



# The Varsity Letter



GREAT SALT LAKE COUNCIL, BSA

Council No. 590, Salt Lake City, Utah

May 2003

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## Big Event set June 19-21

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 expanded on the traditional Mountain Man Rendezvous theme and developed the Big Event. The 2003 Big Event is scheduled June 19-21.

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.

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.

Several new activities are planned in each of the areas of emphasis.

- Advancement--Indian lore, pioneering, knot tying, sounds of nature (musical instruments), and a camp-wide steal the flag game.
- High Adventure--lake kayaking, Tyrolean traverse (similar to a zip line), and Iron Man competition.
- Personal Development--human foosball, pop bottle rockets, and water balloon launching.

- Special Programs and Events--slings, Dutch darts, and mountain sauna (sweat lodge).

Such popular activities as climbing and rappelling, black powder rifles, shot guns, flint napping, POW camp, Operation On Target, amateur radio, water finding, orienteering, COPE-style challenge course, mountain biking, row boating, canoeing, and fishing are again included in this year's offerings.

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.

In addition to the Varsity Scout adult basic leader training for coaches and other leaders, an outdoor skills resource clinic will be offered for the first time.

The \$16 per person registration fee covers all regular activities as well as the participation medal and a pin which can be earned. There is an additional \$2 fee for those participating in shooting sports. A commissary plan which provides seven meals is available for \$21. Information is available from the Big Event web site, <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/bigevent/index.htm>. Teams can now register and pay for the Big Event online, as well as reserve times on the gun ranges (both black powder rifles and shot guns) and the climbing and rappelling towers.

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.

## 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.

Dist.	Location	Date	Time
10	7731 W 3500 S	5/10	8:00 a.m.
17	Bennion Stake	5/10	8:00 a.m.
4	1883 S West Temple	5/17	8:00 a.m.
12	3495 W 4850 S	5/24	TBA
14	TBA	5/31	8:00 a.m.
GSLC	Big Event	6/19-21	TBA
GSLC	On Belay	7/28-8/2	TBA
11	TBA	9/13	8:00 a.m.
13	TBA	9/13	8:00 a.m.
26	8735 S 1065 E	9/13	8:00 a.m.
12	4845 S Woodhaven Dr	9/27	TBA
14	TBA	9/27	TBA
12	1250 W 4375 S	10/11	TBA
26	1850 E 8600 S	10/11	8:00 a.m.
4	1155 N 1200 W	10/18	8:00 a.m.
26	9880 S 3100 E	11/8	8:00 a.m.
GSLC	University of Scouting	12/6	TBA

## On Belay course offered

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-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, see the On Belay web page, <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/onbelay/index.htm>. Registration forms are also available at district roundtable meetings and at any Scout Shop, or downloaded from the council web site.

## 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 volunteer 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 4-9. The fall weekend course at Camp Tracy begins in late August.

Cost for the course is \$190. For more information call the camp desk at 582-3663, send e-mail to [woodbadge@gslc-bsa.org](mailto:woodbadge@gslc-bsa.org), or visit the web site: <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/woodbadge>. Registration forms are available at district roundtable meetings, at any Scout Shop, or downloaded from the council web site.

## New patch introduced

The Great Salt Lake Council has introduced a new disability awareness patch. The patch is intended to:

- Provide opportunities for Scouts and leaders to promote disability awareness.
- Encourage Scouts and leaders to increase interaction with people who have disabilities.
- Help Scouts and leaders better understand the meaning of "disability."
- Provide experiences for Scouts with disabilities to interact with other Scouts.

The council's disabilities awareness patch may be earned by Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, Venturers, and their leaders. The patch requirements are available at the Service Center and Scout Shops.

## 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 4 (City Creek)**

Varsity Scout Fast-Start training is offered following roundtable each month.

The district training schedule is posted on the web site at <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/d4/training.cfm>. For information, contact Mark Maxfield, [mark.maxfield@utahhomes.com](mailto:mark.maxfield@utahhomes.com), 583-4503.

**District 10 (Westview)**

A half-day basic training session is planned in May. Magna South Zone will host the class slated Saturday, May 10, at the LDS stake center at 7731 West 3500 South. The four-hour basic training class runs from 8 a.m. until noon.

Varsity Scout Fast-Start training, a 30-minute introduction to the basics of Scouting, is offered prior to the monthly roundtable at 6:30 p.m. (except in August and December). For information, contact Dave Walker, [dachawalk@sisna.com](mailto:dachawalk@sisna.com), at 969-8753.

**District 11 (Deseret Peak)**

The district training schedule is posted on the web site at <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/d11/training.htm>.

**District 12 (Olde English Fort)**

Olde English Fort district's spring rendezvous is scheduled May 16-17.

