit Popcorn Sign In (Adult Leaders) scouting.trails-end.com/TESales
- WLACC Council Popcorn Page: www.bsa-la.org/popcorn

*It is not too late to join in on the 2014 sale! Contact Andrew Sisolak at (818) 933-0123 or via email at andrew.sisolak@scouting.org to register your unit today.*
Council Chief Development Officer Appointment Announced  The Western Los Angeles County Council Board is proud to announce the appointment of Kristina Justiniano as the new Chief Development Officer. Ms. Justiniano began her career in Beverly Hills, working with celebrity talent at top talent agencies and management companies. She then joined Magic Johnson Enterprises as Director of Business Development, where she was involved in a number of groundbreaking deals including the acquisition of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Ms. Justiniano has a long history of participation and service with non-profit organizations. Most recently, she served on the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Boys & Girls Club. In addition to her work with the LABGC, Ms. Justiniano volunteers for Angel City Pit Bulls and is a proud pit bull rescuer.

“Supporting youth organizations has always been a passion of mine and I look forward to devoting my efforts to the BSA Western Los Angeles County Council,” Kristina said. “I am thrilled to join an organization that is not just a singular experience for individual youths, but gives them the opportunity to be a part of a community and prepares them to become better citizens and future leaders.”

A native of Florida, Ms. Justiniano received her Bachelor’s Degree in International Business from Augsburg College and her Juris Doctor from George Washington University Law School. She is an avid sports fan and fitness enthusiast and resides in Los Angeles. Please join us in welcoming Kristina to the Western Los Angeles County Council.

Crescent Bay Summit Luncheon Scheduled

The Beverly Hills Country Club will once again host the annual Crescent Bay Summit Luncheon. The event will take place on Thursday, November 20, 2014 from 12:00-2:00 pm. The District is engaged in developing a great group of honorees at this year’s celebration. Official invitations will be mailed very soon. Last year’s event was great and we look forward to having another tremendous event this year! Crescent Bay District officials and volunteers hope to see you there! For reservations or more information, please call the Crescent Bay Service Center at (310) 839-9905 or email Brendan at brendan.patterson@scouting.org. RSVPs are appreciated no later than November 15, 2014.

Dr. Steven Jacobs, one of the 2013 honorees with District Executive Brendan Patterson

Recruitment Efforts Continue  The Council’s current membership efforts are continuing into October. This is a great time to promote scouting and recruit new scouts. Hopefully all units are having a great kick-off to their program!

Please do not miss the opportunity to help your unit out by recruiting new Scouts! Your unit still has time to recruit new Scouts and turn in membership information to be able to win a GoPro!!

A special shout-out to Pack 333 for bringing in thirty new scouts!! They have earned the pizza party gift card and a ticket to be part of the GoPro drawing!

To Earn a GoPro Drawing Ticket: Any unit that recruits over twenty boys by the end of October will be entered in a drawing to win a GoPro camera to use to capture pack memories!

The Council looks forward to adding additional units to the GoPro drawing. Please let us know if any recruiting materials are needed or if your District Executive can help in any way towards your unit’s recruitment goals. Call the Council Office at (818) 785-8700 for assistance!

Don't miss your chance to win a great GoPro camera!
‘Build an Adventure’ With New National Recruiting Campaign

The National Office recently unveiled a new multi-year recruitment campaign called “Build an Adventure,” that will give everyone a fresh look at all Scouting has to offer. The campaign was designed for use in 2015; however, when we unveiled the campaign at this year’s National Annual Meeting, many councils requested assets this year so they could use it in the immediate recruitment cycle. In response to that request, it was made immediately available to councils.

Build an Adventure is designed to add a distinct sense of urgency to experiencing how Scouting makes the most of the little time parents have to positively impact their children. It is a shift from the three-year-old Badge of Honor campaign, which focused on advancement and the fun, unique experiences Scouting offers. A national public relations and communications effort has been launched to support this new campaign.

The toolkit linked below is designed as a resource both for those councils that are using the campaign this recruiting cycle and for those councils that choose to use these materials next spring or fall. It serves as a reminder of and supplement to your council’s activities and includes customizable resources and information to help you communicate with your key stakeholders about Build an Adventure.

Related Resources:
- Build an Adventure toolkit
- National recruitment campaign site on Scouting.org
- Build an Adventure press release

Scouting's Journey to Excellence  Scouting's Journey to Excellence" is the BSA’s council performance recognition program designed to encourage and reward success and measure the performance of our units, districts, and councils. It is meant to encourage excellence in providing a quality program at all levels of the BSA. To check how your unit is doing and how your district can help be a bronze, silver, or gold unit visit www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/JourneyToExcellence.aspx.

