



## The Commissioner Service Newsletter

GGAC, Council # 023 – September 2021 – Issue #7



### The COUNCIL COMMISSIONER CORNER

Sept 20, 2021

Greetings GGAC Commissioners:

Recruiting new members is the top priority for our Units, Districts, and the Council. The GGAC goal - aggregate of all recruiting goals set by each district - is 2,659 new members. To date, we have recruited 559 new scouts or 21.02% of our goal. A membership dashboard is set to launch soon on the Council website.



The dashboard will show the membership numbers by district, so you can see how your district is doing relative to your goal, and how the district compares to other districts in the council. If you are supporting a Scouts BSA unit, let your unit know about the Webinar at **5pm on September 30**. The following topics will be discussed: strategies and tactics for growing your troop; engaging with packs in your area; plus, 'NFAs' = Normal Friend Activities. Register in advance at <https://t.email.scouting.org/r/?id=h230a057f,e78cb18,ea03d28>.

For past webinars and recruiting resources check out <https://scoutingwire.org/marketing-and-membership-hub/marketing-webinars/>

Also, please share that the *Online Re-chartering and Registration Webinar* is coming up **5 pm on Tuesday Sept 28** and mention it to all your UNITS, ASAP. Registration is at: [https://scouting-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_6Xphbn0QR4a40KqCZEFr6A](https://scouting-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6Xphbn0QR4a40KqCZEFr6A)

Lastly, all hands on deck for the *GGAC Program Planning weekend!* Your valuable input and ideas for the next two years are needed. **Where / When? At Camp Royaneh**. The main Conference Day is **Saturday Oct 16<sup>th</sup>** but the fun time starts Fri, Oct 15 during cracker barrel. <https://blog.ggacbsa.org/outdoor-program-conference/>

There are thousands of youth out there just waiting to ***Escape the Indoors***.

Yours in Commissioner Service,  
**Paul Shimotake** | Council Commissioner

**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

**Golden Gate Area Council**

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**From Wick Smith, ACC for Commissioner College:**



## NorCal College of Commissioner Science

On the Commissioner College front:

Please save the date Saturday, **Feb 26, 2022** for our NorCal Commissioners College.

This will be an amazing college with 9 Councils putting on 45 courses in 9 tracks. We will have National Level speakers as well and a Midway with special interest sessions. The entire event will once again be virtual, which allowed us to greatly increase our attendance including people from all over the U.S. and a few international participants. Be sure and invite any new prospective commissioners. We will have courses at all levels from AA through Doctorate. Those interested in earning a doctorate of commissioner science knot should contact me about requirements. Look for sign ups to open in early October. Additionally, the NorCal College of Commissioner Science (NCCCS) website (<https://www.norcalcommissioner.org/>) will be going live on, or shortly after, October 1st, with details about course offerings for 2022.



*Diversity, equity, and inclusion work only if everyone is invited to participate and feels accepted for their uniqueness.*

**Reminder for ALL SCOUTERS.** This highly informative and timely DEI Training can be found on My.Scouting.org Please complete the 30 min. training for our youth!

### **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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*From Patrick Jaime, ACC for Venturing*



VENTURING · BSA®

### Venturing Overview

- Venturing is one of the older youth programs within Golden Gate Area Council.
- Venturing is a youth-led and youth-inspired program of the Boy Scouts of America. It's operated through units called "Venturing Crews" and are comprised of males and females aged 14-20 (or 13 and completed the 8th grade). The Venturing program emphasizes: Adventure, Leadership, Personal growth, and Service. Venturing crews are completely co-educational, making crews the perfect bridge between older youth in male and female Scouts BSA troops. Venturers work together to Lead the Adventure!
- The Venturing program aims to enable young adults to:
  - Experience a program that is fun and full of challenge and adventure.
  - Acquire skills in the area of their crew's specialty.
  - Become a skilled training and program resource for other youth groups.
  - Experience positive leadership from adult and youth leaders and be given opportunities to take on leadership roles.
  - Learn to make ethical choices throughout their lives by instilling the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.
  - Have a chance to learn and grow in a supportive, caring, and fun environment.
- Another part of the Venturing program is the Venturing Officers' Association (VOA). The purpose of the VOA is to provide support and guidance to maintain and grow the Venturing program. The GGAC VOA are comprised of Venturers in our Council elected by their peers to represent the interests of local Venturing Crews. The VOA also serves as an excellent opportunity to apply leadership training and experience gained from other Scouting programs.

Our Council VOA and Council Venturing Committee could use additional volunteers to assist us in providing a high quality Venturing program. Please contact me if you are available to help out and/or if you have any questions.

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*From Steve Welch, ACC for Sea Scouting: Check what's coming up soon!*



### SEA SCOUTING

GGAC has 12 Ships for 13-20 year old girls and boys and 4 Maritime Explorer Clubs for Junior High age students interested in getting on the water. Ships were the brainchild of Sir Robert Baden Powell as the first high adventure program in Scouting.

Sea Scouting is growing throughout the USA because the advancement requirements have been updated to include paths to Quartermaster to include stand up paddle boards, canoes, kayaks and scuba as the program platforms in addition to sailing and power boats! That means the new Ships are in areas like Denver Colorado with no major river or lake nearby. We have some great opportunities to serve the entire Bay Area with access to the water within short reach. Lake Del Valle, where I took my children sailing for their first time comes to mind.

