

2025-09-08 Placer District Connections Notes (BZ/TS/CL)

6:30pm – Kickoff with pizza!

Items of general interest:

Council merger: Southern Sierra Council and Golden Empire Council have merged. All of our district key 3+++ voted yes. In their understanding of the deal, at worst we will break even. At best, SSC brings \$1.9MM (0.5M endowment, 1.1M cash, and remainder is property or some benefit).

Placer District Leadership: Our District leadership needs more help! Specifically we need a Finance Chair, and Membership Chair. Brent also needs more unit commissioners, especially Cub Pack Commissioners who usually oversee ~3 units. It's just one hour a week.

IOLS and BALOO – September 20-21. At NorCal adventure area. IOLS has a wait list, and BALOO still has openings. Every scout deserves a trained leader! Mike Thabault.

Cub Family Camp – 19 adults and 20 youth currently signed up. Melissa Edens and Pack19 have signed up to coordinate an event, but we need Packs to sign up and lead other stations/events. BB's and Archery are also being coordinated. We can show up 4:30 on the 26th (Friday), through Sunday morning. There will be a group campfire on Saturday night. Further discussion of this event will happen during the cub breakout tonight.

October District Connections will not be the usual meeting! 6:30pm October 13th will be a District Recruitment Fair – Troops will set up and recruit AOL scouts. Send your Webelos and AOL scouts!

Angler weekend – October 3-5th. Sold out! Sign up earlier next time!

Woodbadge – last call! Fall course happens in 18 days. Still room, still time to register. Business training for scout leaders. Learn things, but also develop a network. Work as a patrol, and see what your scouts are expected to do. Registration is open until Thursday at 8am. Cost is \$225. Regular price. (earlybird was \$200). Neighboring councils cost \$400. Sep 26-28. Oct 11-12. Both weekends at NorCal.

Scout Expo 2026 – April 10-12th at Beale AFB. Arrive Friday evening. Go to subcamp for cub or BSA. Cubs are family camping, or Webelos/AOL can camp as den. Friday PM will be Scouts Got Talent show. Saturday is main program – the showman and painter David Garibaldi is the main event. There will be a flight line exhibit with buses with static displays (not an active airshow, but items on display). Rock climbing, shooting sports, STEM, etc. Sunday AM Scouts Own service, fun run!, etc. Registration opens soon. Cost is likely \$50 for cubs, \$60 for Scouts BSA. TBD. Last event was 2018. Attendees from the 2018 event said it was great, and not to be missed.

Brent Lamkin – Journey to Excellence has been retired by National. Council is now organizing their own metrics for a quality unit called “Planning for Excellence” - courtesy of Paul Helman. It is a cookbook or recipe for a quality, healthy unit. 13 objectives. 6 basic objectives, trained leadership, retention, recruitment, advancement, outdoor super-activity. Ask Brent for more info.

Cub Breakout: 2 topics to discuss: Family Camp, and Twilight Camp.

Family Camp: Ready to roll, except for program. Deadline to register is up to the event... Hogwartsesque theme. Michael Thabault thinks 3 activities in the morning with a range sport, and the same for the afternoon. Packs need to step up for activities if we want program. MT plans to get there at noon on Friday. Participants around 5'ish. Elisa our host will be there. Need to coordinate rangemasters. Need to set the ranges. Parking.

We should probably advertise to BSA to see if they need service and want to staff.

Scouts feed themselves, but store cold things in kitchen, dry goods in tubs in the dining area.

TWILIGHT CAMP 2026: May 29-31st (Friday-Sat-Sun). We can't call it Twilight camp if we're spending the night (per Council's direction). Need to call it a family camp or something else.

We discussed many options. Swim? Shooting? Wake Island?

There is concern that people won't drive to NorCal for this event- or that we will lose the existing Twilight camp followers. What can we do in Roseville? One day at the Grounds? A campfire somewhere? Shooting somewhere? If families complained that they can't attend 4 evening events- how can we accommodate them better?

Notes from Chris Leidigh from Scouts BSA breakout:

Scouts BSA Merit Badge Event Planning

- Date/Location: January 31, 2026, FUMC (main hall + classrooms)
- Sign-ups: Dianne Cooper to distribute council-wide SignUpGenius to gauge interest and recruit MB counselors. Units to encourage sign-ups.
- Cost/Budget: Estimated \$5 per Scout; \$500 total budget.
- Food: District to provide morning donuts/juice. OA may offer lunch (hot dogs & chips, \$2-\$3); otherwise Scouts bring sack lunch.
- Program: Goal of 5-6 concurrent MB sessions. Scouts must complete prerequisites in advance.