



Welcome to the Polaris Star, the monthly Roundtable minutes and Polaris newsletter. You will be able to find out what the Polaris district committee is doing as well as upcoming events in your area!

Polaris District Pinewood Derby

The Polaris District Pinewood Derby is returning to Westgate Shopping Mall again this year. Come join us for the Polaris District Pinewood Derby Final Races on Saturday, 10 February 2017, from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Come cheer the boys and see all the hard work they have done to make the fastest and the most stylish cars in the district. Besides winners for time, we are also judging based on appearance. The car appearance competition includes awards in the following categories:

- Fastest looking,
- Most realistic,
- Best paint job,
- Best design that is not a car, and
- Shows best scout spirit.

So, get out that graphite and detail that car. We are all going to “Do Our Best” and have a great time in the process.

Each pack is allowed to enter up to five cars. All five cars are judged in the design competition. But, only three cars are allowed to race. Packs may select their five entrants in any manner. Every participating scout receives an award. Each car that races in the district competition must conform to the accepted district building guidelines as explained in the Polaris District Pinewood Derby Car Building Guidelines. For the final word on the speed competition, please see the registration and final rules posted [here](#) on the Polaris District page of the council web site. A \$5 per car fee covers the cost of the event. Cars must be presented for inspection between 8:30 AM and 10 AM on the day of the race. Inspections are being conducted at the race site at the mall. The flyer and the rules has been sent to all Cubmasters. For questions, please contact the Pinewood Derby chair, Daniel Lee by phone at 408-891-7105 or via email at dlee_usa@yahoo.com.

Polaris Joins Facebook

Polaris District has a new page on Facebook. You can find Polaris District at <https://www.facebook.com/PolarisDistrictSVMBC/>. Postings to the page are moderated to eliminate inappropriate items. If you have news of interest to Polaris District scouters, take advantage of this new forum.

Camporee Extended to Two Nights

Due to popular demand, the 2018 Polaris camporee has been extended to two nights. Units can arrive and set up camp on Friday night, 6 April. This change allows additional time for competitions on Saturday, 7 April. The camporee still wraps up around mid-day on Sunday, 8 April. This year, the camporee theme is “Gods of Olympus”. 6 April 2018 is still planned as a staff setup day. Remember that providing at least one staff member is expected of all troops. Watch the Polaris Star for further information as it becomes available. Events and registration details are due soon.

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars with these district and council events:

Date	Event
February 3	WeST Fair
February 9	Council Recognition Dinner
February 10	Polaris District Pinewood Derby
March 3	University of Scouting
April 6-8	Polaris District Camporee
April 20-22	Section W3S OA Conclave
May 11	OA Lodge Banquet
May 12	Scout-O-Rama

Council Recognition Dinner

We are excited about the Council's 2018 Annual Recognition Dinner, February 9, 2018 at Villa Ragusa in Campbell. As a dedicated district leader, this is your opportunity to celebrate the best of what Scouting has to offer. Highlight of the dinner is recognizing our 2017 Eagle Scouts, 2017 Venturing Summit Award recipients, and the Silver Beaver class of 2017 which includes our own Debbie Ward. Please take advantage of this opportunity to hear about the great things that are taking place in our council and to join all those who make our programs so special, including yourself.

We hope you join us. Please consider sponsoring an Eagle Scout for the dinner. This year, sponsorships are available in the form of ads in the full color, glossy, bound program. Also, encourage the 2017 Eagle Scouts in your district to attend this dinner to be honored. Forms are available from the council office for both dinner registration and Eagle sponsorship.

Thanks so much for all you do to make Scouting a success in your district as well as in the Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council. For more information about the event or Eagle sponsorships, please contact Dawna Wolfson, at 408-638-8333 or dawna.wolfson@scouting.org

University of Scouting

Each year, the council conducts a supplemental adult training event called the **University of Scouting (UoS)**. On 3 March 2018, we are going to "Embrace Adventure! Embrace Scouting!". The day starts with registration and refreshments at 7:30 AM, opening flags and keynote at 8:30am, and then a series of 50-minute special interest sessions.

