



The Varsity Letter



GREAT SALT LAKE COUNCIL, BSA

Council No. 590, Salt Lake City, Utah

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New year filled with exciting opportunities for Varsity teams

Dear Varsity Scouter,

As we start a new year and prepare for exciting activities that we can have, let's look back for a minute of the things that have been accomplished during the past year. This past year has been a very exciting and also a very sorrowful year. We had some exciting events and activities as Varsity Scouts.

Let's talk about the down part first, which was the unfortunate fire at East Fork last summer. We will all remember the 2002 Big Event as a great time in a place that has been the home of that event for 13 years. That area will not be the same in our lifetime because of the fire. The beautiful trees and growth in the Rendezvous Meadow will look different this year and for years to come. The meadow is still there but a lot of the trees and growth around the meadow has changed because of the fire. We have lost the climbing wall and rappelling tower in the meadow and those items have served us well for years.

We did have a very successful Big Event and Paul Aldous, the 2002 chairman, and his committee did a great job. Thank you for the fun we had and for your service at the greatest Varsity event in the world. Some changes are coming to the Big Event this year and we hope you will support Ernie Steffensen and his 2003 group in that event June 19-21 at East Fork.

Thanks to Scott Peatross for his work at Scout-O-Rama. This is an event that can show off Varsity Scouting and how it works. Scott is in charge again this year. With his energy we should have a bigger and better show. Please plan to attend and participate with us this year.

Thanks to Bryce Swanson for a very successful 2002 On Belay course. This course was run for the first time with adult and youth participation. Bryce and his staff of adults and

youth were able to overcome obstacles that seemed to come up every day to have a course with 38 youth and 8 adults participants. The course accomplishes something that had not been done before, having youth participants work with adult participants in the ideal varsity team. Thanks to the staff and coaches who made that event possible. Again this year On Belay will be held and youth and adult staff are working hard to build on the success of last year. This year's course will be held July 28 through August 2.

Dave Walker and those who helped with the 2002 Turkey Shoot made a very successful day of the annual event. Those teams that participated had a good time and there were some very good shooters. This next year try to prepare for and attend the Turkey Shoot.

Thanks to Martin Christensen for all the information and training help this past year. Training is important and with Basic Training, Roundtables, University of Scouting, On Belay, and Wood Badge there is no excuse for not having a great program. Martin and the training committee have put together a program that will help you and your associates accomplish the goals and aims and methods of Scouting.

Thanks to the Great Salt Lake Council Varsity Scout Committee and all those who have worked hard for the good of Varsity Scouting. These committee members work hard to put on a good program and have the needs of young men in mind. The council roundtables have been informative and have had good information. Thanks to the publicity committee for an excellent web site and to Glen Fairclough for his work as editor of the *Varsity Letter*. This publication is really an excellent tool to keep informed.

Thanks to all of the district committees that

have worked hard to have good roundtables for Varsity leaders to attend and receive great ideas and training in Varsity Scouting. Roundtables are the place where the program really gets to those of you who are dealing with these young men of Varsity Scout age.

Thanks to the coaches and those who each week deliver the Promise of Scouting to young men in the Great Salt Lake Council. These young men are important and those coaches who each week meet, train, play, and camp with these young men are those who we should thank the most for the good job that they do. The most rewarding thing is to watch these young men develop and become men of character, fathers, and good citizens. Thank you all for your work.

From all of the committee, we wish you a Happy New Year and look forward to having you associate with us for years to come. Come and support all the events that you can this year and participate with the young men of this area.

Thank you.

Paul White
Committee Chairman

Biathlon set February 22

A primitive biathlon organized by the council is scheduled Saturday, February 22. Rather than Olympic-style target rifles and cross-country skis, this rather unique event involves the use of muzzle loading rifles and snowshoes invoking the Varsity Scout rendezvous theme. Participants will traverse a marked trail. Additional details will be included in February's issue of the *Varsity Letter*. For specifics and registration information, contact Hal Myers, hal.myers@fairchildsemi.com, 264-0981.

