

SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNCIL

SCOUTING SPOTLIGHT

CONNECTING • CELEBRATING • INSPIRING

Your monthly look at the people, programs and the adventures that make Scouting strong across San Diego-Imperial Council.



SERVICE IN ACTION

12,000 MEAL KITS. ONE DAY OF SERVICE.

Troop 709 partners with United Methodist Church of Vista to help fight hunger.

[READ THE STORY ON PAGE 4](#)

SCOUTING BY THE NUMBERS

OUR IMPACT ACROSS SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNCIL

5,500
**YOUTH IN
SCOUTING**

Supported by 3,500 adult volunteers.

56,000
**SERVICE
HOURS**

Making an impact across our communities.

8,900
**RANK
ADVANCEMENTS**

Milestones achieved along the trail to Eagle.

256
**EAGLE
SCOUTS**

35,000 hours of Eagle project service.

AROUND THE COUNCIL



YOUTH AVIATION DAY

Troop 747 explored aviation at Palomar Airport.

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SCOUTS NIGHT

Scouts take over Petco Park for Scouts Night.

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SDIC GEAR DAY

Scout Gear Day brings more than 40 units together.

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RAILWAY CAMPOUT

Troop 1648 takes Scouting to the rails.

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SCOUTING SPOTLIGHT



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SAFETY MOMENT

SAFETY IS A VALUE THAT
MUST BE TAUGHT AND
REINFORCED AT EVERY
OPPORTUNITY.

SAFETY MOMENTS >



SCOUTS FIRST HELPLINE
1-844-SCOUTS1



START THE SCOUTING YEAR PREPARED

A new school year is a good time for a health-form check, too.

Before fall campouts and activities get underway, families and leaders should make sure their Annual Health and Medical Record (AHMR) is complete, current, and signed.

QUICK CHECK

- ✓ Is your AHMR current?
- ✓ Are all required sections completed and signed?
- ✓ Has any health or medication information changed?
- ✓ Does your unit have the current paper copy?

[Annual Health and Medical Forms](#)



YOUR STORY COULD BE NEXT

Scouting Spotlight is about the people, service and adventures happening throughout the San Diego-Imperial Council.

Send us your unit highlights, photos, service projects, Eagle Scout projects, and memorable Scouting moments for consideration in an upcoming issue.

sdiccommunications@scouting.org

Scouting America
SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNCIL

UPCOMING COUNCIL EVENTS

Discover opportunities
to enhance your
Scouting Adventures.

VIEW EVENTS >

A MESSAGE FROM THE KEY 3

Volunteers and Friends of San Diego – Imperial Council:

Your Council Leadership is pleased to share with you our newest Scouting Spotlight. This Newsletter highlights events and activities of the past month. Our Brag Sheet!! We are showing off what Scouting is doing to follow our Scout Oath and Scout Law.

TWO ARTICLES NOT TO MISS

Our 2026 Champions of Scouting honored a Medal of Honor recipient, the highest award of the US Military. Did you know Capt. Royce Williams USN (Ret.) is an Eagle Scout?

Scouts were well represented at the annual Scout Day Padres Baseball game. Check out the special jersey handed out to participants.

PLAN AHEAD

If you want to know more about any of the activities displayed in this Newsletter or your Unit's activities are worthy of sharing Council-wide, see the "Your Story Could be Next" box above – on page 2.

Scout Leaders and Unit Volunteers, as you look ahead to the coming months, there is a [18 month Calendar](#) of [activities and events](#) available.

MOVO

Since we have your attention, allow us to ask – do you know what MOVO is? SDIC has been selected by the National Scout Office to participate in a new, AI based, recruitment tool. In the past several weeks we have experimented with MOVO and seen tremendous success in helping families match Units with their girls and boys interested in joining Scouting. It's worth your time to learn more – contact Kimberly Bozarth at Kimberly.Bozarth@scouting.org

Thank you for taking a few minutes to read through our Spotlight.

