



## SCOUTING NEWS YOU CAN USE

Scout Office: 909.793.2463 • IEScouts.org

January 2026, 1st Edition

### **Happy New Year and best wishes for a prosperous 2026!**

As we turn the page to a new year, I am grateful for the incredible volunteers, donors, families, and community partners who make Scouting possible across the Inland Empire. Your commitment and generosity ensure that thousands of young people continue to grow in character, leadership, and service, learning life skills that will stay with them long after their time in Scouting has ended.

The start of a new year is always filled with fresh energy and great promise. In 2026, we look forward to building on the momentum of the past year by strengthening our units, expanding our outreach, improving our outdoor program, and creating even more opportunities for youth to experience adventure, develop confidence, and serve their communities. Together, we will continue ensuring that every Scout has the support, training, and experiences needed to succeed.

It is a tremendous honor to serve as your Scout Executive, and I am thankful to be part of such a dedicated Scouting family. Wishing you and your family a safe, healthy, joyful, and prosperous New Year.

Matt Bear  
Scout Executive

### **Safety Moment**

#### **Winter Sports Safety**

Beyond camping, a number of cold-weather activities present challenges to Scouts and leaders, such as alpine or cross-country skiing, ice skating, sledding, ice fishing, and snowshoeing. Essential ingredients for fun include skill training and an awareness of the hazards unique to these activities.

## RESOURCES

- [Guide to Safe Scouting](#)
- [Scouting.org](#)

## Celebrating Our 2025 Silver Beaver Class

Please join us in congratulating our 2025 Silver Beaver Award recipients, four outstanding volunteers whose service, leadership, and dedication to Scouting have made a lasting impact on youth and families across the California Inland Empire Council:

**Larry Lee** – Mount Rubidoux District

**Joseph Vlietstra** – Old Baldy District

**Andrew Vogt** – Tahquitz District

**Jove Yambot** – Temescal District

The Silver Beaver Award is the highest honor a council can bestow upon a volunteer, recognizing exceptional service to youth within our council. These individuals represent the very best of Scouting, selfless leaders who go above and beyond to ensure young people have the opportunity to grow in character, leadership, and service. Their commitment strengthens our program and helps deliver the promise of Scouting to thousands of youth in our communities.

We invite you to join us as we celebrate these remarkable volunteers at our:

### **Council Volunteer Recognition Dinner**

**February 7, 2026**

[Registration](#)

Please plan to attend and help us recognize the 2025 Silver Beaver recipients and the difference they continue to make through their service.

## News From National

Scouts BSA Advancement Updates are now in effect as  
of January 1, 2026

More than 80 merit badges have been updated to help Scouts explore modern careers and hobbies, build practical skills, and engage with

current topics while preserving the traditions of Scouting.

Updates include expanded career exploration, a stronger focus on safety, outdoor ethics, and Leave No Trace, plus modernized content reflecting today's technology and real-world skills. Many requirements were also clarified or reorganized to make them easier to understand and complete.

The updated requirements are now live in Scoutbook and on the online Merit Badge Hub. Scouts who began a merit badge on or after January 1, 2026 must use the new requirements. Scouts who started before that date may finish using the previous requirements or choose to switch to the updated version.

Full details and the complete list of affected merit badges can be found here: [Merit Badge Changes](#)

For the most current merit badge requirements, always refer to: [Online Merit Badge Hub](#)

If you have questions or concerns about these updates, please refer to the Guide to Advancement available at [www.scouting.org/resources/guide-to-advancement/](http://www.scouting.org/resources/guide-to-advancement/).

For questions on merit badges or to suggest future updates, please email [merit.badge@scouting.org](mailto:merit.badge@scouting.org).

**#ScoutingAmerica #ScoutsBSA #meritbadges**



## Friends of Scouting Changes Lives

Start the New Year with purpose by making your 2026 Friends of Scouting commitment. Your investment stays right here in the California Inland Empire Council and directly supports the programs that help young people grow into leaders of character, confidence, and service.

Friends of Scouting changes lives by ensuring youth have access to the Scouting experience, trained leaders, safe and exciting outdoor programs, advancement opportunities, and life skills that prepare them to make ethical and moral choices for a lifetime. Every commitment helps strengthen units,

expand opportunities, and deliver the promise of Scouting to thousands of families across our communities.

Our Scouts today are the leaders of tomorrow, and your commitment makes it possible. Make your 2026 Friends of Scouting commitment today at:

[Delivering the Promise](#)

Your commitment makes a difference, and your impact will last a lifetime.



## Need new story

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Camp Emerson is looking for Troops, Crews, and Scout volunteers to help run our upcoming Winter Camps!

Your service helps create unforgettable experiences for Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA.

Cub Family Winter Camp

Feb 20–22

Mar 13–15

Scouts BSA Winter Camp

Mar 20–22

#### **Volunteer Perks**

No cost for volunteers

Cabin lodging included

All meals provided

Scouts earn service hours

Make a real impact!

Interested? Email: [campemerson@scouting.org](mailto:campemerson@scouting.org)

Thank you for supporting Camp Emerson and helping us deliver an amazing winter season!

## **Winter Camp at Camp Emerson!**

Winter Camp is one of the most exciting weekends of the year at Camp Emerson, and your Pack or Troop won't want to miss it! Trade the usual routine for a mountain adventure packed with awesome winter activities, hands-on Scouting fun, and advancement opportunities, all surrounded by the fresh air and incredible scenery of the San Jacinto Mountains. Whether you're a Cub Scout family looking for a fun weekend experience or a Scouts BSA unit ready for skills and challenge, Winter Camp delivers the full Camp Emerson experience with heated cabins for cozy nights, delicious meals, and the kind of fellowship and fun that makes Scouting so special. It's the perfect weekend to build skills, strengthen unit spirit, and create memories your Scouts will be talking about long after the weekend ends.

Check out the Leaders Guide and register now at: [Winter Camp](#)

Spots fill quickly, don't wait! Gather your Pack or Troop and sign up today!

## **Honor History. Serve Community. Walk Together.**

Join us for the 85th Annual Lincoln Pilgrimage in Redlands as we honor the legacy of Abraham Lincoln and celebrate a long-standing community tradition.

February 7, 2026

Redlands High School

Gather at 9:00 AM | Parade begins at 10:00 AM

FREE event for all to attend

[Commemorative patch available for \\$3](#)

Scouts, families, and community members are invited to participate in this meaningful event proudly supported by Kiwanis International of Redlands.

More info: [iescouts.org](https://iescouts.org)

**All events are on: [iescouts.org/events](https://iescouts.org/events)**



**Scouts BSA Winter Camp-**  
January 30th-February 1st and March  
20th-22nd

**Cub Scout Family Winter Camp-**  
February 20th-22nd, February 27th-  
March 1st, March 6th-8th, March 13th-  
15th

**Linclon Pilgrimage-** February 7th

**Council Volunteer Recognition Dinner-**  
February 7th

**Safeguarding Youth Training** - Check  
your date to stay up to date! Don't let  
your SYT expire!

**Hazardous Weather** - per National  
requirements, all direct contact  
leaders must take this course.

### **Who Can Help Me??**

CIEC Council's staff is happy to help  
you with all your Scouting questions.

**CIEC Office:** 909-793-2463  
**CIEC Scout Shop:** 909-712-6162  
**Website:** [iescouts.org](https://iescouts.org)

You can also reach out to your  
District Executive for help!

We are here for you and to make  
Scouting a great experience for you  
and your family.

# Stay In Touch With Us:



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