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***A Testimonial by Richard Kleitman,  
participant in Wood Badge course W3-59-12-1***

*I am living proof that the skills taught in BSA leadership training are every bit as relevant and valuable as any training you can attend.*

Wood Badge was a fantastic experience that taught me you **can** teach an old dog new tricks! I was in the bear patrol with one or two long time friends and several new ones. We learned valuable lessons in communication, leadership, the aims and goals of scouting and most importantly in the way a pack, troop, crew or post should operate using the PATROL method. We got a chance to see how an optimal-sized unit should work, how information travels up and down the chain of command, and most importantly how to have fun. We sang, we competed against and served alongside other patrols, but most important each of us got a chance to lead.

Was it worth it? To answer that I need to share a bit of my background... You see, I am not a first-timer when it comes to scout leadership training. While a scout I participated in the National Troop Leader Development Training Course at Philmont and then was on staff as Senior Patrol Leader or Course Director for seven years in a row with the Stanford Area Council TLD course. I attended my first Wood Badge course back in 1979. I utilized the skills taught me in every aspect of my life. At the age of 20 I found myself supervising 16 people, all of them older than me and some twice my age — I was given the job because of the leadership knowledge demonstrated at the interview. I have gone on in my education to seek a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership (unfortunately I am what is known as ABD, All But Dissertation completed). In those doctoral classes I wrote at least two papers based on the skills I had learned at Wood Badge. I actually sited the BSA Troop Leader Development course syllabus as a reference and earned A's on both papers. I am living proof that the skills taught in BSA leadership training are every bit as relevant and valuable as any training you can attend.

So what does it take to sign up? You must be a registered scouter and have completed the basic level of training for the position you are registered in. Those basic courses are available several times between now and the Wood Badge course start day in May. So what are you waiting for?! You cannot beat the price. You can't imagine all of the fun you will have and when you complete the course you will be ready to give back to scouting, your family, your job and your community in a big way. On to Gillwell!



**Register for the Greater  
Yosemite Council 2014  
Wood Badge Course:**  
[www.yosemitescouting.org](http://www.yosemitescouting.org)



# Happy 2014 Gold Country!

Thank you to all of the leaders who work so closely with the Scouts. With your dedication to the program the Scouts in Gold Country ended the year with . . .

- ◆ Cub Scouts Advancing in 2013 - 349
- ◆ Boy Scouts Advancing in 2013 - 264, which includes 42 Eagle Scouts
- ◆ Merit Badges Earned by the Boy Scouts in 2013 - 1,177
- ◆ Boy Scouts who went to Summer Camp in 2013 - 281
- ◆ Cub Scouts who went to Summer Camp in 2013 - 213

2014 is already set to be a busy year for the district and we look forward to your Scout joining the activities. March 15<sup>th</sup> will be the Scout Night at the Thunder and May 2-4 will be the District Camporee. I have heard they have something special for your first year Scouts, so make sure everyone is in attendance!

Spring recruitment . . . are you planning on getting parents to help you out this coming year? Well one good way is to get them NOW! If you were to get 10 new Cub Scouts that would mean you could have 10 new parents to help with planning your activities or filling the positions of those parents who are bridging to Boy Scouts. Give the office a call so we can schedule a Spring Recruitment to get you 10 NEW PARENTS!

Also, Webelos Leaders . . . do you have some Scouts that haven't decided which troop they would like to join? Do you have parents unsure about a particular Boy Scout Troop? Call the Office and we will gladly hook them or you up with a Boy Scout Troop. Summer camp is just around the corner and these Webelos need to get camping.

Are you a new leader needing directions, needing help, needing answers? Training is for you. Look to our website for more training opportunities. But did you know that you can take some of your training online . . . go to [www.myscouting.org](http://www.myscouting.org) and get started today! Once you have signed in you will need to input your membership id number, don't have it? Call the office and we can hook you up! Thank you for taking on this wonderful leadership within your pack . . . **honest it's only one hour a week!**

**Eagle Scouts** – Congratulations to the newest Eagle Scouts in Gold Country (months of December and January). Thank you to all who help with the Board of Reviews. We welcome 9 new Scouts to the Rank of Eagle.