Jump Start Membership!  Membership is important at all levels of Scouting—Unit by Unit, at the District level and of course at the Council level. To assist with membership goals and create membership opportunities, the BSA’s National Office provides great online resources. Check out www.scouting.org/scoutsource/membership.aspx today for great ideas for your pack, troop, crew or district.

It is not too late to get your or your unit’s Friends of Scouting recognition for 2014. If you would like to know how to collect your recognition item please call your local district executive.
Cars 4 Causes Stands Ready to Remove Cars, Boats, RV and Other Vehicles to Benefit Scouting

The Western Los Angeles County Council is registered as a preferred charity with Cars 4 Causes, a local vehicle donation charity firm. Cars 4 Causes is itself a non-profit. Once a customer calls Cars 4 Causes (at (888) 493-9186), the firm arranges to remove the donated vehicle, processes all related paperwork and tows the vehicle for free. The donor receives a tax deduction and the Council receives 100% of the proceeds!!

Maybe you have an old clunker you wanted to work on the weekends and it just didn’t work out. Or you own a second vehicle with a bad engine. Cars 4 Causes will haul away your old vehicle for free whether it run or not!!

While you might not have a vehicle to donate, maybe a neighbor does. Please feel free to download the flyer (right), print a few off for distribution to your neighbors or your pack or troop.

If you have any questions about what vehicles Cars 4 Causes will remove or any other questions, please call (888) 493-9186. Their staff is ready to assist you!!

Las Colinas District Hosts Special Early Release of The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1

Come support the Las Colinas District at a special fundraising event on November 19 at Pacific Winnetka Theatres in Chatsworth.

Make it a family date night even as you support Scouting. By attending, you will be among the first to see the latest Hunger Games film before its general release on November 21. Tickets are limited, buy NOW before it is too late!

Tickets are available for $20.00 each online here.

Congratulations to Jake Fridlund, with Troop 48 in the Bill Hart District!

Jake correctly completed the first puzzler and won a Swedish Fire Steel 2.0 (Scout Edition) and a package of Char Cloth.

The answers to the crossword puzzle that appeared in the September Scout Sentinel are below:

1. CLOWING
2. LOCK
3. BISON
4. SEALEN
5. NICE
6. HE
7. CHORE
8. PIVOT
9. LANTA
10. FLY
11. DOARR
12. PII
13. SCOUTREACH
14. BADENPOWELL
The Sky's the Limit: Youth Aviation Adventure Day Returns to Agua Dulce

Doors to the exciting world of aviation and aeronautics will be opened again for area youth during the Youth Aviation Adventure Day, Saturday, October 11 at the Agua Dulce Airport. The Agua Dulce Airport Association is repeating this innovative program designed to introduce young people from the ages of 12-18 to the exciting world of aviation.

The curriculum is based on the requirements for earning the Boy Scout Aviation Merit Badge, but the event is not limited to Scouts only. Local pilots and aviation professionals will share their knowledge in an effort to promote future careers with ties to aviation. The participants spend about 20-30 minutes at each of several stations featuring actual aircraft and instructional materials where they take part in hands-on discussions about airplane pre-flight check, airport operations, helicopters, aerodynamics, engines, instrument panels, and more.

“One important fact our local youth should know is down the road there are lots of jobs available in the aviation industry,” said Don Ellison, Youth Aviation Adventure Coordinator. “Designing aircraft for the future, learning to fly, aircraft maintenance, airport operations, flight instruction, engineering...all these fields have roots in the field of aviation.”

This fast paced single day event will run from 8:30-4:00 pm. The cost of the program is only $7.00 per participant. Lunch and after-program refreshments are included in the program. Lunch will be available for parents, guardians, and Scout Masters for $5.00.

This event is limited to the first 65 applicants and the initial roster is full. However, names will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested Scouts must contact Don Ellison ASAP via email at dellison6@socal.rr.com. Registrants must have access to a computer for downloading materials.

BOO! Spook-O-REE Returns to Camp Josepbo

The second annual Malibu Lodge Spook-O-Ree and Lodge Summit returns to Camp Josepbo on November 1-2, 2014. Building on the success of last year’s Spook-O-Ree, the lodge will be transformed again into an amazing Halloween zone. This is a great fundraiser and PR event for the Order of the Arrow, Malibu Lodge as they get their name out to Cub Scout Packs across the council. OA members are encouraged to attend and assist with this event. It’s a fun weekend with the upstairs of the lodge turned into a haunted house with games set up across Camp Josepbo’s parade grounds.

