



THE START OF A NEW ERA

WELCOME MIKE MARCHESE TO SEQUOIA COUNCIL



We are pleased to announce the selection of Michael R. Marchese as CEO/Scout Executive of the Sequoia Council in Fresno, California, effective January 1, 2020.

Mike began his Scouting career as a District Executive, District Director and then Assistant Scout Executive with the Oregon Trail Council in Eugene, Oregon. He moved on to become Director of Field Service in the Grand Teton Council in Idaho Falls, Idaho. He was then promoted to Director of Field Service of the Grand Canyon Council in Phoenix, Arizona. In 2009, Mike was selected as Scout Executive of the Trapper Trails Council in Ogden, Utah and in 2012 was promoted to Area Director for Area 5 which later merged into Area 2 of the Western Region. In 2016, Mike was selected as Scout Executive of the Las Vegas Area Council, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Mike was a Scout in California and Oregon, a Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow, and staffed the last four National Scout Jamborees. Mike enjoys old cars, outdoor activities, shooting sports, being with his family, and church service.

Mike and his wife, Cherylann, have two children: Katie and Christian, a Life Scout (no pressure).

Please join us in congratulating Mike as he joins in partnership with the volunteers and staff of the Sequoia Council effective January 1, 2020 to deliver quality Scouting experiences to the young people of the communities served. You can reach Mike at michael.marchese@scouting.org

MEET THE TEAM

MARIANNE JOHNSON

Marianne is our Fundraising Assistant and Special Events Support person. She has an extensive background in retail management and has been a Scouter for 10 years. She started as a Tiger Den Leader and now does Advancement for her son's troop here in Fresno.

Marianne has been married to her husband Wes Johnson for 19 years and they have two children. Her son Wesley is 15 and is a freshman at Central High school here in Fresno. He is a Star Scout and stays active playing football and volleyball for his school. Her daughter Anne is 11 years old and in the 5th grade at Saroyan Elementary. She is active in cheer and enjoys participating in the school's annual play.

Marianne enjoys the outdoors and spending time with her family. You will find her on most of the outings with the troop and she attributes Scouting to the great relationship she has developed with her son.

You can reach Marianne at marianne.johnson@scouting.org



MESSAGE FROM THE SCOUT EXECUTIVE

You may have heard the national organization of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy to achieve two key objectives: equitably compensate victims who were harmed during their time in Scouting and continue to carry out Scouting's mission for years to come.

I want to highlight important points that are most relevant to the Sequoia Council:

The Sequoia Council has not filed for bankruptcy. Our Council is legally separate, distinct and financially independent from the national organization.

Scouting programs will continue. This means that unit meetings and activities, district and council events, other Scouting adventures and countless service projects will take place as usual. In short, we expect no changes to the local Scouting experience in California's Central Valley.

Scouting is safer now than ever before. Over many years, we've developed some of the strongest expert-informed youth protection policies found in any youth-serving organization. I can also assure you that our volunteers and employees take youth protection extremely seriously and do their part to help keep kids safe.

Restricted donations – past, present or future – can only be used for their designated purpose. In addition, Friends of Scouting (FOS) and other annual donations made to our Council will continue to fund necessary day-to-day expenses that are critical to local Scouting programs.

While we do not anticipate the national organization's bankruptcy filing will have any direct impact on the local Scouting experience or your involvement with our Council, I understand you may still have questions about these issues and things you will see in the news. To that end, the national organization has established a dedicated restructuring website, www.BSArestructuring.org.

This site includes a helpful [Resources page](#), where you will find a short video explaining what Chapter 11 means for Scouting, as well as a FAQ. The site's [Milestones page](#) will be your best source for the latest updates throughout this process.

I hope this has informed you about the Boy Scouts of America's bright future and unwavering commitment to youth protection. Through your engagement and dedication to Scouting, the Sequoia Council will continue to bring adventures, values and lifelong benefits to youth and our communities for generations to come. Thank you for your trust and support as we continue this important mission.