				No Photo available
<b>Bryce Buell</b>	<b>Jason Elliott</b>	<b>Garrett Hazelhofer</b>	<b>Chris Michael</b>	<b>Jack Talley</b>
				
<b>Brady Wells</b> <b>Troop 198</b>	<b>Joseph Hecoeks</b> <b>Troop 343</b>	<b>Dominic Hummel</b> <b>Troop 399</b>	<b>Sean Jannay</b> <b>Troop 145</b>	

## Sierra Valley's Annual Merit Badge Midway a Success!

The 2014 Sierra Valley District Merit Badge Midway was held on January 25, 2014. This popular event gave Boy Scouts the chance to earn interesting merit badges from qualified merit badge counselors. Teresa Lorentz did a great job, as always, putting together a fine collection of merit badge offerings. This all day event went from 8:00 AM to 4:15 PM and had 200 Boy Scouts in attendance. Thanks to the LDS Union Building at 1233 Northgate Drive in Manteca for hosting the event. It was inspiring to see all the Boy Scouts in "Class A" uniform having a great time. Thanks again to Teresa and Bill Lorentz for chairing this excellent event.



## Congratulations to Pack 14!

Modesto's Pack 14 was honored at the Modesto City Council Meeting of January 14, 2014. The City Council recognized the Pack for its service to the community; noting the Pack, among other things, had recently collected a large quantity of the 11,867 lbs of food given to the Salvation Army during the Scouting for Food drive in November. Cub Scouts attending were in "Class A" uniform at the 5:15 PM ceremony representing Scouting at City Hall in a top notch manner. Cubmaster Bryan Sastokas received a City proclamation on behalf of the Pack. Congratulations to Pack 14 as an example of the very best of Cub Scouting!



## Congratulations to the New December & January Eagles of Sierra Valley District

**Matthew A Cadrett of Modesto Troop 194**

**Devin Oliver Carpenter of Modesto Troop 194**

**Caelan Michael Parker of Manteca Crew 439**

**Cameron Thomas Parker of Manteca Troop 439**

**Rhet Steven Herrin of Ripon Team 440**

**Cody David Dunford of Mountain House Crew 502**

**Derek Alexander Paris of Tracy Troop 525**

**Sammuel Ammon Savage of Sonora Crew 562**

**Daniel Michael Hetzler of Modesto Crew 40**

**Tyler Anthony Silva of Manteca Troop 432**



### Sierra Valley Eagle Project Reviews

On a monthly basis Eagle project reviews and Eagle Boards are done at the Modesto Scout Center. This happens on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. March 4th is the next time this will be done. Projects can be okayed at this meeting and Eagle Boards conducted. To set this up please contact Barbara Evers at the Scout Center at 566-7704 or [bevers@bsamail.org](mailto:bevers@bsamail.org).

# Rio del Oro District News February 2014



## Message From your District Executive

### *Friends of Scouting Family Unit Presentations*

**What is Friends of Scouting, and why is it so important to contribute to the annual Friends of Scouting Campaign?**

Two great questions! Friends of Scouting (FOS) is the annual giving campaign of the Greater Yosemite Council and provides the necessary funds to ensure a quality Scouting program for youth. More specifically, by supporting FOS, you help keep:

- The cost of Council camps affordable
- The Council Service Centers and camp facilities in top condition
- The promise of a quality Scouting experience to your son or daughter and others in Scouting

There are three FOS campaigns each year: the Family Campaign, the Executive Board Campaign, and the Business Campaign. Each is vital to the programs and services of the Council. The money raised through the annual FOS campaign offsets the cost of training Scouting leaders, operating the Council camps and service centers, and providing other resources to Cub Packs, Scout Troops, Varsity Scout Teams, Venturing Crews, and Sea Scout Ships throughout the Council – 436 units in all.

It costs the Greater Yosemite Council approximately \$160 to provide a quality Scouting experience for one registered Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, Venturer, or Sea Scout per year. Parents of Scouts and other neighborhood and community members play an invaluable role in the annual FOS campaign by contributing money that reflects their respect for what the program can achieve and their ability to give.



Help keep Scouting strong by participating as a Friend of Scouting. Thank you for your generous support!

If you would like to donate go to <http://www.yosemitescouting.org/support-scouting/51160>.

To schedule an FOS family presentation email me: [abarajas@bsamail.org](mailto:abarajas@bsamail.org).

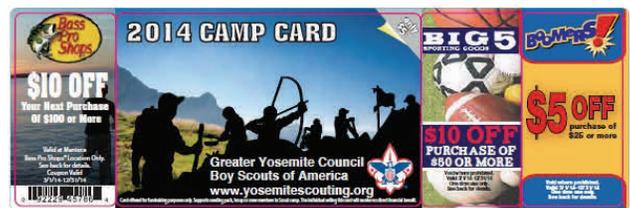
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## Product Sales



Great news!! The Rio del Oro units had a record year in **popcorn** sales: 16 units sold \$75,541 in gross sales. I want to personally thank all those leaders and parents for making your unit sales a successful one.