Right after Spook-O-Ree, the OA will be shifting gears to a more serious tone as they elect the new lodge officers for 2015. If you would like to run for a position, make sure you attend so you can deliver a speech on why you think you’re the best candidate! The positions that will be elected are: Lodge 2nd Vice Chief, Lodge 1st Vice Chief, and Lodge Chief. These officers will then appoint the Lodge Secretary and Treasurer. The Malibu Lodge OA looks forward to seeing you at these events. To sign up for either or both events go to www.malibulodge.org. These events can be found on the lodge events page.
Scout Camping Opportunities

Emerald Bay Cub Scout Family Weekend: November 7-9, 2014

Camp Emerald Bay is a prime spot for any Cub Scout Pack or family to explore. Experience everything Catalina has to offer at Camp Emerald Bay when you take part in our Cub Pack Family Weekend in November.

Activities Include: Swimming, snorkeling, marine center tours (where Cubs can pet a shark!), canoeing, archery and BB guns (with belt loop program available) outdoor skills, arts and crafts.

The cost is $180 per person for tent housing and $1,500 for a cabin with eight spots per cabin (and you can share space with another pack). The individual cost per person for a cabin space is $210.

Price includes round trip boat transportation to Emerald Bay, all activities and meals from Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast.

Register here: bsa-la.doubleknot.com/event/2014-fall-eb-cub-weekend/1540395

Camp Josepho Cub Parent Weekends: Two Weekends to Chose from This Fall: October 24-26 and November 7-9, 2014

Bring your Cub Scout for an incredible weekend at our local gem! Camp Josepho’s Cub Parent Weekend offers an unique and 1:1 ratio affair that allows a Cub and their parent (or guardian) to experience an incredible weekend in the outdoors with time for bonding, activities and quality time learning and building skills.

With two dates to pick from, you can't go wrong! Join your fellow Cub-Parents on October 24-26 and/or November 7-9, 2014. The cost is $110 per Scout/Adult pair and includes Saturday meals (3) and Sunday breakfast, all planned activities including archery, the BB gun range and much more.

Registration for both weekends is open, but do not delay!

Click here for more information: campjosepho.org/cub-scout-weekends

The historic Malibu Lodge, the oldest original structure at Camp Josepho.

Do you have an upcoming Scouting event that you would like to announce to the Western Los Angeles County Council? Do you have a Eagle Scout service project planned, but need volunteers to make it a reality? Provide your information to the W.L.A.C.C. newsletter staff! Email your Scouting event information to David Lasher at david.lasher@scouting.org.
Two Eagle Scout Association Events Scheduled for November

Don’t miss the chance to meet your fellow Eagle Alumni!

The Eagle Scout Alumni Association of the Western Los Angeles County Council will host two special social reception and networking mixers in November.

The first event, slated for the evening of November 5, 2014, will be held at Larsen’s Restaurant in Encino. Actor, environmentalist and former Scouter, Ed Begley, Jr. will be the guest speaker at this event. Eagle Scouts from the WLACC are invited and encouraged to attend. The attire is business casual and the event is geared towards established professionals.

To attend, you must RSVP. Please contact David Lasher at david.lasher@scouting.org or by phone at (818) 933-0104. Please RSVP no later than October 15, 2014. Additional event information will be provided when your RSVP is received.

A second event for Eagle Scout Alumni is also scheduled in November. The Salt Creek Grille in Valencia will host an Eagle Alumni social and networking mixer on November 12, 2014. As with the Encino event, your RSVP is required and is your ticket to receive further event information is an email to David Lasher, the Council’s Eagle Scout Alumni Coordinator. Contact David at david.lasher@scouting.org or call him.

Both of our upcoming alumni events are proudly sponsored by Arxis Technology, Inc. The Association is grateful for the support of Arxis Technology!

Beyond these two regional events, the Association has other activities planned. Additionally, a new, custom-designed label pin will be available for the first time in November and a brand-new website to support Eagle Scouts in the Council is currently being developed and plans to go live in November as well.

For additional information about these and exciting Eagle Scout Alumni Association events, please contact David Lasher or see our Facebook and LinkedIn websites:

www.facebook.com www.linkedin.com

Brendan Pellegrini and Nicholas Steele are proud Eagle Scouts and friends. They scout with Pack 223. While they earned their Eagle Scout Awards in 2013, their names were accidently not listed in the 2013 Council Annual Report. The Council regrets the error.
Catholic Scout Retreat: October 3-5, 2014 in Sylmar’s Veterans Memorial County Park

The Catholic Committee on Scouting encourages all Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Venturing, or Girl Scout units to attend the CCSALA annual retreat. The retreat will be held at Veterans Memorial County Park located at 13000 Sayre Street in Sylmar (91342).

