

The Scouter Newsletter

December 2013 Edition

Commissioners Corner

Scouting's Crown Jewel

There are many great youth organizations and many worthwhile activities for young men to participate in. The Boy Scouts of America has something unique in offering a young man the opportunity to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. The Eagle Scout Rank follows a young man into adulthood. If the Eagle joins the military, it is an automatic pay grade increase on enlistment. It can help the Eagle on college applications and job resumes. Many parents on registering their boys for Cub Scouts and looking forward to the day they see the young man at his Eagle Court of Honor.

The Eagle Scout is a young man who can set goals; multiyear goals, and then work to achieve them. This pattern will serve him well in life as bigger goals and challenges come along. The sense of achievement that comes from earning the Eagle gives a young man an "I can do that" when big tasks come before him.

The Eagle Scout is recognized by those in and out of the Scouting family as a major achievement. They join the ranks of others who have led a pattern of life that focuses on achievements.

Presidents, (Gerald Ford) Astronauts, (Neil Armstrong) Supreme Court Judges (Steven Breyer), and Movie Directors (Steven Spielberg) all take their place with the young man in the Eagles Nest.

Jeff Whitaker

Council Commissioner

Charter Renewals

Charter Renewal Packets are now out to all units. Beginning December 1st each unit will be able to go online and review and submit their charters. Remember all charters are due by December 30th and must be turned in by appointment only to your District Executive. Your units Journey to Excellence Score card should be included with the Charter. If you have leaders in your unit who are also Merit Badge Counselors or NOVA/STEM Mentors they can include their application in with the unit charter. Should you have any questions throughout this annual process please contact your District Executive or District Commissioner Support Staff so that they can assist you.

From the Desk of Keith Ashby, Scout Executive

Dear Nevada Area Council Scouting Family,

On Tuesday, December 17th from 5pm-7pm
we will be celebrating our new council



headquarters location at 500 Double Eagle Court, Reno, NV 89521, with a Holiday Open House. We would like to invite you all to share in this special moment with us as part of the Nevada Area Council Scouting family and be a part of the ribbon cutting ceremony. As part of the festivities you will be able to explore the new building which includes the Webster

Scouting Resource Center, Arthur M. Smith Jr. Regional Conference Center, and the Ron Krump Trading Post. Come celebrate with us and enjoy some holiday treats, legacy pavor sales, and a 15% off discount on store items. We look forward to your fellowship.

Keith Ashby
Scout Executive

From the Trading Post

Greetings from the staff at the Scout Trading Post,

We are settling in our new location and it is awesome! Just to let everyone know we do have nutcrackers and ornaments in stock for Christmas. There are lots of great things that we have that would make perfect stocking stuffers for example: socks, sharpening stones, compasses, camping accessories and knives.

We are gearing up and looking forward to the Pine Wood Derby. We have plenty of cars, trophies, accessories and decorations in stock for the event. Good luck to all the scouts who participate in the Pine Wood Derby.

Hope everyone has a happy holiday and we look forward to everyone coming down for our holiday open house on December 17, 2013 from 5-7PM. All items will be 15% off.





Jessica Mahaffey
Trading Post Manager

From the Field

Camping and Advancement - It's More Than You Thought:

It's getting colder outside, the snows are appearing in the mountains, and school is well under way. Troops are looking forward to the Fall Camporalls and Klondikes that will be the highlight of outdoor activities for the next few months. Some troops have other activities as well planned; all of these activities are done with the vision of exciting their scouts, teaching valuable life skills, moving forward in advancement, and allowing these young men (and young women in venturing crews) to become the best adults they can be. Additionally, this is the perfect time to begin planning for new scouts coming into your programs and planning for that pinnacle of the year activity: Scout Camp.

Similar to troop camping, scout camp offers a week long opportunity for scouts to develop in many ways. For first year scouts there are First Year Camper programs teaching the basics of outdoor living, basic scouting skills, and working in a scout unit and the patrol method. This is also a good time to get two or three merit badges like swimming, first aid, and a fun merit badge of their choice and ability level. Second and third year scouts look forward to four to six merit badges to add to their trail to Eagle. However, that is only one aspect of that experience. Programs such as the Mountain Man program add further to the outdoor experience and allow scouts at all levels to practice and refine skills they have gained thus far. Some camps have other programs like the Free Trapper program as well. Most, if not all, camps also have camp-wide opportunities for patrols to work together in a competitive way against other patrols helping to develop leadership, unity, and group bonding within their groups. Many demonstrations are offered during scout camps as well as specific leader training. Camps are also offering, for third and fourth year campers, high adventure programs that allow older scouts a change of pace and scenery from the traditional style camp. Here older scouts can put into practice their skills in the outdoors, personal fitness, personal management, and leadership.