The **Camp Card** is designed to help units fund their way to 2014 Camp programs. The intent of the Camp Card sale is to allow Units to raise funds so all Scouts can earn their way to Day Camp, Resident Camp, Philmont, Sea Base, Northern Tier, other activities, or simply support unit program and supply needs. This program is completely *RISK FREE*, because any unsold Camp Cards can be returned to the Council office. For more information visit the Camp Card page on the Council website: [www.yosemitescouting.org](http://www.yosemitescouting.org).



# Rio del Oro District News February 2014 (cont)

## Membership

This month we focus on Webelos to Scout Transition.....

The passage from Cub Scout pack to Boy Scout troop should be smooth, with no time lost in between. By the time Webelos Scouts are ready to cross over, they and their families should be familiar and comfortable with the youth and adult leaders of the troop, their role in the troop and troop activities, and feel excited about beginning this new adventure. The Webelos Scout's graduation ceremony should clearly signify his transition to a new level of Scouting, and could include the presentation of his Arrow of Light Award, a *Boy Scout Handbook*, and a troop neckerchief.

A Webelos Scout who has earned the Arrow of Light Award has now completed all the requirements for the Scout badge and may join a Boy Scout troop.



The key factor to improved Webelos transition is the ongoing working relationship of the leaders of a Cub Scout pack and a Boy Scout troop. Ideally a community organization would have both a pack and a troop with leaders who work together to help move Webelos Scouts into a Boy Scout troop the same way schools move students from elementary school to middle school.

For more information on Webelos to Scout transition visit

<http://www.scouting.org/sitecore/content/home/boyscouts/yearroundguide/graduate.aspx>

or email [denatravao@yahoo.com](mailto:denatravao@yahoo.com) with any questions, concerns or requests regarding membership.

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## Rio del Oro District Pinewood Derby

Date: Saturday, April 5, 2014

Cost: \$5.00 per racer (prepaid only)

**Location: Smith Chevrolet**

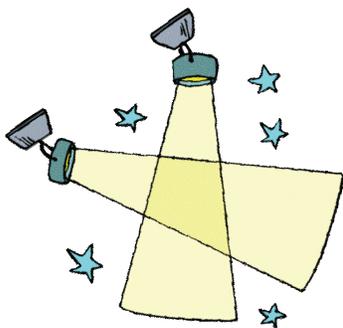
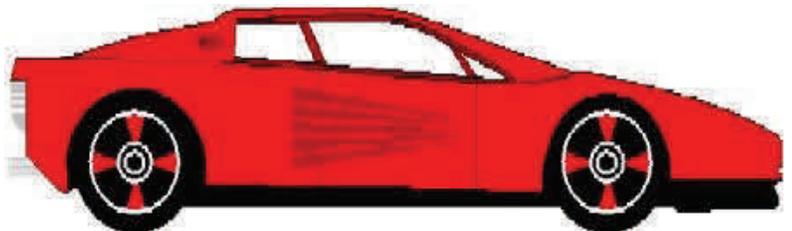
Smith Chevrolet Cadillac, Inc. 1601 Auto Mall Drive, Turlock, CA 95380

Check-in: 11:30AM

Race Starts: 12PM

Because names need to be entered into the computer and nametags made, all registration forms are due on March 28, 2014. Mail to *Greater Yosemite Council 4031 Technology Dr Modesto, 95356* or fax to (209)545-6321. For additional information contact Adan Barajas 566-7709.

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## Awards Night

Rio del Oro Awards night is going to be on May 3, 2014. Nomination paperwork has gone out in the mail. Please submit your nominations for your leaders to be considered. Deadline to submit nominations is March 7, 2014. If you need more information please contact Onis Lentz, Rio del Oro Program Chairman at [Oclentzscout@aol.com](mailto:Oclentzscout@aol.com)

# Rio del Oro District News February 2014 (cont)

## What have Our Units Been Up To???



Troop 9 11 at the Hickman Harvest Festival.



The Scouts of Troop 451 at Scout Island in Merced (shown here conducting US flag retirements following their Court of Honor).

