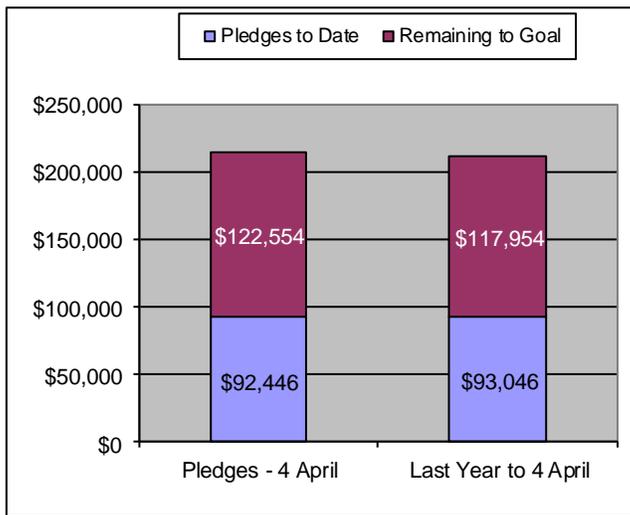




Welcome to the Polaris Star, the monthly Roundtable minutes and Polaris newsletter. You will be able to find out what the Polaris district committee is doing as well as upcoming events in your area!

## Friends of Scouting Campaign Status

Polaris District is making progress toward our Friends of Scouting (FOS) campaign goal. The figure below shows our progress to date. We're off to a good start. But, we're still at only 43% of our goal. This year, we are again focusing on 100% participation. We want every family in the program to make a donation of some size to reflect their commitment to the success of Scouting.



**Polaris District Friends of Scouting campaign progress**

If we are to offer the kind of program that we all want to offer to our youth, we need the support of all of our units in working toward their unit FoS goal. Meeting your FoS commitment is also a significant factor in reaching the JTE recognition levels.

Many of you have already held your FoS presentation. All units should have been contacted by now to schedule a presentation. For any questions regarding the FoS campaign, contact the Polaris District Finance Chair, Brian McCrone. You can also contact the Polaris District Director, Jose Martinez at 408-638-8321 or email [jose.martinez@scouting.org](mailto:jose.martinez@scouting.org).

## Community Breakfast Invitations

If you have friends or co-workers that aren't currently involved in Scouting, now is the time to invite them to the Community Leadership Breakfast on 3 May. The keynote speaker is Terry Fossum, an Eagle Scout and winner of the survival reality television show "Kicking and Screaming". The breakfast showcases how Scouting builds character in youth. Attendees will be asked to make a contribution to the current Friends of Scouting campaign. For more information, contact Brian McCrone, the district Finance Chair, or Jose Martinez, the Polaris District Director.

## New Youth Protection Training

The BSA is rolling out new mandatory "Youth Protection Training (YPT)" to all adult leaders. This course replaces the former YPT training that is no longer recognized beginning 1 October. The new training encompasses Venturing and Exploring Youth Protection. Therefore, those videos are no longer available. Now is the time to get your registered adults certified with the new training. The old YPT certificates are not acceptable for re-chartering in the fall. Avoid problems and get your leaders re-certified now. The course is available online. Or, once someone in your unit has completed the class, they can teach a live class to the rest of your registered adults. For more information, contact Jose Martinez, the Polaris District Director.

## 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](mailto:mfellson@comcast.net). The deadline for submissions for the May issue is 4 May. Earlier submissions are appreciated.

## Get Ready for Scout-O-Rama 2018!

Attention Unit Leaders! Mark your calendars for Scout-o-Rama 2018. Hosting a booth is FREE. Scout-o-Rama itself is Saturday, 12 May, at San Jose History Park.

Scout-O-Rama continues to be affordable for the family. A ticket for the whole-family is just \$10! And, your ticket comes with valuable coupons that more than pay for the price of admission. Units earn a \$3 commission for every ticket/coupon sold. The Scouts also have an opportunity to earn prizes. What's not to like?

Want to learn how to earn 50% commission on ticket sales? Contact the Polaris District SOR Chair John Lin for more information.

You can learn more online at: [svmbc/activities/sor/](http://svmbc/activities/sor/). Or, for more information on Scout-O-Rama coupon cards, booth participation, unit incentives, or anything else, please contact the Council Office at 408-638-8300 or email [Activities@scouting.org](mailto:Activities@scouting.org).

## Spring Recruiting!!!

Springtime is a great time to recruit new scouts into your Cub Scout Pack, Boy Scout Troop, or Venturing Crew. The Scouting experience begins with Cub Scouts. So, this Spring, we're emphasizing Cub Scout recruiting. The Polaris Membership committee is contacting your Pack to talk about recruiting at your elementary school Spring Social Event. These school events may take the form of picnics, ice cream socials, or open-houses. But, most of these events welcome a table with Cub Scouts & adult volunteers informing youth and parents about Scouting and how other boys (and now, girls as well) can join.

We want to emphasize the importance of a "Join-Event" put on by your pack for interested parents and youth to come visit the pack, learn, and join. For a medium or large-sized pack, you might even hold two of these events - one before and one after the school social event. For packs holding a single event, we suggest holding it soon after the school social event.

## Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars with these district and council events:

Date	Event
April 20-22	Section W3S OA Conclave
May 3	Community Leadership Breakfast
May 11	OA Lodge Banquet
May 12	Scout-O-Rama
July 9-13	Stevens Creek I Cub Camp
July 23-27	Stevens Creek II Cub Camp

## 2017 Journey to Excellence and Commissioner's Challenge Awards

For 2017, your Polaris District was recognized at the Journey to Excellence (JTE) Gold Level. This award reflects the efforts of volunteers throughout Polaris District dedicated to offering the preeminent program for our area's youth.

Please join us in recognizing the units that met the 2017 JTE requirements at either the Bronze Level, Silver Level or Gold Level, as well as the Commissioner's Challenge. Congratulations to the following units:

Pack		Troop		Crew
127	457	127	485	75
404**	462	400	489	468*
408	468	404	493	479*
409	485	407	494	494
411	491	408	495	566
415	492	452	498	
419	505	453	508	
426	508	457	528	
444	606*	463	535	
453		466	566	
		468	581	
		476	606	
		479		

\* Bronze Level recognition

\*\* Silver Level recognition

■ Commissioner's Challenge recognition

## April 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.

### April Roundtable – Cub Scout Ceremonies

This month, the Cub Scout Roundtable is addressing cub scout ceremonies. The ceremonies we are discussing are:

- Webelos graduation;
- Arrow of Light; and
- Others.

If time permits, we are also covering:

- Preparing for Scout-O-Rama; and
- An introduction to cub scout day camp for 2018.

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!**

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## April Boy Scout Roundtable

You know that numerous awards are available for youth to earn in the scouting program. These awards include: rank advancement; merit badges; and special awards such as the Mile Swim, the 50-Miler Award and religious awards.

But, what about adults? Are recognitions available for our adult volunteers? Of course, awards are available! Many ways are available for us to recognize our adults for the valuable contributions that they make to the program. This month, the Boy Scout Roundtable is discussing many of the adult award options including knots, Polaris Star awards, and the Silver Buffalo. This is great food for thought for units wanting to motivate their volunteers.

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## 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.

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## 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 Roundtable on 1 May.

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## 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.

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**"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.

**Cub Leader Specific Training**

(To be announced)

**Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO) Training**

(To be announced)

**Outdoor Webelos Leader Training**

(Course merged into BALOO training)

**Boy Scout SM/ASM Leader Specific Training**

19 May – LDS Church 150 Bernal Rd, San Jose.

**Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills**

1-3 June – Camp Chesebrough

**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**

25 May -- Christ Fellowship Church, 2066 San Benito St, Hollister

**Den Chief Training**

(To be announced)

**Woodbadge**

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	<i>Vacant</i>
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.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:SVMB-Polaris-RT-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

## 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](http://scoutingoutings.com).

## March Roundtable Recap

This time of year, many Cub Scout and Boy Scouts leaders are preparing to transition to new units as their children age. Now is the time to be lining up successors for those leaders and getting them trained. One of the best ways to start training new leaders is by getting them engaged in the relevant Roundtable. We also need to make sure that new Cub Scout leaders know that they have a place to come for support and assistance. We are looking forward to meeting you the remainder of this year and next year as we share ways to keep our units, District and Council a great source of fun with a purpose for our boys.

We would like to thank the following units for their attendance at the March Roundtable:

### UnitType [Participants]

**Packs** 408 [3], 409 [2], 411 [3], 419, 453 [3], 468[2], 492, 566  
16 leaders from 8 of 26 packs for 31% of our packs represented

**Troops** 400, 404, 407 [4], 408, 452 [4], 453, 457 [2], 463, 466, 468 [4], 476 [2], 479, 485 [2], 489 [2], 495, 498 [2], 508, 535, 566, 581, 606 [2]

36 leaders from 21 of 27 troops for 78% of our troops represented

Please join us in celebrating the following Roundtable First-Timers and Roundtable Anniversaries:

Name	Position	Unit
<b>First Timers</b>		
Haochang Chen		T0468
Douglas Kunz	Assistant Cubmaster	P0409
Anneke Sharp	Assistant Cubmaster	P0419
Rajoota Karmarkar	Parent	T0508
Lieh-Weh Chang	Assistant Scoutmaster	T0452
Ram Rajamani		P0492
Kelli Cree	Parent	T0498
Witman Wong	Assistant Scoutmaster	T0485
Charlotte YunqiuXia	Treasurer	T0452
Ken Peng	Den Leader	P0453
Stephen Wu	Assistant Scoutmaster	T0453
Nanning Liao		T0468
Ming Tsai		T0468
Randy Chen		P0408
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Roundtable</b>		
John Davies	Parent	T463
David Pietromonaco	Cubmaster	P411
Han Lin	Troop Committee	T606
<b>150<sup>th</sup> Roundtable</b>		
Charles Schrey	Cub Scout Roundtable	Dist

Thank you to all our FOS contributors for helping to make Roundtable possible! A small part of each FOS contribution is used to fund the crafts and activities presented at Roundtable.

## **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. Four openings are available on the district committee: Training Chair, Membership Chair, Friends of Scouting Community Chair, and Social Media Chair. You want to help but don't know how? Join one of our committies! If any of these sound like the job for you, contact the Polaris District Director, Jose Martinez, at 408-638-8321. You can also talk to the District Chairman, Dave Holt.

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## **Planting New Units**

Today, Polaris District serves about 2,400 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 our District Director, Jose Martinez. Total youth membership depends on Cub Scout membership. Please help!

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## **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.

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