



Volume 4, No. 6 | March 2023

GRAND CANYON CONNECTION



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WIPALA WIKI LODGE



**Interested in Scouting?
Get FREE CAMP enrollment
when you join now!**

[Guide to Safe Scouting Update 2023](#)

GUIDE TO SAFE SCOUTING UPDATE 2023

A Must Know for Cub Scout Leaders – Guide to Safe Scouting Update 2023. The Guide to Safe Scouting is an overview of Scouting policies and procedures gleaned from a variety of sources. Please refer to the online version for the most updated information.

[VIEW NOW](#)

DISTRICTS

CENTRAL

GILA RIVER

LOST DUTCHMAN

PINNACLE PEAK

PONDEROSA

SONORAN SUNSET





NEWS YOU NEED

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WOOD BADGE

Interested in attending Wood Badge?
The 2023 Course is now open.

REGISTER TODAY

MESSAGE FROM SCOUT EXECUTIVE



Scouting is committed to providing the safest possible activities for youth and adult leaders and BSA continually reviews incident reports from around the country to identify areas for improvement. Outdoor adventures provide a thrill to all Scouts, and it's where we play our game with a purpose. But safety is our license to operate, and all leaders must ensure we're following all current BSA guidelines and requirements to ensure the safest possible activities.

As part of BSA's ongoing commitment to abuse prevention, BSA is updating the adult supervision requirements for overnight activities. This update enhances the minimum "two deep leadership" requirements by additionally requiring every adult present on overnight activities to be a registered member of BSA. These adults must submit an adult application, undergo a criminal background check, a volunteer screening database check, and must complete Youth Protection Training.

A limited exception for parents and legal guardians of Cub Scout youth attending overnight with their children is planned due to the family centric nature of Cub Scouting. All Cub Scout Packs, Scouts BSA Troops, Venturing Crews, Sea Scouting Ships, Exploring Posts, council, and district overnight programs will be required to comply with this update by September 1, 2023. We encourage early adoption prior to the effective date.

Andy





2023 Report to the State

March 14, 2023 Arizona State Capitol

The Grand Canyon Council BSA, an independent non-profit organization chartered by the Boy Scouts of America in Arizona, has a long and rich history of providing young people with opportunities to develop leadership skills, explore the outdoors, learn new skills, and serve their communities.

A Report to the State is an opportunity to communicate to state officials the service and the benefits that Scouting provides to Arizona. Presented annually to the state legislature or the governor, the report is an ideal time to tell the Scouting story - to reintroduce to elected officials all that Scouting has to offer.

On March 14, 2023, Scouts from the Grand Canyon Council BSA visited the Arizona State Capitol to deliver the Report to the State. The contingent was made up of Jack McLellan, Wipala Wiki Lodge Chief; Joshua Balch, Crew 2616; Melanie Lin, Troop 3280; Christopher Boadu Troop 513; Soren Lindquist, Troop 818; Audra Lindquist, Pack 116; Sergio Joel Rivera-Orbegoso, Troop 172; Wiltz Bethancourt V, Troop 194; Morgan Willis, Troop 3030; and Samuel MacDonald, Troop 818. Each Scout reported specific examples of how scouting has helped them develop important life skills, such as communication, problem-solving, and leadership.

[READ MORE](#)

2023 Fireside Chats

Thank you for being a leader in Scouting and helping provide outdoor adventures that build leadership, self-confidence, and life skills in today's youth - Arizona's future. Every year we host "Fireside Chats" as opportunities for local leaders and parents to meet directly with council leadership and provide feedback on their Scouting experience.