## Upcoming Trainings coming to the Rio del Oro area:

**March 8th—Leader Specific Training for Cub Leaders and Boy Scout Leaders** to be held in Turlock — registrations can be done online for these two...go to the Council website and find the “Council Training Dates” link under the “Training” tab.

**March 13th and 21st—22nd — Webelos Outdoor Leader Skills Training** — new this year, this training will be held simultaneously with Boy Scout Leader Intro to Outdoor Leader Skills. More information and online registration can be found at [www.yosemitescouting.org](http://www.yosemitescouting.org).

A poster for the 2014 Rio del Oro District Spring Camporee. It features a banner of American flags at the top. The text reads: "Celebrating America", "2014 Rio del Oro District Spring Camporee", "Open to all Registered Scouts - Troops, Teams, Crews, Sea Scouts and Explorer Posts", "April 11 - 13, 2014", and "Camp McConnell, Livingston, CA". The background of the poster is a stylized American flag.

Visit Council website for more information and to register your unit:  
[www.yosemitescouting.org](http://www.yosemitescouting.org) > Districts > Rio del Oro > 2014 Camporee

# Training - February, 2014

Jay Herbrand, Greater Yosemite Council Training Chair



## [My.Scouting.org](#) Tools

This past year some new tools were added to MyScouting.org. These are located on the [my.scouting.org](#) website portal. Notice this is different than MyScouting. You can access the new site from your MyScouting page. The username and password are the same as your MyScouting Account. One of the tools is very special for trainers, and Key 3\* members at the Unit, District and Council level - Training Manager! Note that I said Unit! A scouter can check up on his or her training records.

The Training Manager Tool gives administrators the ability to view training status, print training reports and certificates, and update training records of Scouters in their unit or service area. Individuals can check their training status, including if their Youth Protection Training is up to date.

Two features were added after the initial release that will help you know who is trained and who needs training. The first is a "trained" icon that shows up in the "Search Training" roster so you can quickly see who is, and who is not considered "trained" in the system. The second is the "Trained Leaders Report" that shows who is "trained" and specifically which courses are missing that would make a leader "trained."

The "Trained Leaders Report" can be printed so that those missing training can be targeted for training or so that their record can be updated with missing courses.

This is a "work in progress" and more features to the Tools are in development:

- As we write this *update* only unit, district, and council Key-3s\* have access to most of the tools. Soon, they will be able to grant administrator rights to others in their unit or service areas.
- Administrators will be able to assign functional positions to members that will give them access to related Tools. For example, the Key-3\* can designate a training chair, and that will give the training chair access to the Training Manager.
- The list of "legacy" courses - old BSA training courses that still make a leader "trained" - is often confusing since the names are similar. New codes are being developed that we hope will help. For example, we might create "C101 - Cub Scout Leader Basic Training" that would cover all of the Cub Scout leader basic training courses prior to the introduction of *Specifics* in 2001. The entry of the new code/course and the date the Scouter completed the course will mark the leader as "trained." We will know which version of the course the Scouter took by the date entered.

A tutorial of the features in Training Manager and the other new Tools can be found on [www.myscouting.org](#), and you can watch here for updates. Most of this information came from the National BSA Training Times Fall 2013 newsletter.

**Go check it Out!**

\* *the "Key 3" for a unit would be the Chartered Organization Representative, the Cub(or Scout)master, and the Committee Chair*





Congratulations to our newest Eagle Scouts for the months of December, 2013 and January, 2014. The Greater Yosemite Council, BSA finished off 2013 with a total of 160 Eagle Scouts for the year!!!