Sponsored by the Catholic Committee on Scouting, the retreat staff of trained facilitators will guide scouts in age-appropriate discussions of spiritual topics. Where else can you experience Mass outdoors with hundreds of other Scouts and Scouters or Benediction under the stars?

The patron saint of this year's retreat is Saint Mary Magdelene and the retreat theme is "How Do I Serve?" The cost for this great event is $25.00 per participant and includes a retreat neckerchief and a patch. Check-in is Friday, October 3, 2014 from 5:00-9:00 pm and check out will be by noon on Sunday, October 5, 2014. To register, please contact Jackie DiPeppe at jackie.dipeppe@ccsala.org or by phone at (626) 622-0292.

Bill Hart Dinner (continued from page 1)

are available.

The goal of the award is to recognize those in the Santa Clarita Valley who have made an impact on local youth or the community as a whole, said Ransom Boynton, Bill Hart District Executive. The Halabys have been long-time scouters, Boynton added.

Arif Halaby is the founder and CEO of Total Financial Solutions in Newhall, which offers financial advice, retirement planning, debt counseling and a variety of seminars.

Scott Wilk, State Assemblyman for the 38th District, and his wife Vanessa have lived in the Santa Clarita Valley for years. Boynton said that the Bill Hart District is happy to have the support of the Wilks.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Mary Delorenzo are owners of the Santa Clarita Studios, a full service, independent studio featuring ten sound stages, production center and screening room.

Boynton praised the Deloreanzos' efforts to keep the film industry in the Santa Clarita Valley. “They have been bringing a lot of good commerce to our valley for a number of years,” he said. For more information about the Leaders of Character Recognition Dinner, contact Boynton at (661) 284-6330 or rboynton@bsa-la.org.
“Whiz Bang” Popcorn Machine Donated!

With Scout popcorn sales in full swing, the Antelope Valley District was fortunate enough to receive a donation of a Gold Medal Model 2014 Whiz Bang Popcorn Machine. The value of this beautiful popcorn maker is over $1,400 with the included rolling cart.

We were so appreciative of Dr. Manuel Arroyo - Scoutmaster for Troop 599 - for his generous donation to our District. The Antelope Valley District plans to use the popcorn machine at recruiting events, festivals and other high profile activities.

This allows our units to bring a high visibility attraction to their booth, generating more activity and a better response. It’s a great way to promote the quality of Trails End popping corn, and who can’t resist the smell of freshly made popcorn??

Webelos Invitational Camping Weekend Available

Troop 415 invites all Webelos II Scouts to join them for their Webelos Invitational Camping Weekend. This is an opportunity for Webelos to check out what Troop 415 has to offer and for parents to receive information to help in selecting a Boy Scout Troop for your son (and yourself) to join.

This great camping weekend is scheduled for October 11-12, 2014 at the Sage Ranch. This a great way to see Troop 415 in action, get help in making the transition into Boy Scouts, and enjoy a great camping weekend. You and your Webelo Scout will arrive on Saturday and spend the night.

The cost is $20.00 for a Scout and parent (remember a parent/guardian must attend with each Scout). Sage Ranch is located high in the northwestern Simi Hills between the San Fernando and Simi Valleys at the Los Angeles-Ventura County line. The 625-acre park provides some of the most beautiful and easily accessible trails in the area. To attend, please contact Paul Brown at (818) 601-1054 or pbrown@pacbell.net.

Wilderness First Aid Course Offered

In addition to the CPR and first aid courses offered in October and November (listed on page 13) a Wilderness First Aid Course is being offered in October. The course will be taught by Dan Doggett and RN Jackie Sisolak on October 24-25, 2014 at the First United Methodist Church at 4832 Tujunga Avenue in North Hollywood.

The course will be held on the evening of Friday, October 24 and all day Saturday.

To attend this valuable training, please call Dan Doggett at (661) 212-1038.
Are There Still Boy Scouts?

The October 2014 Esquire Magazine (www.esquire.com/features/boy-scouts-1014) featured an interview with Dr. Robert Gates, the former Secretary of Defense and current BSA President. The article was entitled “Are There Still Boy Scouts?” The subtitle was “Millions of them, in tens of thousands of troops, though not nearly as many as there once were. Robert Gates is hoping to change that.” The article, written by Mike Sager follows:

It wasn’t until he was engaged in the melancholy task of moving his mother from her condo to assisted living that Robert Gates, a former CIA director and secretary of defense, discovered the truth hidden from him his entire life: His father was a Boy Scout.