Fireside Chats are an integral component of our feedback loop in Grand Canyon Council. This year's schedule includes:

**Tuesday, April 18 , 2023, Yuma
Airport 2nd Floor Conference Room,
2191 E. 32nd St., Yuma**
• Zoom Meeting ID: 841 8160 2744
• Passcode: 916439
• Telephone Only: 1-669-900-6833
6:30 PM Gathering/Light Refreshments I
7:00 PM Fireside Chat Begins

**Monday, April 24, 2023, Prescott
American Evangelical Lutheran,
1085 Scott Dr., Prescott**
• Zoom Meeting ID: 849 2787 5762
• Passcode: 918468
• Telephone Only: 1-669-900-6833
6:30 PM Ice Cream Social
7:00 PM Fireside Chat Begins

Monday, May 1, Virtual Only
• Zoom Meeting ID: 823 2188 7720
• Passcode: 756149
• Telephone Only: 1-669-900-6833
7:00 PM Fireside Chat Begins

FIRESIDE CHATS

HEADLINE NEWS



Spring Homecoming

May 6, 2023 Heard Scout Pueblo

Spring Homecoming will be held Saturday, May 6, 2023 at the Heard Scout Pueblo featuring Baden Powell University!

Baden Powell University is a supplemental training opportunity for all adult Scout leaders. The only time during the year where you can find, all in one place, a wide variety of training opportunities in multiple program areas. Whether you are new to the program or a veteran of many years, the

University provides interesting courses in Cubbing, Scouts, and General Studies courses applicable across all Scouting programs. **Class Selection/registration will open no later than April 1, 2023.**

Spring Homecoming will also include other key event elements such as Geronimo Downhill, Midway with Committees and the 2024 Calendar Unveiling. The cost is \$25 and lunch is provided. [Reserve Spot >](#)

Grand Canyon Council Roundtable

April 6, 2023 Zoom Meeting

Roundtable occurs monthly, on the first Thursday at 7:00 PM via ZOOM. Roundtable provides supplemental training specific to your role in Scouting and relevant to the time of year. To learn more visit, The [Council Roundtable](#) HUB Channel today! We can't wait to see you on Zoom Thursday, April 6th at 7:00 PM.

Who Should Attend? Den Leaders, Cubmasters & Pack Committee Chairs, Scoutmasters and Troop Committee Chair.

SPRING HOMECOMING

DONATE A BRICK

The Dave Alexander Leadership Plaza

Planned improvements to the Heard Scout Pueblo over the next several years will transform it into a premier facility – “Adventure Base Phoenix” – offering Scouting programs and activities for Scouts and the community-at-large. It will include the headquarters of Grand Canyon Scouting, a Scout Shop, training facilities, and activity centers. The Heard Scout Pueblo will become the center of Scouting in Phoenix.

To help construct the leadership plaza and fund our master planning process, we hope you will join Dave and his vision by purchasing a commemorative brick, paver, or boulder in honor of a friend, family, fellow Scout or Scouter, etc., to be added to the completed project. All funds generated will be used to install the leadership plaza and help fund the master plan for Heard Scout Pueblo.

Thank you for all you do for scouting!

If you have any questions, please contact the Scout Office at 602-955-7747, ext 221.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Mentoring Relationships – Fostering Acceptance

Everyone, no matter their race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or life experiences comes into every interaction wearing the lens of their own world view. Often, that world view has been shaped by their experiences and the stories that have been passed down from generation to generation – this is their social identity.

Social identity is grounded in cultural heritage, values, biases, abilities, and how collectively this affects thoughts and actions. Acceptance of others starts with knowing oneself to foster the confidence necessary to engage in conversations to learn about who others are, what their values are, what their cultural stories are, and how they perceive their social identities to empower mutual understanding.

Scouting is a place to promote an atmosphere where every youth, volunteer, and employee feels a sense of belonging, is respected, and is valued. Knowing people as individuals is critical to their feeling welcomed and feeling a sense of belonging in Scouting. And, feeling welcomed and a sense of belonging is a critical driver of unit satisfaction for youth, parents, and leaders.

Sometimes leaders say, "I don't see differences in the youth, they are all Scouts." While this is well-meaning, focusing on only a single aspect of a youth's identity while ignoring things like their culture, religion, ability, or any other differences between Scouts, is like saying to that young person "I don't see you for who you are" – which they may infer to mean "There is a part of you that I am uncomfortable acknowledging and/or don't care enough to learn about."