<u>Eagle Scout</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Date</u>
Matthew A Cadrett	Troop 194	Sierra Valley	Dec 2, 2013
Devin Oliver Carpenter	Troop 194	Sierra Valley	Dec 2, 2013
Caelan Michael Parker	Crew 439	Sierra Valley	Dec 7, 2013
Cameron Thomas Parker	Troop 439	Sierra Valley	Dec 7, 2013
Rhet Steven Herrin	Team 440	Sierra Valley	Dec 8, 2013
Patrick Frank Van Pelt	Troop 88	Rio del Oro	Dec 9, 2013
Andrew K Baker	Crew 33	Rio del Oro	Dec 18, 2013
Jansen Parks Berryhill	Crew 33	Rio del Oro	Dec 18, 2013
Caleb Thomas McDade	Team 6016	Rio del Oro	Dec 18, 2013
Bryce Hunter Buell	Troop 10	Gold Country	Dec 18, 2013
Jason Wayne Elliott	Troop 316	Gold Country	Dec 18, 2013
Garrett Keller Hazelhofer	Troop 298	Gold Country	Dec 18, 2013
Christopher Ronald Michael	Troop 170	Gold Country	Dec 18, 2013
Jack Hunter Talley	Troop 199	Gold Country	Dec 18, 2013
Cody David Dunford	Crew 502	Sierra Valley	Dec 22, 2013
Derek Alexander Paris	Troop 525	Sierra Valley	Dec 22, 2013
Samuel Ammon Savage	Crew 562	Sierra Valley	Dec 26, 2013
Brady Michael Wells	Troop 198	Gold Country	Dec 30, 2013
Daniel Michael Hetzler	Crew 40	Sierra Valley	Jan 7, 2014
Dominic M Hummel	Troop 399	Gold Country	Jan 15, 2014
Sean Avery Jannay	Troop 145	Gold Country	Jan 15, 2014
Tyler Anthony Silva	Troop 432	Sierra Valley	Jan 15, 2014
Joseph Allen Hecoeks	Troop 343	Gold Country	Jan 21, 2014
Aaron Ray Baumgartner	Troop 58	Rio del Oro	Jan 22, 2014
Brennen Michael Reyna	Troop 88	Rio del Oro	Jan 22, 2014
Douglas Carter Rowan	Crew 93	Rio del Oro	Jan 26, 2014

## Eagle Scout Alumni

The Greater Yosemite Council has a band of Eagle Scout brothers that are dedicated to upholding the honor of the Eagle Scout Badge. If you are an Eagle Scout and would like to be a part of the Yosemite Eagle Scout Alumni we would be honored to have you join. There are no dues but we encourage duty to God, community and others.



Contact **Dan Machado** @ [dfmachado@ps1la.com](mailto:dfmachado@ps1la.com) or phone 209 840 2246. [www.eaglescoutbadge.com](http://www.eaglescoutbadge.com)

### Did you know...

- ⇒ An Eagle Bunting suitcase can be loaned to units holding an Eagle Court of Honor. In the suitcase are swags and bunting to make the event special. Also included in the suitcase are rank placards for the Ceremony and an Eagle Charge sheet.
- ⇒ Contacts for additional Eagle congratulation letters are placed with the certificate that comes from National BSA.
- ⇒ Information on how to get an Eagle picture displayed in the foyer of the Modesto Scout Center is also included.
- ⇒ Contact Barbara Evers to make a reservation for the suitcase. Greater Yosemite Council is proud to help celebrate our Eagle Scouts!

## Greater Yosemite Council Eagle Scout Brunch

In recognition of Greater Yosemite Council Scouts who earned their Eagle Rank during 2013 and 2012, an Eagle Scout Recognition Brunch will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2014, at the Modesto Elks Lodge#1282/ Charity Way Ballroom 645 Charity Way Modesto, CA 95356. Participating Eagle Scouts will receive at no cost to them a great brunch, a certificate from the Marine Corps League as well as an Eagle Scout Gift.

The Eagle Brunch Committee is in the process of recruiting sponsors to cover the expense of this Recognition Program. The cost to sponsor an Eagle is \$100.00. This year we are also asking for Bronze Palm Sponsorship of \$300, Gold Palm Sponsorship of \$500 and Silver Palm Sponsorship of \$700. These gifts will be used to add extra value to this year's celebration of Eagle Scouts and their families at the Eagle Scout & Alumni Recognition Brunch.

For more information contact the Modesto Scout Office at 209-545-6320 or email [abarajas@bsamail.org](mailto:abarajas@bsamail.org).



## Cold Weather Camping

Winter camping can be fun... but it can also be dangerous.

If you're planning an upcoming cold weather campout or event, please review this helpful BSA website on some ways to ensure your troop lives up to the Scout Motto of "Be Prepared".

<http://www.scouting.org/training/adult/supplemental/coldweathercamping.aspx>

Some key items from the BSA website to keep in mind:

- 1) Make a plan. Cold weather can be unforgiving. Plan for the unexpected.
- 2) Make sure everyone is physically prepared. That means you too, leaders!
- 3) Proper nutrition is important. You'll need quality AND quantity.
- 4) Two-deep leadership is more important than ever.
- 5) Proper equipment is crucial. Go over every item needed on this trip with each Scout, and possibly with their parents.

Cold Winter events can be the most fun Scouts will have all year... but only if everyone stays safe.