Now is the time to prepare for those opportunities that will have some of the longest effects on your scouts. It has been said that one week of scout camp is equal to a year of regular troop meetings; and I know for some leaders it may even seem longer! Plan for all the activities that your

scouts can be a part of at camp, practice the skills required to utilize the patrol method while you are there, and finally get them excited about ALL the aspects of camp so that they can have a well rounded and fun time there.

Karl Marsh
Program Director
Camp Fleischmann

New Eagle Scouts

October 2013 Eagle Scouts:

Griffeth B.	Crew 93	10/3/2013
Kevin A.	Troop 168	10/3/2013
Ezekiel S.	Troop 401	10/9/2013
Brendan H.	Team 57	10/16/2013
Noah R.	Troop 168	10/17/2013
Jared D.	Crew 115	10/17/2013

Staff Update:

The Nevada Area Council would like to introduce our newest professional staff member Tim Swenson who has taken the position of Assistant Scout Executive. Tim joins our team having recently served as a Field Director for the Denver Area Council, BSA. Tim has been a professional with the Boy Scout America since beginning his career serving as a rural District Executive in Longs Peak Council in 1998. Tim graduated from the University of Kansas and served as a Sergeant with the United States Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserves. Tim will provide leadership to the executive staff and serve as the staff advisor to the Council Operations Committee, Membership Committee, Program Committee, Commissioner Staff and various others.

NEWS AND DATES

To all Merit Badge Counselors and NOVA/STEM Mentors:

Thank you for all your dedication in helping our Scouts this past year. We are mailing out the Merit Badge Counselor and NOVA/STEM Mentor renewal forms this week, so if you haven't received yours, it's in the mail (really).

If you would like to continue helping our Scouts, all you have to do is fill out the form, make sure your Youth Protection will be current for next year and mail it back to our new address before December 31, 2013. **Boy Scouts of America, 500 Double Eagle Court, Reno, NV 8952**

If you forget the date and go into January, you will need to fill out the Adult Application and the Merit Badge Counselor and/or NOVA/STEM Mentor application just like a "new" applicant.

Again, thank you for helping our Scouts and hope next year is as great for Scouting as this year has been.

Lori Ruff
Registrar

Scout and About Day:

Scouts and volunteers are encouraged to wear their Scout uniform or Scout shirt on Monday, December 16th. This is to promote Scouting Awareness in the Nevada Area Council.

Philmont Training Center:

The summer of 2014 may be your time to visit the Philmont Training Center. The center is located on the Philmont Scout Ranch near Cimarron, NM. Philmont is one of the four Boy Scouts of America High Adventure Bases. The Training Center offers an assortment of trainings ranging from Programs That Rock and Effective Roundtables to National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience and Wilderness First Aid Train the Trainer. Whether you have been to Philmont before or thinking about going for your first time, there are numerous training opportunities available. Click [here](#) to see just what is offered. If you need any additional assistance please feel free to contact the Nevada Area Council Training Committee Advisor, Chris Harvey at <mailto:christopher.harvey@scouting.org>.

Camp Fleischmann:

Many troops have already signed up for next year, be sure to get your [reservation](#) form turned in soon! Be sure to check out the [letter](#) to unit leaders from the Camp Director and Program director inviting you to camp.

We will have a new program next summer for high adventure, the Cascade Trails Program, this program will include backpacking, biking and motor-boating using the natural resources of the surrounding areas of camp like Lassen National Park, Lake Almanor and the Bizz Johnson Trail. See the [flyer](#) for more information!

We have submitted an application to the national office for an International Camp Staffer. While we can't guarantee receiving one, we hope this will add a great enhancement to camp, and help Scouts earn Citizenship in the World.