The district training schedule is posted on the web site at <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/d12/training/index.htm>.

**District 13 (Granger)**

Instruction in utensil-less cooking or BSA "Safe Swim Defense" and "Safety Afloat" will be offered at the May 1 roundtable meeting.

The Varsity Scout Basic adult leader training sessions scheduled May 10 has been canceled. The September 13 training is still scheduled. The locations will be announced later. Zone Commissioners can arrange training in their zones through Dale Walker, district 13 training coordinator.

VS Fast-Start adult leader training is offered 30 minutes prior to the monthly roundtable in September. To make other arrangements, contact Glen Fairclough, district Varsity training coordinator, or check out the Varsity Fast Start video at the service center.

Stay abreast of district events, current news, and meetings via the district's web site. The URL is <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/d13/>.

**District 14 (Pony Express)**

A Varsity Scout Basic adult leader training session is scheduled Saturday, May 31, from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon. The location will be announced later. The district training schedule is posted on the web site at <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/d14/training.htm>. For information, contact Clayne Robinson, [claynem@jsmechanical.com](mailto:claynem@jsmechanical.com).

**District 16 (Wagon Wheel)**

Jon Hayden is the new Varsity Scout vice chairman in the Wagon Wheel District.

**District 17 (White Buffalo)**

A half-day basic training session is planned in May. Bennion Zone will host the class slated Saturday, May 10, at the Bennion LDS stake center. For additional information, contact Hal Myers.

**District 25 (Cottonwood)**

The district training schedule is posted on the web site at <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/d25/d25Training.htm>.

**District 26 (Silver Mesa)**

The district training schedule is posted on the web site at [http://www.gslc-bsa.org/d26/basic\\_training.html](http://www.gslc-bsa.org/d26/basic_training.html).

**District 28 (Eagle Peaks)**

The district training schedule is posted on the web site at <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/d28/training.htm>.

**Council roundtable report**

Youth members of the Big Event planning committee provided the skill instruction at the April roundtable. Program managers in each of the areas of emphasis outlined the activities being offered. Committee members include: Jaron Mathis, Special Programs and Events; Stu Hansen and Tyler Tate, Advancement; Aaron Anderson and Alex Malovich, High Adventure; Brian Steffensen, Personal Development; and Jake Lloyd, Service. Two of the activities being added this year--pop bottle rocket building and flying and a Dutch dart game--were introduced to roundtable participants.

Enhancements to the Varsity Scout section of the Great Salt Lake Council web site make it

easier to get information about the Varsity program, events, and district roundtables. 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 2002 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:** The Big Event offers many advancement opportunities for Varsity Scouts, including the Varsity Letter and Duty to God award.

**Service:** Varsity committee leaders hope volunteers from throughout the council will be able to spend part of the Memorial Day holiday weekend helping with repairs at East Fork (May 23-24) so that the site will be ready for the Big Event in mid June. Projects include the replacement of water lines destroyed last year in a forest fire, constructing a climbing tower, and sawing down burned trees. Workers with chain saws, cordless drills, hammers, etc., should bring them. Those planning to attend are asked to notify Dick Hill, 254-0090. Participants are welcome to spend the entire holiday weekend camping at East Fork.

Members of the Wood Badge and Silver Beaver associations are planning a service project at East Fork on Saturday, June 7.

**Special Programs and Events:** The annual Big Event will take place June 19-21 at East Fork of the Bear. A postcard flyer highlighting the Big Event has been mailed to all BSA registered coaches and institutional heads in the council. Organizers hope to attract over 1,200 Varsity Scouts to this year's activity.

A meeting for adult Big Event staff members will be held Thursday, May 22, at 7 p.m. at the LDS meetinghouse at 1435 East 7200 South.

**High Adventure and Sports:** In order to demonstrate mirror signaling techniques used in Operation On Target, volunteer teams are needed to position themselves on one or more mountain peaks and at a downtown location

during the annual Scout-O-Rama on Saturday, May 3. Teams interested in participating should contact Dave Walker, [dachawalk@sisna.com](mailto:dachawalk@sisna.com), at 969-8753. Operation On Target is scheduled Saturday, July 19.

**Personal Development:** Scott Peatross and Don Simms encouraged participation at Scout-O-Rama on Saturday, May 3.

**Training:** Openings for the 2003 On Belay and Wood Badge courses are still available.

## 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:

**May 21,** Cooking (Dutch oven, utensil-less). Pony Express District (no. 14) and Wasatch Peaks District (no. 18). **Reminder: The May roundtable is being moved to the Scout Service Center.**

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

## 2003 Varsity calendar

**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

## The Varsity Letter

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/index.htm>.

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.