

This is Your High Adventure Team

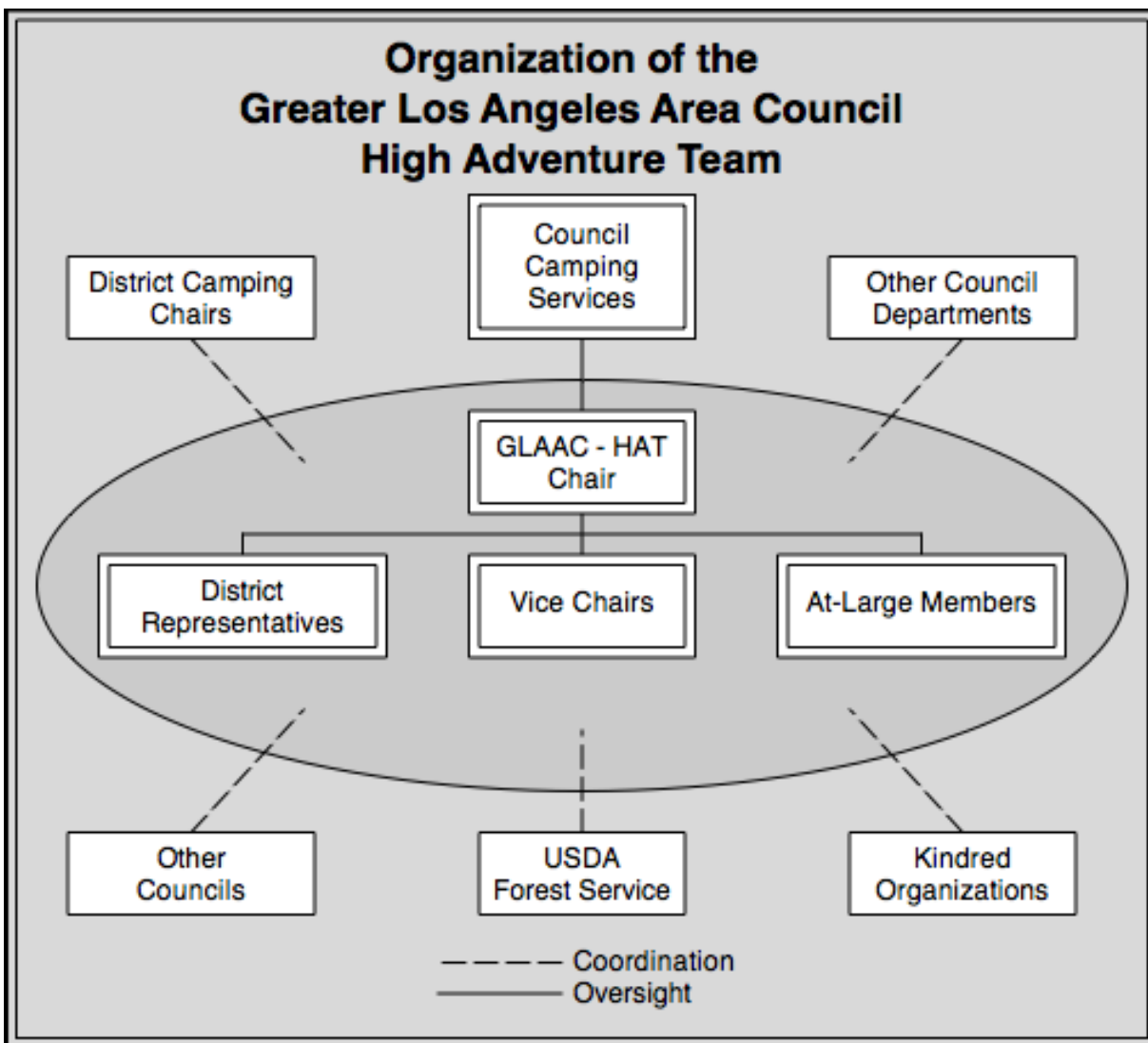


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HIGH ADVENTURE TEAM
Greater Los Angeles Area Council
Scouting America

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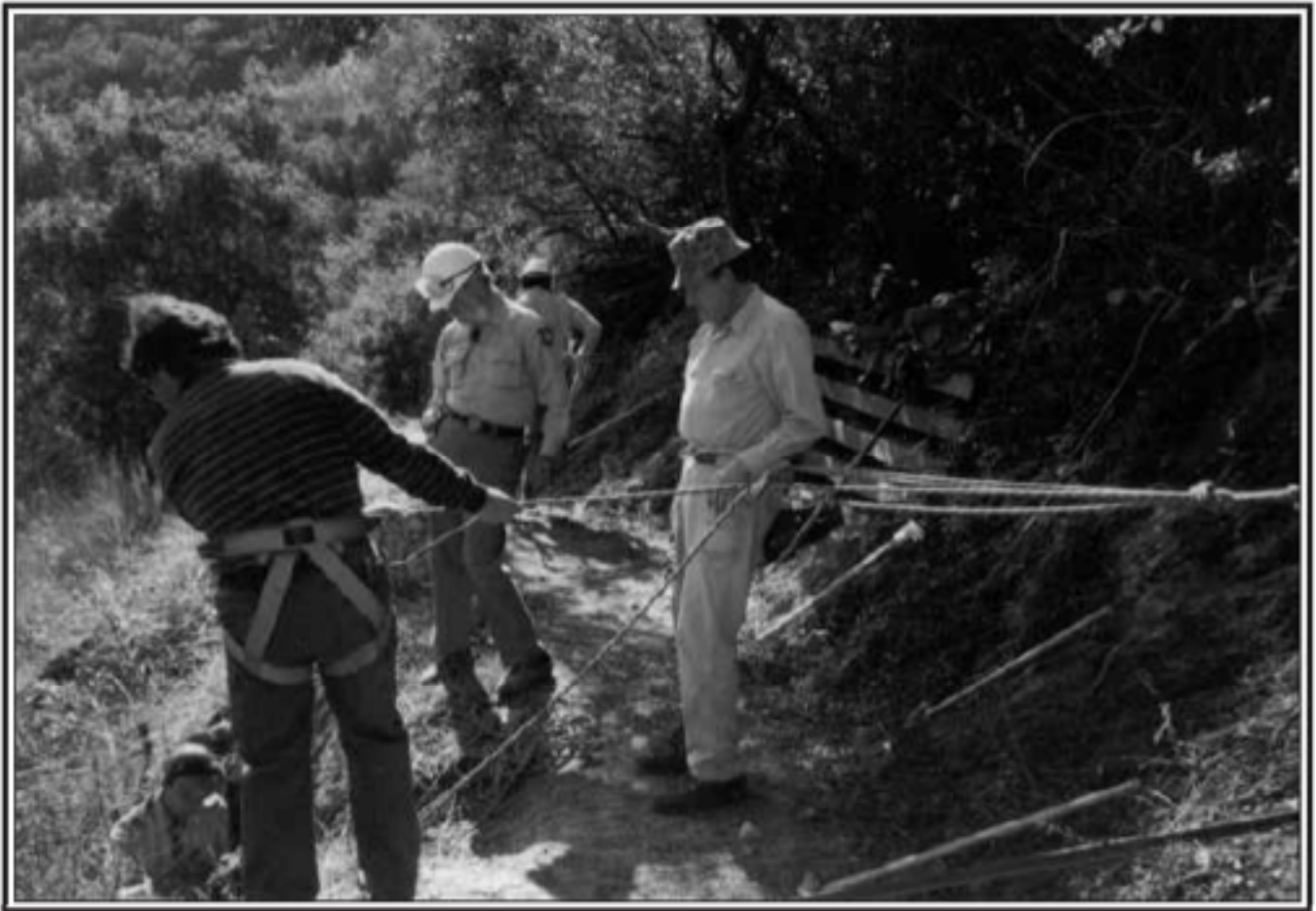
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REVISIONS