Calling all Cub Scouters! The theme for Cub Scout Adventure camp is "Meet the Cubstones!" Come experience what Cub Scouts was like in the stone age, could you imagine earning your whittling chip with a rock knife? Our registration and promotional flyer can be found [here](#). Remember we welcome the whole family, now is the time to plan an awesome family vacation with all of your friends at camp.

Want to be part of the best camp staff in the Western Region next summer? The 2014 Staff Application is [here](#). Interviews start in December so turn it in soon. Return to Eric Maass, Camp Director.

2013 Guide to Advancement:

The new National 2013 Guide to Advancement has been released. It's written for the entire Scouting Advancement Program. From Tiger Cubs, to Eagle Scout, to Venturing recognitions. It answers many of the tough questions; for example "What is considered active participation?"

[You can find the 2013 Guide to Advancement here](#)

Calling All Silver Arrow Degree Recipients:

Be proud that you belong to an elite number that have earned this prestigious award recognizing scout leaders that have made a commitment to learning scouting skills that ensure quality program for our youth. Started over 10 years ago this recognition program that uses district, council, regional and national training opportunities is being reinvigorated by your Nevada Area Training Council. We are looking for all graduates of the program to add to our alumni list going forward. Although it is the individual scouter's responsibility to keep progress records, once the degree has been earned and awarded we will now keep those records at council level. We are currently reviewing all courses, criteria and credits and you will soon see a revamped Silver Arrow Degree Training Program going forward. So to all who wear the Graduate Neckerchief Award with any degree level, we want to hear from you. Either call or send your name, award level (Associate, Bachelors, Masters, or Doctorate) and current scouter position to the council office (775-787-1111 x18 or <mailto:christopher.harvey@scouting.org>) . An alumni list will be published as part of the program going forward. Thank you to all who have taken the time to earn this honor.

Log Your Unit's Service Hours:

Has your unit volunteered time within the community? Record service hours and support your JTE score. Link [Here](#) to begin now.

Internet Advancement:

There is a new PowerPoint presentation on internet advancement with notes, and a FAQ sheet that is available by [clicking here](#).

This PowerPoint presentation guides the viewer through methods to make effective use of the Internet Advancement software.

MyScouting Tools:

MyScouting Tools has two main levels of access: My Dashboard and Roster Manager. Unit leaders and adult volunteers can use the My Dashboard tool to update profile and contact information. The Unit Key 3 and District Key 3 will have access to the Roster Manager tool which allows them to view and export their roster information and update contact information for anyone on their roster.

Help us Contact You Directly:

Do you have a new email address? Have you moved? Have you changed your phone number? The new MyScouting Tools website now allows you to update all these fields for your BSA record on your own. Just go to <http://myscouting.org> and log in (or create) your account (make sure your First Name, Last Name and BSA Member Number are in your MyScouting Profile and that they match the information on your current BSA registration). Click "go to the new MyScouting Tools" and you are there.

For questions about your BSA Member ID number or how to access your new MyScouting info, just ask your local Scouting Professional.

Eagle Scout Workbook and Application:

These new revised materials will help you or your Scout understand, plan, and complete all the steps necessary to join the ranks of our Eagle Scouts. [Click Here for more information](#).

DISTRICT NEWS

SIERRA DISTRICT INFORMATION-CLICK HERE



Next month at the District Committee Meeting we will be holding our Annual Business Meeting. All voting members of the district are welcomed and should attend. Voting members include all Chartered Organization Representatives and District Committee Members-at-Large of the district as well as all Council Members-at-Large living within the district. Invitation letters have recently been mailed to all voting members. The meeting will begin at 6pm on Thursday, January 2 at St. John's Presbyterian, 1070 West Plumb Lane.

Also in January we will be having our Volunteer Recognition Dinner. All members of the district including parents are welcomed to attend. The Recognition Dinner is held to recognize all of our volunteers and their hard work throughout the previous year. The highlight of the dinner will be the presentation of the District Award of Merit to those volunteers that have shown exemplary service to the Sierra District.

Finally, I just wanted to wish all of the members of our district best wishes for a great holiday season."

For more information please contact your District Executive, Chris Harvey at chris.harvey@scouting.org.