If you have any questions about local Scouting, you can always feel free to reach out directly to me or your usual contact within our Council.



Mike Marchese | CEO/Scout Executive

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA SEQUOIA COUNCIL

6005 N. Tamera Ave.
Fresno, California 93711-3911
O 559.320.2100 www.seqbsa.org



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TROOP 432B



Troop 432 was founded in 2013 with only four boys. They now hold membership consistently ranging above 25 active scouts. They are still creating their own traditions and love learning from the experience that other units have to offer. This past year they were fortunate to found a “sister troop”, Troop 432G.

Troop 432B hosts the annual Webeloree event that is open to the entire council. This year they started a new tradition of tying the event to the OA, Targua Chapter day of service.

Troop 432B has some fun events coming up. They will be helping Troop 432G bridge two girls from Pack 432 and then will be holding their own Court of Honor shortly after. They will also be hiking Fresno Dome which for many of their Scouts will be their third hike of the four in the “Yosemite to Sequoia Hiking Challenge”.

This troop really likes the outdoors, they recently took a backpacking trip to Upper Lopez Campground on the Los Padres National Forest. This outing was the best so far this year.



SCOUTMASTER HIGHLIGHT

RANDY MARTINEZ



Randy is the Scoutmaster of two Troops in the Sequoia Council. Troop 442 out of Madera and Troop 358 out of Fresno.

He works for an electrical engineer as an AutoCAD design draftsman in Fresno

Randy spent four years as a Cub Scout and five years as a Boy Scout. He has 27 years in as an adult leader.

One of his favorite outings was an Eagle project. They created a campsite at Squaw Leap. They had to burn all the logs that had washed up in the area. They had a competition on who could build the biggest bonfire.

His favorite inspirational quote is by the musical group “Soul to Soul.”

“Be Objective, Be Selective and Be an asset to the Collective.”

Randy’s favorite hobby is Racquetball.

Thank you Randy for your commitment to Scouting. You have impacted the lives of many youths.





DISTRICT NEWS



SAN JOAQUIN

It was a very special night at Pack 301's Blue and Gold ceremony held at Holy Spirit Church in Fresno.

Cub Scout Michael Sickler was receiving his Wolf Patch. Unfortunately, Michael's Dad Fresno Fire Captain Walt Sickler, who is currently battling work related cancer, was unable to attend the ceremony.

Thanks, however, to the Brotherhood of our heroes at the Fresno Fire Department, members of Fire Station 11 and BC-3 who went above and beyond and stood in for him. The firefighters had the honor of presenting Captain Sickler's young son with his well-earned Patch and Eagle Scout Marc Ognebene pinned Michael's Wolf Pin to his uniform.

Thank you to Marc, Fred, Kenny and Bob for making this a very special night for Michael, his family and everyone at Pack 301.



THUNDERBIRD

February 5, Thunderbird District hosted its 95th Annual Civics Day at the Madera Methodist Church. Over 30 Scouts attended as well as 20+ County and City officials including the Madera Police Chief Dino Lawson, Madera Fire Captain Jeff Biesenthal, Madera County District Attorney Sally Moreno, and Madera County Supervisor Tom Wheeler.

Scouts and Civic Officials enjoyed a delicious lunch and dessert prepared by the Iverson family. With this year's theme being communications, having Pieter Peruch, CHP's Media Information Officer be our keynote speaker was the obvious choice.

Peiter is an Eagle Scout, a husband, and father of five. He understands the importance of communication and citizenship and giving back to your community.

After lunch Civic Officials took Scouts "back to work with them." Some Scouts attended the Madera County Board of Supervisors mock meeting in the supervisors' chambers.





DISTRICT NEWS



LIVE OAK

January 31 Live Oak hosted its annual Eagle Scout and Volunteer recognition dinner at the Veteran's Memorial Building in Exeter. Over 150 scout families attended to celebrate the extraordinary volunteers and accomplishments of the district's 28 Eagle Scouts.

