COVID-19 UPDATE

The Great Southwest Council is committed to providing safe and healthy Scouting activities, including Cub Scout Day Camps and all activities at Gorham Scout Ranch. In response to COVID-19, we are assessing our programs to ensure the safety of our participants. This situation is not unique to our Council and we are consulting the BSA national office, other councils, industry leaders, and COVID-19 experts.

The Great Southwest Council is closely monitoring the COVID-19 outbreak and following CDC, federal, state, and local guidelines for mitigating the spread of the virus and for keeping our Scouts and leaders safe. We are hopeful that we will be able to open Gorham Scout Ranch for all of the 2020 summer camping events as scheduled, including Brownsea, NYLT, Summer Camp, Webelos Week in the Woods and Cub Scout Family Camp. The camp leadership has created a plan that adds additional precautions to ensure a safe and healthy camp for all Scouts and leaders that attend.

While we are hopeful that we can hold camp, due to the uncertainty of the progress of eradicating the threat of COVID-19 among the general public, the Council’s leadership will make final determination on whether or not to open Gorham Scout Ranch on April 15. If the Council is unable to open camp this summer, a virtual merit badge camp program will be introduced on the 15th for your Scouts as an excellent option for a summertime Scouting activity.

During these uncertain times, be sure to take care of yourselves and your families. Please wash your hands, sanitize and disinfect contact surfaces and keep up to date with advisories and recommendations from public health authorities. Thank you for your patience as we all navigate through these challenging times. Thank you for your generous support of Scouting and the Great Southwest Council.

Additional resources:
- Boy Scouts of America updates: https://scouting.org/coronavirus
- NM Department of Health: https://cv.nmhealth.org
- Colorado Department of Health: https://covid19.colorado.gov
- Service Project Idea for your Scouts: Making Face Shields - Click HERE

Campership Deadline - April 1

The Yah-Tah-Hey-Si-Kess Lodge of the Order of the Arrow has campership funds available to help Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, and Venturers attend Great Southwest Council summer events, including Cub Scout Day Camp, Brownsea, NYLT, and Scouts BSA Summer Camp at Gorham Scout Ranch.

The application deadline is April 1. You are able to submit the application with an email approval note from your Scout Leader in lieu of an actual signature.

Click HERE for application forms and instructions. Send completed applications to the
In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been asked to limit our person-to-person contact. We realize this does not come without challenges for our Scouting community.

We want to continue to offer this amazing program for our community's youth. Keeping our Scouts and their families active in their Scouting activities will not only keep them on track for advancement but offer great opportunities for the Scouts to learn outside the traditional "Scout meeting." Their families, their Akelas, can learn and grow along with them during this time. Scouting can take place anywhere - even in the comfort of your home!

Our Scouting community doesn't begin or end here on a local level. We have great resources in other districts, councils, national and even the world when it comes to sharing ideas for Scouting at home. Our goal is to make it easier to deliver the Scouting program by sharing ideas and plans with our leaders and families. We would like to remind our leaders to stay in touch with their Scout's families during this time. We encourage all leaders, if possible, to hold virtual meetings and activities.

Parents, please remember to reach out to your leaders about online resources or ideas for activities your family can work on at home. It is important to always adhere to the current youth protection guidelines already in place for digital communications.

Here are some ideas and great resources to continue Scouting at home:

- If your unit uses Scoutbook, utilize the communications features in Scoutbook to keep in touch with families and for youth and adults to track accomplishments.

- Follow the Great Southwest Council Facebook page for new ideas on Scouting at Home.

- For a limited time, get an entire year's worth of Boys' Life issues for free! Find projects you can create at home and stories that will take young readers' minds on adventures all over the world. Download the app for access from the App Store or on Google Play.

- Follow BSA blogs and social channels, as well as #ScoutingAtHome.