Whether you are a Cub Scout leader, a Boy Scout leader, or a Venturing leader, you are going to find classes that are specific to your interests. We also have a fantastic Midway with Council representatives from Training, BSA Camps, the Order of the Arrow, and vendors who offer services and products for your units.

OA Unit Visitations

It is time for troops to elect their best scouts to the Order of the Arrow (OA), Scouting's National Honor Society. Scouts are elected to the OA by their troop. Youth qualifications for OA are:

- First Class Scout
- Fifteen nights of camping in the past 2 years, including
 - one "long-term" residence camp (6 days/5 nights or more) - like Camp Hi-Sierra
 - at least ten nights of camping besides the long-term camp (overnight, weekend, troop trip, or short-term camps).
- Recommendation of the Scoutmaster

Adults who meet the camping requirement can be nominated for selection. Adults are selected based on their ability to assist the OA rather than recognition of service.

To hold a troop election, 50% or more of the troop must be present. No limit applies to the number of candidates who can be elected from each troop. However, candidates must receive over 50% of the ballots cast to be elected.

Scoutmasters and troop committee chairs can expect to receive an email soon with a link to request a time for OA representatives to conduct your Unit Visitation/Unit Election. Based on your request, the OA Unit Visitation team schedules a time to meet with your Troop to hold the election.

Election results are announced at the Polaris District Camporee campfire on 7 April. Candidates are encouraged to attend the campfire. But, attendance is not mandatory.

Candidates must complete an Ordeal weekend to become members of the OA. This year, Ordeal weekends are being held in early June, and early September.

Note from the Editor

Thank you for reading this issue of the Polaris Star. We hope that you have found it helpful and interesting. Please send items for inclusion in future issues of the Polaris Star to Mark Ellson at mfellson@comcast.net. The deadline for submissions for the February issue is 9 February. Earlier submissions are appreciated.

Prepare for WeST Fair

The 2018 Webelos to Scouts Transition (WeST) Day is coming up on 3 February from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Now is the time for troops to start planning for this key recruiting opportunity. Please contact Greg Spears, WeST Fair Chair, at greg.spears@comcast.net to let him know if your Troop is participating in the open houses. Please provide him with the necessary recruitment information for Webelos dens to contact your troop regardless of whether your troop is hosting an event that day.

If your scout is a Webelos 1 or Webelos 2 in a Polaris District Pack, you are going to receive a "signup genius" invitation via email in early January. Respond to the invitation with the schedule of troops you want to visit. If you don't receive the invitation, contact scouterholt@gmail.com. For Webelos 1 scouts, this is a chance to see how the troops that you might be considering operate. For Webelos 2 scouts, this is a chance to re-visit your favorite troops or to start the process of joining the troop that you have chosen.

Join the Polaris District Committee

Are you looking for an opportunity to get involved with Scouting at the district level? With the new year beginning, it's also the beginning of a new year for the Polaris District Committee. Three openings are available on the district committee: Training Chair, Membership Chair, and Social Media Chair. If any of these sound like the job for you, contact the Polaris District Executive, Jose Martinez, at 408-638-8321. You can also talk to the District Chairman, Dave Holt.

Planting New Units

Today, Polaris District serves about 2,100 youth in 63 units. But, parts of the district are still underserved. One underserved area is northern Sunnyvale. To address this, we are seeking to expand with new units, especially packs, in this part of the district. To help with this initiative, we are seeking Spanish-speaking current leaders that would be willing to help as part of the district's Membership Committee. If you can help, or if you know of a candidate to help, please contact Sejal Patel or Vib Patel, the Polaris District Membership Committee Co-Chairs. Total youth membership depends on Cub Scout membership. Please help!