The district commissioner staff awarded Journey to Excellence ribbons to 21 units and celebrated the start of 3 new units in 2019. Thirty seven volunteers were recognized during the course of the evening with Scouter's Training Awards, Den Leader Training Awards, Scouter's Keys, Veteran's Pins, Unit Leader Awards of Merit, Arrowhead Honors and even the William D Boyce New Unit Organizer Award!

Ben Kimball the Live Oak District Chair awarded 3 District Awards of Merit to Matthew Hopper, Jessica Kirk and Ronald Oaks. The evening concluded with the thrilling announcement of 3 Silver Beaver recipients from the district: Ben Kimball, Irving Rider and LaRenia Rider. Congratulations to all!



RIVERBEND

Riverbend District has had a busy start to a year of service. January saw the district Webeloree held at Bur-riss Park and included a day of service on Saturday the 18th where the park was cleaned, and new trees were planted. The Order of the Arrow also called out new members into their brotherhood of cheerful service. A special thanks goes out to Michael Gonzales of Troop 432 in Hanford for leading the events.

In February Riverbend scouts in Lemoore strove to feed the less fortunate with a scouting for food drive. Scouts spread out across the town on Saturday, February 8th dropping off bags with notes instructing the recipients to fill them with non-perishable items and place the bag back outside on their porches the following Saturday. When scouts returned the next week to collect, hundreds of pounds of food were collected and donated to local food banks. Carlton Dukes of Troop 402 in Lemoore personally led his scouts in this endeavor to provide service to their community.





EXPLORING™

DISCOVER YOUR FUTURE



EXPLORER POST 355



James "Jim" Beebe

- ◇ 30+ years in Law Enforcement-Central Valley, CA
- ◇ Advancement Chair of San Joaquin District
- ◇ Post Advisor for the Fresno Police Department, Post 911
- ◇ Started scouting as a cub scout up to rank of Webelos. Went into Troop 140 (Peoples Church-Cedar/Dakota) with assistant Scout Master Wm. "Bill" Saleh up to the rank of First Class. Joined the Fresno Co. Sheriff's Office as an Explorer in 1979 until he aged out and started working with the Fresno Co. Sheriff's Office as a Bailiff starting his Law Enforcement career in 1986.

On January 25th the Clovis Police Department Post 355 held there annual Exploring Banquet at the Clovis Rodeo Grounds.

Congratulations to all the young men and women who were recognized for their achievements in 2019.

Keep up the great work Post 355!





SCOUT ME IN™



EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Congratulations



Anthony Hall

*Planting Trees in King's Canyon
National Park*

TROOP 480
RIVERBEND DISTRICT



POPCORN TOP SELLER

Amanda Bales

TROOP 60

San Joaquin District

\$10,103



SCOUTS | BSA





BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
SEQUOIA COUNCIL

Fresno Service Center:

6005 N Tamera Avenue, Fresno, CA 93711

(559) 320-2100

Visalia Service Center:

230 NW 3rd Avenue Visalia, CA 93291

(559) 732-3424

www.seqbsa.org

We would love to hear from you!

Send photos and notes to
Marianne at the Fresno office.
marianne.johnson@scouting.org

WAYS TO SUPPORT SCOUTING

- Attend events such as golf tournaments and dinners
- Send a Scout to camp
- In-Kind donations such as supplies or food
- Annual Giving
- Corporate Sponsorship
- James E. West
- Fund-A-Scout

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Sequoia Council Boy Scouts of America



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KEY DATES

March 19 -Riverbend District Dinner

March 20-22 -San Joaquin Camporee -Lost Lake

March 27-29 -Live Oak Cub-a-Ree -Mooney Grove

April 17-20 -Riverbend Camporee-Choinumni Park

April 17-20 -Live Oak Camporee-Lake Success