- Don't forget the Outing part of Scouting. Here's a List of Museums, Zoos, and Theme Parks offering Virtual Tours

- Merit badges for social distancing: 58 badges Scouts can complete at home
  - [https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/03/20/merit-badges-for-social-distancing/](https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/03/20/merit-badges-for-social-distancing/)

- Fun projects for kids that you can do from home
  - [https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/03/19/fun-projects-for-kids-that-you-can-do-from-home/](https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/03/19/fun-projects-for-kids-that-you-can-do-from-home/)

- The Alamo Area Council has shared a wide variety of Facebook live videos and online Merit Badge clinics
  - [https://www.alamoareabsa.org/resources/scouting-at-home/](https://www.alamoareabsa.org/resources/scouting-at-home/)
Eagle Boards of Review and Advancement Updates

BY: Rick Mondick, GSWC Advancement Committee Chair

Yes, it is very hard to have an Eagle Board of Review when public health authorities tell us to stay home. We all know that an Eagle Scout candidate has 90 days after their 18th birthday to have their Eagle Board of Review. But what if your 90 day period ends, while we are still under quarantine?

Under normal circumstances a "request for a time extension" is sent to the BSA National Office, and only the National Office can make a decision to grant additional time. The request for a time extension form can be found on the BSA website, form # 11.2.0.0.

In a directive from the BSA National Office dated March 25, 2020, an Eagle Scout candidate can request a time extension, using the proper form #11.2.0.0, from the Council’s Advancement Chairman. The Great Southwest Council's Advancement Chair can approve these extensions until the last day of September 2020. After that date, requests for time extensions are submitted back to the National Office.

The time extensions approved by the Council's Advancement chair only apply if the Eagle candidate's progress to the Rank of Eagle is hampered due to the COVID-19 virus. These "time extensions" are to be sent to Rick Mondick, the Council's Advancement Chair, in care of the Council office. Should you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact Rick at distarrick@yahoo.com or by telephone (505) 239-1590. Remember, Rick can only approve these time extensions until the last day of September 2020.

More Notes about Advancement Updates...

The BSA has a message to young people concerned that the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak will prevent them from completing Eagle Scout rank requirements before their 18th birthday: Don't worry; we've got your back.

Click HERE for details and more information.
You can make a contribution now or anytime by clicking the "Donate Now" button below.

Thank you for your support throughout the year. Your generous gift makes a difference in the lives of Scouts in the Great Southwest Council.

All Friends of Scouting donations made to the Great Southwest Council are used to provide funding for support of local Scouting in New Mexico, southwest Colorado, and the Four Corners region exclusively.

Join the Gondola Patrol in 2020

Join the Great Southwest Council's recurring gift club, the Gondola Patrol, by contributing $15 per month via your credit or debit card.

Recurring gifts are convenient to donors and provide financial stability to the Council. If you would like to join the Gondola Patrol, please contact Caryl at caryl.sharpe@scouting.org.

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Cub Scout Day Camp "Down on the Farm" in 2020

Cub Scout Day Camp is an outdoor experience where Cub Scouts participate in individual and team sports, games, crafts, explore nature and work on required adventures and electives. They get to shoot BB guns and bows & arrows. Having fun in the outdoors - that's Cub Scout Day Camp.

There will be four sessions this summer:

- Los Alamos- June 3-5
- East Mountains- June 4-6
- Four Corners Area- June 11-13
- West Albuquerque- June 17-19

There will also be one-day Adventure Day Camps in Zuni Mountain and Los Lunas. Day Camps are organized and led by teams of volunteers. This summer's theme is "Down on the Farm".
The early bird registration deadline is April 21 via Tentaroo (instructions in Day Camp guide online). Fees will not be due for Early Bird discount until May 11. Campership applications are due to the Scout Office April 1.

Click HERE for more information about each Cub Scout Day Camp in our Council

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Merit Badge Adventure Camp is Back!
@ Gorham Scout Ranch

Merit Badge Adventure Camp is a weekend program at Gorham Scout Ranch. Scouts arrive on Friday evening (or before 8:00am on Saturday), take a merit badge class or adventure activity all day Saturday, and go home on Sunday morning (or Saturday night).