Scouting is about acknowledging and building the whole child and letting all youth know they are accepted and respected in Scouting for who they are -

that adult leaders see them, care about them, and want to know them as they guide them on their Scouting journey. When mentors/leaders are not attuned to cultural, religious, ability, or social differences with their Scouts and Scouting families, these relationships are likely to end as the youth and their family feel they do not fit in or are not accepted or welcome in the Scouting unit.

Mentors/leaders who foster a culture of acceptance continuously reflect on their own social identity and make efforts to learn about their mentee's and the mentee's family's social identity, experiences, and background, as well as things happening in the community and in the world that affect social identity.

Sometimes this can be uncomfortable. As you learn about a youth's social identity, issues of privilege or oppression based on race, gender, religion, or sexual orientation may surface. While these life experiences may have happened outside of the context of Scouting, the mentor/ leader who is actively building a culture of acceptance in their unit will better recognize when life experiences that induce trauma, such as bullying or social isolation, are affecting youth so that conversations of resilience, compassion, and/or action can be taken depending on the situation.

Below are some questions about social identity for Self-Reflection:

- What are my social identities (e.g., race/ethnicity, gender, religion, class, etc.)?
- What social identities are most important to me?
- How does my social identity shape my world view and experiences?
- Where in my life have I experienced privilege and/or oppression, and how has this shaped my identity?
- How do my social identities help or

hinder my relationships?

- What are my assumptions about how others might perceive my social identity?
- What are my assumptions about Scouts in my unit and their life experiences?
- What are my assumptions about what identities are most meaningful to them?
- How do I make space in working with Scouts to allow them to express their own identity?
- How do I learn about myself through listening and getting to know these Scouts and their families?

Fostering a culture of acceptance is a journey that involves continuous strides in learning. Sometimes mentors avoid conversations about social identity because they are afraid they will make a mistake that is offensive. But remember – A Scout is Brave. It is worse to not try at all or to be "identity blind" than it is to try and, in the process, make a mistake. Start with your own self-reflection, listen, and get to know the Scouts you are working with. And, when you do make a mistake, acknowledge it, and take accountability and discuss it with your mentee. Acknowledging mistakes in front of your mentee is good role modeling and shows your mentee that you care about them, are open to learning, and are committed to continuous improvement. It also builds trust and respect and shows them how to build resilience skills.

Additional Resources:

- [Social Identity Theory definition](#)
- [TED Talk-Dr. Nick Fuhrman – The One Thing All Great Teachers Do](#)
- [TED Talk-Dr. Juliana Mosely – Cultural Humility](#)
- [Ted Talk-Melody Hobson – Color Blind or Color Brave?](#)

2022 Council Honorees

Congratulations to our 2022 Council Honorees who received council awards and recognition for their outstanding contributions, dedicated years of service, and leadership to youth and Scouting in the Grand Canyon Council BSA. Their years of dedicated service and many hours of hard work have touched the lives of many Scouts, and for that, we are appreciative and want to recognize them for their dedication to the Scout program. **Throughout 2023, the Council Connection will feature each of our distinguished council award recipients** and their individual contributions to the Grand Canyon Council. On behalf of the Council Awards and Recognition Committee, we extend our personal congratulations and best wishes. **Nominations for the 2023 Council Honors will be open from April 1 to October 15, 2023. Visit the [Support Center](#) for details.**

Marc Braatz, Ponderosa District, Meritorious Service Star 2022



Marc Braatz, an Eagle Scout from the Ponderosa District, has been an active Scouter for over 25 years. He currently serves as an Order of the Arrow Associate and Chapter Advisor, developing, guiding and mentoring young men and women in leadership development and character. He has organized and guided several

District Camporees and OA Lodge Ordeals within the district. In addition, Marc has been instrumental in both the Cub and Scouts BSA programs over the years. He currently serves as a Scoutmaster for Troop 7134 and in previous years as an Assistant Scoutmaster for the troop in addition to Cubmaster, Tiger Cub Leader, Den Leader and Webelo Leader for Pack 7142.

