



The Commissioner Service Newsletter



GGAC, Council # 023 – August 2021 – Issue #6

The COUNCIL COMMISSIONER CORNER

Aug 18, 2021

Greetings GGAC Commissioners:

As you may have heard, the BSA and local councils have reached an agreement with the lawyers representing 75% of all abuse claimants. This agreement paths the way for the resolution of the BSA bankruptcy. As part of the settlement, the GGAC is required to make a substantial financial contribution. The recent sale of the San Leandro office and the pending sale of the Pleasant Hill office puts GGAC in a position to make our financial contribution without having to sell any of the scout camps. The council will be leasing office space in Pleasanton, and will be setting up trading posts strategically located throughout the Council. Look for more details in the near future.



Excitement is also in the air as summer winds down and schools resume in-person learning. But in the excitement please remain vigilant in the face of a renewed threat from the COVID Delta variant. Many units are resuming in-person meetings after a long summer hiatus. I encourage all Commissioners to reach out to your units and encourage them to review their safe meeting protocols or adopt one if they do not have one. Look to practices adopted by local schools, as well as the information published by the County Health Department and GGAC. Some units may decide to meet outdoors, or indoors with masking and social distancing. It is critical that adult leaders guide the youth, parents, and other volunteers to follow the safety protocols to keep scouting safe for all.

How dangerous is the Delta variant? UC San Francisco reports that the highly infectious Delta variant now accounts for more than 93 percent of sequenced coronavirus cases nationwide. The Delta variant is more than twice as infectious as the original virus and as infectious as chickenpox. The Delta variant replicates rapidly – so those infected will carry a viral load 1,000 times greater than those infected with the original virus. <https://www.ucsf.edu/news/2021/08/421171/how-dangerous-delta-variant-heres-what-science-says>

If you know anyone who is eligible that is not vaccinated, please encourage them to get vaccinated. This is the best way we can follow the Scout Oath to **help other people at all times**. 21.2 million Californians have been fully vaccinated – only about 54% of the population. If we want in-person scouting, then let's each do our part and not contribute to the spread.

Yours in Commissioner Service,

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District Commissioners

<i>Open position</i>		Alameda District Commissioner	
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James	Jensen	Chief Solano District Commissioner	jmjensenbsa@gmail.com
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Nicholas	Powell	Golden Gate District Commissioner	nfpowell@gmail.com
Janet	McDonald	Herms District Commissioner	janetmcdonald5000@sbcglobal.net
Ron	Fedele	Lake District Commissioner	ronfedele@jazzyjelly.com
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Steve	Conn	Mission Peak Dist. Commissioner	sfconn@gmail.com
Steve	Loyd	Muir District Commissioner	steve@loydzone.com
Harold	Low	Peralta District Commissioner	holowe@aol.com
Wendy	Laberge	Silverado District Commissioner	dnwlaberge@comcast.net
Rose	Godfrey	Tres Ranchos Dist. Commissioner	rosegodfrey@comcast.net
Jim	Kohnke	Twin Valley District Commissioner	tvcommissioners@gmail.com



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REMINDERS and Upcoming Save-the-dates for District Commissioners, ADCs and UC's to share:

Las Aguilas de Diablo Recognition Dinner - **Wednesday, Oct 27, 2021**



- Annual event is free to all **new** Eagles, Quartermasters and Summit Award recipients in the GGAC. Efforts are made to match Las Aguilas Sponsors with scouts in the area of each scout's interest.
- Sponsors include not only members of Las Aguilas de Diablo but also any adult who has an interest in connecting with the top youth in Scouting.
- Eagles, Quartermasters, Summit Award recipients or recipient of an equivalent award from another country's scout program and are not yet Las Aguilas members may join through the website <https://www.lasaguilasdediablo.org/annual-dinner-2021-blackhawk-auto-museum/> or call Gary Snyder (925-938-2300).
- Parents who wish to attend must register separately from their Scout. The cost is \$50 per person.
- Las Aguilas de Diablo is again offering five \$1,000 college financial aid scholarships that will be announced at the Eagle Dinner.

