

NORCAL ENVIRONMENTAL STUDENT NETWORK

A DIVISION OF THE
SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENCE EDUCATORS INSTITUTE

5150 Fair Oaks Blvd., Suite 101, PMB 217

Carmichael, California 95608-5758

(916) 366-9532

Marc H. Epstein, Project Manager

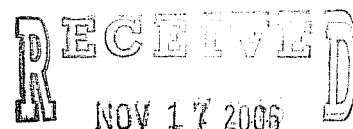
marcepstein@hotmail.com

FAX (916) 487-9435

www.geocities.com/nesn_globe

November 13, 2006

Santa Clara Council 55
Boy Scouts of America
670 West Julian Street
San Jose, California 95126



Dear Sirs:

For several years Norcal Environmental Student Network has been participating in environmental service and outdoor activities which we cross paths with Boy Scout Troops on a regular basis. Recently we have been deeply involved in two projects which we believe would be of great interest to members of both the Boy Scout and Venture programs. At recent meetings of collaborative committees of both projects it was recommended we develop a formal association in regards to these activities with the Boy Scouts of America. This action has developed in response to the failure of the formal K -12 education community to involve their students in experiential and project based learning, in particular those activities sponsored by the informal education community.

Two programs we believe will be of particular interest to the Boy Scouts of America. The first is the Junior Solar Sprint Competition (JSSC). This is a program designed for middle school students ages 6 - 8 sponsored on a national basis by the United States Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and sponsored on a local level for over ten years by the University of California at Berkeley Student Chapter of the Society of Women Engineers. This is a program where the students in teams of three or four students to design and build model solar cars about the size of a shoe box and compete in a race held on the last Saturday of May at the Lawrence Hall of Science on the Berkeley campus. NESN has become involved in this project in an effort to expand participation through the training of high school and community college students to be coaches and mentors for the middle school students. We are certain that a number of Boy Scout Troops would have an interest in sponsorship of teams at the Berkeley JSSC program.

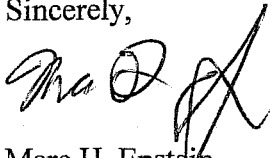
The second program is the K - 12 Watershed and Estuary Support Team (KWEST). This program is a joint effort with the Clean Water Team of the State Water Resources Control Board and the Environmental Technology Initiative of the California Community Colleges Economic

and Workforce Development Program. KWEST is designed to train high school students to become the leaders in the creation or continuation of on-going and sustainable school/youth based watershed projects in coordination with local citizen based watershed project work. We are in the final stages in the development of a Basic Watershed Management Certificate program at Merritt Community College in Oakland. This certificate program has been sequenced to enable high school students to complete the requirements concurrent with their diploma. We are planning to offer courses within the certificate program which are specific to Merritt College for high school students as residential workshops during school breaks. Since the plan is to conduct these workshops for student leaders in teams of three or four (mixed gender) with a watershed project in mind, it is our belief that many of your students would have an interest in matriculation in this program while earning Merit and Eagle Scout badges.

Please pass this information onto your Troop leaders. Once I receive communication from Troop leaders more detailed information will be provided. I believe by including the Boy Scouts of America in these programs will be advantages to both organizations and its members, since both our organizations believe in experiential education which has a benefit to the community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc H. Epstein". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Marc H. Epstein
Project Manager