Marc has mentored many Scouts over many years and enjoys serving on Eagle Boards of Review where he has supported several hundred Eagle candidates in obtaining their Eagle Scout rank. Marc has also received the District Award of Merit and exemplifies his dedication and commitment to the Scouting program every single day by living the Oath and Law. It is our honor to award Marc the Meritorious Service Star for his selfless service and great impact on the lives of youth and Scout families in Grand Canyon Council. Congratulations, Marc!

Religious Activities Committee

Catholic Religious Emblems

Congratulations from the Religious Activities Committee to the Cub Scouts who earned their Catholic Religious Emblem in late 2022 and early 2023.

God is Love, Pack 71, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel: Byron B., Noah C., Desmond S., and Genevieve W.

Light of Christ, Pack 71, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel: Drayton A., Jacob B., Cruz B., Brody H., Luke K., Elijah O., Brogan S. Tristan S., Quinn T., Benjamin W., and Kurt W. Pack 132, St. Mary's: Isaiah M., Dean B., and Simon B. Pack 340, St. Thomas the Apostle: William F., John M., Andres K., and William R.

Parvuli Dei, Pack 132, St. Mary's: Benjamin G., and Gabriel C. Pack 340, St. Thomas the Apostle: Harrison C., Xander F., Sebastian E., and Jude W.

Bishop Eduardo Nevares and Scout Chaplain Reverend Chris Axline presided at the Awards Ceremony for the Scouts BSA and Venturers members receiving the following emblems:

Ad Altare Dei (Scouts BSA/Venturers) Troop 565-St. Timothy Catholic Church: Diego A., Anthony G., Bryce K., and Nolan C. Troop 818-St. Bernadette Catholic Church: Colton C., Cooper C., Benjamin D., and Domenic K.

Pope Pius XII (Scouts BSA/Venturers) Troop 818-St. Bernadette: Connor C., Alton R., and Parker T.

Religious Activities Committee Meeting

Please join us for a gathering at the Heard Scout Pueblo on Saturday, April 15, 2023 starting at 9:00 AM to learn more about the committee and the events we currently host and hope to provide in the future. We organize and carry out the annual Duty to God Hike (formerly called the Ten Commandment Hike) and are developing additional committees for a Scout Sunday celebration in February 2024, Chaplain Aide training in September and much more! Scouters from varied faith traditions are welcome! Please email Kathy Polowski at kpolo55@gmail.com for more information and to RSVP.

Cub Scout Camping Guidelines Update



The Cub Scout Program Delivery Team and Enterprise Risk Management Committee have updated the GCC Cub Scout Camping Guidelines to help you better navigate the BSA's recent changes to the Cub Scout camping requirements.

Check it out on the Support Center to learn what it takes to lead a successful outing, find the information you need to keep your Scout safe, and recommend a new campground for our list of approved Cub Scout Camping Locations!

[Review Updates >](#)

Camp Cards for a Cause is Back!

Feb 1 - April 23, 2023



We are very excited to bring back Camp Cards for a Cause – benefiting educators in 2023! The Camp Card fundraiser is designed to assist Scouts in fundraising for their Scouting activities while reducing out-of-pocket costs for their families. Each camp card contains deals and discounts from local businesses, which the scouts sell for \$10.00 while earning a 50% commission!

We are very excited to bring back Camp Cards for a Cause – benefiting educators in 2023! This is a great option for those who may not want to purchase a discount card themselves but still want to support

a good cause. Like a normal camp card, the Scout selling it will earn a \$5 commission. Instead of the card going to a buyer, it will be given to a teacher! Participating in Camp Cards for a Cause is easier than ever, thanks to Facebook fundraising! To start today, follow the [2023 Camp Card for a Cause Guidebook](#).

This guide will walk you through every step you need to take to ensure a successful Camp Cards for a Cause fundraiser. The Camp Cards for a Cause fundraiser will end on April 23, 2023.

[START NOW](#)

Phoenix Rising Exclusive Ticket Offer

April 1, 2023 Phx Rising Stadium

Join Phoenix Rising's home opener on Saturday, April 1, 2023, at Phoenix Rising Stadium with an exclusive ticket offer! This special offer will grant discounted tickets to all affiliates of Grand Canyon Council, BSA!