Cub Scouts for the Whole Family

You've heard by now that girls are able to register for Cub Scouts this year. Our council is one of the early adopters of the new whole family cub scout program. Your pack could be one of the early adopters! If you are interested in starting a girls den in your pack next month, you need to meet certain criteria. For more information and to become one of the first few packs to register girls, please fill out the following form. Deadline has been extended to January 31, 2018:

<https://fs10.formsite.com/svmbc/form1001/index.html>

Friends of Scouting Presentations

The 2018 Friends of Scouting (FOS) campaign is now underway. Each unit is being contacted to schedule an FOS presentation. For all FOS presenters, mandatory training is being conducted at the Polaris Roundtable on 10 January. The training starts at 8:30 PM following the standard roundtable activities. The training is being held at Good Samaritan United Methodist Church, 19624 E. Homestead Rd., Cupertino, CA.

Polaris Email Group

Please note that the address for the Polaris email group is changing to reflect the new council name. For submissions to the district mailing list, please send them to: SVMB-Polaris-RT@yahoogroups.com.

The Polaris District Email group is used to send this monthly Roundtable Reminder, our monthly newsletter "The Polaris Star" and between 3 and 7 special announcements a month. You can join the group if you would like to stay in the loop on all that is happening in the Polaris District. If you know a fellow Polaris Scouter who is not a member of the list, please invite them to join.

If you are not currently on the Polaris Yahoo Group mailing list and would like to receive the Star each month, please subscribe to our list by sending an email to the following address: SVMB-Polaris-RT-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

January Cub Scout Roundtable

With the new calendar year beginning, some of your leaders are going to be moving up to Boy Scouts with their sons. Now is the time to consider succession planning for those leaders.

Participation in the Cub Scout Roundtable is a great step toward training those new leaders. So, if you have leaders that are new to their positions or need development to prepare to assume a new role, please bring them to Roundtable. This helps them make connections with our district's best resources – the leaders of neighboring packs.

Cub Scout Roundtable is an ongoing supplementary training that gives leaders the skills, ideas, and resources to deliver an outstanding and fun program for our Cub Scouts. Roundtable teaches fun activities for their use at Den and Pack Meetings through demonstrations, activities, games, songs centered on the core values established by the National Scouting Program. This training is designed for adults, not for youth. Please refrain from bringing Scouts with you. While the National Scouting Program provides literature, our Roundtable provides alternatives for consideration that supplement this program. We welcome all leaders and parents to join in the fun with us.

January Roundtable – From Webelos to Boy Scouts

This month, the Cub Scout Roundtable is focusing on the transition from Webelos to Boy Scouts and how to prepare. Particular discussion topics include:

- How to choose an appropriate Boy Scout troop; and
- A description of the step-by-step process for transitioning.

The roundtable is discussing how to conduct two important ceremonies:

- Webelos graduation
- Arrow of light.

The roundtable also addresses topics related to the focus point of the Scout Law for the month. At 8:30, the Cub Scout Roundtable and the Boy Scout Roundtable plan to join together to conduct training for Friends of Scouting presenters.

Remember that Roundtable is an adult learning experience. Please do not bring your kids. They impede the learning process (not to mention if they see it at Roundtable then it won't be fun at your Pack meeting). Please get a babysitter and come without the kids.

Roundtable would love to hear about theme related activities that your units are planning and would like to share!

January Boy Scout Roundtable

This month, the Boy Scout Roundtable has a short overview on using the Global Positioning System (GPS). Our discussion is going to have a special focus on geocaching.

At 8:30, the Cub Scout Roundtable and the Boy Scout Roundtable plan to join together to conduct training for Friends of Scouting presenters.

In addition, the group is going to spend a few minutes discussing ideas for future roundtable projects. So, come prepared to discuss topics you want to cover in the coming year.

Monthly Roundtable Location

Polaris District holds a monthly Cub Scout and Boy Scout Roundtable meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at Good Samaritan United Methodist Church, 19624 E. Homestead Rd., Cupertino, CA. The meeting runs from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM.