On Belay course slated

Registrations are now being accepted for both youth and adult participants who want to see a Varsity Scout team in action. On Belay teaches that a young man is capable of planning and running a program which meets the aims and methods of Scouting. It teaches young men to aspire to higher values and rely upon a coach and his committee as a resource to accomplish the activities they have planned.

The course will run July 28 through August 2, 2003, at East Fork of the Bear Scout Reservation. Registration is \$155 per person,

which includes the cost of project materials, instruction supplies, handouts, food, cap, T-shirt, and insurance. A \$10 discount applies when the fee is paid before July 14. An additional 10 percent discount per person is available for teams when at least two leaders and six boys register together. For information and a registration form, see the On Belay web page, <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/onbelay/index.htm>.

Wood Badge courses set

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 spring weekend course will be held at Camp Tracy in March and April, the summer week-long course at the Travis Training Center at the East Fork of the Bear Boy Scout Camp runs August 4-9, 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, or visit the web site: <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/woodbadge>.

VS Basic Training classes offered

As we learn of planned training dates the information will be posted on the 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 become the greatest Varsity coach ever.

<u>Dist.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
10	Magna Central Stake	1/11	8:00 a.m.
13	TBA	1/11	8:00 a.m.
26	Alta View Stake	1/18	8:00 a.m.
26	Granite Stake	2/1	8:00 a.m.
26	Granite South Stake	3/1	7:30 a.m.
13	TBA	3/13	6:30 p.m.
26	Canyon View Stake	3/15	8:00 a.m.
26	Sandy East Stake	4/12	7:45 a.m.
13	TBA	5/10	8:00 a.m.
GSLC	Big Event	6/19-21	TBA
GSLC	On Belay	7/28-8/2	TBA
13	TBA	9/13	8:00 a.m.
26	Hillcrest Stake	9/13	8:00 a.m.
26	Sandy Central Stake	10/11	8:00 a.m.
26	Sandy Granite View	11/8	8:00 a.m.
GSLC	Univ. of Scouting	12/6	TBA

District news roundup

Several events for Varsity Scouts and leaders are planned by local districts throughout the Great Salt Lake Council over the next few months. Many of the following events are included in the published 2002-2003 council calendar, available at the service center and Scout shops. District vice chairmen are encouraged to submit information about upcoming Varsity activities to the editor for inclusion in the *Varsity Letter*.

A web site for each district in the Great Salt Lake Council is included in the district section of the council web site. The URL is <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/districts/index.cfm>.

District 2 (Stone Creek)

Stone Creek District's ice climbing activity is scheduled Saturday, January 11. For details contact Brian Bone, bbone@earthlink.net, 292-1103.

District 4 (City Creek)

Varsity Scout Fast-Start training is offered following roundtable each month. For information, contact Mark Maxfield, mark.maxfield@utahhomes.com, 583-4503

District 10 (Westview)

Varsity Scouts will compete in a biathlon at Rockport State Park January 17-18. The event is being held in conjunction with the district's Klondike Derby. Registration is \$8 per person.

Varsity Scout Fast-Start training is offered 30-minutes prior to the monthly roundtable. For information, contact Dave Walker, dachawalk@sisna.com, at 969-8753.

District 12 (Olde English Fort)

A biathlon competition is scheduled January 17-18. For information, contact Mitch Haycock.

District 13 (Granger)

Varsity Scout Basic adult leader training is scheduled in January, March, May, and September. Locations will be announced later. Zone commissioners can arrange training through Dale Walker, district 13 training coordinator.

VS Fast-Start adult leader training is offered 30 minutes prior to the monthly roundtable in March and September. To make other

arrangements, please contact Glen Fairclough or check out the Varsity Fast Start video at the council service center.

The district merit badge pow wow is planned March 1. For details, contact Steve Honsvick, honzieclaus@yahoo.com, 966-6570.

District 15 (Golden Eagle)

Varsity Scouts will compete in a biathlon at Frontier Fort (Camp Tracy) January 24-25. Registration is \$5 per person. Participants must provide their own skis.

A three-week merit badge pow wow is planned February 1, 8, and 15. A district basketball tournament is scheduled March 15. For information, contact Jim Crane, cranejh@juno.com, at 569-2180.