\$5 of every ticket purchase will be redirected back to the Boy Scouts of America as a fundraiser!



SIGN UP BY
APRIL 8, 2023
TO GET YOUR
FREE CAMP
SHIRT!



R-C Cub Scout Resident Camp

June 2023 R-C Scout Ranch

Cub Family Adventure Camp at R-C is the premier Cub Scout Resident Camp in Arizona!

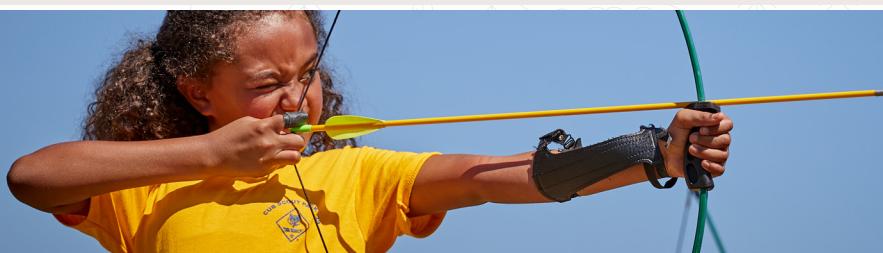
Get ready for your Cub Scout voyage! The ideal summer program opportunity for Cub Scouts, their families, and leaders to work on rank advancement and outdoor skills, participate in Cub Scout activities, and enjoy the great outdoors!

Choose to stay in your own tent or take advantage of our convenient rent-a-tent option. We have all you need to make your Cub Family Adventure Camp a great experience!

Sign up by April 8, 2023 to get your FREE Camp Shirt!

[REGISTER NOW](#)

APPLICATIONS FOR 2023 R-C CAMP STAFF ARE AVAILABLE! APPLY NOW!





Life to Eagle Briefing Virtual Class

April 26, 2023 Virtual Course



The Life to Eagle process briefing is now open for registration. The free virtual class will be held on April 26, 2023, at 6:30 PM and will be open to Scouts BSA Leaders and Scouts.

The class will go over the Eagle project requirements and the Eagle application process. Including:

- How to pick a good project that will pass review
- How to navigate the Life to Eagle process
- How to use the required BSA forms
- How to use the Grand Canyon Council Eagle Candidate portal
- Reference letter process
- How to request an Eagle Board of Review
- Other misc. questions.

[Register Today >](#)

Scouting Digital Advancement Tools for Unit Leaders

May 20, 2023 Virtual Course



This class is for anyone involved with tracking advancement in the unit. We will cover the following with an emphasis on Scout advancement.

- My.Scouting unit tools
- Universal Login
- Scoutbook
- Internet Advancement
- Scouting App
- My.Scouting App
- Where to find more help

[Register Today >](#)

Preparing to Bridge Webelos to Scouts BSA

Learn how to easily transfer Scout units while keeping advancements intact. Using one of the online transfer tools is the most efficient way to transfer a Scout from one unit to another.

[Learn More >](#)

Open Shoot at the Heard Scout Pueblo

Shooting Sports workshops occur monthly at the Heard Scout Pueblo. Got questions? Contact, Gary Jordan, at garyinlaveen@yahoo.com

- [Open Shoot for Rifle and BB Gun](#)
- [Archery Open Shoot](#)

How do Scouts Earn a Merit Badge?

Merit badges cover topics like Automotive Maintenance, Cooking, Cycling, and everything between. There are more than 135 merit badges Scouts can earn. But, how do Scouts earn a merit badge?

Review [the Merit Badge Process for Scouts Parents & Unit Leaders >](#)

Merit Badge Workshops

Visit each registration for prerequisites, fees, and additional information. Take the time to read each of the requirements and understand what we will be covering.