February 2025	General update	Steven Dodson
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April 2017	Deleted Tour and Activity Plans	Tom Thorpe
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Troop 211 Eagle project, Dawn Mine Trail, 1988, Jim Spencer-center; John Horton-right.

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High Adventure Team*

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"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into the trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while your cares will drop off like autumn leaves."

John Muir

History

High Adventure has been a natural and vital part of the Scouting program from its' founding. Lord Baden-Powell understood how boys have always looked forward to and enjoyed hiking and camping as an escape from urban life. This understanding was made a feature of Scouting when it began in the United States in 1910. In the Los Angeles basin, blessed with ready access to mountains, deserts and the seashore, built-in opportunities abound for outdoor adventure. Thus, the use of these great outdoor resources should become a regular part of active Southern California Unit programs.

San Gabriel Mountain Range

Since the days of early Spanish exploration and settlement in the 1770's, followed by homesteaders and prospectors in the 1850's, paths and trails have been continually blazed into the San Gabriel foothills. From the 1890's into the 1920's, these canyons and mountains experienced the "Great Hiking Era," as recreationists swarmed onto the trails of the range. Resorts blossomed, Switzer's, Sturdevant, Echo Mountain, and Mount Lowe Tavern. Construction of the legendary narrow-gauge Mt. Lowe Scenic Railway brought world prominence to the mountains in our backyard and highlighted their recreational potential. But this era faded as the natural disasters of fires and floods wreaked their havoc in the 1930's. The losses of many prominent resorts, along with the unique landmark railway facilities to Mt. Lowe, coincided with many trails being neglected, forgotten, and unused as forest supervision put greater emphasis on timber management and resource protection. All maintenance and repair of them was deferred during WW II.

Scout Camping

During World War II, the challenges to Scouts going camping included finding ration stamps to buy food and gasoline to support recreational camping, which, of course, were "less than critical" to the war effort. Long-term camping was a part of the program of about 25-30% of the registered Units in the Los Angeles Area Council. This was good, but not impressive. Many Council Units enjoyed camping at Camp Siwinis on the shore of Jackson Lake in the Big Pines area of the Angeles National Forest. At the same time, the ever-present lure of the High Sierras was nurtured and satisfied by the High Sierra Patrol. This adventure was organized and supported by radio station KFI, Earl C. Anthony, Inc., who sponsored the enthusiastic and indefatigable Scoutmaster of the Air, Clem Glass.

Troops were encouraged to seek the high country of the mountains for summer adventure. The High Sierra Patrol offered selected Eagle Scouts a unique burro-packing experience in the Sierras. The Council supported other provisional treks to encourage and help Scouts taste the excitement of the trail. Week-long mountain treks were becoming an available and practicable entry into greater Scout adventure.

Camp Pepperdine

Through the generosity of George Pepperdine, 10 additional sites with stoves were added at Camp Siwinis to provide more facilities to support what was then primarily provisional camping. Trucks and automobiles provided basic transportation. Somehow, something needed to be done to enhance the "camping experience" for Scouts as well as to stimulate the Troop to plan and experience more outdoor adventure as a Unit. At that time, Milt Goldberg, Director of Camping under Scout Executive Arthur A. Schuck, was directing the program at Camp Siwinis, now re-named Camp Pepperdine. Milt was determined to inspire more Council Troops to enjoy long-term camping experiences. He organized the ambitious members of the Camp Staff to

join him in backpacking the 60 mile trip home from Jackson Lake to Sierra Madre at the end of Summer Camp. They then rode the Red Car to East Los Angeles. This set an example for ambitious and adventurous Scouts to follow and add a new dimension to their summer long-term experiences.

Silver Moccasins Trail

The next year East Los Angeles Scoutmaster Art Flores' Troop followed Milt's footsteps in returning home from Camp Pepperdine by trail, after having arrived at camp by truck a week earlier. The excited Unit, upon reaching Sierra Madre via Chantry Flats, decided to call their route the "Silver Moccasins Trail". Troop leadership molded a pair of small silver moccasins which were to be hung from green ribbons and worn on their uniforms. This recognition was awarded to each successful participant.

In 1947, the Los Angeles Area Council adopted the Silver Moccasins award for local Scout Units that completed the challenge 60 mile week-long backpack, on the newly identified Silver Moccasin Trail. Scouts throughout the basin responded by eagerly tackling the rewarding climbs, fording creeks, and enjoying campsites along the Trail from Chantry Flat, over Mt. Baden-Powell, and down to Jackson Lake. This enthusiasm expanded rapidly to a vigorous stream of Scout hikers in the 1950's and 1960's.