Leader Education and Discovery (L.E.A.D.) – **Saturday, Jan 29, 2022**

Join your Fellow Scouters for a complete day of learning, fun & experience. L.E.A.D. is ultimate training event for Scout Leaders, Parents, Venturers and Senior Scouts. L.E.A.D. offers **over 140 classes** across 5 colleges:

- Cub Scouts / Scouts BSA / Venturing / Outdoor Education / Continuing Education and more!

Contact: Courtney Mizutani @ cmizutani@sbcglobal.net with questions



**NorCal College of
Commissioner Science**

Saturday, Feb 26, 2022 – Virtually offered as in 2021

Commissioner training classes & really cool topics. Details to follow.

Philmont Training Center (PTC) - **Commissioner Week: June 5-11, 2022 – Cimarron, New Mexico**

The national commissioner conferences take place each summer at the PTC and offers commissioners:

- A mountaintop training conference with a top-flight faculty and a week of Scouting fellowship
- The inspiring ambiance of a big sky sunset over a working ranch in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains
- Family programs for all age groups from nursery through adult so the whole family benefits
- Recreation and personal time in an area rich in history and natural beauty

<https://www.philmontscoutsranch.org/ptc>



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Manual of the Month – two topics by Mike Allison, ACC Commissioner Resources

Recruiting: Update the “unit pin”

You probably won't be surprised to know that one of the GGAC council's priorities for 2021 is recruiting and building membership. Unfortunately, 2020 has seen more attrition than typical. We commissioners can greatly help by ensuring that their assigned unit's “pins” are up to date.

Most volunteers don't know what a unit's “pin” is, or how it enables recruiting. National BSA has a tool to assist families in finding scout units near them:

<http://beascout.org>.

This search tool shows units

nearby and includes the contact information for the unit. The unit's “pin” is contact information and needs to be up to date for the best results.

Commissioners should encourage unit leaders to update this information when possible. If for any reason a unit can't (or won't) update their information, the Unit Commissioner can update information for them. **Follow these steps to update a unit's pin:**

1. Log into myscouting.org
2. Select the “Roster” tool from the menu
3. Select “Unit Pin” on the left of the display
4. Select the unit using the unit list
5. You can now enter and save the correct information

Let's help our units where we can, but please don't fix this information without obtaining permission from unit leaders first!

If we update the contact information for all of our units, this assists units finding new members. Twin Valley has a write up of a “self-service” process so unit leaders can fix this themselves.

<https://twinvalley.ggacbsa.org/recruiting-checklist-verify-your-unit-pin/>

The screenshot shows the 'beascout.org' search interface. At the top, it says 'BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA' and 'Golden Gate Area Council Council 023'. There are tabs for 'List View' and 'Map View', and a search bar. On the left, there are filter options for 'Program' (Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts, STEM Scouts) and 'Application' (Apply Online). The main area shows '12 Units found near this ZIP Code'. Two units are visible: Pack 0969 Ashbury United Methodist Church and Troop 0900 Asbury United Methodist Church. Each unit listing includes the unit name, address, contact person, and a 'Request More Information' button.



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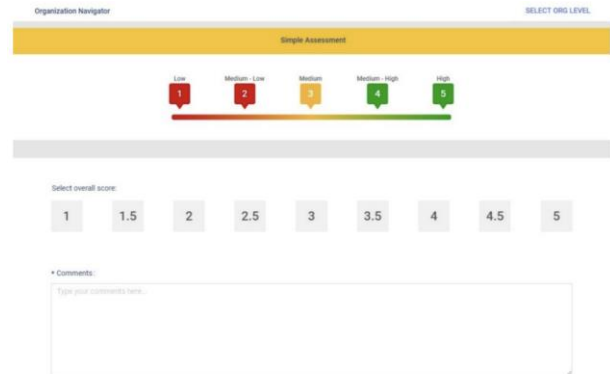
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Scoring Simple Contacts:

Simple assessments are the bread and butter of commissioner reporting. While scoring a simple assessment seems easy (it’s only a single number), it is important that these scores are made consistently and accurately. Ultimately these will reflect the health of your entire district, and also the council. This article presents a few ideas to encourage consistent and accurate scoring.