Chris Harvey
District Executive

[NORTHSTAR DISTRICT INFORMATION-CLICK HERE](#)



From the Northstar District Officers:

As we enter the Holiday season, the Northstar District wants to take a moment to reflect upon our many gifts, to thank our valued volunteers, and to apprise readers of a few important scheduling items.

First and foremost, we are grateful for the "gift of Scouting" and its many promises. We know that Scouting has the power to "save and change lives." With that in mind, when considering what gift you may want to give this year to your own kids or neighborhood community, we invite you to please consider giving the gift of Scouting. Remember, it is easier to build a boy than to fix a broken man.

Next, we want to take a moment to thank our many valued volunteers who dedicate so much of their time towards Scouting. We couldn't do our jobs with you and your support. Thank you for your persistence and your many hours of "unsung" services. You are changing lives for the good.

Finally, we have two (2) important coordinating items we wanted to mention. The Northstar District of the Boy Scouts of America is pleased to announce its participation with the City of Sparks at the annual Hometown Christmas Parade. The Parade is scheduled for Saturday, December 7th, 2013 starting at 1:00 PM and ending around 3:00 PM.

The theme for the parade is "**Celebrating 150 years of Nevada Heritage**" and the City promises good times for all.

The Scouting District has already registered to participate in the parade and any desiring unit (*or individual participant*) is welcomed to join us as we take our place within the lineup and proudly march showing our colors. Participating in the Parade is a great activity for our boys as it will give them a unique experience and help them realize they are part of a great community. More information, including meeting locations etc. is forthcoming but we wanted to get the word out NOW where you can make a decision. We hope to see you and your boys at the Parade!

Unit chartering paperwork is **NOW AVAILABLE** for pickup at the NEW Scout office located at 500 Double Eagle Court. Rechartering is an annual reregistration procedure where we make sure all our membership records are accurate and up-to-date. For the community units, if you haven't yet received your packets, you are invited to please stop by the office for delivery. For the LDS units, please visit with your Stake Leadership who has already received the packets.

Thank you again for your many services. We wish you a happy and safe Holiday season and we look forward to many more opportunities to visit

with your around the campfire.
Good Scouting!

Jeff Felsted
District Director

[PINENUT DISTRICT INFORMATION-CLICK HERE](#)



Charter Renewals:

Charter Renewal Packets are now out to all units. Beginning December 1st each unit will be able to go online and review and submit their charters. All charters are due by December 30th and must be turned in by appointment only to the Carson Field Office. Your units Journey to Excellence Score card should be included with the Charter. If you have leaders in your unit who are also Merit Badge Counselors or NOVA/STEM Mentors they can include their application in with the unit charter. I thank you so much for your patience in this annual process and want you to know that the Pinenut District Commissioner Staff and myself are here to assist you in any way that we can.

Annual Business Meeting:

The Pinenut District of the Nevada Area Council, Boy Scouts of America is holding an Annual Business meeting where Members-at-Large and the District Chairman are elected. This meeting is required by the Nevada Area Council, Boys Scouts of America and is held annually by all Boy Scout councils across the country.

As a Chartered Organization Representative, District Member-at-Large from last election, or Council Member-at-Large living in the Pinenut District, you are a voting member of the Pinenut District. The Annual Business Meeting for our district will be held at East Fork Fire Station # 12, 3620 North Sunridge Drive, Carson City, NV 89705 on Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 7pm. Please see attached [invitation](#) for further details.

District Awards:

It's that time of year again where we are given the opportunity to recognize outstanding leadership throughout the Pinenut District. The 2013 Pinenut District Awards packet has been posted online at: http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001DensGcn-i48CYw3vqOrria5hLOsqJIGawN7yzkSAYIb0rOzdUXwsgZlejRVbc139OGJ1ynY7u4BpHPoR8xb2W8LA5tNVkvZdwVhG19ccOQ0fkyBitMgMFHe04-FYv_jJmXnWmWjOAKbSlvbX3DHWkeEPpT-z9vA2qx6yt3Xbrkr90mcrq71GVS5ZuikhFndDNnfMdV3Sejsuz5b3IW_9gg==&c=nAU-PxnXc0Zv3YhQUQLxZ_-zTQxrh0KyZaOlwN7ZJFTjq6ut7Cr4Q==&ch=vTLQvOPNmKackbXp2pad82D3JlgB_8AeKYWZ2BLovLD2UkmSB89j_Q==.

