



# The Varsity Letter



GREAT SALT LAKE COUNCIL, BSA

Council No. 590, Salt Lake City, Utah

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## Turkey Shoot scheduled

The Great Salt Lake Council's annual Varsity Turkey Shoot is scheduled Saturday, October 25, at either the Lee Kay Center in West Valley City or the Magna Gun Club.

The Turkey Shoot, essentially a trap shoot, is a shotgun game in which shooters fire at targets flying directly away from them. Participants compete as individuals and teams for frozen turkeys and other prizes.

Information about the event is available on the council Turkey Shoot web page, <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/turkeyshoot/index.htm>. Teams can incorporate the competition into their unit shooting sports program. For additional information, see Varsity Team Program Features, vol. II, pages 142-175. The 2003 Turkey Shoot chairman is Dave Walker, [dachawalk@sisna.com](mailto:dachawalk@sisna.com), at 969-8753.

## Varsity program planning

An exciting Varsity Scout program does not just happen. It takes careful planning.

Once a year the Varsity Scout team's leadership meets to review the program activities of the previous 12 months and put into place preliminary program plans for the upcoming year.

A crucial ingredient to program planning is the annual program planning clinic, which is outlined in chapter 15 of the Varsity Scout Guidebook. Once a year the Varsity Scout team's leadership and members meet to review program activities of the previous 12 months, discuss and select the program features the team wants to do over the coming months, and put into place preliminary program plans for the upcoming year.

A well-balanced Varsity Scout program explores a variety of program features. In addition to the program possibilities outlined in

the Program Features, Varsity Scout teams may also design and carry out programs based on other program possibilities.

By following the planning steps outlined in chapter 15, coaches and team leaders will find that youth members will receive the Varsity Scout program well.

Once the leadership team has selected the program features for the new year, the team must then incorporate all five fields of emphasis into each program feature. Upon completion of a program feature, team members may be awarded an activity pin to acknowledge their achievement, as well as the Varsity Scout Letter or bar.

The following six planning steps will also be helpful in effective program planning.

### Step 1: Preparation

Prior to conducting the team's annual program planning clinic, determine the resources available to the team.

The physical facilities of your chartered organization and community that can be utilized

The talents of the Varsity Scout parents

The community resources available to the team such as sports leagues and outdoor facilities

If not already done, you will need to:

Elect or appoint the team captain.

Appoint program managers.

Elect squad leaders.

Gather calendars for schools, religious organizations, community holidays, and council and district Scouting activities. Do not forget personal dates and holidays.

Conduct a Varsity Scout Team Resource Survey.

Set the date and location for the team's annual program planning clinic.

### Step 2: Conduct the Team's Annual Planning Clinic

Chapter 15 of the Varsity Scout Guidebook is

devoted to planning the team program. This should be a fun, team-building experience that will set the tone for the new year, and a high expectation of exciting things to come. Be sure to include all five program fields of emphasis during each quarter. Throughout the duration of a feature, program managers must see that their particular field of emphasis is included as an important aspect of the team's program.

### Step 3: Share the Plan

The team's annual program is presented to the team committee for its approval and support. The team committee chair assigns responsibilities to committee members who are program advisers to provide support to the program managers of the five fields of emphasis. If for some reason the committee cannot provide the needed support for an activity, outside resources should be considered and secured.

After receiving team committee approval, with any modifications necessary, the team's annual program is published and provided to Scouts, families, and the chartered organization.

It is recommended that a parent's night be held to outline the annual program of events.

### Step 4: Quarterly Program Detailing

On a quarterly basis, the team leaders meet to detail the upcoming quarter. Specific assignments are given to each program manager. A description of activities for the next quarter is entered on an activity worksheet. Program managers note specific assignments involving them. They request specific help from team members and the program adviser.

### Step 5: Monthly Program Detailing

The coach, captain, program managers, and squad leaders meet on a monthly basis to finalize the coming month's meetings. Activity worksheets are completed. Program managers verify that everything is ready for the month's activity. The team committee should devote a portion of its monthly meeting to securing committee support for the team program and program managers.

### Step 6: Weekly Checkup

Two or three days prior to the meeting, the coach or captain should check with each program manager for last-minute assistance. Conclusion:

Time invested in planning a Varsity Scout team's program will be repaid many times over by providing Scouts with meaningful and exciting activities. Good planning allows Varsity Scouts

themselves to lead the team as they draft their own annual plan and then see to it that the plan succeeds.

(Abstracted from *Varsity Scout Program Features*, pages 5-6 and *Varsity Scout Guidebook*, pages 28-29, 181-189.)

