



The Varsity Letter



GREAT SALT LAKE COUNCIL, BSA

Council No. 590, Salt Lake City, Utah

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University of Boy Scouting offers many Varsity classes

Several courses built around the Varsity Scout program are offered at this year's University of Scouting, to be held Saturday, December 6, at Salt Lake Community College, Redwood Campus (4600 South Redwood Road).

Among the offerings in the Dan Beard College of High Adventure are the following courses (<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/training/uofscout/danbeard.cfm>): Varsity Scout Leader Basic Training; New Varsity Handbook and Team Program Features; Building a Weekly Program; Varsity Advancement, Letter and Denali Award; Working With and Understanding Varsity Age Youth; Primitive Fire Building and Embers Award; Mountain Man Skills; Advanced Backpacking; Orientation for Safe Climbing; Kayak Construction; and Wilderness Survival and First Aid.

A class describing how Scouting's resources can assist the new LDS Duty to God program has again been included in this year's curriculum. Other popular classes include Dutch Oven Cooking and Utensil-less Cooking. A four-hour Boy Scout Basic Training session in Spanish is also offered. Printed catalogs are available at the council service center and at all scout shops. An electronic version is available through the council web site, http://www.gslc-bsa.org/training/documents/uofscout_2003.pdf.

The registration fee is \$12 per person for those registered by November 25. Thereafter, the fee will be \$15 per person. Lunch is available from the community college cafeteria for \$6. The fee must be paid by November 25. Registration forms are included in the catalog or may be down-loaded from the web site. Class size is limited. Classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, so early registration is advised.

Scouters may register for up to six hours of courses. Five hours are required to earn the Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree. On-site check-in and registration begins at 7:30 a.m. in the LDS Institute Building. Classes run from 8:30 a.m. until 2:20 p.m. Bachelor's and Master's Degrees with the accompanying bolo tie or council strip (student's choice) will be handed out at 2:30 p.m. in the registration area.

The program was developed for the dual purpose of recognizing adult leaders and to assist them to develop the skills and desire to influence the life of a boy. The courses offered help meet the need for supplementary training and continuing education in Scout programs and administration. The program is designed to help each of us become better leaders of young men; become more proficient in basic skills; and receive advanced training in Scout skills, administration, and philosophy.

Turkey Shoot winners listed

The annual Varsity Turkey Shoot took place at the Lee Kay Center for Hunter Education and Public Shooting in West Valley City on October 25.

The competition attracted 368 shooters representing 79 Varsity teams and Venture crews. Winning shooters are listed on the council web site, <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/turkeyshoot/results.htm>. Team 7771 in District 15 captured top team honors with a high team score of 89 and best team average of 17.8. Three shooters hit 23 pigeons each with the longest streak making the difference between gold (23), silver (22), and bronze medals (19). The awards will be presented at the November council Varsity roundtable, November 19, at Murray High School.

Essentially a trap shoot, the Turkey Shoot is a shotgun game in which shooters fire at targets flying directly away from them. Participants

competed as individuals and teams for frozen turkeys and other prizes. Photographs from prior shoots are posted at

<http://www.varsityscouts.com/Pictures /spe/>.

Thanks to Norbest® Turkey and the Lee Kay Center for making this a fun activity for all who participated.

Gingerbread house festival needs volunteers

Volunteer parking attendants and festival guides from the Great Salt Lake Council are needed to help organizers of the second Gingerbread Festival at Thanksgiving Point, November 21-29. Please contact Vic Rowberry at the Scout Service Center for information.

The festival features hundreds of decorated Gingerbread Houses that have been donated by the community and corporate sponsors. Other attractions include entertainment, refreshments, the Gingerbread General Store, and a whimsical Winter Carnival organized especially with children in mind. Festival information is available on the Thanksgiving Point web site, <http://www.thanksgivingpoint.com/entertainment/index.html>.

Money raised through the festival will go toward programs that help prevent child abuse, including BSA councils in Utah.

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
11	Tooele Junior High	11/6	7:30 p.m.
26	9880 S 3100 E	11/8	8:00 a.m.
27	TBA	11/20	TBA
28	TBA	11/20	TBA
11	TBA	11/22	8:00 a.m.
GSLC	University of Scouting	12/6	8:30 a.m.
13	TBA	1/10	8:00 a.m.
22	3900 S 2245 E	1/15	6:15 p.m.
4	TBA	1/24	8:00 a.m.