District 17 (White Buffalo)

A three-week merit badge pow wow is planned February 8, 15, and 23. For details, contact Hal Myers, hal.myers@fairchildsemi.com, 264-0981.

District 20 (Summit)

A two-week merit badge pow wow is planned January 4 and 11. For details, contact Rone Casper, ronecasper@yahoo.com, 435-645-7078.

District 23 (Granite Trail)

Granite Trail District's annual three-on-three basketball tournament is scheduled Thursday, January 16. For details, contact Bryant Furness, bryant@utah-inter.net, 266-8053.

Council roundtable report

Scout-O-Rama was the focus of the skills presentation segment of the December roundtable. Scout-O-Rama offers an opportunity to showcase the Varsity Scout program--demonstrate what it is about, give coaches and teams ideas to energize their units by showing them that the program is both fun and easy, and introduce the program to younger Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts.

Paul White reminded vice chairmen that enhancements to the Varsity Scout section of the Great Salt Lake Council web site (www.gslc-bsa.org) will make it easier to get information about the Varsity program, events, and district round-tables. Separate rosters listing each

member of the council committee (<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/committee/index.htm>) and district vice chairmen (<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/district/index.htm>), have been posted. Where available, an e-mail links to contact each individual is included.

Committee leaders announced in September that the district committee with the best roundtable attendance percentage through May would receive a group award. The prize, a customized BSA team flag, was unveiled at the October meeting. An award for the best individual attendance will also be presented.

Varsity Scout Program Feature Reports:

Advancement: Leaders are encouraged to help boys earn the 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.

Personal Development: Don Sims and Scott Peatross encouraged each district to have one team set up a booth which demonstrates Varsity Scouting at the annual Scout-O-Rama at the Utah State Fairpark, May 3. District vice chairmen were able to sign up for a theme at November's council roundtable.

Service: Varsity Scout teams are encouraged to participate with the annual Scouting for Food drive, March 29. Because older boys are better able to lift heavy boxes filled with canned goods, they should plan to load trucks at the drop-off points. Organizers hope for a record-setting drive to help re-stock the Utah Food Bank.

Special Programs and Events: Varsity age boys will play a larger role in planning and carrying out this year's Big Event, June 19-21, at East Fork of the Bear. Youth interested in serving on the council planning committee should contact Ernie Steffensen, ksteffensen@hotmail.com.

Cabin facilities at the East Fork Scout Reservation are available to Varsity Scout teams for such off-season activities as snow shoeing and snowmobiling. Registrations may be made through the camp desk.

Training: The 2003 On Belay youth and adult leadership training course is filling up

quickly. Registration is also under way for the three scheduled Wood Badge courses sponsored by the Great Salt Lake Council.

Roundtable calendar set

District committee members are invited to attend the monthly council Varsity roundtable on the third Wednesday of each month at the Camp Tracy lodge 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 follow:

January 15, High adventure activities; summer camp/activities for Varsity Scouts. Deseret Peak District (no. 11) and East Millcreek District (no. 22).

February 19, Junior Leader Training (coach/captain responsibilities); On Belay. Farmington Bay District (no. 1) and Silver Mesa District (no. 26).

March 19, Service projects (focus on Scouting for Food). City Creek District (no. 4) and Summit District (no. 20).

April 16, Big Event (youth). Westview District (no. 10) and White Buffalo District (no. 17).

May 21, Cooking (Dutch oven, utensil-less). Pony Express District (no. 14) and Wasatch Peaks District (no. 18).

No roundtable meetings are scheduled in June and July. Planning for October 2003-May 2004 will occur in August.

2003 Varsity calendar

Biathlon, Saturday, February 22

Scouting for Food, Saturday, March 29

Scout-O-Rama, Saturday, May 3

Big Event, East Fork of the Bear, Thursday-Saturday, June 19-21

Operation On-Target, Saturday, July 19

On Belay youth and adult leader training, East Fork of the Bear Scout Reservation, Monday-Saturday, July 28-August 2

Jamboree On The Air, October 17-18

Turkey Shoot, Saturday, October 25

Newsletter available via e-mail

If you would like to receive the *Varsity Letter* electronically via e-mail, please send your e-mail address to vinfo@gslc-bsa.org.