The Boy Scouts of America provides the nation’s foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training, which helps young people be “Prepared. For Life.” The Scouting organization is composed of nearly 2.3 million youth members between the ages of 7 and 21 and approximately 960,000 volunteers in local councils throughout the United States and its territories.

The Golden Empire Council has provided an opportunity for youth to hone their leadership skills, build community spirit, and strengthen their self-esteem through service to others for over 97 years. We currently serve more than 16,000 youth in 16 Northern California counties.

MISSION

THE MISSION OF THE GOLDEN EMPIRE COUNCIL of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes, to take leadership roles as adults, and to reach their full potential. Those values are based on character, citizenship, personal fitness, and are found in the Scout Oath and Law. We accomplish our mission in partnership with chartered organizations and chosen, well-trained leaders, as we:

- offer young people responsible fun and adventure.
- instill in young people life values and help them develop ethical character as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law.
- train young people in citizenship, service, and leadership.
- serve America’s communities and families with quality values.
VISION

Our vision is to be recognized within the communities we serve as the premiere youth organization, carrying out the mission of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). We will make first-class programs available to all youth within the Central Valley communities of Northern California. Program results will have dramatic, positive effects on the youth, leaders, and families we serve, building strong communities with caring citizens.

OATH

ON MY HONOR, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

LAW

A SCOUT IS Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty Brave, Clean, and Reverent

Prepared. For Life.

Scouting builds leaders. It teaches them to seek out challenges, and led others in overcoming them. Many Scouts achieve more by the age of 18 than some people do in a lifetime.

Former Scouts sit on the boards of global corporations, walk the halls of the White House and have been known to occasionally go hiking on the moon. The lessons youth learn in Scouting prepare them for their lifelong journey to improve themselves and their communities.

“The only thing wrong with Boy Scouts is that there’s not enough of them!”

~ WILL ROGERS
LION CUBS is a new Boy Scout program for 5- to 6-year-old boys (or in kindergarten) where they will make friends, laugh loud, gain confidence, discover nature, and most of all...have fun! Scouting concepts of character development, leadership, citizenship, and personal fitness will be encouraged through engaging and exciting adventures. Kindergarteners will have a blast exploring the world around him in ways that fuel imagination and creativity.

TIGER CUBS is a year-round family- and home-centered program that encourages the development of ethical decision-making skills for first grade (or 7-year-old) boys. These boys participate in the program with their adult partners. The program emphasizes shared leadership, learning about the community, and family understanding. Tiger Cubs is the gateway to Cub Scouting, which is the foundation of our organization.

CUB SCOUTS is a year-round family program that develops ethical decision-making skills for boys in the second through fifth grades (or who are 8, 9, and 10 years old). Cub Scouts are broken into a small group called a den, each of which has dedicated leaders and volunteers who are tasked with teaching Cub Scouts both fun and valuable lessons that will help them progress in the program and in life. Activities emphasize character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness.

WEBELOS SCOUTS is a year-round program that develops ethical decision-making skills for fourth- and fifth-grade (or 10-year-old) boys. While Webelos Scouts are still in Cub Scouting — and take part in Cub Scout pack meetings, events, and outings — the Webelos den also makes its own plans and enjoys many activities that younger Cub Scouts don’t get to do as they prepare for the transition to Boy Scouts.
PROGRAMS (continued)

BOY SCOUTS is a year-round program for boys 11 through 17 designed to achieve the aims of Scouting through a vigorous outdoor program and peer group leadership with the counsel of an adult Scoutmaster. Scouting is the ultimate form of learning by doing. Boy Scouts explore their interests and improve their skills while working toward Scouting’s highest rank: Eagle.

SEA SCOUTS is a year-round program for young men and women who are 14 through 21 years of age. Sea Scouting builds character through high adventure. The program — which uses the ship as the fundamental unit of Sea Scouting, consisting of five or more youth and their adult leaders — promotes better citizenship and seamanship through instruction and practice in water safety, boating skills, outdoor activities, social interactions, service experiences, and knowledge of our maritime heritage.

VENTURING is a year-round program for young men and women who are 14 through 21 years of age to provide positive experiences through exciting and meaningful youth-run activities that help them pursue their special interests, grow by teaching others, and develop leadership skills.

ORDER OF THE ARROW is Scouting’s National Honor Society and recognizes those who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Scout Law in their daily lives and promote camping and responsible outdoor adventure, leadership development, and cheerful service to others. Order of the Arrow includes more than 170,000 youth and adult members in nearly 300 local councils throughout the United States and its territories.

EXPLORING began as a senior program in early Boy Scout troops. These older boys carried out high-adventure activities and service projects, and provided leadership to young Scouts. Now, Exploring serves two different age groups, both coed. Explorer Cubs serve middle schoolers, aged 10-13. Explorer Posts serve older youth 14-20 years old. The program model is the same for both age groups: hands-on and interactive character and career activities facilitated by trained business leaders in the local community.