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 to new Varsity Scout leaders 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, 583-4503.

District 10 (Westview)

Back packing and "soft path" or "No Trace" camping will be the subject of the November 13 roundtable. Winter camping tips and wilderness survival instruction will be offered December 11.

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, at 969-8753.

District 11 (Deseret Peak)

The Deseret Peak District turkey shoot was held October 11, at the Tooele Gun Club.

Basic Training will be held concurrently with district roundtables at Tooele Junior High School, starting in November. They are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

A Varsity Scout winter camp is planned January 23-24.

Contact Bryan Slade for information.

District 12 (Olde English Fort)

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

District 13 (Granger)

Leadership training will be the focus of the November 6 roundtable. Winter camping will be discussed at the December 4 gathering.

Because several members of the district Varsity committee have moved recently, there are a number of vacancies. 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.

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

Scheduled dates for basic training are January 10, March 6, and May 15. Zone Commissioners can arrange basic training in their zones through Dale Walker, district 13 training coordinator.

Granger District will hold its annual merit badge pow wow in March.

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)

The district training schedule is posted on the web site at <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/d14/training.htm>.

Pony Express district will hold a merit badge marathon on February 7 and 14. For information, contact Clayne Robinson, claynem@jsmechanical.com.

District 15 (Golden Eagle)

Golden Eagle District has scheduled a biathlon January 30-31.

The annual district merit badge pow wow is scheduled February 7, 14, and 21.

Contact Jim Crane (cranejh@juno.com) for additional information.

District 17 (White Buffalo)

Winter camping will be the focus of the November 6 roundtable.

Two activities are on the district's November calendar. A rock climbing day in Big Cottonwood Canyon is planned Saturday, November 1. A free shooting day is scheduled at Camp Tracy on Saturday, November 15. Scouts in the White Buffalo District may qualify for the merit badge or

simply shoot for fun.

High adventure weekend: White Buffalo District identified the need for high adventure activities for Varsity and Venture Scout age boys. The two groups were combined for the first time at the district's third annual "High Adventure Weekend" which took place October 17-18 at the East Fork of the Bear Scout Reservation. Organizers offered mountain biking, rappelling, tomahawk and knife throwing, and archery. In shooting sports leaders offered shot gun, rifle (.22 caliber), and black powder. Pistol shooting was available for Ventures. Certified and trained instructors were available for both shooting and climbing events. As a service project camp participants helped paint the new climbing tower to make it more weather resistant. The district event was attended by 53 Scouts and their leaders representing more than 9 different teams and crews. The weekend was an open activity to introduce Scouts and leaders to high adventure activities. There were no contests held just open activities. By the way, the fishing was great. Hal Myers, district Varsity Scout vice chairman, reported that he did not see a fish caught that was under 12 inches with several over 12 inches. This was a totally district supported activity with no cost to the teams. It was great!

A New Years Eve party for Scouts age 14-older is being organized by the Venture Officers Association. For the past several years, the district has provided an overnight activity in the cabins at Camp Tracy where the Scouts can play games, eat, and just have a good, safe New Year's Eve party. The annual event is set for December 31-January 1.

Training: A district basic training session was held on October 11. Myers reports that 18 Varsity and about 15 Venture leaders were trained. District leaders do not plan another training until Spring. Scouters are encouraged to participate in the University of Scouting on December 6 where basic training is available from council trainers.

Newsletter: A district newsletter is available via e-mail. Contact David Bresnahan (David@Bresnahan.org) to subscribe.

For additional information about district activities, contact Hal Myers (Hal.Myers@fairchildsemi.com) or David Bresnahan (David@Bresnahan.org).

District 20 (Summit)

A district turkey shoot is scheduled Saturday, November 15.

The annual merit badge pow wow is scheduled January 3 and 10.

Contact Mark King for additional information.

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)

Tom Cook was introduced as the new roundtable commissioner in the Silver Mesa District by David Acker, Varsity Scout vice chairman. Program advisers include Jim Greene, Advancement; Ken Parr, High Adventure and Sports; Gary Batty, Special Programs and Events; David Scott, Personal Development; and Jeff Hansen, Service. Dave Van Wagner is unassigned.

Varsity Scout leader basic training is offered Saturday, November 8, at 9880 South 3100 East. The half-day course begins at 8 a.m. The full district training schedule is posted on the web site at http://www.gslc-bsa.org/d26/basic_training.html.

