



# The Varsity Letter



GREAT SALT LAKE COUNCIL, BSA

Council No. 590, Salt Lake City, Utah

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## Over 50 activities await Big Event participants, June 20-22

It is the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America to provide for boys an effective program designed to build desirable qualities of character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to develop in them personal fitness, thus to help in the development of American citizens. But boys are more interested in fun. To accomplish the aims of scouting while satisfying this thirst for fun, the Varsity Scouts have taken the traditional Mountain Man Rendezvous theme and developed the Big Event.

The site is in the High Uinta Mountains, just off of the Mirror Lake Highway, where we have access to the entire East Fork Reservation. There are over 50 different activities which represent all five fields of emphasis. The boys can spend all three days participating in events and never visit the same one twice (unless they want to!). Many of the activities are timed events and it is not unusual to see a team come back time and again to better their score.

The Big Event features over 50 different activities. Each activity is separated into one of the five fields of emphasis High Adventure, Special Programs and Events, Advancement, Personal Development, and Service. A special score card is used to help ensure that all team members have a chance to visit each field of emphasis and that program manager has an opportunity to "lead" his group through the exercise. Service is expected from each team as well and a special bead is given for completion of a service project. (Many projects are needed before the event gets under way so if you would like to complete your service project before the activities--please contact the scout office).

For those of you that enjoy the Mountain Man era, organizers have put together a

Mountain Man Resource (571k) booklet with loads of information about them

Also available for download is a Leader Resource Packet (288k) filled with information about the Big Event as well as the forms you will need to be able to participate in the activities.

To take full advantage of the activities at Big Event or any other event where climbing is offered, be sure to have an informed climbing consent and class 1 medical completed **before** the activity. Permission slips and medical forms will be required for climbing, rappelling, bicycling, and water activities. Regulation bicycle safety helmets will also be required for any person riding a bicycle.



### Just what in the heck is a Rendezvous, anyway?

Basically, a rendezvous is an historical re-enactment of the gatherings of the mountain men during the fur-trade era of the American West. Lovers of America's history get together from all over the country to create an old-time camp that re-creates the sights, sounds, smells, flavors and feelings of 160 years ago. A rendezvous is like stepping into a time machine to see Utah in 1840, the way it really was! Some of the participants look like they stepped out of a museum. The Big Event is an evolution of that theme which caters to boys age 14 years and older. Many of the activities are from the mountain man era, while others are high tech survival. There is something for everyone at the Big Event.



### Big Event web pages

Main site,  
<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/bigevent/index.htm>  
 Leader resource packet,  
[http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/bigevent/Leader\\_Packet.pdf](http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/bigevent/Leader_Packet.pdf)  
 Registration form,  
<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/bigevent/registration.pdf>  
 Permission form,  
<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/forms/release/permission.pdf>  
 Medical form,  
[http://www.gslc-bsa.org/forms/documents/class1\\_medical.pdf](http://www.gslc-bsa.org/forms/documents/class1_medical.pdf)  
 Mountain Man games,  
<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/bigevent/mmg.htm>  
 Dutch oven cooking contest,  
<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/bigevent/dutchovn.htm>  
 High Adventure,  
<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/bigevent/ha.htm>  
 Special Programs and Events,  
<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/bigevent/spe.htm>  
 Advancement,  
<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/bigevent/adv.htm>  
 Personal Development,  
<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/bigevent/pd.htm>  
 Service,  
<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/bigevent/service.htm>

### Food drive sets record

The annual "Scouting for Food Drive" (March 23) produced a record amount of donations.

Some 70,000 Utah Scouts and thousands of Scout leaders collected a record-high total of 1,486,605 pounds of nonperishable food during the drive. The estimated total worth of that food is \$2,586,692.

"It was a great effort," said Paul M. Tikalsky, Jr., director of finance and marketing for the Great Salt Lake Scout Council. Tikalsky also credited the Utah National Guard for its assistance in transporting the food to Utah food banks.

The Great Salt Lake Council collected just

over 601,000 pounds of food. The Utah National Parks Council, headquartered in Provo, added 483,000 pounds of food and the Trapper Trails Council, Ogden, another 402,000 pounds of food.

It is estimated that the record donations will keep some food banks going for almost six months, however, a high unemployment rate has sparked increased needs for food.

### 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>
17	TBA	5/18/2002	8:00 a.m.
GSLC Big Event		6/20-22/02	TBA
GSLC On Belay		8/12-17/02	TBA
15	TBA	9/14/2002	8:00 a.m.
GSLC Univ. of Scouting		9/21/2002	TBA
28	Eastridge Stake	9/25/2002	6:30 p.m.
1	TBA	10/12/2002	TBA

### 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.

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>.

