



# The Varsity Letter



GREAT SALT LAKE COUNCIL, BSA

Council No. 590, Salt Lake City, Utah

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## Promise of Varsity Scouting realized through fun activities

Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, said something to the effect that if it isn't fun it isn't scouting. For the boys this is the draw, that is the prospect of discovery and adventure. The fun, if you will, is the draw—the draw to keep young men involved as they grow and mature. Varsity Scouting is designed to meet the needs of young men 14-18 years of age. In the Great Salt Lake Council we sponsor and stage several activities every year to help units keep the fun in their scouting while meeting that aim and objective of sponsors and parents.

One of the events that has been very successful over the years is the Varsity Scout Big Event. Held annually, usually at East Fork of the Bear Scout Reservation, the Big Event offers boys an opportunity see Varsity Scouting as fun and different. It is important that the imagination is kindled with ideas. Skills are explored and presented in new and different ways. For units and their advisors the Big Event holds the potential to exercise team leadership, practice planning, and develop Character, Citizenship, and Fitness--the ideals scouting represents. The presentation of the Big Event is handled in such a way as to allow teams great flexibility in achieving their own specific goals.

We hope to help Scouters see the value of the event and to appreciate its limitations. For comparison many of us are familiar with Jamboralls. These are short-term events, usually two or three days, where units from all over the council and beyond get together to participate in different activities. This is much different than a scout camp where units work on specific unit needs and individual skills. A formal scout camp is often extends for more than four days. Camps have a number of

criteria and requirements that must be met in order for qualification. The Varsity Scout Big Event is a poor substitute for a Varsity summer camp. Their purpose is different and the planing is different. They each meet a different need for teams and team members.

So as you plan your year, come and enjoy the Big Event. We will do our very best to make it fun and exciting. It is a great teaching tool for youth and adults. But remember that a good mechanic has many tools in his box. Often when we adopt the notion that one size fits all nothing is done very well. A good coach and committee will see the value of the Big Event.

Teams have a lot of other options, too. They have the choice of formal and informal camps. Teton High Adventure Base is a great camping activity. The staff is prepared to help teams and team leadership plan a meaningful and memorable camp. East Fork of the Bear offers High Adventure options for individuals and teams. Training is something new this year with the presentation of On Belay. Both youth and adults will have a great learning experience set in the High Uinta Mountains.

Fun can be had in many ways. Baden-Powell said something else that is noteworthy. He said that scouting is a game with a purpose. Let's work together this year to have a wonderful scouting experience. Good luck and have fun!

Comments or questions can be addressed to Richard Aird, Vice President Varsity Scouting, at [Richard@AMERICAN-INS.COM](mailto:Richard@AMERICAN-INS.COM).

## New painting on display

The Great Salt Lake Council Endowment Committee has been able to commission a painting by the renowned western artist Clark Kelley Price. The work is entitled "Our Heritage, Our Duty." This particular painting has recently been featured in the *Deseret News* and on a number of billboards across the valley. The purpose of commissioning the painting is to generate income for the endowment through the sale of signed, limited numbered lithographs.

We are honored to have had Mr. Price consent to a work specifically designed for this purpose. His works have been extensively used by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in their publications and throughout many of their buildings. This original piece has been placed for a limited time in the Council Service Center at 525 Foothill Boulevard. It will be made available for viewing through April 30. Viewing time will be during normal Service Center hours.

We encourage the public to view this original art. Mr. Price has captured a moment in time which reflects the very essence of what past, present, and future Scouting is all about.

The Endowment Committee is pleased to make these valuable signed and numbered lithographs available to Scouters and friends of Scouting at a cost of \$150.00. If you are a James E. West Fellow, your cost is \$100.00.

The James E. West recognition is given to those individuals who contribute \$1,000 or more in cash or securities to the Great Salt Lake Council. If you are interested in joining this exclusive group or would like to reserve your lithograph, contact the Endowment Office of the Great Salt Lake Council at 801-582-3663.

Please make every effort to come by and view an original oil masterpiece during the month of April. Displaying your lithograph will bring lasting impressions of Scouting, patriotism and the Olympics to your home or office. We appreciate your continued support of Scouting.

## Eagle breakfast planned

The annual Eagle Breakfast of Champions is scheduled on Saturday, April 13, 2002, at 8:30 a.m. at the South Towne Exposition Center, 9575 South State Street, in Sandy.