District 27 (Lone Peak)

Henry St. Andre is the new roundtable commissioner in Lone Peak District.

Council Vice President's Message**Why the Team?**

By Bryant Davis

When Lord Robert Baden-Powell's ideas and plans came together in 1908 he wrote a book entitled *Scouting for Boys*. This book outlined drills to build physical health and strong mental attitudes. His goal was to have boys develop good character values and be good citizens. The Boy Scout Movement, as it was referred to, was a great success.

Part of the reason for success was that the Boy Scout Movement stressed teamwork. A group of boys working together can produce life changing experiences. Teamwork taught cooperation, leadership, following, and effectiveness skills. The same is true today.

Whether your Varsity Scout Team is participating in a high adventure activity or giving service, both the boys and the leaders are

strengthened physically, mentally, and morally. With trained leaders who act as guides (as B-P called them) or coaches, the environment for growth is unsurpassed. Today's Boy Scout Movement is providing incredible team experiences for our boys.

There is a positive difference in our neighborhoods and community because of teamwork. My hope is that every boy will join his Varsity Scout Team and feel the improving power a Team can bring into his life. Teamwork is the heart of Varsity Scouting. Many cheers for the Varsity teams in our Council!

Council news**Council roundtable report**

A distinguished service award was presented to Richard Aird in recognition of his valuable contributions to the Great Salt Lake Council. Aird was a member of the executive committee for 13 years and served as council Varsity Scout vice president from 1996-2003.

The framed award included such memorabilia as an embroidered council shoulder patch, a council vice president position patch, a chenille Varsity letter jacket patch, a Varsity strip, a pair of orange Varsity Scout shoulder loops, and a small plate engraved with Aird's name and dates of service. The award was presented by Craig Edwards, council Varsity Scout adviser.

In accepting the award, Aird noted the tremendous growth of the Varsity Scout program, which was introduced through a pilot program in 1978. It was officially adopted in 1980 and had become firmly rooted by the mid 1980s.

Instruction: Martin Christensen, council Varsity training coordinator, led a discussion about leadership training. As an icebreaker, Christensen employed a ball toss game to allow participants to introduce themselves. The game helped focus attention while encouraging interaction.

The group then moved outside to play a game of Dutch darts on the lawn. After exhausting their supply of mini marshmallow ammunition, the group then went back inside where Christensen asked members, "Why do we train?"

Responses included: "Every boy deserves a

trained leader," use the program--don't try to reinvent the wheel, make leaders more capable, trained leaders retain information longer, retention of leaders (tenure) is increased, trained leaders allow boys to lead, boys' activity level increases, boys remain involved in Scouting long, opportunity to acquire new information, and there is more to Varsity Scouting than basketball.

Christensen summed up the ideas by suggesting that the heart of training is to win the hearts of the people we train. Once a mind is trained, the heart will follow. Through this method, the person trained is more likely to cooperate willingly. Christensen observed that the greatest coaches are those who inspire their team members, not those who merely disseminate information.

The core message in training are the basic aims of Scouting--character development, citizenship training, and developing mental and physical fitness.

Christensen reviewed the four-step training continuum, which consists of orientation, three-part basic training (new leader essentials, leader specific, and outdoor leadership skills), advances, and supplemental.

Resources: An 11-page list of favorite camping and hiking spots in the Uinta Mountains compiled by Mark King, Varsity Scout vice chairman for Summit District (no. 20), was distributed to district leaders. Included were high adventure camp descriptions, a two-page list of trails, a two-page description of day hikes, a two-page mileage chart for the Mirror Lake Scenic Byway, and several area maps.

Coach's Corner: Bry Davis recalled the words of George Washington, first president of the United States, who lamented in 1792 that many people in the United States had already forgotten the divine hand manifest in their behalf throughout the American Revolution. Davis observed that, all too often, modern-day Americans also fail to recognize and remember the Creator's hand in their lives and encouraged us to fulfill our duty to God and make Him a part of our daily lives.

Varsity Scout Program Feature Reports:

Advancement: Charles Dressen suggests that coaches use the Denali award to promote advancement of team members. Scouts working on their Eagle award must advance one rank while those who have earned the Eagle can earn

a palm.

Personal Development: Don Sims admonished Varsity teams to include Scout-O-Rama on their annual activity calendars. The 2004 Scout-O-Rama will take place on May 1.