Joe Minner, Council President

Mike Byerline, Council Commissioner

Sean Roy, Scout Executive

CHAMPIONS OF SCOUTING

A SALUTE TO SERVICE, COURAGE AND SCOUTING HONORING CAPTAIN ROYCE WILLIAMS ABOARD THE USS MIDWAY

More than 350 guests gathered aboard the USS Midway Museum on September 19 for the **San Diego-Imperial Council's Champions of Scouting Dinner**, an evening honoring our military community and celebrating the impact Scouting continues to have on young people throughout our region. This year's event raised approximately \$325,000 to support council programs and opportunities for local Scouts.

At the center of the evening was **Captain Royce Williams, USN (Ret.), Medal of Honor recipient, naval aviator and Eagle Scout**. Williams earned the rank of Eagle Scout as a young man before enlisting in the Navy in 1943. His remarkable military career would ultimately span three wars, more than 220 combat missions and nearly four decades of service.



One extraordinary chapter of that career remained classified for 50 years. On November 18, 1952, while flying an F9F Panther during the Korean War, then-Lieutenant Williams found himself alone against seven Soviet MiG-15s. During a 35-minute engagement, Williams shot down four MiGs before returning his heavily damaged aircraft to the carrier. Because of the classified nature of the encounter, he was ordered not to speak about it, an order he honored for half a century. In February 2026, at age 100, Captain Williams received the Medal of Honor. His extraordinary story is a testament to a lifetime of courage, perseverance and service.



His story made the setting aboard the USS Midway especially meaningful. Scouts participated in the evening's ceremonies, including serving in the honor guard, while guests gathered to recognize military service and invest in the next generation.

Captain Williams' journey from Eagle Scout to Medal of Honor recipient reflects the perseverance, service and leadership Scouting seeks to develop in young people. The approximately **\$325,000 raised** will help provide those same opportunities to Scouts throughout the San Diego-Imperial Council. Thank you to everyone who made the evening, and the Scouting experiences it supports, possible.

EAGLE SCOUT SPOTLIGHT

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST EAGLE SCOUTS

We proudly recognize the following Scouts who completed their Eagle Scout Boards of Review in September. Their achievement represents years of dedication, leadership, service, and commitment to the values of Scouting. As Scouting Spotlight begins publication this fall, all Scouts who earned the rank of Eagle Scout during 2026 will be recognized in a special year-end edition.



Coastal Sage	Benjamin S.	Troop 11
Coastal Sage	Logan B.	Troop 11
Coastal Sage	John S.	Troop 170
Coastal Sage	Xavier F.	Troop 170
Foothills	Audrey T.	Troop 355
Foothills	Chris S.	Troop 362
Foothills	Laura H.	Troop 308
Foothills	Sophie Y.	Troop 324
Palomar	Joe O.	Troop 669

Rancho Mesa	Job S.	Troop 685
Rancho Mesa	Lucas M.	Troop 1648
Rancho Mesa	Nathan C.	Troop 1648
Rancho Mesa	Samuel J.	Troop 1203
Rancho San Luis Rey	Johnathan B.	Troop 750
Rancho San Luis Rey	Kane C.	Troop 766
Rancho San Luis Rey	Luke D.	Troop 2000
Rancho San Luis Rey	Marcus M.	Troop 713

A SCOUT'S CURIOSITY CAN LEAD TO SOMETHING THAT LASTS FOR GENERATIONS



Years after a Fire Safety Merit Badge experience first sparked his interest in September 11, 2001, **Ryan T.** of **Troop 1648** turned that curiosity into his Eagle Scout service project.

Ryan designed and built the “One Event, One World” 9/11 Peace Memorial at Webb Park in Rancho Bernardo, creating a permanent place for the community to remember the nearly 3,000 lives lost on September 11. The memorial features an olive tree symbolizing peace, a reflection area, and a miniature Twin Towers memorial with plaques. With help from fellow Scouts, Ryan prepared the site, laid rebar, mixed concrete and planted the tree, transforming an experience that began through Scouting into a meaningful memorial for generations to come.