“Times and challenges change, yet the values of Scouting will never change.... Every society depends on trust and loyalty, on courtesy and kindness, on bravery and reverence. These are the values of Scouting, and these are the values of America.”

~ GEORGE W. BUSH
Every day, and in every community in America, Scouting is changing the lives of boys and young men, teaching them skills and leadership, helping them build character and integrity. Every day, in every community, Scouting makes those communities a better place to live. We have been doing this for 105 years, and I’m confident we will do so for another 105 as long as we stand together, united in our singular mission to serve American youth.

~ NATIONAL PRESIDENT DR. ROBERT M. GATES

The Scouting program is delivered through civic, faith-based, and educational organizations called CHARTERED ORGANIZATIONS, which operate Scouting units to deliver the programs to their youth members, as well as the community-at-large.

Responsibilities of chartered organizations include providing quality leadership and adequate meeting facilities and for the Scouting unit, as well as appointing a chartered organization representative to coordinate all Scouting unit operations within the organization.

More than 100,000 Scouting units are owned and operated by chartered organizations. Of these, approximately 70 percent are chartered to faith-based organizations, 22 percent of all units are chartered to civic organizations, and nearly 8 percent of all units are chartered to educational organizations.
EAGLE SCOUTS

More than 2,250,000 million Boy Scouts have earned the rank of Eagle Scouts since 1912.

One hundred years after Arthur Eldred of New York earned this nation’s first EAGLE SCOUT Award, independent research demonstrates the significant, positive impact Eagle Scouts have on society every day. Since it was first awarded in 1912, more than 2.25 million young men have achieved the Boy Scouts of America’s highest rank. A study conducted by Baylor University, Merit Beyond the Badges, found that Eagle Scouts are more likely than men who have never been in Scouting to:

- have higher levels of planning and preparation skills, be goal-oriented, and network with others.
- be in a leadership position at their place of employment or local community.
- report having closer relationships with family and friends.
- volunteer for religious and nonreligious organizations.
- donate money to charitable groups.
- work with others to improve their neighborhoods.

The National Eagle Scout Association researched the total volunteer hours of the Eagle service projects ever done and it came a total of more than 100 million hours of service. Each year, new Eagle Scouts add more than three million more hours.
EAGLE SCOUTS (continued)

PROGRESSION
To earn the Eagle Scout rank, the highest advancement rank in Scouting, a Boy Scout must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills.

MERIT BADGES
Merit badges signify the mastery of certain Scoutcraft skills. Of the 136 merit badges available, 21 must be earned to qualify for Eagle Scout. Of this group, 13 badges are required and include First Aid, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communication, Cooking, Personal Fitness, Personal Management, Camping, and Family Life.

SERVICE
While a Life Scout, a Scout plans, develops, and gives leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious institution, school, or the community. In addition to providing service and fulfilling the part of the Scout Oath, “to help other people at all times,” one of the primary purposes of the Eagle Scout service project is to demonstrate or hone, or to learn and develop, leadership skills.

NOTABLE EAGLE SCOUTS

Neil Armstrong  
Michael Bloomberg  
James Brady  
Stephen Brewer  
Gerald Ford  
Bill Gates, Sr.  
Dick Gephardt  
Jon Heder  
Jim Lovell  
David Lynch  
J.W. Marriott, Jr.  
Michael Moore  
Ross Perot

Mike Rowe  
Donald Rumsfeld  
Steven Spielberg  
Rex Tillerson  
Sam Walton

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LEADERSHIP

CHUCK BRASFEILD
Scout Executive | Executive Director

Chuck Brasfeild is the Scout Executive and Chief Executive Officer of the Golden Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He began his current post in May of 2014.

Prior to serving Scouting in Sacramento, Brasfeild served as the Scout Executive and Chief Executive Officer of the Flint River Council in Griffin, Georgia. While in Griffin, Brasfeild led the Boy Scouts of America nationally in Scout growth for two years, developed a multi-year capital campaign raising the first 3 million dollars of that campaign in 18 months.

A native Mississippian, Chuck and his family moved to Griffin from Orlando, Florida, where he worked on the Central Florida Council staff for 10 years, ultimately as Chief Operating Officer his final three years. While in Orlando, Chuck was named to the 40 under 40 Orlando Class of 2008, Most Influential Business Leaders in Orlando Under 40.

Chuck and his bride, Katie, live in Fair Oaks, California, and have 3 children, Scouts all. When he is not leading the way in Scouting, he enjoys coaching basketball, volunteering at his church, and participating in any activity involving the outdoors.

“Try to leave this world a little better than you found it and, when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time but have done your best.”

— Robert Baden-Powell, Founder of Scouting