Members of the Siwinis Lodge of the Order of the Arrow installed 4x4 redwood posts in 1972 to mark its route. Those posts have moccasins that were carved into them by Ralph Van Wig.

In 2017, in an effort to save the mountain yellow-legged frog the forest service shut down the trail between the Burkhart Trail and Eagles Roost. A detour was created and is discussed in GLAAC-HAT Program Announcement 41.

Mt. Baden-Powell Monument

A major peak in the San Gabriel Mountains was named for the founder of Scouting in May 1931, due to the efforts of Major Frederick Russell Burnham and the International Eagle Service Corps. Hikers on the Silver Moccasins trail found Mt. Baden-Powell to be a rewarding high point on the route, satisfying in both a physical and inspirational sense, that being the case, how better to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Scouting than create a monument to the Founder on this summit. In 1957, Los Angeles Area Council Board member and dedicated volunteer Scouter Wally Waldron inspired and led an International Scouting Anniversary Year project to do so. The project involved over 4,000 Scouts and Scouters who packed loads of 20 pound cement mix, steel reinforcing bars and wooden planks (to be used as forms) up the 4 mile trail of switchbacks to the peak. Water was packed 2 miles up the trail from Lamel Springs. All this was done to create a lasting monument to Scouting in America and to Lord Baden-Powell. Upon completion of the monument, with Clem Glass and Scouts on the peak in radio contact with Allen Leonard at the base of the mountain, a dedication ceremony was conducted. Mr. Leonard was a close friend of Major Burnham, who was an Army associate of Lord Baden-Powell. Paul "Torchy" Dunn, led a prayer of dedication. The monument is a handsome obelisk on a concrete base, bordered with a pipe framework. Brass tribute plaques contributed by Scouter Donn Brown were imbedded in each of the four sides of the obelisk. Truly the "high point" on the Silver Moccasins trail. In 1960, on the 50th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, Lord Peter Baden-Powell, son of the founder, visited the monument with Wally Waldron. Lord Baden-Powell's grandson, Sir Robert Baden-Powell arrived in America in the summer of 1982 to participate in a re-dedication of the monument in September, honoring the 75th Anniversary of World Scouting.

Trails and Awards Committee

Forest Service managers, in communication with the Los Angeles Area Council, encouraged a more formalized approach to offering the challenge of the Silver Moccasins trail to Scout Troops. Discussions explored ideas that resulted in the need to form what would become a "Trails Committee" in the early 1960s. Taking inspiration from the enthusiasm of the Sierra Club and their experience with hiking programs, Scouters Don Crocker and Herb McCray were determined to make the excitement of backpacking readily available to all Scouts. Many heated discussions explored ideas on keeping budgets low and packs light. This resulted in emphasis on tube tents and homemade packs, accompanied by numerous guidelines for local hike activities.

Many of these trails were suffering from disuse and neglect. This provided Jim Spencer with the opportunity to organize trail maintenance projects. All these ideas were pulled together to form the committee Trails and Awards. Herb's creative energies caused the preparation of a series of Hike Aids, which became the centerpiece literature for use by interested troops, Don dedicated his efforts to designing the Angeles Forest Hiking Map which delineated the Silver Moccasins Trail and the wealth of hike in campgrounds practical for Scout use. This Trails and Awards Committee, with Bob Elliott as Professional Advisor, designed colorful embroidered patch awards as an incentive to participate.

Of primary importance was that these embryonic adventurers would perform as safe and proper mountain citizens. The Committee accepted responsibility for establishing an oversight and monitoring function for Scout use of trails and trail campsites now being even more enthusiastically enjoyed by Scouts for backpacking and hiking activities outside of Scout Camp properties. The program grew. In addition to the Silver Moccasins, the 50-mile Golden Arrowhead Award was added as a week-long backpack award hike in the San Gorgonio mountains. A Peak Bagger award included the challenges of climbing Mt. Baden-Powell, Mt. San Jacinto, Mt. San Gorgonio, Mt. San Antonio, and Mt. Whitney. Popularity of "50 milers" and the inspiration and excitement stimulated by Clem Glass's High Sierra Patrol led to more and more adventures in the High Sierra. The John Muir Trail, offered the opportunity for an award with a patch for each of the six, week-long hike segments between Yosemite and Mt. Whitney. A trans-Sierra trek award became an incentive to traverse the Sierras from Sequoia National Park via Mineral King to Mt. Whitney on the High Sierra Trail. These colorful award patches and well-detailed Hike Aid literature captured the adventurous spirit of Scouts.

The Committee prospered as Herb McCray's team expanded the ideas begun with Don Crocker in building good "mountain citizens". To reinforce these successes, the first of many adult backpack training, weekend seminars was offered at the Times Training Center in February 1966.

High Adventure Team

The LAAC Trails and Awards Committee was transformed into the High Adventure Team, chaired by Jim Hawkins. The backpack training seminars continued to be well received. In order to offer a full exposure of High Adventure skills to Scout leaders, Advanced Backpack Leader Training was initiated in 1970, with field experiences that included rock climbing and ice axe use. In the 1990's, climbing took on a greater emphasis, with leadership provided by Stephen Dodson. Stephen assumed the HAT Chair from Jim in 2008.

In 2015 The Los Angeles Area Council and the San Gabriel Valley Council merged together creating the Greater Los Angeles Area Council. This merger created the Greater Los Angeles Area Council's High Adventure Team.

In 2017 BSA allowed girls to join Boy Scouts growing in membership and allowing young ladies to enjoy the benefits of Scouting. With this addition several female Scouters have joined the HAT creating a more diverse HAT.

Inter-Council Trails Committee

At the time Region XII was relocating its offices from Southern California to Sunnyvale, it became apparent that Inter-Council communications relative to this abundance of back-packing excitement was important to all the 47 Councils in the Region. This was exemplified by the insightful initiative taken by the San Diego County and Los Angeles Area Councils, working with neighboring Southern California Councils, in creating a Southern California Inter-Council Trails Committee in 1967. The initial Chairman of this trend-setting team was Herb McCray, who stepped out of his role as Chairman of the Los Angeles Area Council-Trails and Awards Committee. He was succeeded by Bob Williams in 1967, and by Jim Hawkins in 1968. Clarence Coffin, who was the Chairman of the San Diego Committee, was the successor to McCray as Chair of this local committee. This effective venture was supported by Region, who assigned Hurley Hagood as Professional Advisor. Inevitably, the value of such inter-Council coordination became more and more apparent. A Region-wide Committee was then formed as Western Region supplanted Region XII. Retiring Region Executive Walt Whidden accepted the role of Chairman of the new committee.