## 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>
11	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
22	3900 S 2245 E	1/15	6:15 p.m.

## Climbing instruction offered

A three-day BSA climbing instructor course is scheduled September 11-13 at Camp Steiner. Check-in is at 6:30 p.m.

This course is for Scouters who have climbing & rappelling experience and have an active climbing program in their unit or will be active with District or Council sponsored climbing/rappelling activities. With this training you will be able to take scouts out to experience the challenges of climbing and rappelling.

BSA climbing Instructor is a 3-day course designed to teach Scouters

- How to teach climbing & rappelling
- BSA guidelines related to climbing/rappelling
- Supervise and administer the technical aspects of a climbing/rappelling activity

This course presumes you have a solid foundation in the fundamentals of climbing. These fundamentals include: basic climbing knots, belay and rappel techniques, basic understanding of rigging and equipment care.

The registration fee is \$50. For more information, contact Ray Dahl at

ray.dahl@attbi.com or go to  
[http://www.gslc-bsa.org/climb/info/t\\_inst.cfm](http://www.gslc-bsa.org/climb/info/t_inst.cfm)

## 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.

## Two districts organize mountain man camps

Two events with a mountain man rendezvous theme are planned this month. A rendezvous is scheduled by the Pony Express District (14) September 5-6 while a mountain man fall camporee is slated in the East Millcreek District (22) September 26-28. See the district news roundup below for details.

## 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 **2003-2004 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)

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)

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

### District 13 (Granger)

Topics for the September 4 roundtable include annual program planning clinics (Glen Fairclough) and gun safety (Jerry Warner).

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/>.

Anyone interested in serving on the district committee during the coming year should contact Steve Honsvick, district vice chairman, or another member of the committee.

### District 14 (Pony Express)

A rendezvous for all Varsity and Venture units is scheduled at Fort Buenaventura Park in Ogden on Friday and Saturday, September 5-6. Although specifically created for those units in the Pony Express District, the rendezvous is open to all in the Great Salt Lake Council and those from outside of the council who wish to attend. Only Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and Venturers age 14 and older may participate at the Pony Express District rendezvous. For details, see the online leader guide,

<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/d14/docs/rendezvous.pdf>.

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 22 (East Millcreek)**

The East Millcreek District mountain man fall camporee will be Friday-Sunday, September 26-28, at Camp Tracy's 11-year-old camp at the upper end of Millcreek Canyon. The mountain man weekend features stations with mountain man games and skills. Scouts can learn from real mountain men. Round-robin program stations will run through 4 p.m. on Saturday followed by games and a campfire program. A camporee-wide devotional service is scheduled Sunday morning. The camporee fee until September 15 is \$5 per person. After September 15, the fee is \$7 per person. Those who wish to participate on Saturday only will pay \$2 per person. Lunch will be provided on Saturday. All Boy Scout, Varsity, and Venture units are invited to attend as much or as little as they like. Webelos Scouts are invited to Saturday's activities. Drive up Millcreek Canyon past the main lodge to the furthest entrance. Watch for signs. Plenty of parking is available. Check in will be at the gate. Canyon exit passes will be available.

### **District 25 (Cottonwood)**

Bart Daniels has agreed to serve as vice chairman of the Varsity committee. Daniels replaces Eric Sirstins.

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>.

## **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:

**September 17, 2003:** Turkey Shoot

**October 15, 2003:** Training

**November 19, 2003:** Winter Camping

**December 17, 2003:** Cooking Equipment

**January 21, 2004:** Biathlon

**February 18, 2004:** Service

**March 17, 2004:** Scout-O-Rama Preparation, Big Event

**April 21, 2004:** Operation On-Target

**May 19, 2004:** Safe Scouting

No roundtable meetings are scheduled in June and July. Planning for October 2004-May 2005 will occur in August 2004.

## **2003-'04 Varsity calendar**

**Jamboree on the Air**, October 17-18, 2003

**Turkey Shoot**, Saturday, October 25, 2003

**Biathlon**, February 2004

**Scouting for Food Drive**, Saturday, March 27, 2004

**Scout-O-Rama**, Saturday, May 1, 2004

**Big Event**, East Fork of the Bear, Thursday-Saturday, June 17-19, 2004

**Operation On-Target**, Saturday, July 17

**On Belay youth and adult leader training**, East Fork of the Bear Scout Reservation, July 26-31, 2004

**Jamboree**, September 17-18, 2004

**Jamboree on the Air**, October 15-16, 2004

**Turkey Shoot**, Saturday, October 23, 2004

## **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.