2015 - A Year In Review
Orange County Council NESA Committee

Introduction

The Orange County Council NESA Committee's mission is to recognize Scouts who have attained the Eagle Scout rank and to engage Eagle Scouts to actively support Scouting in Orange County throughout their lives. To this end, we implemented a number of legacy programs and introduced a number of new programs.

Our recent programs brought new members onto our committee and many of our newer members were instrumental in proposing and implementing new programs.

This report provides a brief overview of our 2015 programs. We hope that you find our work interesting and we welcome your help supporting Scouting in Orange County.
Winter Eagle Scout Alumni Gathering
*Lionel Grove, Event Chair*

The Winter Eagle Scout alumni gathering was held on Scout Anniversary Sunday, February 8th at the Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center. This new event, which combined the Scouting Anniversary theme with a camp setting and some hands on fun, generated over 100 attendees. Orange County Historian and Eagle Scout, Phil Brigandi, provided the keynote address during lunch and regaled our large contingent with a phenomenal walk down memory lane, recounting the rich Scouting history here in Orange County. Following lunch, the entire group dispatched to 4-5 program areas, including Archery, BB Guns, Zip Lining, a camp tour and a hike to the top of Koll Mt.

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Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner
*Michael Martin, Event Chair*

The 2015 Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner was a huge success! We were blessed to host 575 Eagle Scouts, Eagle sponsors and parents and guests who were in attendance at the Wyndham Hotel. Our program was well choreographed and programmatically sound. It included highlights such as, photo booth with Billy the Bald Eagle, ten prominent university displays during the reception, Eagle Scout Brandon Spooner sang “God Bless the USA”, the Reverend Mark Whitlock's rendered an amazing invocation, Showpros
stellar videos and a phenomenal guest speaker, Gaddi Vasquez, VP of Edison International.

We honored six fantastic, deserving NOESA recipients, presented the Adams Eagle Scout project of the Year (Seth Watkins-T842) and The National Youth Leadership Society Honor (Eagle Scout Mihir Nilkanth-T636). When the dust had settled, after sending out scores of heartfelt thank you notes, we had raised over $43,000 net to Scouting through the dinner.

**NESA Professional Networking**  
*Bill McCroskey, Event Chair*

The NESA committee under the leadership of event chairman, Bill McCroskey conducted two Eagle Scout networking events this year, one in June and the other in Sept. Both events were held in the early evening at the Center Club in Costa Mesa. Approximately 35 Eagle Scouts attended the first networking event and 15 the second networking event. Under Bill’s leadership, this will be a quarterly event that we hope to target to younger, working professional Eagle Scout Alumni.
Scout-o-Rama Judging and Display
David Peterson & Lionel Grove, Event Chairs Respectively

NESA Committee members volunteered at Scout-o-Rama to judge the unit scouting displays and of course to run our own OC Council NESA Committee booth.
Habitat for Humanity Service Project
Dave Thiel, Event Chair

The First Annual NESA Habitat for Humanity Team Build Day was organized and took place on August 8, 2015 in Santa Ana.

Two homes, on McFadden Ave., were worked on by a contingent of Eagle Scouts and their parents. The tasks of exterior painting, prep for interior finishes, and some excavation for drainage were undertaken. All the necessary tools and instructions were provided at the site by Habitat for Humanity.

At the end of the day, all who participated enjoyed the rewards of their labor and could look and see what their efforts had accomplished during a very fulfilling day for building.
Youth Oso Lake Service Project  
**Jesse Johnson & Justin Minagar, Event Chairs**

On July 12th, fourteen Eagle Scouts gathered at Oso Lake Boy Scout Camp to help Ranger Dennis tackle several camp service projects. The team worked on remodeling the central camp stage, fixed some signage and helped with some painting projects. Following the afternoon service projects were completed, the flock of Eagles sat down for a sumptuous BBQ lunch, overlooking the beautiful Oso Lake, courtesy of NESA.
Robinson Helicopter Factory Tour  
*Wes Hains, Event Chair*

This tour was limited to twelve attendees and was quickly over subscribed soon after being announced. Our attendees enjoyed a tour of the Robinson Helicopter factory at the Torrance Airport where we saw a world class manufacturing operation, some very high tech machining tools, and gained an appreciation for the level of quality control effort required to build these machines.

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Fall Eagle Scout Alumni Gathering  
*Bill McCroskey, Event Chair*

This year’s fall Eagle Scout Alumni gathering took place at the Newport Sea Base on Saturday, November 7. This was an excellent event programmatically but fell short of our expectations in terms of attendance. Approximately 50-55 Eagle Scouts and their guests attended the event. Our guest speaker, Eagle Scout C. Thomas Ruppert, the founder of the California
Sailing Foundation, was extremely interesting as he shared his life and Scouting story after which attendees were able to participate in a number of water related activities.

**National Outstanding Eagle Scout Award (NOESA) Presentations**

This year the Orange County Council NESA chapter presented a total of eight NOESA’s. Six NOESA’s were presented during the Eagle Scout Recognition dinner. The stellar cast of recipients included: John Briscoe, John Neilson, Jeff Bozanic, Pat Jackson, Derek Knobel, and Curtis Reese. Two NOESA’s were presented independently. Terry Adams was presented his recognition at the council donor appreciation event in the October and Don Webb was presented his award at a special Del Mar district event in his honor in November.