Meals are provided in the Lodge prepared by the camp's kitchen crew. Troops sleep in canvas tents at our campsites. These amenities are time savers for Troops looking to maximize merit badge coursework or activity time. Scouts are welcome to attend with their Troop, or individually. Individual Scouts will camp in a site with another Troop, or as a provisional group with at least two adults in attendance.

Schedule (merit badges are taught on Saturday - one merit badge per Scout):
- May 1-3: Climbing, First Aid, Search & Rescue, Space Exploration, Wilderness Survival & ATV
- August 7-9: Emergency Preparedness, Exploration, First Aid, Lifesaving, Swimming & ATV
- August 14-16: Archery, Environmental Science, First Aid, Rifle, Shotgun & ATV
- August 21-23: Animation, Climbing, First Aid, Lifesaving, Swimming & ATV
- September 11-13: Archery, Environmental Science, First Aid, Rifle, Shotgun & ATV

REGISTER TODAY!!
Click HERE for more information and to register.
Great Southwest Council Offers American Red Cross Courses in 2020

Once again, two essential American Red Cross courses are being offered exclusively to Scouting leaders in 2020. These courses are taught by Scouting volunteers, which allow them to be available to you for a discounted class fee.

Wilderness First Aid is a two-day course that will be taught on: May 1-2. Cost for this course is $75. CPR/AED/First Aid certification is a required pre-requisite in order to take this course. Only BSA members can take this course.

CPR/AED/First Aid is a five-hour course that will be taught on: April 25 & May 16. Cost for this course is $40. Only BSA members can take this course.

Both courses are taught at the Scout office. You can register for them online at www.gswcbsa.org. Click on the Calendar tab, and then select the course date you want.

BROWNSEA - June 7-13 @ Gorham Scout Ranch

Attention Scouts ages 11 to 17 - are you looking for an adventure this summer? Are you looking to have a great week learning Scout skills, following in the footsteps of Lord Baden-Powell and the original 22 Scouts who attended camp at Brownsea Island in 1907?

Then the Great Southwest Council has the camp for you! This week-long course packs in leadership training, pioneering projects, navigation skills, challenging outdoor skills and a great experience of the Patrol method.

So if racing fellow Scouts in knot relays, competing for a coup feather, and making new friends from around the Council sounds like fun to you, then join us at Brownsea. For more information about Brownsea, Click HERE.

Registration is available at Tentaroo: www.tentaroo.com/greatsw. After you create a login, select "Brownsea 22" under the events tab.
NYLT - June 7-13 @ Gorham Scout Ranch

National Youth Leadership Training is a six-day outdoor experience for youth leaders. It supports the Scout leader responsibility to train youth leaders. Participants sleep in tents, bond as patrols, learn life skills, and live by the Scout Oath and Law. Training youth leaders is a critical component for helping individual Scouts and Scout Units to grow.

The Boy Scouts of America developed the National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) course, a valuable learning experience for educating youth leaders. The Great Southwest Council offers NYLT annually. For more information about NYLT, click HERE.

Registration is available at Tentaroo: www.tentaroo.com/greatsw. After you create a login, select "NYLT" under the events tab.

Now is the Time to Make a Reservation for

2020 Summer Camp @ Gorham Scout Ranch: Early Bird Rate Saves troop $$$

Now is the time for your troop to sign up for a week of summer camp at Gorham Scout Ranch, the Great Southwest Council’s premier outdoor adventure facility.

Make your reservation today... there are only four weeks of summer camp in 2020. Your favorite week will fill up this year.

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2020 RESERVATIONS

The 2020 season promises to be another exciting summer at Gorham Scout Ranch. COPE and ATV Adventure are excellent programs for older Scouts.