- [Rifle](#)
- [Shotgun](#)
- [Citizenship in the World](#)
- [Communication](#)
- [Citizenship in the Community](#)
- [Citizenship in the Nation](#)

[VIEW CALENDAR](#)

OPENING DOORS

June 18 - 24, 2023

JOIN US THIS SUMMER AT THE PHILMONT TRAINING CENTER AND BE PART OF...



Creating a Welcoming Culture

To serve Scouting's mission, it is important more than ever to create a welcoming culture for all, especially for those in underrepresented populations and groups.



Connecting with Mentors & Allies

Scouters from all over are welcome to come and discover ways to help open doors and promote the inclusion of diversity in their respective councils.



Challenging Yourself & Others

Led by a highly experienced staff, this course will challenge you to establish your own goals, as well as plan for growing diversity in your local council and across the Scouting movement. There will even be a fun daytime outing into the Philmont backcountry!

REGISTER NOW

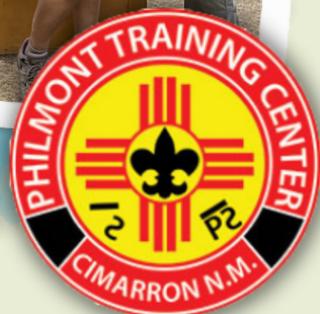


\$ 475 plus housing

📍 Philmont Scout Ranch - Cimarron, NM

📞 (575) 376-2281

🌐 philmontscoutranch.org/ptc/ptc-conferences/



Guide to Safe Scouting Update 2023

A Must Know for Cub Scout Leaders – Guide to Safe Scouting Update 2023

All participants in official Scouting activities should become familiar with the Guide to Safe Scouting. The Guide to Safe Scouting is an overview of Scouting policies and procedures gleaned from a variety of sources. ***Please refer to the online version for the most updated information.*** The 2023 Guide to Safe Scouting Updates include:

- [Updated Scouting's Barriers to Abuse](#)
- [Updated Cub Scout Coordinated Camping Section](#)
- Additional examples of [prohibited activities](#), no policy change.

Additional Guidelines Specifically for [Cub Scout Unit-Coordinated Camping](#)

- Cub Scout camping is limited to their council's designated locations with appropriate facilities.
 - Councils use Pack Overnight Campout Site Appraisal Form (www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/430-90218-PackOvernightForm_Fillable.pdf) to review and designate locations.
 - Units can request from their council a site appraisal but cannot do their own appraisal.
- Cub Scout pack unit coordinated camping is limited to single overnight experiences.
- Cub Scout camping is a family-centric program.
- Cub Scout youth may tent with a parent or guardian as outlined in Scouting's Barriers to Abuse.
- Cub Scout youth should attend the camping event with their parent(s)/ guardian(s).
 - Lions and Tigers must have their adult partner present to take part.
 - For all other ranks: only in exceptional circumstances, a Cub Scout whose parent or legal guardian cannot attend a unit overnight camping trip may participate under the supervision of another registered adult member of the BSA, a parent of a Cub Scout who is also attending. The unit leader and a parent or legal guardian must agree to the arrangement, and all Youth Protection policies apply. At no time may another adult accept responsibility for more than one additional "non family member" youth.
- Webelos and Arrow of Light Den Camping: Each Scout should attend with their parent(s) or guardian(s). A Webelos or Arrow of Light Scout whose parent or legal guardian cannot attend a den overnight camping trip may participate under the supervision of at least two registered leaders. The leaders and a parent or legal guardian must agree to the arrangement, and all Youth Protection policies apply.
- Only Webelos and Arrow of Light dens may conduct den coordinated campouts. Den camping only includes the Webelos or Arrow of Light youth. As with pack coordinated campouts, the den must have a BALOO trained adult leader in attendance and all Youth Protection policies apply.
 - Webelos/Arrow of Light Den Camping may participate and camp at a Scouts BSA troop unit campout. All Cub Scout camping requirements still apply, including the den must have a BALOO trained adult leader in attendance and all Youth Protection policies apply.
- Webelos/Arrow of Light Dens may only participate at a Scouts BSA "camporee" as day visitors.

