

A LETTER FROM OUR SCOUT EXECUTIVE

Dear Scouting Friends,
As we reflect on the past year, it is undeniable that 2023 was a year filled with unexpected challenges and incredible triumphs for the Western Los Angeles County Council (WLACC). With high enthusiasm and pent-up energy, we entered 2023 ready for action, only to discover Mother Nature had other plans.

An extraordinary weather scenario hit California in March, leaving all three camps – Josepho, Whitsett, and Emerald Bay – with significant geological challenges. From road damage at Josepho to the complete silting over of Lake Ida at Whitsett to the restricted access to Emerald Bay, our resilience was truly tested. However, thanks to the dedication of our amazing team of volunteers and staff, we were able to limit the impact and ensure that most of our programming could continue throughout the year.

Despite these challenges, WLACC experienced membership growth for a second consecutive year, with Outreach leading the way, including the matriculation of a record number of Eagle Scouts through its program. In terms of leadership, we welcomed back Rick Breithaupt as President. Together with his team of Vice Presidents, they played a crucial role in ensuring that the Council ended 2023 with positive net assets, contributing to the growth of our reserve for future-year-extraordinary-events fund. Looking towards 2024, it will require even more diligence to achieve the same! As we continue to build our programs focused on adventure, knowledge, and community service, I look forward to the continued growth and success of our Scouting family.

Yours in Scouting,
Lee Harrison, CEO/Scout Executive

P.S. If you have not already heard, beginning in the Spring of 2024 we will be celebrating Emerald Bay's 100th Anniversary with events around the country, at the camp, and here in town.

Save Your Date to Celebrate: <https://bsa-la.org/emerald-bays-100th-anniversary/>



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Council Boy Scouts of America
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2023 Annual Report



 **BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**
WESTERN LOS ANGELES COUNTY COUNCIL

4,934 2,145 183 300



Serving 65% of Los Angeles County

Scouting Through Outreach

Eagle Scout Daniel shares his experience in Scouting through Outreach. “Getting the Eagle Scout rank is an honor and privilege for me because I have never gotten an award so big that will actually benefit me in the future. The adventure and journey to Eagle have taught me so many things. I’ve made friends and connections with them that I hope to be able to give back by helping the troop and my community with the skills and leadership I have learned in the past five-six years. Also, the achievement of my Eagle rank signifies more than a mere scouting milestone. Scouting stands as a testament to the invaluable lessons learned, friendships forged, and skills acquired, all of which shaped my future endeavors to be successful in filmmaking. My immediate aim post-high school is to pursue filmmaking while also embracing the values of family and tradition.”



2023 Western Los Angeles County Council Leadership

COUNCIL KEY LEADERSHIP

RICHARD BREITHAUPT, COUNCIL PRESIDENT
 LARRY KIRVEN, COUNCIL COMMISSIONER
 LEE HARRISON, SCOUT EXECUTIVE/CEO
 LAURA CLAY, DIRECTOR OF FIELD SERVICES
 NATHAN ERLANDSON, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
 SHANI GRAFMAN, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

OFFICERS

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 MARINA BATLIWALLA, MEMBER AT LARGE
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 TED CRAVER, MEMBER AT LARGE
 DAVID FORD, VP LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
 DAVID FORBES, VP MARKETING
 BOB GABY, PAST PRESIDENT
 VICTOR GARZA, VP RELATIONSHIPS
 GIANCARLO HAMNER, VP PROGRAM
 MIKE LANNING, VP DEVELOPMENT
 SANG LEE, VP OUTREACH
 ERIK RIDGELY, VP INVESTMENTS
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 NICK THOMAS, VP LEGAL COUNSEL
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During 2023, Scouts from across WLACC had a huge impact in both the local and international communities.

Celeste Rios is the First Female Eagle Scout in Troop 94 History

Celeste Rios, pictured below on the left, is the first-ever female to achieve the status of Eagle Scout in the 76-year history of Troop 94 in Sylmar. A Saugus High School graduate and Freshman at Cal State Northridge, Celeste has earned 43 merit badges – more than double the amount required.

“I know for some people it’s about an accumulation of all this knowledge in Scouting, but for me the knowledge part came easy; it was the leadership part that I really worked on,” she told the San Fernando Valley Sun/el Sol. “Earning Eagle meant to me that I was now able to face the world as an adult who has all the skills and tools necessary for success.” Regarding her historic turn as the first female to be named an Eagle Scout during the nearly eight-decade history of Troop 94, Rios said she feels honored to have earned that distinction. At the same time, Rios continued, she said she also feels sad because it’s a reminder that many young women in the past never had the same opportunities she did.



A Scout Parent Shares How a Trip to Emerald Bay Changed His Life

Matias Baker Mascucci, a Scout parent, shares in his own words how Scouting has transformed and positively impacted his family. “Raising four children in Los Angeles comes with its challenges. When I moved here from Italy more than 20 years ago, it never occurred to me that someday I would be raising a family on the other side of the world from my own mother and father. Our involvement with Scouting came by chance. As a realtor, I network with many professionals from different walks of life. Through the kindness of one of those professionals, Lee Harrison, one of our networking events took us to Emerald Bay. Since two of my kids were too young to join us, my wife and I split parenting duties and I took our four-year-old and six-year-old to Catalina on my own. With a little apprehension I embarked on the first trip as a solo parent. It turned out to be one of the most extraordinary journeys I ever took. Seeing Parker and Walker trying to imitate the acts of kindness of older Scouts volunteering on the island was both touching and inspirational.

The moment we came back I hurried to sign up the only child who was old enough to get started in the Cub Scouting program. Today, I am the proud parent of a Lion and a Wolf Cub Scout with two more on their way to joining. It is impossible to overestimate what Scouting has done for the development of my children over the past few years. From instilling a sense of respect to helping them become positive role models for their peers, Scouting has made it easier for my wife and me to raise confident children who understand the importance of making a positive impact in our community and the world at large. We feel extremely blessed to have found this incredible program and for the kind people who we have met and continue to meet along the way. It was only after my children joined the program that I discovered that my own father, who grew up in a tiny little mountain village in Italy, was a Boy Scout! And so life came full circle with the Scouting program at its center. Thank you for always being there for us.”

2023 OPERATING RESULTS

(unaudited)

Public Support & Revenue

Friends of Scouting, Project Sales713,762
 Net Special Events441,466
 Foundations & Trusts549,734
 Legacies & Bequests20,000
 Other Direct Support237,937

Program Services.....8,986.72

Management & General.....381,135
 Fundraising.....478,591

Total Support Services.....859,727

Charter & National Service Fee.....74,865

Total Public Support2,903,281

Camping & Activity Revenue.....5,727,477
 Net Product Sales.....99,069
 Other Revenue.....728,712

Total Expenses.....10,348,603

Unrestricted Net Assets.....67,197

Total Other Revenue.....7,083,786

Net Assets Released.....339,152

Total Revenue.....9,987,067

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The Future of Scouting depends on you!

Please help us provide for the future of Scouting and the generations of Scouts to come. Your support will help us make Scouting available to every youth who wishes to participate.

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Thank you for supporting WLACC, Boy Scouts of America. Your participation is important and appreciated.