The Great Salt Lake Council has also announced plans for Jamboral 2004, an overnight encampment open to all Scouts. Jamboral 2004 is scheduled September 17-18. A large area at the Salt Lake County Equestrian Park and Events Center (Fairgrounds) in South Jordan has been reserved for Varsity Scout activities.

Service: A service project will be available to teams participating in the annual Turkey Shoot at the Lee Kay Center.

Special Programs and Events: Meetings to plan the 2004 Big Event will begin in January. Wendell Wilde is the committee chairman.

Teams can begin preparations for next summer's Big Event by acquiring equipment and practicing together for various events. The Big Event is considered as a camporee, not a long-term camp.

High Adventure and Sports: Dave Kunz reported that advance registration for the Turkey Shoot was progressing well. He announced that prizes would include turkey certificates and trophies.

David Acker outlined the organization of three climbing districts, each with a commissioner to oversee climbing activities and training. Darrell Moss is the commissioner for the district covering the north and central portions of the council (districts 1-4), Mike Gibbons is the commissioner for districts in the western portion of the council (districts 10-18), while Acker is the commissioner for districts in the eastern part of the council (districts 20-28).

Publicity: Curt Lytle is considering notifying coaches by e-mail when the new issue of the *Varsity Letter* has been posted online. By including a hyperlink rather than a PDF attachment, Lytle hopes to reduce download time for coaches by cutting back on file size.

Training: Upcoming training opportunities were reviewed. Paul Aldous will coordinate Varsity Scout leader training at the University of Scouting, Saturday, December 6. Two Wood Badge courses are on the 2004 calendar. Pam Smith is the director for the spring weekend course and Andy Wilde is director for the

summer week-long course. On Belay, the council's week-long Junior Leader Training Conference, is scheduled at the East Fork of the Bear Scout Reservation, July 26-31. This leadership course designed to provide team training for both adult and youth leaders. Hal Myers is the course director.

Roundtable calendar set

District committee members are invited to attend the monthly council Varsity roundtable on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Roundtable is now held at Murray High School, 5440 South State. The meeting is held in the Little Theater (room 105) on the first floor (<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/training/documents/map.pdf>). Parking is available on the south side of the school and Scouters may enter the school from the south side. 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:

November 19, 2003: Winter Camping

December 17, 2003: Cooking Equipment

January 21, 2004: Biathlon

February 18, 2004: Service

March 17, 2004: Preparations for Scout-O-Rama and the 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.

Holiday auction set Nov. 14

The Great Salt Lake Council's fourteenth annual Holiday Auction is scheduled at the South Towne Exposition Center on Friday, November 14. A holiday auction fact sheet is posted on the council web site, <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/events/auction/index.cfm>.

Biathlon set for February

The HOT days of summer are over and the excitement of summer camps has faded. Coaches are reflecting on the summer camp experience, advancements earned, and the wisdom gained while at camp. Fresh in our minds are the seemingly unending dog days. In

the back of our minds, we start to think about the cooler days of fall and winter, the activities that the group did last year, and what we can do this coming year.

Oh, wait. There was that new event held last winter. Hmmmm, what was it?

I remember! We shot black powder rifles, and threw knives and tomahawks while we waited for our turn to run. That's right! It was called a BIATHLON!

Look for more information on this challenging, fun, and exciting event to be held again this February. You won't want to miss this action-packed Special Programs and Events activity with new games to focus on teamwork!

Jamboral 2004 planned

All Scout troops in the Great Salt Lake Council are invited to a council jamboree overnight encampment to be held Friday and Saturday, September 17-18, 2004, at the Salt Lake County Equestrian Park and Events Center in South Jordan.

"Celebrate Our Founding Fathers" is the theme for Jamboral 2004. The event will give Scouts the opportunity to experience a "jamboree-style" encampment.

Jamboral leader's guide available at the council service center and Scout Shops.

Registration under way. The cost is \$15 per person (Scout or leader) if made by September 3, 2004. After September 3, the cost increases to \$20 per person. Registration includes a full embroidered hat, Jamboral patch, and 22 district trading pins. Registration forms may be downloaded from the Jamboral web site <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/events/jamboral.cfm>. Online registration and payment available.

VarsityScouts.com website undergoes facelift

The Varsityscouts.com web site is undergoing a facelift. The revised and upgraded site has adopted a look and feel similar to that of the Great Salt Lake Council's Varsity Scout site. Varsityscouts.com will continue to offer valuable resources to Varsity team coaches, captains, program managers, and other leaders. Surf on by <http://www.Varsityscouts.com> today!