Region High Adventure

In communication with the National High Adventure Committee Chairman, Jim Whittaker, Walt felt the new Committee would best reflect its mission with the title "High Adventure Team" ("HAT"). The newly named HAT, held its initial meeting at the Annual Meeting of the Western Region in October 1973 in Seattle. Jim Hawkins attended as Chairman of the "Southern California Inter-Council High Adventure Team". Though highly successful, HAT on the Region level was discontinued in the mid-80's by the BSA-National Council.

Southern California Inter-Council High Adventure Team

In order to offer the widest range and variety of High Adventure to Scouts throughout Southern California, the Chairs of the High Adventure Teams of each of the Scout Councils in Southern California are now meeting regularly four times a year. This group continues to promote High Adventure opportunities for Scouts throughout this area. New program ideas are discussed, activities and events are reported on, and training plans and opportunities are shared. The Committee Chair and meeting sites are rotated among the participating Councils. High Adventure is alive and well in Southern California.

Conservation and Trail Boss

During this period, Jim Spencer's success with trail conservation was getting the attention of the U.S. Forest Service. He convinced them of the wisdom of directing the energy of Scouts into doing selected projects in the Forest via use of trained "surrogate Ranger" Scouters. This concept became a reality through the innovative Trail Boss program, which took form in 1970. Volunteer Scouters participated in field workshops conducted by Arroyo Seco District Forest Service technicians. The training covered the fundamentals of trail building and maintenance. The Trail Boss trainees then applied these principles by working with Troops on projects involving needy trails in the Forest. Upon completing their "ticket", Trail Bosses assisted the

Forest Service by taking on the responsibility of overseeing trail projects manned by Scouts in the FS-managed areas. There was no shortage of challenging projects. This willing open-mindedness of the Arroyo Seco District resulted in a beneficent gift of Scout labor hours to the Forest that swelled to a grand total of more than 200,000 hours in the following 25 years.

High Adventure Training

Following the popular reception of the Advanced Leader Backpack Training in 1970, the Full Dimension High Adventure Training concept was adopted in 1981, with a year round series of training programs. Major elements included Desert Camping, Winter Backpack Camping, Snow and Ice Travel, Rock-Climbing, and Junior Leader Backpack Training. Coupled with Trail Boss training, Adult Scouters were now offered a full set of tools with which to help create a year-around program of genuine High Adventure. New training courses are constantly being created and added to our catalog of training.

The Trail Head

The emerging dynamics of High Adventure activities demanded a specific technique to communicate information to Units. The time was ripe for the birth of a newsletter. With Paul Lipjanec as editor, The Trail Head began its life in 1970 and was initially published quarterly, with automatic mailing to Unit Leaders. This eagerly awaited source of information quickly became the primary source of information about training and key High Adventure activities. When Paul moved into the demanding role of Explorer Post Advisor, he was succeeded by John Hegner in 1975. Gene Miyahara picked up the editorial duties in 1978 and was given added assistance by Wil Oglesby in 1981. In 1982, Wil began his editorial legacy of 14 years, giving his own unique personality and character to The Trail Head. Upon Wil's succumbing to leukemia in 1995, Bob Beach picked up the mantle. Under the editorial direction of Bob The Trail Head went from quarterly to bi-monthly. Bob Beach created his own editorial legacy by continually editing The Trail Head for 17 years. In 2012 Bob retired from HAT, passing the reins to Dennis Cline. In 2013 The Trail Head went digital and is emailed to its' subscribers. After 12 years of editing the Trail Head, Dennis Cline passed the reins to Craig Triance in December 2024. This essential publication remains in talented hands.

HAT HiLites

In 2001 John Hainey (editor) and Lyle Whited (contributor) created this monthly news flyer to keep Unit Leaders and other Scouters advised of HAT activities between The Trail Head publications. In addition to a calendar of upcoming events and announcements of upcoming training; it includes a bulletin section containing important information. In 2010 Tom Thorpe took over as editor. The Los Angeles Area Council started distributing HAT HiLites with the Scouters' News (the Council's News Magazine). In 2013 HAT HiLites went digital and is emailed to its' subscribers.

Provisional High Adventure

Many Units wanted the experience of a great outdoor adventure, but, by themselves, found it very difficult to acquire the resources needed, especially experienced adult leadership. High Adventure leaders including Jim Hawkins, Lyle Whited and Bill Roseland, supported by members of the HAT, willingly assisted in organizing and leading Council Contingents of Scouts on treks to Philmont, Sommers Canoe Base, and the High Sierras. After Bill Roseland retired from HAT, Cindy Farber took over coordinating the provisional trips in 2010. After an absence of provisional trips to Philmont, Craig Triance led a successful crew in 2024.

Log Cabin Wilderness Camp

The Log Cabin Mine, nestled at 9,960 feet on Warren Bench, below Lee Vining Peak, was donated to the Los Angeles Area Council by the Hathaway and Garbut families in 1970. It looks down on the community of Lee Vining and Mono Lake, 3,000 feet below. This camp property was enthusiastically named "Log Cabin Wilderness Camp". It offered both an opportunity and a challenge to the Los Angeles Area Council, with a one-of-a-kind atmosphere for city youth to enjoy classic mountain adventure. Over the next few years, however, it became increasingly apparent that the necessary logistics, as well as the 400-mile drive each way, presented formidable obstacles to its use as a traditional summer camp. Those who did choose to make the trip to Log Cabin were amply rewarded by the grand immensity of the Sierra and the inspiring Alpine beauty of the surrounding Tioga Pass country. However, the Council decided that more could be offered by this jewel of a camping property. Such as:

Quest Beyond the Eagle

Everett "Van" Vinzant, Director of Camping Services, and Jim Hawkins were invited by Council Executive, John Claerhout, to formulate a special "one-of-a-kind" mountain adventure program. This program was to capitalize on the unique qualities of Log Cabin Wilderness Camp and offer a special experience to Scouts. Jim and Van invited a select group of Scouters to join in designing it. The Log Cabin cross-country Exploratory Trek of 1975, led by Ralph Van Wig and Jim Hawkins provided first-hand contact with Mt. Conness and the 20 Lakes Basin to the west of Log Cabin and the Tioga Crest. This knowledge, combined with the rich natural assets of the Log Cabin property and amplified by the unique contributions of the select committee, was hard to beat. The result was the creation of a two-week, mountaineering-based leadership and teamwork development program entitled Quest Beyond the Eagle. The inaugural program was conducted in August of 1979. The High Adventure Team was recognized as the singular source capable of providing the specific skills and experience to fill the major Staff assignments. This volunteer HAT staff has thus made it possible to offer an incomparable and uniquely exciting, one-of-a-kind adventure to hundreds of Life and Eagle Scouts. This program ended in 1997 after providing this experience for 19 years.