The NEW Frank Rand High Adventure program includes off-site hiking, mountain biking, whitewater rafting, and ascending the highest peak in New Mexico... Mount Wheeler.

There will be adult leader training opportunities as well. CPR/First Aid, Wilderness First Aid, and Scout Leader training courses.
Wilderness First Aid, and Scout Leader training courses will be offered weekly.

Now is the time to make a reservation to make sure your troop gets to attend the week of their choice.

The ZIA Provisional Camper Program offers those Scouts who cannot attend summer camp with their troop or those Scouts who simply want to go to camp for a second week the opportunity to go to Gorham Scout Ranch without their troop. ZIA Scouts who register for camp will join another troop who's attending camp that week and participate in any of the merit badges and activities that we offer. Parents are encouraged to attend camp with their Scout. There is no additional cost for registering for camp as a ZIA Provisional Camper. Click [HERE](#) for more information, including how to register.

Be sure to take advantage of the "Early Bird" Discount (information in Leaders Guide and on reservation form). In order to be eligible for "Early Bird" rates,

Troops must pay remainder of registration fees by April 30.

Making a reservation is easy. Visit our website, [www.gorhamscoutranch.org](http://www.gorhamscoutranch.org), and follow the instructions on the front page. You can also submit the form [HERE](#) with a $250 deposit to the Council office.

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Join the Gorham Scout Ranch Staff Today

Looking for a way to earn money next summer while having fun? Is one week of summer camp not enough? Let Gorham Scout Ranch be your home for the summer of 2020! A camp staff position at Gorham Scout Ranch is an experience that you will always remember.

Camp staff are expected to live by the Scout Oath and Law. All camp staff wear a uniform. Camp staff live in a canvas tent on a wooden platform that is equipped with electricity.

Below is an overview of the camp staff positions (and age requirements) available for summer of 2020.

Click [HERE](#) for the staff application.

**Minimum Age 21 and Older:**
- Aquatics Director (National Camp School required),
- Shooting Sports Director (National Camp School required),
- Climbing Director (National Camp School required),
- High Adventure Director,
- ATV Director,
- Trading Post Manager,
- and Head Cook. These positions are all managers and are expected to serve as the leaders of the camp staff.
are expected to serve as the leaders of the camp staff.

**Minimum Age 18 and Older:**
Archery Director, Nature Director, Assistant Cook, Dining Hall Steward, and Camp Clerk. These positions are junior managers and are expected to serve as role models for the younger staff and Scout campers.

**Minimum Age 15 and Older:**
Merit Badge and Skills Instructor, Lifeguard (age 16+), Trading Post Staff, and Kitchen Staff (dishwasher). Youth staff members are expected to set an example to campers by living the Scout Oath and Law.

**Staff-In-Training:**
Staff In Training is an unpaid work experience designed for Scouts 14 years old who are interested in learning more about how to become a camp staff member. Staff-In-Training youth will be given the opportunity to experience different program areas, providing merit badge instruction, and other camp staff duties. These young people will wear the staff uniform, sleep in the staff area, and be expected to live by the Scout Oath and Law. Staff-In-Training program is a two-week experience.

**Adult Volunteers**
The camp is continually looking for adult volunteers who are willing to put their time and effort into making Gorham a truly spectacular summer program. Volunteers who have specialized skills or knowledge and are willing to pass them on to a new generation of Scouts, instruct training programs for our adults or assist the camp ranger with improvement projects are always welcome.

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**Gorham Cub Camps**

**Cub Scout Family Camp:**
Two weekends, Memorial Day (May 23-25) and Labor Day (Sept 5-7) at Gorham Scout Ranch. Cub Scout Family Camp is a weekend full of activities, fun and adventure. This camp is open to families of Cub Scouts who have just completed the kindergarten, first, second, third, or fourth grades. Each individual family makes its own reservation and payment.