SERVICE IN ACTION

12,000 MEALS. ONE DAY OF SERVICE.

Scouts from **Troop 709** in Vista joined members of their chartered organization, United Methodist Church of Vista, on August 23 for a community service project benefiting **Rise Against Hunger**.

Working shoulder-to-shoulder with church members, Scouts helped assemble 12,000 meal kits during the event. Each meal kit can provide six servings, turning one day of teamwork into an extraordinary impact.

The project gave Scouts an opportunity to put service into action while working alongside members of the organization that supports their troop.



DISCOVERING THE WORLD OF FLIGHT

Troop 747 Scouts recently attended **Palomar Youth Aviation Day**, where they had the opportunity to explore the world of aviation through hands-on experiences and an up-close look at aircraft. Scouts learned more about flying, aviation careers and the science and technology behind flight while connecting with members of the local aviation community.

Experiences like Youth Aviation Day give Scouts a chance to discover interests they may not encounter in everyday life, whether that curiosity leads to a future career, a new hobby or simply a greater understanding of aviation.

SCOUTING TOGETHER

SCOUTS TAKE THE FIELD

SCOUTS NIGHT BRINGS SCOUTING SPIRIT TO PETCO PARK

Scout Night at the **Padres** became an especially memorable experience for **Chris O.**, a Wolf Scout from **Pack 594** in Rancho Mesa District. During the August 9 game, Chris had the opportunity to deliver the game ball as part of the Padres' official pregame ceremonies, representing Scouting on the field at Petco Park.

Scouts and families from across the council also came together for a day at the ballpark. Some of our youngest Scouts showed off their Scouting spirit in custom Padres jerseys, making Scout Day a fun opportunity to connect, cheer on the Padres and create lasting memories together. Events like these give Scouts opportunities to share experiences beyond their unit activities.



SCOUT GEAR DAY BRINGS FAMILIES TOGETHER AT ATHERTON HALL

Scout Gear Day at **Atherton Hall** brought together more than 100 Scouts and parents representing over 40 packs and troops. Families browsed donated uniforms and Scouting gear, giving previously used items a second life while helping Scouts find the gear they need for their next adventure.

Volunteers **Nanette K.** from **Pack 2001** in Sweetwater District and **Jeff C.** helped keep the event running smoothly throughout the day. A s'mores station added some fun for younger Scouts while families explored information about council programs and upcoming opportunities.

This marked the fourth Scout Gear Day since February 2025, and participation continues to grow. The event is a great example of Scouting families supporting one another while making uniforms and gear more accessible across the council.

ADVENTURES IN SCOUTING



ALL ABOARD FOR A SCOUTING ADVENTURE

Troop 1648 traded its usual campsite for one alongside the tracks during a campout at the **Pacific Southwest Railway Museum** in Campo earlier this year. Scouts had the opportunity to explore the museum, see historic railroad equipment up close and take a ride aboard an old-fashioned train, experiencing a piece of San Diego County's railroad history firsthand.

The museum has a long connection with Scouting and offers programs that introduce Scouts to railroad safety, the history of the San Diego and Arizona Railway, diesel locomotive operations, railroad signals and other aspects of working on the railroad. For Troop 1648, the campout offered something a little different from a traditional weekend outdoors, combining camping, history and a memorable train ride into one unique Scouting adventure.



EXPLORING CLOSE TO HOME PACK 650 TAKES ON MT. CALAVERA

Cub Scouts from **Pack 650** in San Marcos recently laced up their hiking shoes for an adventure at **Lake Calavera** in Carlsbad. The hike gave Scouts a chance to explore one of North County's unique natural areas while spending time together on the trail.

Lake Calavera is especially interesting because the area was once home to volcanic activity. Today, its trails wind through coastal sage scrub and around the lake, creating habitat for a variety of plants and wildlife. The water also attracts egrets, herons, ducks and other waterfowl.

For Pack 650, the hike was a reminder that a great Scouting adventure doesn't have to be far from home. Sometimes all it takes is a local trail, something new to discover and a group of Scouts ready to explore.