High Country Gateway

Experience with Quest Beyond the Eagle showed the enticing potential for adventure from Log Cabin into the High Sierras. Marv Lowe and Jim Hawkins outlined a program that offered a variety of challenging trek experiences that could use Log Cabin as a gateway to the adjacent mountains. Unit-tailored treks would access the alpine peaks, cascading streams, and panoramic canyons to the west. The program was tested in 1990 and adopted as 'High Country Gateway' in 1991. It offers traditional and provisional Units customized treks into the Tuolumne, Yosemite, and Hoover Wildernesses. Log Cabin provides food, supplies, parking, planning resources, and refresher training for the Units. What a great way to be introduced to the refreshing magic of John Muir's "range of light".

Sierra Nevada Mountain Adventure Program

The Sierra Nevada Mountain Adventure Program was created for units with less high adventure experience. It includes team-building activities through Initiative Games and Low COPE Elements, and Leave-No-Trace training but also includes additional practice in navigation/orienteering, trail cooking, and technical climbing. Short overnight trips for rock climbing and peak bagging are the highlights of the Mountain Adventure Program.

The above programs ran for several years. In 20??, the Council's executive board determined due to low enrollments and high cost to run the camp, shut it down. In 2016 Log Cabin was allowed to re-open and run as a program camp. Despite a successful summer, the Board, in 2017, selected to close Log Cabin again due to it being considered a financial burden.



Mission Statement

The mission of the Greater Los Angeles Area Council-High Adventure Team (GLAAC-HAT) is to develop, promote, and conduct challenging outdoor programs and activities for this Council so that each Scout has an exciting, challenging, year-round program of High Adventure. It also promotes safety, environmental awareness, courtesy, and conservation in outdoor programs.

The GLAAC-HAT will undertake the following objectives to fulfill this mission:

- ◆ Promote participation in High Adventure programs at the Unit, District, Council, and National levels.
- ◆ Develop and conduct High Adventure skills training programs for Scouts and Scouters.
- ◆ Prepare, publish and be an information resource for High Adventure activities.
- ◆ Sponsor awards to recognize High Adventure accomplishments by Scouts, Scouters, and Units.
- ◆ Cooperate with other Councils, governmental agencies, and kindred groups to promote High Adventure activities.
- ◆ Work with the U.S. Forest Service and other similar organizations to develop and maintain trails and campsites, and to conserve and restore our natural environment.
- ◆ Track progress toward meeting the mission.



Procedures and Practices

Organization

1. This organization shall be known as the Greater Los Angeles Area Council-High Adventure Team (GLAAC-HAT).
2. The mission of GLAAC-HAT is to develop and promote outdoor programs and activities within this Council and by its many units (see mission statement above).
3. Adults who are registered with Scouting America are eligible for membership in GLAAC-HAT.
4. Scouters who regularly attend GLAAC-HAT meetings and participate in its' activities are recognized as members and are listed on its' roster.
5. The GLAAC-HAT shall meet on the first Tuesday of each month, subject to cancellation or rescheduling at the prior regular meeting.
6. The GLAAC-HAT Chair serves at the request and under the guidance of the GLAAC-Outdoor Program Committee.
7. The Chair of GLAAC-HAT shall request members to serve as Vice Chairs in such capacities as necessary and appropriate to achieving the mission of the organization.

8. The Chair of GLAAC-HAT shall request each District Camping Chair to appoint a District Representative to GLAAC-HAT.
9. The Chair of the GLAAC-HAT shall prepare and issue a membership roster in January of each year, noting Vice Chairs, District Representatives, and At-Large members.

Procedures

1. The GLAAC-HAT shall conduct its programs and activities in compliance with all applicable Scouting America policies.
2. One-third of the current membership roster of the GLAAC-HAT shall constitute a quorum.
3. The attendance of at least a quorum at any regular or special meeting of the GLAAC-HAT is required to conduct its business.
4. GLAAC-HAT shall establish such additional procedures, practices, and organizational assignments as necessary to achieve its mission.
5. Additions or changes to the Procedures and Practices of GLAAC-HAT are to be proposed at one meeting and voted on at the next regular meeting, with a simple majority of a quorum required for approval.

Operating Practices

1. All applicable permits, reservations, and medical examinations, as required by Scouting America and by administrative agencies for the outdoor locations, shall be obtained for all GLAAC-HAT sponsored programs and activities.
2. All income and expenditures for the GLAAC-HAT will be through the accounts of the GLAAC and in compliance with its policies and procedures.
3. Members of the GLAAC-HAT who, by their conduct or appearance, fail to set a good example for Scouting will be dropped from this organization.
4. Members who are responsible for overseeing a joint GLAAC-HAT/Unit activity, such as conservation work, shall ensure that the participating Unit has obtained all necessary permits, reservations, etc.
5. The GLAAC-HAT does not assume financial responsibility for a Scout's or an adult's personal equipment and belongings which are lost, stolen, or damaged while participating in a GLAAC-HAT sponsored activity.
6. The Chair shall designate the HAT members who are authorized to approve the High Adventure Application.
7. A request by a Unit to deviate from a requirement for a GLAAC sponsored High Adventure Award must be made at least six weeks prior to the outdoor activity to the Vice Chair, Awards and Programs.

Adopted by the membership of the GLAAC-HAT at its regularly scheduled January 2016 meeting.