The family lived in Wichita, Kansas. Mel Gates sold wholesale auto parts. Robert was the younger of two sons by eight years. He remembers his dad being gruff in public but very affectionate at home. "He frightened my friends a little bit until they got to know him," Gates remembers, gesturing toward a table, to the black-and-white photo he’d unearthed in his mom's stuff—his dad in full scout regalia, Kansas City, 1918, when Mel was twelve years old and the Boy Scouts of America was only eight. "We really had a good time when I was growing up. But I never had a clue he'd been a scout."

Mel was neither a handy man nor an outdoorsman. "Dad was a golf nut," Gates says. "He would work, I think, every day he was alive, but on Saturday he would work only half a day and then go to the golf course." Mel's son, who in May became the thirty-fifth national president of the Boy Scouts, is sitting at his desk in the library of his house in rural Washington state, facing toward a lake, a landscape of tall evergreens. His ruddy face is lit as much by memories as by the light reflected off the water; his thin lips are pressed into a fond smirk. Occasionally, through the glass doors that open onto the deck, an American eagle can be seen flying past, its familiar strong profile and huge outstretched wings outlined against a perfect blue sky.

Inside, Gates is surrounded by tall bookcases, important books, the usual array of mementos befitting a man who started his career as a hayseed scholarship student at the College of William & Mary, was recruited by the CIA, received his Ph.D. in Russian and Soviet history during the cold war, and eventually rose to become the agency's director. There are ceremonial swords from West Point and the Air Force Academy. Photos with dignitaries. A bronze eagle or two. And a pair of leather chairs, in slightly different styles, that he occupied at Cabinet meetings during his tenure as defense secretary—his actual seats at the table. (It is a custom for the staffs of outgoing Cabinet secretaries to purchase the chairs for their bosses.)

At the moment, Gates, a robust seventy and the father of two grown children, is wearing a dress shirt and blue jeans and occupying a traditional office chair, blond wood with wheels. (He thinks the Cabinet chairs could have used wheels also. "I suggested to both presidents they have rollers. You've got women sitting around the table, you've got older people sitting around the table. These chairs are heavy—to pull them forward was huge. You had to be in decent shape.")

He holds the dubious distinction of having served succeeding presidents from different parties as defense secretary, called upon to prosecute two wars that were destined ultimately to fail. Somehow, as he continued his grim and loyal service to his commanders in chief, Gates's humanity surfaced. During his years under George W. Bush and Barack Obama, he will be remembered for helping to eliminate the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy, which had banned gays from serving openly in the military. Due to his especially aggressive efforts, thousands of lives and limbs have been saved since Humvees were replaced in Iraq and Afghanistan with Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles, or MRAPs, designed especially to protect against improvised explosive devices. In his second autobiography, Duty: Memoirs of a Secretary at War,
...continued from page 11

Gates portrays himself as going home most nights to a stiff drink. He often wept as he wrote letters of condolence to the families of dead soldiers and Marines, he says.

As Gates recalls, his father "had more character and integrity than everybody I've ever met. Every now and then at church, he'd lean over to me and point out some elder or wealthy businessman and he'd say, 'That guy's a liar and a cheat.' Or he'd point to someone else and say, 'That guy runs around on his wife.' I mean he had no patience for hypocrisy, for lack of character, but he was totally accepting of people."

Over the years, Mel Gates passed along at least two pieces of guidance his son has never forgotten: "There are more horse's asses than there are horses." And "You have to make your judgments about people one at a time." It was also his father who insisted upon scouting. ("My dad was always disappointed that neither my brother nor I took up golf—frankly, neither one of us was very athletic.") Mel was a typical father for his era, when a man was not supposed to be so sharing and caring with his kids. The elder Gates never spoke of his experiences as a Boy Scout, and never came to troop activities. When the time came, both Gates boys went to the big jamboree at Valley Forge, and both became Eagle Scouts, Robert at fifteen.

When he was thirteen, Gates went to the Boy Scouts' National Junior Leader Training Program at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

"It was the only formal management course I've ever had in my life," he says. "Can you imagine a better experience for learning leadership? Being thirteen years old and figuring out how to get a bunch of kids your own age to do what you want them to do and what they may not necessarily want to do, and do it willingly."

He looks out the big windows, shaking his head, still a little bit awed by the experience more than a half century later. "In my whole life, I've never forgotten those lessons."

Back in rural Washington, by the lake, Gates is talking about the time he went on a father-son camping trip with his own boy—while he was still the director of the CIA.

