

# Messenger

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## In This Issue

Cover

Journey to Excellence  
Silver Beaver Awards

District Chair's Minute and  
Membership Minute 2-3

Wood Badge and Cub Scout  
Super Nova Awards 4

District Camporee 5

Rockets at Fiesta Island and  
Blue and Gold Banquet 6

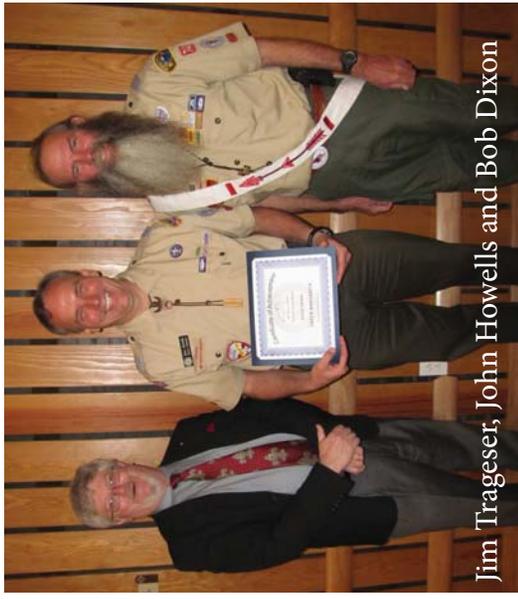
Hike to Eagle Rock and  
Canoeing at Colorado River 7

Upcoming Events 8

## Journey to Excellence



It is time to celebrate!!! At the recent Council Recognition Dinner, Santa Margarita District learned they had reached the silver level for Journey to Excellence! Our Key 3 accepted the award on behalf of our District members.



Jim Trageser, John Howells and Bob Dixon

We would like to thank all our District Units and District Staff on a job well done!

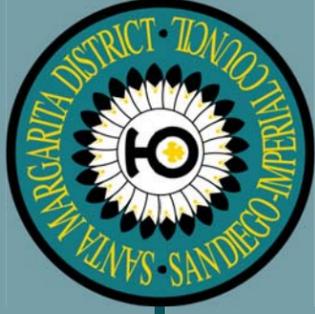


John Howells and Jeff Boyer

## Silver Beaver Award

The San Diego-Imperial Boy Scout Council recently presented the 2015 Silver Beaver Award for Distinguished Service to Youth to two of our very own Santa Margarita Scouters, John Howells and Jeff Boyer. The Silver Beaver Award is the highest honor a Boy Scout Council can bestow upon a volunteer. The award is given to only those persons who have given continued, unselfish, and effective service through programs of the Boy Scouts of America.

Both John and Jeff are Eagle Scouts that have continued to stay very active in the Scouting program as adults. John has been a Scoutmaster for over 11 years and is a Unit Commissioner. John is currently both 702 Venture Crew Advisor and our District Chairman. Jeff has been an Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 799 since 1989 and is a Merit Badge Counselor. Jeff is currently serving our district as Camping Chair. Congratulations to both on a job well done!



# Santa Margarita District

## The District Chair Minute - John Howells

Dear Fellow Scout Leaders,

I wanted to share a recent experience at our district committee meeting. As we began our meeting, I assigned the pledge and the invocation in that order, and I'm grateful to Jack Cater, a member of our district committee for more years than most, for reminding me that God comes before Country, so I promptly changed the order and we did the invocation first. Please think of the Scout Oath: On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country... it reminds us that a scout's first duty is to God, and second to country and others.

One of my favorite books of scripture comes an eternal truth "that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God". As we start the new year, I hope we will remember the importance God plays in our lives and the lives of those we impact and teach. Let's make this year, a memorable one for our families and scouts as we take time to serve God by serving others and especially those in need.

Thank you for your service to the young men in your units and may you have a blessed and Prosperous 2015.

John Howells  
District Chair, Santa Margarita District

## Membership Minute - Ozzie Nelson

2014 proved to be an important year of change for BSA Venturing, but changes are now here for the BSA Cub Scout program. The objective of Journey to Excellence is to encourage the recognize units for providing a quality program for our youth. Please review the changes to the Journey to Excellence (JTE) membership scorecard below.