All young men who received their Eagle Award in 2001 are invited along with an adult partner. Eagle Scouts are admitted free to the

breakfast. Tickets for the adult partner are \$14.00.

The Guest Speaker and Champion Award Recipient is President Thomas S. Monson, first counselor in the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Details are available on the council web site, <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/events/eagle.htm>. Additional information is available by calling the service center at 582-3663 or send e-mail to [council@gslc-bsa.org](mailto:council@gslc-bsa.org).

## VS Basic Training offered

We know that every Varsity Scout coach's time is valuable, and the opportunities for training are not always convenient. As we learn of opportunities for basic training the information will be posted on the council web site (<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/training/>). Check back often so that you can have that opportunity for the training that will help you in becoming the greatest Varsity coach ever.

<u>Dist.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
4	Granite Stake 2005 S 900 E	4/13/2002	8:00 a.m.
17	TBA	4/20/2002	8:00 a.m.
10	7735 W 3500 S	4/27/2002	8:00 a.m.
17	TBA	5/18/2002	8:00 a.m.
1	TBA	10/12/2002	TBA

## District News Roundup

### District 13

The annual spring rendezvous sponsored by Granger District (13) is scheduled Friday and Saturday, April 26-27, at Stansbury Island.

Planned activities and events include black powder rifles, tomahawk and knife throw, primitive fire building (embers award), leatherwork, Dutch darts, and a John Colter run. If there is sufficient interest, there will be a Dutch oven cooking contest. Teams interested in the Dutch oven cooking contest should RSVP by sending e-mail to Steve Honsvick (district vice chairman) at [honzieclaus@yahoo.com](mailto:honzieclaus@yahoo.com) or Brian Westover (booshway) at [panslayer14@hotmail.com](mailto:panslayer14@hotmail.com). Event fliers and registration forms are available at the council service center and scout shops.

All Varsity Scout teams in the Great Salt Lake Council are welcome. Early registration is \$8 per person. On-site registration is \$15 per person. Teams may register at the service

center camp desk or any of the scout shops. Information required for registration includes: unit number, number of youth and adults, a contact number for the coach or other adult leader, and the name of the sponsor or chartering organization. Registration includes a leather medallion for each boy.

### District 17

White Buffalo District (17) is starting to gear up for summer. We have our spring Camp-O-Ree April 12-13 at Horseshoe Springs. The normal games are planned and additional activities to entice the Varsity and Venturing Scouts. We will host the council climbing team. They will offer a climbing experience for the Varsity and Venture Scouts. This activity will run from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

We have invited the council training team to present the new Varsity training on April 20. This is a new training just developed. It is a four-hour course with the emphasis on team building rather than on scouting skills. Scouting skills will still be taught but the emphasis is on team building and cooperation. This course will be offered from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon. The next scheduled training will be May 18. This training will also be held from 8:00 a.m. until 12 noon. We invite anyone interested to attend. For more information call Hal at 264-0981

Scout-O-Rama is less than a month away. It will be held May 4 at the State Fair Park. There is still time to register for a booth at the event. Anything from backpacking to kayak building to snowshoe construction would make an excellent booth demonstration and display. The Varsity will be combined into one area to show everyone the diversity of the program.

The Varsity Big Event is just around the corner on June 19 through noon on June 22. As usual, this will be an outstanding event. It will be at the East Fork of the Bear Scout Reservation. The other exciting Varsity event this summer is On Belay. This is a training course for Scouts and leaders. It will give all participants hands-on experience in the high adventure skills on which the Varsity program is built.

## Advancement forms online

Advancement Record Forms are valuable tools for keeping track of advancement. Downloadable forms to track Boy Scout and Cub Scout advancement are available on the

council web site, <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/bs/advancement/advtools.htm>. Two formats ( PDF and editable MS Excel 5.0) are available

## Council roundtable report

Scout-O-Rama was the topic of discussion at March's council roundtable.

Now is the time to make your plans for the booth you and your unit are going to have at the 2002 Scout-O-Rama "Building Character--We Can Do It," to be held on May 4, 2002 at the Utah State Fairpark.

Why Have a Booth?