Most of the Ships were able to keep operating throughout Covid-19 restrictions and while every other GGAC Program in Scouting was down in membership Sea Scouting was up. When Covid-19 restrictions hit us in March 2020 we had only one Maritime Explorer Club (MEC). Now we have 4. These programs are very popular and easy to recruit for. In San Francisco and Martinez youth are invited to partake in the Sea Scouts activities, go rowing etc. In Suisun the 'Kraken' MEC meets at the yacht club and has small boats but is paired with a local Troop instead of a Sea Scout Ship. The 4<sup>th</sup> and newest MEC is in Lake County and pairs with S.S.S. Konocti Phoenix for activities.

All the MEC and Sea Scout members are invited to Wente for a Sea Scouting weekend on the waterfront Sept 10-12 and the Scouts will be attending Safety at Sea, a Coast Guard training day at Yerba Buena Island on Oct 23 where they get to launch rocket flares, don survival suits and jump into the Bay, then climb into an inflatable life raft, put out real fires, patch leaks, dewater, and play with fire hoses. It is the most fun event a Scout can attend. In the Spring we have three major competitive regattas. GGAC also hosts a qualifier dinghy race for the Koch International Sea Scout Cup where our Scouts compete in a series of small sailboat races over two days against sailing powerhouses like Australia and New Zealand.

Sea Scouts very much consider themselves one of the 'traditional' programs in Scouting. Our Advancement program is built off the Scouts model, with ranks earned by achievements and skills, the highest rank, Quartermaster requires the same service project as an Eagle and while many requirements can apply to both path to Eagle and course to Quartermaster those scouts who wish to pursue both awards must complete two service projects.

For more information or help with forming a Ship or MEC in your area, and some of our Districts do not have a Ship or MEC, call Steve Welch, GGAC Commodore (415) 269-0790.



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### *News from Tony Mei, ACC for Special Needs*

#### **National Special Needs & Disabilities Roundtable**

The National Special Needs & Disabilities Committee hosted a quarterly virtual Roundtable on September 14<sup>th</sup>. It was attended by over 200 Scouters nationwide and it focused on TRAINING. There were several announcements. The Membership team shared recruiting tips and information regarding two nominated awards == the Torch of Gold (Council level, one per year) and the Woods Service Award (National level one nomination per council and one award made per year). The Program team presented the Keys Experience, a Special Needs Family Camp at Camp Sawyer in the Florida Keys (March 11-21, 2022). Camp Sawyer is midway down the Keys and is part of the BSA Florida Sea Base.



More in at this QR code:

The Zia Experience (at Philmont) was also mentioned. The summer 2021 session was an



outstanding success and an article about it can be accessed at this QR code:

Information regarding the Zia Experience for 2022 will be available soon. There will be concurrent training sessions in 2022 at Florida Sea Base (Starting, Supporting and Growing Special Needs Scouting) and at Philmont Training Center (Adaptive Outdoor Programs).

The Operations team highlighted the website [ablescouts.org](https://ablescouts.org), which is managed by the NSNDC and has the most current information regarding special needs and disabilities. The latest issue of Abilities Digest, as well as back issues, is also available on <https://ablescouts.org/tag/abilities-digest/>. They announced that the Inclusion Toolbox is now taking shape at <https://ablescouts.org/toolbox>. New modules will be added monthly.

The main topic for the Roundtable, TRAINING, gave details regarding the eleven presentations that the NSNDC has created, with input from parents, educators, medical professionals, and Scout leaders. These presentations have been given at multiple venues, from unit-level to National Training sites. They were online at <https://scouting.org/resources/disabilities-awareness/> and are expected to be re-





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posted in the future --- check **Ablescouts.org** for latest information. A list of the presentations was provided and a summary of the content of each was provided in the district and council volunteer breakout. For a copy of the presentation please contact [Tony Mei](#). The unit volunteer breakout was a presentation of NDA 210, Program and Planning Strategies for Working with Scouts with Disabilities. (Unfortunately, there were a few technical difficulties experienced and ultimately the latter presentation was separately recorded and will be provided to all who registered for the Roundtable.) All who registered to attend will be receiving the presentations used, the recordings of the main session and the breakouts, the Safety Moment flyer and the latest issue of Abilities Digest.

The next Special Needs & Disabilities Roundtable will be on **Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM (PST)** and will address **ADVANCEMENT**. Invitations to register for this Roundtable will be sent to previous registrants and will be available on **Ablescouts.org** and on the Leave No Scout Behind Facebook group. If you are interested in attending, please contact me: Tony [tonymeinovato@gmail.com](mailto:tonymeinovato@gmail.com)

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



## **T402G - Girls Troops Invitational Campout** **October 15 - 17, 2021 - Rancho Los Mochos, Livermore**



Troop 402G in Lafayette, CA has organized an event for all GGAC girl troops to come together for a fun weekend campout. All female troops are invited! They reserved the largest campsite, Manzanita (300) at Camp RLM in Livermore. Expect some scout field day events, troop challenges, Campfire (if permitted) and/or just spending time, sharing ideas, best practices and getting to know each other for a fun filled memorable weekend while making new friends.

**RSVP** HERE: <https://forms.gle/oKNYumSC1YD85hcs5> with your interest. Or send an email to SM Heather Tzortzis with any questions. (925) 878-9699 or [troop402lafayette@gmail.com](mailto:troop402lafayette@gmail.com)  
 Founded in Feb 2019, Troop 402G is a female Scout troop currently serving girls between 11 and 18 years old in Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, and the surrounding communities. Troop 402G Scout program focuses on the following guiding philosophy/culture. \*Outdoor focused \*Girl-led\* Leadership for everyone\* Nurturing, positive and supportive environment \* Self-funded.