Meals, including food and preparation, are provided by your family or the Pack OR you can purchase meals prepared by the camp kitchen and served in the Lodge. There is no cost for children who are ages four and under.

**Webelos Week in the Woods:**
July 13-17 at Gorham Scout Ranch. Webelos Week in the Woods is a top-notch experience available for dens of Webelos Scouts. It is a five-day/four-night adventure for Scouts who have just completed the third or fourth grades. Webelos Scouts will work on a variety of adventures.
Congratulations Randy!

We are pleased to announce the selection of Randy Saunders as Scout Executive of the Southern Sierra Council in Bakersfield, California, effective April 16, 2020.

Randy began his Scouting career in 1994 as a District Executive at the Gulf Ridge Council in Tampa, Florida. He served as a Senior District Executive, Field Director, Program Director, and Camping Director at the council before moving on to serve as a Program Director and later Director of Field Service of the Great Southwest Council. Randy has also served as the Executive Director for the Philmont Staff Association.

Randy is an Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow, who enjoys backpacking, golf, and traveling.

Randy and his wife, Nicole, have one son, Isiah, who is a student at the University of New Mexico.

Will your Pack, Troop or Crew Become a Partnership Unit in 2020?

The Partnership for Scouting was established in 2017 to strengthen the ability for the Council and Units to provide the best Scouting experience possible for participating families. By working together and pressing toward this common goal of better Scouting, the Council and its Units can make best use of limited resources. One of the key factors of this Scouting Partnership is improved communication between the Council and its Units.

The benefits for becoming a Partnership unit are listed below. As you can see, the savings a Unit can receive are significant.

**Partnership Benefits** | **Savings per Person**
--- | ---
Free Cloth & Card Rank Recognition | $3.00
10% Resident Camp Rebate | $34.00
10% Day Camp Rebate | $8.00
Free Eagle/Summit Award Kit | $25.00
10% NYLT/Brownsea Rebate | $32.00
Insurance Rebate | $25.00
Insurance Rebate $25.00
10% Wood Badge Training Rebate $30.00
Pinewood Derby Cars $4.50 each
Free JTE Patches for participants and adults $2.00 each

Total Potential Savings Per Scout $163.50

Plus -
10% off camping gear purchased at the Scout Shop
5% Bonus Commission on Popcorn Take Order sale.

Will your Pack, Troop or Crew qualify as a Partnership Unit in 2020, and reap the benefits in 2021? To qualify your unit must raise a goal equal to $175 x number of Scouts (registered on January 1, 2020), attend Cub Scout day camp or summer camp at Gorham Scout Ranch within the past three years, and earn JTE bronze, silver or gold at recharter.

Congratulations to the Packs, Troops and Crews that earned Partnership for Scouting status in 2019. These units are eligible for the benefits above throughout the 2020 year.

Packs 12, 17, 22, 23, 68, 85, 88, 114, 116, 166, 174, 179, 185, 442, 495, 508, 702, 714, 990 & 1974


Crews 20, 325 & 612

For more information concerning Partnership for Scouting, please contact Dale Balmer at dbalmer8@comcast.net. Thank you for continuing to support the Great Southwest Council.

Eagle Scout Application Verification Reminder
Once the Scout has completed all requirements and the Unit Approval for the Eagle rank, the following items must be submitted to the Council office for verification: Eagle Scout rank application, completed project workbook and signed letter of ambition/life purpose. Please allow three days for staff to review Eagle items for accuracy and completion. Once staff has reviewed the Eagle items, whoever turned in the Eagle items will be notified. At that time, the Eagle Board of Review can be scheduled with the District Advancement Chair.

National Eagle Scout Association Expansion Program
Click HERE for more information.
In response to the lack of interest and registration/deposits received, the Great Southwest Council has cancelled its contingent for the 2021 National Scout Jamboree.