### 2015 JTE Membership Changes - Cub Scouts:

#2 Building Cub Scouting, formerly item 3. The Bronze level requirement changes completely. Previously based on membership gain of one new member or having at least 27 Scouts, the new requirement stipulates holding a recruiting program by October 31 and recruiting any number of new members. The Silver and Gold levels remain unchanged.

#3 Retention, formerly item 2. No changes from previous requirements.

#4 Webelos-to-Scout Transition, formerly item 9. Essentially unchanged except for the addition to Bronze the requirement that second-year Webelos Scouts

Santa Margarita District - 2

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complete The Scouting Adventure, a Boy Scouting orientation program in the Webelos Handbook.

### 2015 JTE Membership Changes - Boy Scouts:

#2 Building Boy Scouting, formerly item 3. Bronze is essentially the same except to eliminate the alternative of having at least 15 members (a troop must now recruit at least one member to qualify). Silver and Gold remain the same (increase by 5 or 10 percent, or have at least 25 or 35 members).

#3 Retention, formerly item 2. For Bronze, only an increase is needed if reregistration is less than 75 percent, but requirements are a bit more stringent for Silver and Gold. Silver requires 80 percent reregistration and Gold requires 85 percent, with no option to have a lower percentage but show a 2% increase.

#4 Webelos-to-Scout Transition, formerly item 9. The Bronze requirement to hold joint activities with a pack or Webelos den continues but without the requirement that one is a parent orientation and camp promotion. Silver and Gold are the same.

### 2015 JTE Membership Changes - Venturing:

#2 Building Venturing. The Bronze level requirement changes slightly in two areas. Previously based on membership gain of one new member over last year or at least 7 members, the new requirement stipulates holding a recruiting activity vice a recruiting night and recruiting any number of new members. The Silver and Gold levels overall have remained unchanged, with the exception of a change in verbiage to include Achieve Bronze, for the Silver Level and Achieve Silver, for the Gold Level.

#3 Retention. BSA HQ has simplified the verbiage. For Bronze, there is an increase of 5%, totaling a reregister rate of 50% of eligible members or have improvement over the prior year. Silver has remained the same with less verbiage to state reregister 60% of eligible members. For Gold, there is a decrease of 5%, totaling a reregister rate of 75% of eligible members.

The Santa Margarita Membership volunteers will continue to serve our units and work with Council HQ - in 2015 and beyond - to ensure each and every youth Scouter receives the top-notch program they deserve. And, with supporters like you standing with us, we're confident we can achieve our goals for the youth in our District.

On behalf of the Santa Margarita District, thank you for your continued BSA membership. We wish you a Happy New Year.

V/r, Your Santa Margarita Membership Team

Santa Margarita District - 3

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"It's the spirit within, not the veneer without, that makes a man"

Lord Baden Powell

Email Newsletter articles  
to K. Harris at:

kgraphics@att.net



# WOOD BADGE

Congratulations to Eric Rivard and Matthew Livingston for completing the Wood Badge program requirements. Their accomplishment was celebrated at the monthly Round Table meeting held on February 12, 2015. Both families were present to celebrate the occasion.



Eric Rivard and Matthew Livingston



**Congratulations to the 6 Webelos in our District for earning the Cub Scout Super Nova Award**



5 of the 6 recipients pictured with Steve Granata the Santa Margarita District, STEM NOVA Mentor

SANTA MARGARITA DISTRICT PRESENTS THE

# RETURN OF THE EAGLES!



**Eagle Dinner**  
**Thursday, March 26, 2015**  
 LDS Church, 1545 South Melrose Drive, Vista  
 6pm Reception  
 6:45 Eagle Scout Photo  
 7pm Dinner & Program

## SPECIAL GUEST!

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER DARRYL J. KIMBALL**  
 MEMBER OF THE SAN DIEGO SHERIFF'S  
 DEPARTMENT FOR 29 YEARS!  
 CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO THE SHERIFF'S  
 ASTREA UNIT!  
 AUTHOR OF THE BOOK "CATCH THE SKY!"