During a normal unit visit, or adult meeting, commissioners have the opportunity to examine many factors which can be used to determine a score. Similar to a detailed analysis, you should average these factors together to obtain a single score. The easiest way is to add the values, and divide by the count to get the average. Things to look for at meetings induce:

- attendance – as a percentage of the total membership
- youth led activities – age appropriate for the unit
- healthy and active committee
- advancement focused program
- good financial health
- unit participation in district and council events
- leaders (youth and adult) are / will be trained
- leaders (youth and adult) are in uniform



This is an easy way to score, if you are actually able to observe the unit. If you are visiting a smaller group, adult only meeting, or contact adults via phone or email this isn’t possible. How will you score such a contact? Try to ask enough questions such that you can get a current view of the state of the unit. If this isn’t possible, you should try to use a *Weather Vane model* using the same score as the most recent contact.

Finally if there are no other scores work from and you have no other knowledge of the unit, you can always give them a “middle of the road” 3.0. This is a good time to schedule detailed analysis.

[Note to District Commissioners: *This short article is based on discussions between the author and other commissioners. These topics have been developed into a short (15 minute) presentation which can be delivered to a commissioner meeting. Contact me to schedule a time to do so. mjallison42@gmail.com* Refer to Simple Contacts – Youtube Video; Commissioner Tools Updated



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From Stuart Mahler, ACC for Exploring: Helping us clearly explain the Exploring Program



SO.....What is EXPLORING?

- Exploring is one of the older youth programs within Golden Gate Area Council.
- Exploring is *Learning for Life's* career education program for young men and women in sixth grade through 20 years old. Adults are selected by the participating organization for involvement in the program. Clubs are for sixth – through eighth - graders. While these groups are often “general interest” and introduce youth to a variety of different career fields, they could also be focused on a single career. Posts, for 14 – through 20 – year olds, are the opposite. Most often they focus on a single career field, but they could also be “general careers.”
- Exploring’s purpose is to provide experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. Exploring is based on a unique and dynamic relationship between youth and the organizations in their communities. Local community organizations initiate an Exploring program by matching their people and program resources to the interests of young people in the community. The result is a program of activities that helps youth grow, develop, and pursue their special interests. Exploring programs specialize in a variety of career skills.
- With the restart of our schools, GGAC is on the brink of an **EXPLORING EXPLOSION!** Currently GGAC has 21 Clubs and Posts. With the addition of students going back to school, we are potentially looking at exploding to 50 Exploring Clubs and Posts in the Golden Gate Area Council.

We could use additional volunteers for our Council Exploring Committee and Service Team Members (Commissioners providing unit service) to sustain this explosion and support our Exploring program. These are exciting times! May we count on you? We need you NOW!
Feel free to contact me with your questions.

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National Exploring Subject Matter Expert
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From Steve Welch, ACC for Sea Scouting: Check what's coming up soon!



Sea Scouting was the only program in GGAC to have positive numbers growth in 2020!

SEA SCOUTING

We are happy to report:

1. We now have 4 Maritime Explorer Clubs registered in the GGAC and is the only Council to have more than 1 MEC.
2. San Francisco Ships ran a summer day camp for the MEC - aged kids, picking up 38 unique registrations!
3. Big Event Coming: **Wente Sea Scouting Weekend Sept 10-11 2021**. There will be Small Boat Sailing and advancement opportunities. This event is open to 14-20 year old Scouts and their friends. Email Tamara.sokolov@gmail.com for registration and more information.
4. **Safety at Sea Oct 23-24, 2021** at Yerba Buena Island Homeland Security Base for 13-20 yr olds. This Coast Guard training day is all fun and games. Perfect for new Sea Scouts. For registration and information, email Stevenwelch22@gmail.com
5. This is our one-year anniversary of our 12 Ships into one Council and the activation of our joint Sea Scouting Committee thanks to the Committee Members - aka Vice Commodores - who all contributed their time and talents to improve Sea Scouting in the following ways:
 - VC Ken Shupe: recognition, also ran a SEAL course with the new National Bos'n aboard and showed the mid-westerners what we do here.
 - VC Tamara Sokolov: with Skipper Ali Hutchens ran monthly Youth SeaCom meetings bringing our youth in communication with each other and empowering their journey to leadership. Sokolov is also GGAC VP of Young Adult Programs
 - VC Wade McAdam: CGAUX
 - VC Mike O'Callaghan: Vessels and Pilot Licenses, Mike being the legacy SFBAC Commodore also serves as a mentor to the committee.
 - VC Doug Love: Training, Doug served as Course Director of the second ever Virtual Sea Badge and put together a staff from several Councils. The course shocked Wood Badge staff by filling up in a couple weeks. Doug also has produced a series of advancement videos and continues to do so. Doug also staffed SEAL SF BAY with Ken.