For individual Scouts looking for an opportunity to attend the 2021 National Jamboree, visit [https://jamboree.scouting.org](https://jamboree.scouting.org) for more information.
AUGUST 8TH

We are excited to announce that the Seventeenth Annual Governors Charity Ball will be bigger and greater than ever, as Rotary Del Sol and Rotary Club of Albuquerque are teaming up with other New Mexico Rotary Clubs to present this mega-event. We are expecting over 1000 attendees!

Our 50's and 60's "Let's Rock Around the Clock" theme with live music, dancing and entertainment will also include a very large silent auction, lively live auction, and large trip auction. Check it out at http://www.nmgovernorscharityball.org/

Date
Saturday, April 18, 2020

Time
5:00 to 11:30

Place
Sandia Resort & Casino

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham has committed to continue the tradition of governors attending and supporting our event and asks for your sponsorship support.

This year's primary charity beneficiaries are Boy Scouts of America, Great Southwest Council, welcome center renovation project; The Children's Grief Center of New Mexico, with the Rotary Del Sol Foundation for NM Children and the Albuquerque Rotary Charitable Foundation sharing in the proceeds:

The BSAs mission is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Gorham Scout Ranch is the place where outdoor growth experiences happen, and renovations are much needed. www.gswnm.org

The Children's Grief Center of New Mexico provides special support services for children, teens, young adults (ages 5-25) and their caregivers after the death of a loved one. Families are never charged for services. The organization is the only service of this kind in Central New Mexico. www.childrensgrief.org

We are asking you to become a Governors Charity Ball sponsor. The levels of sponsorship and the benefits they include are attached. Besides helping our charities, this is an excellent opportunity for you to promote your business to thousands of New Mexicans through our promotional campaign.

I will follow up in a few days to answer any questions you might have. We look forward to seeing you at the Ball, and thank you in advance for your generous, continued support of New Mexico's children in need.

Tony Pino, Co-Chair
Tgpino@comcast.net
505-263-0440

Mark Tobiassen, Co-Chair
Marktobiassen@actioncoach.com
505-263-5657

Bobby Wallace, Sponsorship
Bobbywallace62@gmail.com
505-916-4177

Kent Cravens, Sponsorship
Kent@kentcravens.com
505-459-5368

Tom Antram, Sponsorship
TomA@frenchfunerals.com
505-515-3636

Carrie Haas-Vukosovich, Sponsorship
Carrie.Haas21@gmail.com
917-450-5257
PRINTING CHARTER CERTIFICATES & MEMBERSHIP CARDS

The BSA is committed to streamlining basic operations by putting tools in the hands of volunteers. For several years now, individuals and unit key 3 have had access to print membership cards through my.Scouting. In addition, functionality has been added to my.Scouting to enable members of the unit key 3 to print their unit Charter Certificate. This "self-service" functionality allows volunteers to print membership cards and the unit charter certificate in a timely manner and enhances the onboarding experience for new youth and adults.

Click HERE for directions to print unit charter certificate.

Click HERE for directions to print units membership cards.
AmazonSmile: Shop Amazon and Support Scouting

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Every item available for purchase on www.amazon.com is also available on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) at the same price. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.

The Great Southwest Council is a charitable organization that is available for you to support by making purchases on AmazonSmile. For more information about the AmazonSmile program, go to http://smile.amazon.com/about.

Please Support our Merit Badge Sponsors

The following businesses and groups are Scouting supporters that will also provide opportunities for Scouts to earn merit badges related to their occupational field or interest(s).

Railroading Merit Badge
Electricity Merit Badge

Law Merit Badge

Digital Technology Merit Badge

Entrepreneurship Merit Badge

Horsemanship Merit Badge

First Aid Merit Badge
Automotive Maintenance Merit Badge

Plumbing Merit Badge

Dentistry Merit Badge
Riverpoint Family, Cosmetic & Implant Dentistry

Please Support Businesses in our Community that Support Scouting!

Thank you for your service to the youth of our community!

505-345-8603
www.gswcbsa.org
5841 Office Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

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