Continued on page 13

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**CPR, AED and First Aid Courses Offered**

A CPR/AED and First Aid course will be taught at the Council office in Van Nuys on two upcoming dates. These courses will be held to provide required training for outings and high adventure bases. The classes will be offered through the American Safety and Health Institute, which fulfills the requirement for Boy Scout outings and is an approved provider of the Wilderness First Aid certification by BSA National.

The dates for the courses are Saturday, October 11 and Saturday, November 8. The course includes CPR and AED for adults, children and infants (from 10:00-1:00 pm) with Basic First Aid offered from 2:00-4:00 pm.

The cost is $30.00 for CPR with AED and $40 for CPR/AED plus Basic First Aid. To sign up for these important courses, please call Jackie at (805) 796-2201.

*Please consider taking these courses whether you need to take them for Scouting or just for your own benefit.*
Per protocol, the CIA set up a security perimeter around the campsite—black vans with satellite dishes and armed agents. "The Sunday-morning activity was skeet shooting," Gates laughs. "You had the CIA director out there with a bunch of twelve- and thirteen-year-olds firing shotguns. You could imagine how nervous my team was."

Gates will serve for two years as the scouts' national president, the organization's top volunteer, working as part of a triumvirate leadership, with paid and unpaid members, to shape policy and make decisions. While chairing meetings of the National Executive Board and making appearances and raising money on the BSA's behalf, Gates will help oversee big-picture planning and operations as the Boy Scouts seek to modernize. New merit badges—including one in programming and another in robotics—have already been added to make scouting more relevant; apps and other technology are being used for activities like astronomy; a new high-adventure base, the fourth, opened last summer in the New River Gorge area of West Virginia. Aggressive efforts are being made at local levels to publicize the millions of hours of good works the Boy Scouts donate routinely to their communities.

"We have an interesting challenge in the world today, especially in America, with such demographic change," says Gary Butler, deputy chief scout executive and COO, who is based at the BSA's national headquarters in Irving, Texas. "And it's not just demographic change—I heard the other day that sales of white bread are down 10 percent—it's also about the change in people's lives and interests." Butler says scouting is at a crossroads: "How do we keep our experiences relevant yet protect the very essence of what makes us so special? Research says that most kids just want to do fun, and they want to do fun in the outdoors. And that hasn't changed in a hundred years. What's changed is the number of choices parents have for their kids today. Our challenge is how we differentiate."

Gates knows he has work to do, both to hold the BSA together during a turbulent period and to keep what he considers its unique virtues visible and available to boys, whether from the Kansas plains or South Central L. A.

"In scouting, there's a secular emphasis on values and virtue that is not found anyplace else," he says. "We don't teach civic values in schools anymore, so where else are kids going to learn it?"
Santa Clarita Boy Scout and Father Receive BSA Medal of Merit

In March 2013, Peter Castano and his father, Michael, were driving home from a Boy Scout event in Castaic, where they witnessed a motorcyclist crash into a guard rail. The crash victim suffered a compound fracture to his right arm and severe cuts and road rash to his arms and legs, according to Michael Castano, a paramedic with the Los Angeles City Fire Department. “I see this all the time, so it was just another incident to me,” he said. My son helped me out and did not panic with all of the blood and bones, as the victim was going into shock,” he added. “I was proud of him. I needed the help right then, and he did a great job.”

Peter Castano, 15, received first-aid training including the proper way to bandage, wrap and tape wounds during his last four years as a Boy Scout in Troop 2. The Valencia High School sophomore is well-decorated with merit badges, and credits his ability to calmly respond to an emergency to his Boy Scout training. “We worked to stop the bleeding, and wrapped his ankle and his arm,” he said. Time was of the essence and their help was “critical,” because the crash happened north of Copper Hill Road, in a remote area with poor cellphone service. It took about 20 minutes from the time the crash happened until help arrived, Peter said.

“That twenty minutes was pretty critical considering the guy's condition and the amount of blood he was losing. Thank God I had the right bag and the right equipment,” said Michael, who carries an emergency first-aid kit in his vehicle at all times. “Everything works out for a reason, we just happened to be there,” he said.

The National Medal of Merit is reserved for scouts and adult leaders who go above and beyond in extraordinary situations, said David Larson, District Advancement Chairman for the Bill Hart District. Nearly 250 Medals of Merit were awarded in 2013 across the country, according to the Boy Scouts of America website. Less than 6,500 medals have been awarded since the award’s inception in 1945. “Peter was able to keep his cool, and with his father's guidance, was able to do what needed to be done in order to save a man's life,” Larson said. Both Castanos received their medals during a monthly Bill Hart District Roundtable event Thursday at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Saugus. Michael contacted district officials earlier this year to nominate his son for the award. Larson then requested the National Boy Scouts of America Council award the medal to both the father and son. Plans to honor both of them were kept secret.

