



COMMISSIONER'S CORNER



Gary W. Jones
Council Commissioner

SCOUTERS' NEWS

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Summer is nearly upon us and with that season the promise of exciting, challenging, and life-long memories are in store for many of our cubs, scouts, and ventures as units prepare for their summer excursions. Summer camp, Day camp, High Adventure outings and much more are in store for countless of our youth and their leaders. Two key components of the Scouting program are satisfied for those units who are ready: the outdoor program and advancement. These two elements clearly set the Scouting program apart from most other organized youth groups as we teach our youth to become our next citizen leaders. Is your unit fulfilling that promise for your youth?

Our Council has unparalleled facilities and programs for all ages and groups. Whether it's Forest Lawn Scout Reservation, Log Cabin, Firestone Scout Reservation, or Cabrillo Beach Aquatics Center, there is something for your unit: advancement, high adventure, or just being outdoors in unique and different environments; whatever your unit need may be, our Council camps and programs can fulfill your requirements. If you are unfamiliar with these facilities or the programs available at them, I encourage you to check out our Council website under Camping, contact your District Executive or your District Camping Chair.

For those units who are new or are unsure of what to do or how to do it, I'd like to introduce you to an exceptional

group of volunteers whose sole purpose is to assist you to provide the excitement that is Scouting to your youth: our Commissioner Service staff. Each of our districts has a dedicated group of individuals who are ready and able to assist with whatever your needs might be. You've probably seen them at Roundtable, your district Camp-O-Rees, and hopefully even occasionally at your troop/pack/crew meetings. Ever wonder what a Commissioner does? Please don't hesitate to ask or seek their help if needed to develop a first rate program for your unit and your youth. Larry Smiley in Rio Hondo, Ruben Hueso in North Star, Teresa Stiegler in Frontier, Len Pagaragin in Pacifica, and Jim Hislop in Thunderbird are your District Commissioners and lead the commissioner staff in their respective districts. Note that I referred to the Commissioner Service for that is exactly their charter and purpose – to provide service to the units in their district. They are specially trained and eager to assist and if they can't answer your question they have a vast pool of resources to call upon.

We can never have enough Commissioners in service to our units and youth. Should you have an interest in learning more about Commissioner Service, I encourage you to contact your District Commissioner and discuss the role. Basic Commissioner training can be provided through your district and the Council is offering a

Commissioner College on November 7, 2009 under the leadership of Bob Shockley. The College offers individuals an opportunity to complete a Bachelor's, Masters, or even a Doctorate of Commissioner Service.

Another key component to your success as a unit leader is training. Countless training opportunities are available through your district, on-line, and through our Council. Resources available to assist you with training needs include your District Training Chair and of course, your commissioner service staff. The ultimate training experience for adult Scouters is Wood Badge. This year our Council is offering two courses to suit your scheduling needs. Course Directors Debbie Shockley and Jay Jensen still have openings available. See the Council website for details.

Scouting offers so much for our youth to learn, to experience new and exciting challenges, and to make life-long friendships as they mature into our future citizen-leaders. Please help them do so by taking advantage of all the resources that are available to assist you in developing, planning, and delivering the best possible program to fulfill the promise of Scouting for your youth.

Good Scouting to you!

Gary W. Jones
– **Council Commissioner**