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News from Flory Dekovic, ACC for Girls in Scouts BSA.

A Recap from Philmont

If you haven't been to Philmont, you might want to add it to your scouting "bucket list." It's an experience for the senses. Advance planning is the key for a unit or grouped youth, or even just your family. Advise your units that there may be a lottery for treks that can take up to two years before acceptance. Meanwhile, it gives scouts time to condition, prepare and plan for arduous 7, 9 or 12 day treks.



For those Philmont Training Center (PTC) attendees, there are training conferences galore that spans the entire summer. I attended the first ever women's conference on "*How to Engage and Support the New Wave of female Scouters.*" Our course instructors were highly knowledgeable Scouters from across the nation and a critical asset to the BSA. Participants likewise represented all Territories.

Key take-aways from the 5-day women's conference:

1. People don't usually join organizations; people join other people.
2. Recruiting is best done dynamically. Include NFAs (Normal Friend Activities) with recruiting. Also, remember to speak about our positive scouting experiences with "I felt and found....."
3. Know the profile of Millennial and Gen Z "new volunteers." They are our current parents and community organizers. Though they are the path to new BSA leadership, their participation bandwidth and expectations are quite different from previous generations.
4. We learned more about the "donut hole" dilemma: that women are particularly underrepresented in troop, district and council roles; there *are* mechanisms to avoid the donut-hole.
5. Extensive discussions about DEI – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. In many units, it can be a difficult conversation. But we are capable of conversing about DEI and responding with our "head, hand and heart." Inclusion and cultural outreach are key to growing the BSA.
6. The BSA is good at building relationships - though we can do better. To make us a more welcoming movement, our reach-out must be sincere towards communities that may not look like us. An open seat at the BSA table shouldn't be intimidating.
7. "4-5-6" (Friendly-Courteous-Kind) are Scout Law points that we know. But, do we always demonstrate 4-5-6? We can learn to become "**upstanders and not just bystanders.**"
8. We all need an ally to be better servant-leaders to one another and, to the youth that we serve.
9. For the BSA as a whole, ***we cannot become what we need to be – by remaining what we are.*** Growth in membership will depend upon better understanding the underrepresented who wish to join the BSA – and especially their "lived experiences."



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IN OTHER NEWS: pictures from the Eagle Court of Honor for another member of the Inaugural Class of Female Eagles, **VANESSA CHEN**. Her Eagle Court of Honor was on Aug 15, 2021 in American Canyon. Vanessa is pictured 2nd from the left with her **7062G** Scout Master Nancy Link, fellow Eagles Isabelle Guerra and Kaitlin O’Donnell and, with 818G Scout Master Terry Thrasher.



Vanessa and a female Cub friend who helped lead the Pledge of Allegiance in American Sign Language.



Handing out her mentor pins.

The honorable Mayor Leon Garcia of American Canyon and his wife Eva who attended Vanessa’s Eagle COH. They cheerfully support scouting units in the Silverado District.



7062 Venture Crew Advisor Kavitha Sankar and P7178 Cubmaster Beth Eies with Flory. Kavitha and her husband Sriram (not pictured) also received mentor pins from Vanessa. Sriram is Committee Chair for T7062 and Crew 7062.



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News from Ron Fedele, ACC for ScoutBook and Tech Support.

New position specific Commissioner Basic Training

Hello all,

New position specific basic training will be available online through the BSA Learn Center with new learning plans and modules for Unit, Roundtable, District, and Council Commissioners. These modules will replace the current online training modules with new Learning Plans in the BSA Learn Center and is targeted for release in the first week of September.

Any commissioner who is currently taking the online courses needs to complete the training by August 30, otherwise you will need to start over with the new courses.

New Instructor led materials will be made available simultaneously with the release of the new online learning. They will be located on the basic training section of the Commissioner Development page.

Here's my contact information for any questions:

Ronald E. Fedele

ScoutBook Champion/Merit Badge Dean

Golden Gate Area Council

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