Venturing Roundtable Information

The VOA meets on the first Tuesday of the month in even months. In odd months, Venturing Roundtables are held instead. These meetings are held at the Council Service Center from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM. Participation by an officer representative of every crew in the council is encouraged. Observers are welcome. The next meeting is the Venturing Officers Association on 6 February.

Join the Polaris Training Team!

The training team consists of more than instructors. Besides trainers, we also need people to help with administration (course records and registration), course promotion, and event coordination. The Training committee needs your help more than ever with the BSA's push towards mandatory training for all direct-contact leaders. Serving as a trainer fulfills a requirement for the Journey to Excellence award by providing service at the district and/or council level. Earning a Journey to Excellence award provides benefits to your unit and recognition for a job well done. Please consider joining the Polaris Training Team and make it the best in the council. If you have questions, contact Jose Martinez.

"Every Boy Deserves a Trained Leader"**Polaris District Committee****This Is Scouting**

"This is Scouting", the replacement for New Leader Essentials, is now online at <http://olc.scouting.org>. Make sure that your e-learning profile includes your BSA ID number so that your completed courses can be matched with your leader registration. All trainings can be found on the council's website training calendar [here](#).

Cub Leader Specific Training

28 April – Council Service Center (Chinese)

Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO) Training

(To be announced)

Outdoor Webeles Leader Training

(To be announced)

Boy Scout SM/ASM Leader Specific Training

22 & 29 January – Council Service Center (both nights required)

3 March – Council Service Center

17 March – LDS Church, 255 Holm Rd, Watsonville

24 March – Salinas Elks Club, 466 Airport Drive, Salinas

Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills

10 & 16-17 March – Camp Chesebrough

30 March-1 April – Camp Chesebrough (Chinese)

Troop Committee Challenge

The Troop Committee Challenge is now available online @ <http://olc.scouting.org> (Please have your scout registration ID to log in. When completed, please notify Shawming Ma so that he can verify your registration.)

Venturing Leader Specific

(To be announced)

Den Chief Training

(To be announced)

Woodbadge

24 March -- Boulder Creek Scout Reservation (Orientation)

13-15 April – Boulder Creek Scout Reservation (Weekend 1)

4-6 May – Boulder Creek Scout Reservation (Weekend 2)

For additional information or to verify your "Trained" status, please contact Shawming Ma.

Position	Name
District Chairman	Dave Holt
District Director	Jose Martinez
District Commissioner	Robert Lupfer
District Vice Chairman	Terry Bohlen
Finance Chair	Brian McCrone
Program Chair	Ken Bower
Activities Chair	Laurie Hecker
Pinewood Derby Chair	Daniel Lee
Scout O Rama Chair	John Lin
Popcorn Kernel	Linda Brooks
District Dinner Chair	Stephanie Bownas
Scouting for Food Chair	Alvin Chen
OA Chapter Advisor	Dave Low
Camping Chair	Kathleen Thurgate
Cub Day Camp Chair	Michelle Ray
Cub Day Camp Program Chair	Jo Young
Training Chair	<i>Vacant</i>
Cub Scout RT Commissioner	Eric Hsu
Boy Scout RT Commissioner	Mark Fisher
Membership Chair	<i>Vacant</i>
WeST Chair	Greg Spears
Friends of Scouting Leadership Chair	Bob Wedig
Friends of Scouting Family Chair	Richard Lahey
Friends of Scouting CASA Chair	Yvonne Wang
Friends of Scouting Community Chair	Bobby Toda
Advancement Chair	Hersh Bhargava
Communications/Public Relations Chair	Mark Ellson
Social Media Chair	<i>Vacant</i>

All e-mail addresses can be found through the Council by contacting Jose Martinez at 408-638-8321.

Camping Resources

This time of year, most Boy Scout troops are trying to figure out where they are going to go camping this year. Two existing resources are available to help you find places that you may not have been to before. The first resource is a booklet titled “Bay Area Camping/Hiking/BackPacking & others activities” that is brought to us by Troop 468. You can download the booklet from [here](#). The second resource is a website created by our own Bobby Toda called scoutingoutings.com.