This link gives you access to all the proper nomination forms and necessary information to nominate that outstanding leader.

Please send in the nomination forms by December 1, 2013 to:

Boy Scouts of America
Carson Field Office
123 West Nye Lane
Carson City, NV 89706

Don Asp

Pinenut District Advancement Chairman
(775) 720-8012
asp@sierra-resource.com

Fall Camporall:

I'd like to say a big THANK YOU to all the leaders, OA members and scouts who helped to make the Pinenut District Fall CampOAll a Duck-tastic event! We had 155 scouts and leaders attend from 15 units. Troop 16 was awarded the tomahawk as the top scoring unit overall. We also trained 16 leaders at IOLS, hosted the OA elections and a Venturing / Varsity Rendezvous was put on by the LDS Carson City Stake! Stay tuned for upcoming info on the Pinenut Klondike on January 24, 2014!!

Malia Taylor

Pinenut District Camping & Outdoors Chair

Popcorn 2013:

WAHOO! The 2013 popcorn year is just about wrapped up - what a great job! The Pinenut District once again proved our worth to the Council. For most of us, the only thing we have to do is start the rest-up for next year!

Most the orders are delivered by now and we can just take a breath! I've been going over what I did this year (before I forget it all!) and there are a few things I've got on my list already to do differently. As always, some things go great and others, well maybe not so much. I would like to ask everyone (before you forget!) to let me know any suggestions you would like to share with me for next year and maybe do a little evaluation of your unit's plan - you know, get it ready for either yourself or your successor. By next August things will be a little fuzzy and with just a 15-minute exercise now we can ease the start-up burden for your unit. It was scary for me (and possibly you) when we started this journey. I think a little preparation for the coming year will ease the fright-component a great deal!

So once again, I'm so proud to have been able to work with such a wonderful group of folks. Thanks for your hard work - I know there are a lot of boys out there who will feel great pride that they have been able to earn some of their own way in Scouting.....and they couldn't have done it without you!

Barbara Ford

Pinenut District Product Sales Coordinator

The Pinenut District upcoming events:

Date	Event	Location	Start Time
Dec. 4th	Unit Commissioners Meeting (UCM)	Carson Stake Center 411 N. Saliman, CC	6:00pm
Dec. 5th	Annual Business Meeting (ABM)	E. Fork Fire Station 12 3620 N. Sunridge Dr.	7:00pm

		Carson City, NV	
Dec. 5th	District Committee Meeting (DCM)	E. Fork Fire Station 12 3620 N. Sunridge Dr. Carson City, NV	7:30pm
Dec. 12th	Roundtable (RT)	Carson Stake Center 411 N. Saliman, CC	6:30pm
Date	Event	Location	Time
Jan. 8th	Unit Commissioners Meeting (UCM)	Carson Stake Center 411 N. Saliman, CC	6:00pm
Jan. 9th	District Committee Meeting (DCM)	E. Fork Fire Station 12 3620 N. Sunridge Dr. Carson City, NV	6:30pm
Jan. 11th	Leader Specifics Training	TBA	TBA
Jan. 16th	Roundtable (RT)	Carson Stake Center 411 N. Saliman, CC	6:30pm
Jan. 24th-25th	Klondike	TBA	TBA

Pinenut District Event Fliers

Please don't forget to join us on [Facebook!](#)



James Thorne
District Executive

[PONY EXPRESS DISTRICT INFORMATION-CLICK HERE](#)



Camporall was a success at Diversion Dam near Fallon, thank you to Karl Marsh and Glen Perazzo for putting together the activities. I think we are all still craving Karl's dutch oven french toast!

Our recognition dinner is coming up on January 9th, we need nominations for the District Award of Merit and any other awards you can think of. Also, if your unit would like to present unit specific awards please let Eric Maass know at eric.maass@scouting.org and he will submit to the dinner committee.

Save the date! Klondike is coming up on February 21 and 22. The program committee is exploring new locations and will let the district know when one has been chosen.