Article and Photo Courtesy of KHTS AM 1220

This situation is a great real-life example of how important first aid training is. While we never want to be in a position to administer first aid or perform CPR, knowing how to is critical. Don’t miss the CPR/AED, first aid and/or Wilderness First Aid courses offered within the Council in October and November. Course information is found on pages 11 and 13 of this newsletter.
On September 4, 2014, the Balboa Oaks District held its September Kickoff Roundtable with Food, Prizes, and lots of scouting information for Packs, Troops, Crews, and Leaders. Everyone enjoyed hot dogs, chili, chips, drinks, and dessert served up by the Order of the Arrow. After the opening flag ceremony, over 90 adult leaders and unit members attended the Roundtable inside the church.

The District had more than 20 tables setup with information regarding Advancement, Cub Day Camp, Wood Badge, Camporee, Adult Knots, OA, Religious Awards, Venturing, and popcorn to name a few. In addition, units were given their 2015 re-chartering information from The Balboa Oaks District Executive, Liz Hernandez.

But that was not all, the District organized a Troop/We belo Showcase with each Troop setting up a table outside of Roundtable for Webelos and parents to visit.

The Webelos met with the Troop’s Senior Patrol Leaders, Scouts, and Scoutmasters to get information about their unit. In addition, many of Troops had brought their “Brag Rags”, Troop Poster, Webelo Invitational Flyers, Troop Profiles and anything else to provide to the Webelos and parents. Webelos were encouraged to check out three Troops when selecting a Boy Troop to bridge in to early next year.

The Webelos parents had the opportunity to talk with the scouts and Scoutmaster. They were able to get a better understanding of what each troop has to offer their son, as well as themselves as committee members and Assistant Scoutmasters.

The night wrapped up with a drawing for prizes such as guess the number of candies in the jar, 50% Woodbadge Campership, a Free Adult Leader Training Campership, free admission to Camporee for scouts, and two $25 Scout Gift Cards. What a way to kickoff Scouting after the summer.

### Have you attended a District Roundtable Recently? A tremendous amount of current programming information, Scouting opportunities and other information is conveyed at each and every roundtable. See the schedule below for each district’s unique roundtable information.

**Antelope Valley:** October 7 and November 4
7:30-9:00 pm
750 East Avenue J, Lancaster, 93535

**Balboa Oaks:** October 2 and November 6
7:00-9:00 pm
17101 Plummer St., Northridge, 91325

**Bill Hart:** October 2 and November 6
7:30 pm
27405 Bouquet Canyon Road, Saugus, 91350

**Cahuenga:** October 9 and November 13
6:45 pm
4832 Tujunga Avenue, North Hollywood, 91601

**Crescent Bay:** October 9 and November 13
6:45 pm (6:00 pm Dinner)
3400 Sawtelle Boulevard, Los Angeles, 90066

**Las Colinas:** October 8 and November 8
7:00 pm
4501 Deseret Avenue, Woodland Hills, 91364
Dare to be challenged like never before. Dare to go beyond your perceived limits. Dare to find a new respect for yourself, your environment, and your life.

Swamp Base is the premiere Boy Scouts of America high adventure kayak program located in South Louisiana. Scouts participate in 6 day/6 night/60-mile treks through one of the country’s most intimidating wildernesses, but Swamp Base is far more than just a paddle trip through the Atchafalaya Swamp.

At the end of the trek, when your paddle is raised in triumph, you'll have been exposed to one of the most unique environments and cultures in America. Scouts will leave the Atchafalaya with a greater understanding and appreciation for wetlands and waterways, the swamp and creatures that call it home, Louisiana's people, and the delicate ecosystems of the area.

Registration for 2016 treks will open on October 15, 2014 at 9:00 am CDT. Two treks are available daily from June 6 - July 5, 2016. Each trek consists of 8-11 people, and a $500 non-refundable deposit is due to reserve your start date. Please call (337) 235-8551 to make a reservation. Join the adventure in 2016 and conquer the swamp!

Volunteers Needed for Granada Hills Street Faire

On Saturday, October 11, 2014, the Street Faire – Granada Hills will be held from 10:00-5:00 pm on Chatsworth Street between Zelzah and Encino Avenues.