### District News Roundup

A growing number of districts have world wide web sites (<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/districts/index.htm>). The list includes Deseret Peak (11), Pony Express (14), Golden Eagle

(15), Wagon Wheel (16), Red Butte (21), Silver Mesa (26), and Eagle Peaks (28). The sites include calendars and information about upcoming events.

• **District 1 (Farmington Bay)**

Orienteering and bicycle race camp-out at Snowbasin, September 6-7. Contact Mark Wallace, mark\_wallace@adp.com (e-mail), 298-9002 (home) or 956-6331 (work); or Paul White, pauwhi@msn.com

• **District 3 (Indian Springs)**

Fall Rendezvous, September 13-14

• **District 13 (Granger)**

Rain forced the postponement of the mountain man games portion of the spring rendezvous April 26-27 at Stansbury Island. The games will be rescheduled on a date to be determined.

• **District 15 (Golden Eagle)**

Turkey Shoot, September 24

• **District 17 (White Buffalo)**

The newly developed Varsity Scout Training is being offered this month. 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. The next scheduled training will be May 18 from 8:00 a.m. until 12 noon. We invite anyone interested to attend. For more information call Hal Myers at 264-0981.

## Council roundtable report

The Big Event and Operation On Target were the topics of discussion at April's council roundtable.

For information on the Big Event, see page 1 of this issue of the *Varsity Letter*.

Operation On Target can easily be incorporated into the merit badge program. Requirements for numerous badges may be completed through participation in the event. To learn more about this exciting activity check the Operation On Target web site (<http://www.ontargetbsa.org/>) for resources and information on how to get involved with the nation's biggest Varsity Scout event. More information will be included in next month's newsletter.

### Varsity Poster set available

A new Varsity Scout poster set is available. Orders may be placed through district

executives.

### Varsity Scout Program Feature Reports:

**Service:** Thank you to everyone who participated in the annual Scouting for Food drive for the Utah Food Bank. Over 150,000 food items were collected in the Great Salt Lake Council.

**Advancement:** Advancement should be used to further the aims of Scouting. Advancement can help gauge how well a unit is functioning. It is a byproduct, not the object of a well functioning unit.

Adult leaders are encouraged to help boys earn the Varsity Letter and Denali award. Recitation of the Varsity pledge should be a part of each team meeting. This contributes to fulfilling requirement no. 5, "Satisfy to the team captain that you know and live the Varsity Scout Pledge." It is also appropriate to ask a candidate to recite the Varsity pledge during a board of review.

The council has prepared a one-sheet 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 available for Varsity Scout age boys will be promoted at the week-long On Belay leadership camp (<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/awards/religious/teacher/index.htm>).

**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 late October.

**Special Programs & Events:** 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 VarsityScouts.com web site.

### Future Council 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:

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

June-August: Roundtable not held

September 18, 2002: TBA

October 16, 2002: TBA

November 20, 2002: TBA

December 18, 2002: TBA

## Roundtable benefits leaders

Feel like you have no idea what to do for the coming month's meeting? We have the answer! Come to roundtable to learn from others who hold the same position as you. Share and gain ideas with other Varsity Scout Leaders from your area. Get the latest news and announcements. This might be the most important meeting you attend every month!

A composite roundtable schedule is posted on the council web site (<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/training/roundtable.htm>).

Special roundtable ideas (<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/bs/roundtable/special/index.htm>) offer ideas such as How to Deal with Accidents on Outings, Advancement Procedures, Conducting Boards of Review, Displays, Ceremonies, and Morale Features, Planning Courts of Honor, Family Activities, Field Trips, First Class Emphasis, Merit Badge Counseling, Recruiting Boys, How to Conduct a Coach's Conference, Team Newsletters, How to Work with your Team Committee, Teaching Values Through Quality Program, and How to Teach a Skill.

The Archive of 2001 Resources (<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/bs/roundtable/2001/index.htm>) include the following topics: Winter Camping, Citizenship, Physical Fitness & Planning Court of Honor, Forestry and Staging Your Roundtables, Leadership & Field Trips,

Special Cooking and Merit Badge Counselors, Backpacking, Aquatics, Fishing, Athletics, Science, Cooking, Wilderness Survival, and Communications.

## 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.

## 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

Jamboree On The Air,

October 18-19

Turkey Shoot, Saturday

October 26



## 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>.