Eric Maass
Senior District Executive

[LASSEN DISTRICT INFORMATION-CLICK HERE](#)

First, let's remind everyone that Lassen District has a district meeting and roundtable the first Wednesday of every month. The district meeting begins at 6PM with the roundtable following at 7PM. Our new District Chairman, Jeff Pudlicki, has made a commitment to keeping the business meeting to one hour. The roundtable will be focused on providing the adult leader training most needed in the district's units. We ask all the unit leaders to tell us what training is most needed by your adults. You can contact me at gregory.scott@scouting.org Please encourage all your adult leaders to take advantage of these trainings and to offer suggestions for an improved Lassen District.

Early November is always an extremely busy time in Lassen District. Scouting for Food was, once again, very successful with both Scouts and Cubs filling the shelves of local food banks. Boys from Troops and Packs 78, 159 and 405 marched in the annual Veterans Day parade in Susanville and Scouts from Troop 36 served as the opening ceremony Color Guard at the "Chester Community Tree" lighting in honor of our nations veterans.

SAVE THE DATE: April 25 - 27, 2014. Lassen District Camp-o-ree. We invite all districts to come enjoy a fun filled weekend at our annual spring camp-o-ree. We will be offering at least one merit badge at this event. More info to follow soon.

Gregg Scott
Paraprofessional

[LEARNING FOR LIFE INFORMATION-CLICK HERE](#)



(Nothing Submitted)

Sarah Dermer
LFL Exploring Executive

[SCOUTREACH DISTRICT INFORMATION-CLICK HERE](#)



Wanted to thank the following sponsors from our Fundraiser Dinner: Chuey's Mexican Restaurant, Bertha Miranda Mexican Restaurant, Safeway, Smith's, and all of our wonderful donors that supported our Silent Auction. Wanted to give a big thank you to Mayor Geno Martini for being our Masters of Ceremonies and Pedro Martinez and Brian Crane for being our Guest Speakers! Last but not least, want to give a thank you to the following volunteers: Sheila Young, our Event Chairman, Bruce Specter, Dan Forbush, Ed Ballingham, Bob Webb, Stan Omaye and Jesse Guterrez.

Steve Pomerantz
Scoutreach Director

[OVERLAND DISTRICT INFORMATION-CLICK HERE](#)

November is the time for thanksgiving. We want to say thank you for everything you do to support the youth of the Overland District. Without you our unit and district programs would not be what they are. We want to say a special thank you to the district volunteers who have made this year's district events such a success. And on behalf of the entire Overland District, thank you to Paul Lewis and Rob Finley for their guidance and support in leading the district this year.

Don't forget our December District Meetings:

District Committee Meeting on Tuesday, December 3 at 6:30pm at the First Presbyterian Church.

Roundtable and OA Chapter Meeting on Tuesday, December 10 at 7:00pm at the LDS Sage Crest Building.

December's Roundtable will be the "how to" training for Internet Charter Renewals. This is an extremely important roundtable to send your renewal processor to.

More information for all upcoming district events and training opportunities can be found on the [District's website](#).

Brian Sutilla
District Director

[BRISTLECONE DISTRICT INFORMATION-CLICK HERE](#)

November is the time for thanksgiving. We want to say thank you for everything you do to support the youth of the Bristlecone District. Without you our unit and district programs would not be what they are. We want to say a special thank you to the district volunteers who have made this year's district events such a success. And on behalf of the entire Bristlecone District, thank you to Jeff Willes and Dan Braddock for their guidance and support in leading the district this year.

Don't forget our December District Meetings will be on Tuesday, December 5 at 6:00pm for Roundtable and 7:00pm for District Committee Meeting at the Ely LDS Stake Center.

More information for all upcoming district events and training opportunities can be found on the [District's website](#).

Brian Sutilla
District Director

[HUMBOLDT DISTRICT INFORMATION-CLICK HERE](#)

Roundtable and District Committee this month will be at the Winnemucca LDS Building on December 19th at 6pm for District Meeting and 7pm for Roundtable. See you there!

We had a great recognition dinner last month. Big thank you to Ron Fry for organizing it!

Eric Maass
Senior District Executive

**Links To Scouting Information
(Click Picture)**



[**Nevada Area Council
Website**](#)



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

[**Boy Scouts of America Website**](#)



[Journey to Excellence Website](#)



[Cub Scout Resources Website](#)



[Boy Scout Resources Website](#)

[Learning For Life/Exploring](#)

[Learning For Life Website](#)

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