NRA Basic Pistol & Certified Pistol Instructor Course

April 21 - April 23, 2023 (HSP)

Intended for BSA Registered Leaders conducting Venturer & Explorer and other BSA Pistol activities. National BSA policy states that all firearms instruction and shooting activities shall be conducted under the supervision of an NRA instructor. You should have experience and be comfortable with Pistol shooting to participate in their multi-course training.

[Learn more and register >](#)

Trainer's Edge

April 22, 2023 Flagstaff

The purpose of the Trainer's EDGE course is to provide and help develop the platform skills of a trainer. We will be talking about communication skills, how to be comfortable in front of a group, media used in presentations, presentation preparations and other skills to help you become an even better presenter. Before attending, you will need to prepare a 10-12 minute presentation on any Scouting topic.

[Learn more and register >](#)

Paddle Craft Safety Course

April 22, 2023 Cactus Aquatics

Youth and adult leaders wishing to take their units on canoeing activities and other flat water paddling experiences. Participants must be 15 years of age or older.

- April 22: Cactus Aquatics Center
- April 22: Chaparral Lake
- November 11:Bartlett Lake

[Learn more and register >](#)



Pack 324 Crossing Over Ceremony

On Wednesday, March 22nd, Family Pack 324 of Central Phoenix held our Crossing Over Ceremony outdoors at Royal Palm Park. It was a beautiful evening for such a special event.

As Cubmaster for our Pack for the past five years, it was a terrific pleasure and great honor to witness the growth of the scouts we celebrated at our crossing over, and to help them transition into their next adventures in scouting and beyond.

I can attest that Pack 324's AOLs had been very well prepared for their new adventures, have lived the scout law and oath, and learned much during their time with Pack 324 – thanks to their fantastic leaders and akelas.

Their Den Leaders Mr. Mike (7 years in his role) and Ms. Rachel (4 years in her role) led their scouts through a super

solid and fun program. Throughout the years they welcomed new scouts at various ranks and helped everyone fit right in without skipping a beat. It would be harder to find two leaders who worked so well together and had their boy and girl dens work seamlessly as one. They will be deeply missed by the Pack as they move on with their Scouts to the Troop level.

Our Pack is very proud of all our AOLs and happy to announce their selections:

- Cruz A. – Troop tbd
- Elias B. – Troop 41
- Story C. – Troop 3329
- Liam C. – Troop 41
- Atticus H-J – Troop 329
- Clara L. – Troop 3329
- Liam M. – Troop 329
- Charlotte R. – On to new adventures
- Violet S. – Troop 3329

Congratulations to all.

A special thank you to Roy Hollis for bringing his much beloved crossing over bridge. Pack 324 has used his bridge for the past 5 years. Also, thank you to Scoutmaster Brian Cook and Assistant Scoutmaster Jose Amorin of Troop 41, Scoutmaster Wes Fuller and Committee Chair Stuart Snedecor of Troop 329, Scoutmaster Lindsay Kittler of Troop 3329, and Unit Commissioner Judy Walden for attending the crossover and making it extra special.

Thank you, fellow scouters of the Grand Canyon Council for your interest in Pack 324's latest and greatest.

Yours in Scouting, Cubmaster Jessica, Pack 324 – A Family Pack, We welcome girls and boys



Central District Welcomes Five New Eagle Scouts

Central district welcomes five new Eagle Scouts in March with a grand total of 898.6 hours of service to our community!

We wish to CONGRATULATE each one of our Eagle Scouts and recognize their Projects: Connor B. (T201) Built Bat Boxes for installation at Papago Park, Tovrea Castle and the Phoenix Zoo; Felix S. (T127) Trailhead Restoration on Piestewa Peak; Soren K. (T41) Built a Goat Shelter at Liberty Wildlife; Jake L. (T441) Created an Outdoor Learning Center for Loma Linda School; and Jack W. (T41) Built Raised Garden Beds and Watering Systems for Phoenix Christian School.

Thank you once again to our district and volunteer board reviewers, parents, and adult Scouters who enthusiastically support and celebrate these young men! Thank you Jim Petersen (Scoutmaster T148) for hosting our March Eagle Boards at St. Simon & Jude Cathedral.