1. It is a great way to let your youth demonstrate what they have learned in Scouting.

2. Your youth will have a lot of fun participating in the booth and seeing the other fun things at the Scout-O-Rama.

3. As a Unit leader, you can earn special Scout-O-Rama Collector's Patches (<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/events/sor/patches.htm>). Two great patches are available for hosting a booth. One for sign up for a booth on or before March 9, 2002. This patch is obtained at your District's Ticket Sales Kickoff Center on March 9 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The second patch is earned by actually setting up your booth at the Scout-O-Rama on Saturday, May 4, 2002.

4. Your unit will double the commissions on every Scout-O-Rama ticket sold by your youth--you'll receive a total of 30 percent commission on each ticket sold. (<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/events/sor/booth.htm>).

The complete Scout-O-Rama Leader's Guide is available at <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/events/sor/guide.htm>

### Varsity Scout Program Feature Reports:

**Advancement:** Adult leaders are encouraged to help boys earn the Varsity Letter and Denali award.

The council has prepared a one-page document listing which BSA requirements fill requirements for the new Duty to God youth religious award which may be earned by members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Volunteers are available to make presentations at district roundtables as well as stake bishopric meetings. The award will be promoted at the week-long On Belay leadership camp.

**High Adventure:** Operation On Target (July 20) was highlighted by Dave Walker.

Representatives will be on hand at both the Scout-O-Rama and the Big Event to provide instruction, answer questions, and give boys a chance to make their own signal mirrors. Organizers also hope to establish a central signal point in a downtown building, offering an additional contact site as well as providing access to scouts with physical disabilities. Walker also reminded leaders of the annual Turkey Shoot in October.

**Special Programs & Events:** Scout-O-Rama booth registration and ticket sales are under way.

The Big Event is scheduled June 20-22.

**Training:** Adult leaders are encouraged to register for On Belay (August 12-17). Unit coaches will act as course assistant coaches. Applications for adult and youth staff openings are being accepted.

The syllabus for the new Varsity Scout leader basic training has been distributed district and council trainers. Additional copies are available at the service center or through the Varsity Scouts web site.

**Promotion:** Full color posters advertising On Belay and the Big Event have been distributed to district vice chairmen.

### Future Roundtable Schedule

District committee members are invited to attend the monthly council roundtable on the third Wednesday of each month at Camp Tracy in Millcreek Canyon. Members will receive training which they can then pass on to the coaches and other leaders at the district roundtable the following month.

Dates and themes for upcoming council roundtables follows:

April 17, 2002: Big Event, On Target

May 15, 2002: Best Campsites in the Council, Model Campsite

## 2002 Varsity calendar

Scout-O-Rama, Saturday, May 4

Big Event, Thursday-Saturday, June 20-22

Operation On-Target, Saturday, July 20

On Belay leader training, August 12-17

Turkey Shoot, Saturday, October 26

## New High Adventure camp

## available for Varsity Scouts

A new high adventure program is available for Varsity and Venture Scouts attending the East Fork of the Bear Scout Reservation.

Participants will be able to complete skill and advancement requirements through experience, not lectures. Two options are available, the Uinta Challenge and the Grizzly Adams Experience. Both programs are available to both teams or crews and individuals.

The registration fee is \$188 per person (based on a six-day trip), and includes a specialized menu. For more information visit the council web site at <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/camps/eastfork/extreme/index.htm/>, e-mail [extreme@gslc-bsa.org](mailto:extreme@gslc-bsa.org), or call Dan Warlick at 582-3663, ext. 222.

## Advanced training offered

Registration is under way for Wood Badge for the 21st Century—a single training program for Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, Venturing, council and district leaders, and professionals. Three of the popular advanced training courses are offered in the Great Salt Lake Council this year.

The spring weekend course will be held at Camp Tracy in April, the summer week-long course at the Travis Training Center at the East Fork of the Bear Boy Scout Camp runs August 5-10, and the fall weekend course at Camp Tracy begins in late August.

Cost for the course is \$190.00. For more information call 582-3663 and ask for the Camp Desk, send e-mail to [woodbadge@gslc-bsa.org](mailto:woodbadge@gslc-bsa.org), or visit the web site: <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/woodbadge>.

## The Varsity Letter

Submissions are welcome. E-mail your suggestions the editor at [vinfo@gslc-bsa.org](mailto:vinfo@gslc-bsa.org). The copy deadline is the third Wednesday of each month.

Previous issues of the *Varsity Letter* are available online via the Great Salt Lake Council Varsity Scout World Wide Web site at <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/vletter>.