Duties of the Chairs and Other Members

Chair, GLAAC-HAT

- ◆ Report to, and under the direction of, GLAAC-Camping Services and Outdoor Program Committee.
- ◆ Oversee the many activities and programs of the GLAAC-HAT.
- ◆ Represent the GLAAC-HAT at the monthly meetings of the Outdoor Program Committee.
- ◆ Select/appoint Vice Chairs and approve Course Directors.
- ◆ Appoint and obtain the District Camping Chair's approval of the District Representatives.
- ◆ Coordinate and obtain approval of HAT activities and financial needs with the GLAAC-Outdoor Program Chair.
- ◆ Represent the GLAAC-HAT at meetings with representatives of other Councils and the Western Region about outdoor programs and related activities.
- ◆ Chair the monthly meetings of the GLAAC-HAT.
- ◆ Prepare and issue a membership roster each January.

Associate Chair, GLAAC-HAT

- ◆ Assist the Chair in accomplishing the mission of the GLAAC-HAT.
- ◆ Preside in the absence of the Chair.

Vice Chair, Awards and Programs

- ◆ Develop a comprehensive program of awards to recognize the backpacking, peak climbing, conservation, and other High Adventure accomplishments of individuals and Units.
- ◆ Recommend limited duration or special awards to commemorate special activities and events.
- ◆ Review and recommend the revision of requirements for earning an award, including the suitability of eligible peaks for peak-climbing awards.
- ◆ Recommend the disposition of requests for a deviation to the requirements for earning a GLAAC-sponsored High Adventure award.
- ◆ Evaluate the need for and propose new recognitions of Scouters for outstanding outdoor accomplishments, such as the James L. Hawkins Award.
- ◆ Solicit recommendations for Unit Leaders and other Scouters whose outdoor accomplishments are worthy of recognition by the High Adventure Team and the GLAAC.
- ◆ Maintain a roster of recipients of the GLAAC-HAT special recognition awards.
- ◆ Maintain a roster of GLAAC-HAT members that lists the HAT recognitions and the Council awards that they have received.

Vice Chair, Equipment

- ◆ Report on new High Adventure equipment and clothing and their usefulness to local Units.
- ◆ Maintain accountability for such equipment as is acquired by GLAAC-HAT for its various programs.

Vice Chair, Trail Boss Coordinator

- ◆ Develop, promote, and conduct a program of conservation and outdoor awareness.
- ◆ Promote the training of Scouters through the Trail Boss program.
- ◆ Promote conservation activities as opportunities for Scout advancement and Unit good turn projects.
- ◆ Provide leadership for GLAAC-HAT approved forest and trail conservation projects.
- ◆ Maintain a liaison with the representatives of the USDA-Forest Service who administer the local National Forests.
- ◆ Recommend on-going and special awards for individual and Unit conservation accomplishments.

Vice Chair, Health and Safety

- ◆ Provide a health and safety resources at GLAAC-HAT sponsored activities.
- ◆ Report on changes in first aid techniques.
- ◆ Report on health and safety issues as they concern Units in conducting their High Adventure Programs.

Editor, HAT HiLites

- ◆ Prepare and issue HAT HiLites, a monthly bulletin of activities and backpacking conditions.

Webmaster

- ◆ Create and maintain the GLAAC-HAT's web site.
- ◆ Assure that material and documents posted on the web site are up to date.

Vice Chair, Information & Promotion

- ◆ Create and provide promotional material for all HAT programs
- ◆ Track unit and Individual awards earned
- ◆ Track which units are participating in High Adventure activities

Vice Chair, Literature and Publications

- ◆ Prepare quality literature for use by Unit Leadership in developing and conducting a High Adventure Program and for training and other programs of the GLAAC-HAT.
- ◆ Prepare the Hike Aids and other special brochures.
- ◆ Review and publish Training Syllabuses for the Vice Chair, Workshops and Training.
- ◆ Assist the Vice Chair, Awards Program in the preparation of on-going and special event award Program Announcements.
- ◆ Periodically review and revise, as necessary, all GLAAC-HAT literature.
- ◆ Submit all new and revised literature to the GLAAC-HAT Chair for approval before publication.

Editor, The Trail Head

- ◆ Prepare and issue The Trail Head, the regularly published newsletter of the GLAAC-HAT, to include:
 - ◇ Summary of minutes of meetings and other activities of the GLAAC-HAT.
 - ◇ Schedule of GLAAC-HAT meetings, activities, and programs.
 - ◇ Announcements of GLAAC-HAT training sessions.
 - ◇ Information related to High Adventure, with emphasis on local conditions, opportunities, etc.

- ✧ Material of value to Unit Leadership in developing and conducting its High Adventure Program.
- ◆ Serve as Secretary of Record at all meetings of the GLAAC-HAT.

Vice Chair, Training and Workshops

- ◆ Administer the Full Dimension High Adventure Training Program.
- ◆ Review and approve Training Syllabuses for each training session.
- ◆ Nominate a Course Director for every Training and Workshop for approval by the HAT Chair.
- ◆ Recommend new or special interest training sessions.
- ◆ Maintain a record of individual training participation and award the trained leader patches.
- ◆ Conduct critiques and review comments to validate program quality and effectiveness.

Course Directors, Training and Workshops

- ◆ Recruit staff for each training session and ensure that each member is adequately prepared.
- ◆ Prepare and update the training syllabus as necessary.
- ◆ Prepare and update training aids, handouts, and course review.
- ◆ Prepare a roster for each classroom session and field experience.
- ◆ Arrange for all required permits for field experience trips.
- ◆ Verify venue and support services for classroom sessions.

Chairs are to assemble permanent or ad hoc committees as needed to accomplish their duties. Such persons need not be members of GLAAC-HAT, but they should understand and support its mission. The goal of each Chair is to strive for the highest quality in GLAAC-HAT programs and activities.

District Representative

- ◆ Represent the District and its Units to the GLAAC-HAT.
- ◆ Provide two-way communication between the District and GLAAC-HAT.
- ◆ Attend GLAAC-HAT and District meetings and functions.
- ◆ Promote High Adventure to the District and the Unit Leadership, with emphasis on GLAAC-HAT sponsored programs.
- ◆ Provide training and input on High Adventure at the District Roundtable.
- ◆ Provide recommendations, critical analysis, etc., to the GLAAC-HAT on District and Unit needs and concerns regarding the High Adventure Program.