Congratulations, Eagle Scouts, for your hard work and incredible community service.

Philmont Crew's First Shakedown Hike



The Troop 41/Venture Crew 2041 Philmont Crew's first shakedown hike was a success! We hiked almost 14 miles in the Superstitions over two days, with a fair amount of elevation shifts along the way. The condition of the trail could've been a bit better, but it only helped us improve.

We also had the opportunity to test out our camping gear and practice setting up our tents and cooking meals in the backcountry. We also learned where we needed to improve, for instance bringing more water and getting lighter gear.

Overall, the hike ended up being a big success, giving us a head start on our Philmont training. We feel even more ready for the next hike and are on our way to Philmont preparedness!

A day of Cub Scout Adventure and High Speed Racing



Gila River District held its 2023 Cub Scout Activity Day on March 25, 2023. Serving as both a Scouting event and district recruitment activity over 60 Scouts, Siblings and prospective Scouts came out to enjoy a day filled with a range of Pinewood racing excitement and fun Scout activities!

Scouts enjoyed panning for gold, building a boat out of recycled materials to race down a regatta track, creating a painting with string, the STEM of pinewood racing, mixing up glow in the dark slime, constructing Lego derby cars, hammering out leather crafts, building a kite, demonstrations of metal forging, meeting Arizona DPS officers, checking out police vehicles, and of course the most thrilling action of all was the running of the 2023 Gila River District Pinewood Derby with our champions:



1st Place – Grayson Anderson, Webelos from Pack 178

2nd Place – Danny Baum, Webelos from Pack 178

3rd Place – Cameron Mueller, Wolf from Pack 178

With special mention for car designs going to Harris Nolle from Pack 472 taking Best in Show and Conner Nelson from Pack 472 with the car showing the Most Cub Scout Pride.



In addition to all the fun for Scouts the activity day included a gear exchange where new and used camping gear, Scouting equipment and uniforms were able to find a new homes and a longer life out serving Scouts in Arizona.

Gila River District would like to thank Mountain View Lutheran Church in Ahwatukee for providing their facilities to use for the activity day and Arizona DPS for sending officers and vehicles to the event. In addition the support Troop 17, Troop 48, Ship 3519 and the many Scouts, Scout leaders and volunteers from around the community who contributed their time and talents to helping make this an amazing and successful day for the Scouts in Gila River District.

The Cub Scout Activity Day was an amazing adventure and great fun for everyone who participated, we look forward to seeing more Scouts next year!



Backpacking Second Water Trail

Troop 828 Explores Second Water Trail - Troop 828 took the opportunity to take on a different trail for a backpack expedition. With the troop about to experience a population explosion with Webelos cross overs, the existing veterans wanted an older youth challenge. They got a few surprises while overnighting at Second Water trail in the Superstition Mountains.

The trail is rated as one of the easier with just a couple of decent size elevation gains. Early week morning temperatures in the 30's deterred some of the scouts. Water access was in question when this was put on the calendar. The recent rains relieved some of that worry. A call to the forest services confirmed the spring was

running. That helped with the amount of water needing to be carried.

The challenges began with the long downhill to the intersection of Boulder Trail. The thoughts of we have to go back up that were first in mind. Next was seeing people occupying the campsite we had planned upon. Having everything we needed on our backs, we pressed on a southern direction only to find Troop 132 in the next available spot.

Now having backpacked a little longer than expected, we did the 180 and tried the other side of Second Water. We were rewarded with a central spot with an existing fire ring. There were enough

small spots to stick a tent or two. Home for the night was established.

Expecting a cold night, everyone bundled up. The night was not as cold and a search crew wanted us to be aware. We were awoken around midnight to what we hope was a helicopter doing a search in our area. Either that or a UFO was looking for people, cows, and chickens to abduct. A couple of passes were done over our general area. Some of us got out of our tents to see the flyovers. Next morning after a hearty breakfast in our bellies and stories of what was seen during the night having been shared, we were able to take on the uphill challenge that awaited us.

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