Balboa Oaks District will have a booth at this site and need units to participate by working a shift or two, answering questions about Scouting and otherwise assisting with this recruitment opportunity. This would be a good time for your Pack, Troop, or Crew to recruit new scouts and it would be great to have troops and crews and packs work shifts together.

The fair has a website, granadahillsstreetfair.com for more information. Please contact Steven Engstrom at steven-engstrom@aol.com or Richard Anderson at rntnganga@yahoo.com for more information and available times to help with the booth. Additionally, there is an opportunity for your Scouts to perform community service as the fair needs assistance with set up, break down and manning traffic barricades.

Set up starts at 6:00 am and break down commences at or just after 5:00 pm. Barricades are going to be manned by two people at the closed off points just north and south of Chatsworth at: Yarmouth, White Oak, Shoshone and Encino. Shifts will be for 2-3 hour period maximum. Please contact Paul Lacayo at plasco811@msn.com for more information and to schedule your community service.

National Programming Update! The next three years promise to be exciting for Scouting as all three of our traditional programs will be updated based on several years of volunteer-led research and development. Venturing is first up in 2014 with a totally new program and recognition approach focusing on progressive development in adventure, leadership, and service to others and personal growth.

Venturing: New Venturing award requirements have been released. Drafts of Handbook for Venturers, Venturing Advisor Guidebook, and the Venturing Awards and Requirements Book were on display and are due in Scout shops soon.

Cub Scouts: Samplers of new youth handbooks and den leader guides unveiling five of the 84 new adventures have been released. Other items of note include PDFs about progress-toward-rank recognition insignia; Ethan, our new Cub Scout guide; a transition guide, FAQs, and more!

The Program Updates page of Scouting.org will always have the most recent information on what is coming and when. Check out the files and opportunities here!
Remembering Joan Rivers

Although her comedy was rarely Scout-appropriate, Joan Rivers, who died on September 4, 2014 at the age of 81, was a friend of Scouting.

In New York City, the comedian and TV host helped raise camperships so Scouts in the Greater New York Councils could attend summer camp. Without these camperships, the boys would’ve missed out on the life-changing experiences you only find in Scouting.

In the photo above, Joan can be seen meeting with Cub Scouts at the Manhattan Council’s annual Campership Dinner in 2011. The Manhattan Council is part of the BSA’s Greater New York Councils. The Cub Scouts look quite delighted to meet her — just like she delighted millions over the years.

The Puzzler: This month’s puzzler is a double-puzzle and regards outdoors survival. First, unscramble the words below. The letters in the circles must then be unscrambled for the final message.

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IEKNF
PAM
SOCMARS
SHLIALFGTH
NILFT
SETLE
DTRIASIF
TEARW
LTWEISH
SHTCEOL
ESSUCNNER
DOFO
MACSEHT

The answer can be found on page 13

WALLCC EAGLE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Are you an Eagle in the Western Los Angeles County Council? Join your fellow Eagle Scout Alumni at a variety of fun, important and worthwhile activities from networking mixers to charity projects, outdoor adventures and more. You are encouraged to visit our Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter pages, established just for Eagle Alumni within our Council. For more information contact David Lasher at david.lasher@scouting.org or call him at (818) 933-0104.
Position/Leader Specific Training Offered

The Cahuenga District is offering several position and leader-specific training courses on Tuesday, October 7 and October 14. The programs include Cub Scout, Boy Scout and Venturing Leader Specific training. The courses are considered essential training for leaders, troop committee members and parents who wish to be better informed and helpful to their troops. Specific leader training, along with Outdoor Leader Skills and Youth Protection Training, entitle the leader to wear the “Trained” patch on the adult uniform.

These courses will be held at the First United Methodist Church at 4832 Tujunga Avenue in North Hollywood from 6:30-10:00 pm on October 7 and October 14 (the Venturing training will be held only on October 7). The cost is $25.00 for both Part 1 and Part 2 and includes dinner (The Venturing course is $15.00).

To attend any of these fine courses, register online at bsa-la.doubleknot.com/event/1603090. Please see the Cahuenga website for additional online information: cahuenga.bsa-la.org/training.html.

Puzzle Solution (from page 18)

IEKNF  KNIFE
PAM  MAP
SOCMAPS  COMPASS
SHLIALFGTH  FLASHLIGHT
NILFT  FLINT (&)
SETLE  STEEL
DTRIASIF  FIRST AID
TEARW  WATER
LTWEISH  WHISTLE
SHTCEOL  CLOTHES
ESSUCNNER  SUNSCREEN
DOFO  FOOD
MAGSEHT  MATCHES

SCOUT ESSENTIALS