At - Large Members

- ◆ Support the GLAAC-HAT in the accomplishment of its mission.
- ◆ Provide a resource of expertise on High Adventure to the GLAAC-HAT and/or Unit Leadership.
- ◆ Set a good example by conduct and appearance of responsible outdoor practices and the Scout Oath and Law.



Relationship to the Greater Los Angeles Area Council

GLAAC-HAT is a committee of volunteers which operates under the sponsorship and guidance of the Greater Los Angeles Area Council. The Director of Camping Services or the Outdoor Program Committee Chair selects the GLAAC-HAT Chair and attends HAT meetings and other functions, coordinating the programs and needs of the HAT with those of the GLAAC. All moneys earned and expended for the HAT programs are handled through the Council's books and accounts and are in compliance with its policies and procedures.

While the emphasis is on High Adventure, the mission of GLAAC-HAT is more broadly based. To fulfill it, HAT provides support to the numerous programs and activities of the Outdoor Program Department. Its members are a resource of expertise that are available to assist in developing plans, making recommendations, providing critical analysis, and promoting District and Unit participation.

GLAAC-HAT has enjoyed a close, professional relationship with GLAAC over its many years. This relationship has been to the mutual benefit to all parties involved, but, more importantly, it has benefited the Units and Scouts of this Council and the broader community.



Relationship To Other Organizations

GLAAC-HAT maintains working relationships with numerous other organizations, both within and outside of Scouting. These relationships cover many activities, ranging from sharing information about the High Adventure Program to extending training and other support to an organization. They may be through the Chair or other members of the GLAAC-HAT, within the context that they are consistent with accomplishing the mission of the HAT. The opportunity to participate in training sessions and other programs may be extended to members of these organizations on a space availability basis.

Other Councils

GLAAC-HAT works with other Councils to promote High Adventure. Information about upcoming programs and activities is shared. The GLAAC-HAT recognizes HAT training and outdoor awards that are sponsored by these Councils and extends the training and awards which it sponsors to be earned by their registered Scouts, Scouters, and Units.

USDA-Forest Service

GLAAC-HAT has maintained a very close relationship with representatives of the Forest Service in the Angeles National Forest for over 40 years. The innovative nature of this collaboration led to the development of the widely acclaimed Trail Boss training, which is the model for a nation-wide program within the federal government. The GLAAC-HAT assists the USDA-FS in providing training in forest and trail conservation techniques to Scouters and members of other organizations. Numerous members of the GLAAC-HAT are registered volunteers with the Forest Service.

Kindred Organizations

Organizations that share an interest in backpacking, conservation, or environmental awareness are extended the opportunity to participate in GLAAC-HAT sponsored activities, on a space availability basis. This most generally occurs in the areas of training and conservation programs. It provides for a sharing of ideas and the promotion of a positive image of Scouting's outdoor programs.



Special Recognition Awards

GLAAC-HAT offers several special recognition awards to adults within the Council for outstanding service in developing, promoting, or providing High Adventure. These are in addition to, and independent of, the awards for service to Scouting that are offered by the Districts and the Council. However, GLAAC-HAT has an interest in assuring that its members receive appropriate consideration in the selection of individuals to receive those awards. The Vice Chair-Awards and Recognitions oversees the HAT sponsored recognitions and makes recommendations to the Chairman.

GLAAC-HAT offers the following special recognitions:

- ◆ James L. Hawkins-Grand High Adventure Maker.
The award is presented to the Unit Leader who offers a quality High Adventure Program, on a year round basis and over a number of years. One or more awards may be presented annually at Adult Leaders Backpack Training.
- ◆ High Adventure Cup.
The award is presented to a member of the GLAAC-HAT for outstanding service to the Team. The award is made at the discretion of the Chair GLAAC-HAT.
- ◆ Master TrailBuilder.
Presented to a Trail Boss for continued service to the conservation program of the USDA-FS/GLAAC-HAT. It is awarded on the recommendation of the Vice Chair-Forest and Trail Conservation.

GLAAC offers the Northrop Award to recognize Scouters who provide exceptional outdoor leadership.



Challenges For A New Century

Ah, for the luxury of sitting back and relaxing after sixty years of High Adventure accomplishment in the Greater Los Angeles Area Council. Programs are in place, training is being offered, and Scouts are backpacking and being challenged to excel. However, the members of the GLAAC-HAT view what has been accomplished as a framework for continually improving and extending the reach of our activities. The importance of doing this can be better understood by recounting some of the changes that are currently affecting the High Adventure Program.

The budget cuts being made to the USDA-FS are all but draconian. They are causing a reduction in services, the elimination of backcountry patrols, the loss of trails and campsites, reduction in fire coverage, etc. All of these adversely affect our outdoor programs. There is a greater need for, and reliance upon, volunteers to help offset the impact of the USDA-FS cuts. GLAAC-HAT will provide or support training and supervise conservation projects. It will continue to promote volunteerism in our forests and deserts.

User fees are here, and their use will be expanded. The nature and amounts are evolving, but expect to see them for all camping and hiking. The use of volunteers and doing conservation projects to "pay" the fee, may help some. Expect to pay for all searches, rescues, and evacuations.

Bicyclists are having a major impact on trails. Most are considerate users; many perform trail conservation and other volunteer work. They do cause trail damage and trails, like freeways, have a finite carrying capacity. A bicyclist can be a hazard to the unwary hiker. On the other hand, the mountain bike represents an opportunity to introduce a new type of High Adventure to the Unit.

Pressure to allow greater commercial use of the mountains and deserts will increase. The traditional users, e.g., lumbering, mining, grazing, will be joined by others in this, including the anti-environmentalists. As it happens, less space is available for hiking, camping, and other outdoor activities. Such development usually causes environmental and water pollution and increased vehicle traffic. Scout Leaders need to make their opinions known when land uses, and planning measures are being considered by government agencies.

Younger Scouts are participating in outdoor programs. Our training programs will have to address their physical and emotional needs and abilities. Consideration will need to be given to age-rating outdoor programs and awards, to a greater extent than today.

Most new Adult Leaders have a different background and experience than those of 20-30 years ago. Fewer have grown up in a rural setting or have had military service. They need to be made aware of training opportunities just as soon as they become involved. That training needs to recognize these differences.

Contact with predatory animals will increase. Native animals are returning to locations where they had been hunted to extinction. Adults and Scouts must be instructed in how to avoid and to deal appropriately with a wild animal.