## Registration Info:

Cost is only \$19 per person!  
 2014 Santa Margarita Eagle Scouts are FREE!

to register, go to:

<http://sdicbsa.doubleknot.com/registration/calendar/detail.asp?ActivityKey=1668322&OrgKey=2129>



# ROCKETS

787



Pictured are Takumi Q. and Evan B., Webelos from Pack 787.

"I went to a camp with my Pack 787. We launched rockets at Fiesta Island in January. We did it for the fun of it!"

Some of the boys built rockets and some purchased pre-made rockets. The camp leader & organizer, Greg Warden, went over Bernoulli's Principle, Newton's first law of motion. The scouts also constructed rockets from soda pop bottles and tested them.

Submitted by Evan B.

# BLUE AND GOLD BANQUET

752

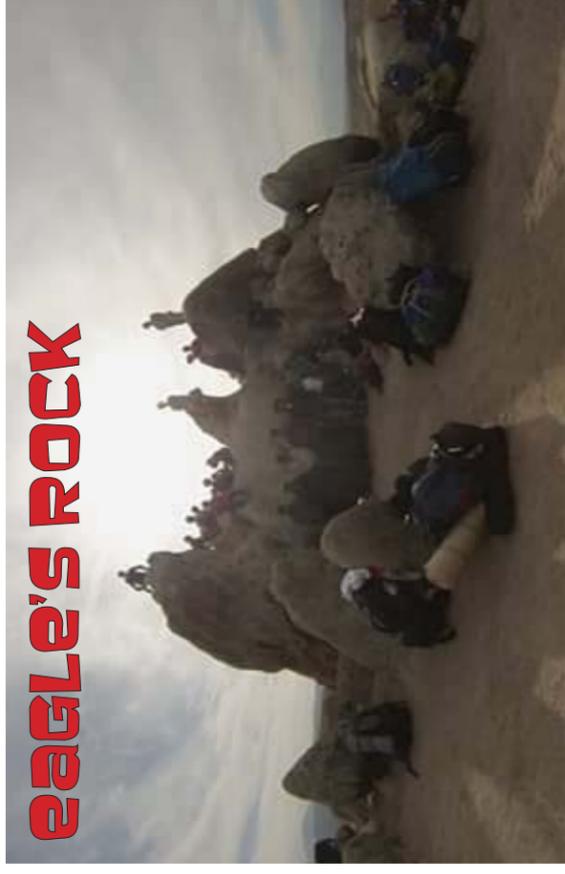


Pack 752 of Oceanside, celebrates their annual Blue and Gold Banquet on February 7, 2015 with a Pirate theme.

Santa Margarita District - 6

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# EAGLE'S ROCK



731



Troop 731 of St. Peters Catholic church in Fallbrook, went on their first 7 mile backpacking trek to Eagle Rock.

Senior PL Caleb Samuri - PL George  
 Assistant senior PL James Knights - PL Damon  
 Sparten - PL Cane Scout Master Jared Minard  
 Ninja - PL Zach



799



# COLORADO RIVER

Over the President's Day break in February, Troop 799 canoed down the Colorado River.



Santa Margarita District - 7

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# Up Coming Events

## Scouting for Food

San Diego County

March 2015



Packs and Troops, mark your calendars for the Annual Scouting For Food Campaign Starting in March!

## Eagle's Camp

Camp Fiesta Island

March 30- April 3 and April 6- April 10



Are you a Boy Scout that's seriously on the path toward Eagle Scout? Then you'll not want to miss our Eagle's Camp at Camp Fiesta Island. Two sessions are being offered: March 30 - April 3 and April 6 - 10. Space is limited, so register early!

<http://camping.sdicbsa.org/FallSpringPrograms/EagleCamp.php>

## "Return of the Eagles"

District Eagle Dinner

Thursday, March 26, 2015

**NEW DATE!**



## Scout Fair

Qualcomm Stadium

April 18 2015



# SCOUT FAIR

This year's Scout Fair takes place on Saturday, April 18th, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, in the southwestern parking lot, sections G & H, at Qualcomm Stadium.

## 23rd World Scout Jamboree

Kirara-hama, Japan

Tuesday, July 28, to Saturday, August 8, 2015

<http://www.scouting.org/worldjamboree.aspx>