Water quality will continue to decline in streams and lakes. Training programs will need to provide greater emphasis on the use and protection of ground water.

In 2020, the world, including the USA, and Scouting were affected by the Covid Pandemic. Policies and rules were established to prevent the spread of this disease. The Council developed Policies and Practices for meetings and events, so Scouting could continue while maintaining the quarantine suggested by the Government. HAT started holding their meetings via Zoom. HAT trainings were held under strict guidelines for seating, verifying Covid vaccinations, and cleansing communal areas.

The GLAAC-HAT will continue to assist the Unit Leadership in providing challenging, safe, enjoyable outdoor activities. To accomplish this, it will strive to improve the quality and effectiveness of its current programs and to make the changes necessary to meet the needs of Scouting in a new century.



Milestones in GLAAC High Adventure

- 1931 Mt. Baden-Powell dedication and placement of plaque.
- 1942 Mapping and development begun for the route that became the Silver Moccasins Trail.
- 1947 Silver Moccasins Trail Award initiated. First backpacking award sponsored by LAAC.
- 1949 First parcel of camp property acquired east of Lake Arrowhead.
- 1952 Formal dedication of the Lake Arrowhead Boy Scout Camps.
- 1955 Jim Spencer suggests to Forest Service personnel that Boy Scouts be allowed to do trail conservation in the Angeles National Forest.
- 1958 Re-dedication of Mt. Baden-Powell with the construction of a monument under guidance of W.H. "Wally" Waldron.
- 1963 Trails and Awards Committee formed to promote backpacking and mountain courtesy: Herb McCray-Chairman.
- 1963 First High Adventure publication, Angeles National Forest, by Don Crocker.
- 1964 First Hike Aid issued, prepared by Herb McCray.
- 1965 Peak Bagger award program adopted.
- 1966 First backpack training program held.
- 1968 Jim Hawkins appointed Chairman, Trails and Awards Committee.
- 1970 Trail Boss training program formally initiated, thanks to Jim Spencer.
- 1970 Log Cabin Mine property donated by the Hathaway and Garbut Families.
- 1971 The Trail Head first issued; Paul Lipjanec-Editor.
- 1972 Silver Moccasins Trail marked by 4x4 redwood posts containing moccasins carved by Ralph Van Wig. The Signs were installed by Siwinis Lodge, Order of the Arrow.
- 1973 Trails and Awards Committee re-named High Adventure Team: Jim Hawkins-Chair.
- 1975 Log Cabin Wilderness Camp opened.
- 1978 John Wayne Outpost property donated.
- 1979 The Quest Beyond the Eagle begins.
- 1981 Full Dimension High Adventure Training Program structure adopted.
- 1982 TrailSaver Award program adopted; suggested by Jim Spencer.
- 1982 The re-dedication of Mt. Baden-Powell and special awards program.
- 1985 John K. Northrop Exceptional Outdoor Leadership Award established; first recipient Jim Hawkins.
- 1987 The Grand HAM (High Adventure Maker) Award was created by Jim Hawkins, recognizing Unit leaders who have promoted High Adventure activities within their unit.

- 1987 Eagle Nest constructed at Log Cabin Wilderness Camp.
- 1991 High Country Gateway program adopted for Log Cabin Wilderness Camp.
- 1991 In the fall the LAAC-HAT announced the Jim Spencer Conservation Award.
- 1992 Revised Hike Aids structure adopted.
- 1997 The 50th anniversary celebration of the Silver Moccasins Trail Award.
- 1997 The Quest Beyond the Eagle ends after 19 years of serving Scouts.
- 1998 Mountain Man program initiated at Log Cabin Wilderness Camp.
- 2000 Jim Spencer awarded the Hornaday Gold Medal for conservation work.
- 2001 HAT HiLites created by John Hainey editor, Lyle Whited contributor.
- 2005 Lyle Whited and John Hainey update the Hike Aid publications.
- 2005 Dick Rose created the Rock Climbing Award.
- 2007 Dick Rose created the Centennial Award in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of Scouting in the world and Boy Scouts of America.
- 2008 The Grand Ham Award is renamed the James L. Hawkins' Grand HAM Award in recognition of Jim's dedicated service to the High Adventure Team.
- 2008 Stephen Dodson appointed Chairman, of the High Adventure Team.
- 2011 Russ Bower adds Snowshoeing to the Cross-Country Skiing Seminar.
- 2013 Replaced Mountain Oriented Accident Response with Wilderness and Remote First Aid.
- 2013 The Trail Head goes digital and is emailed to its' subscribers.
- 2015 The Los Angeles Area Council and the San Gabriel Valley Council merged together creating the Greater Los Angeles Area Council.
- 2015 Jim Hawkins and Marv Lowe pass away. Both men were dedicated Scouters and members/leaders of the High Adventure Team.
- 2016 After being closed for several years Log Cabin is allowed to open and run as a program camp.
- 2017 The Board selects to close Log Cabin again due to it being considered a financial burden.
- 2017 Girls are brought into the Boy Scout of America.
- 2018 Georgia Sorensen and Cindy Farber create Wilderness Woman Training.
- 2020 A new Mission Statement was adopted.
- 2020 John Sandhagan crates a training titled, Canoeing the Lower Colorado.
- 2021 HAT meetings changed formats and went to Hybrid meetings, a combination of zoom and in person. In person only meetings will be held quarterly.
- 2021 National Scout Shops decide to no longer sell High Adventure Awards. So GLAAC-HAT buys the stock and opens an online store, enabling Scouts and Scouters to continue purchasing our awards. Craig Triance agrees to be the store manager.
- 2024 Due to a lack of use the USFS cancels Log Cabin's use permit/lease closing the camp for good.
- 2025 The HAT updates Hike Aid Publications.
- 2025 The 115th anniversary of Boy Scouts and name change to Scouting America.

*"Stream, little known, whose waters run over a ragged, hidden bed.
 Yes....like you, I shun the crowd: like you, I love the Wilderness."
 Jean Francis Ducis*



"To teach is to learn twice."
Joseph Jobert



"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere."
Chinese proverb



*"When planning for a year, plant corn.
When planning for a decade, plant trees.
When planning for life, train and educate people."*
Chinese proverb