



The Varsity Letter



GREAT SALT LAKE COUNCIL, BSA

Council No. 590, Salt Lake City, Utah

December 2003

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Council Committee Chairman's Message

Why the Team?

By Paul White

When you think about a team, you think about a group of people working together for a common goal.

A team of baseball players each has a specific responsibility to do an assigned job so the entire team can achieve its goals and win. It is the same in all team activities; the work is for the common good of the team.

In Varsity Scouting we use the team concept. Why? It is for the good of the team and, really, for the good of the individual members. Each member of the team is responsible for the growth and good of the team.

The Captain on a basketball team is the floor general. He is the team leader and as such needs to be given the job to lead the team.

The Coach is just that, he coaches his team and leaders before the event and trains them with practice (Team Leader Meetings) about their job and the function. But when the game (meetings or activities) are being played, he stands on the sidelines and watches.

Youth team leaders then function to run the game. Program Managers are just that, they are in charge of the program whether it is Advancement, Special Programs and Events, High Adventure and Sports, Personal Development, or Service. The Program Manager takes the lead and is responsible.

The team works together in Squads that work together as a smaller team to do the activities. Squad members support each other and help with activities and assignments.

As a group they function to accomplish the main goal of Scouting, which is to build young men into good citizens, good fathers, and to have good character. While most would say the primary goal of Scouting is to become an Eagle Scout, the real goal of Scouting is to teach and

help boys develop leadership and character skills. Adult leaders need to keep this in mind, let the team function and let the youth leaders lead. We are training future leaders of this organization, of the community, and of the world.

Thank you for all your support to this cause. You are the ones who will influence a young man to obtain this goal. You are the ones who will help set him on the road to becoming a great leader.

Scout Shop hours change

New business hours for the South Valley Scout Shop and Scout Shop West go into effect in December. Both shops will open at 10 a.m. Tuesday through Friday, one hour later than previously. Doors close at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday (30 minutes earlier than before) and at 6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday. Saturday hours remain unchanged (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.). Both shops are closed on Sunday and Monday. Business hours for the Scout Shop at the Council Service Center on Foothill Boulevard remain unchanged.

NRA certification available

All target shooting activities involving Scouts must be under the supervision of a certified BSA or National Rifle Association firearms instructor. NRA certification classes open to all BSA leaders will be offered in March and April (http://members.network.com/gslc_d17/Images/March2004NRAClassesflyer.pdf). The registration deadline is February 28, 2004. For additional information, contact Rodney Clawson at bish@xmission.com, or inquire at the council service center, 525 Foothill Blvd, Salt Lake City, 84113, 801-582-3663.

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!

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>
22	2245 E 3900 S	1/15	6:15 p.m.
4	TBA	1/24	8:00 a.m.
13	5065 W Janette Ave	1/24	8:00 a.m.
4	TBA	2/28	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)

Winter camping tips and wilderness survival instruction will be offered at the December 11

roundtable.

Dave Walker has been released as vice chairman after serving for 13 years.

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).

District 11 (Deseret Peak)

Basic Training will be held concurrently with district roundtables at Tooele Junior High School. 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.

A spring mountain man rendezvous organized jointly by the Deseret Peak and Granger (13) districts is scheduled in April.

Contact Bryan Slade for more 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)

Mountain man skills will be the focus of the January 8 roundtable.

Monthly district meetings, formerly held on the third Thursday of each month, are now held on the first Thursday of each month following roundtable. The COR meeting begins at 8 p.m.

Dave Isom, senior district executive, resigned in November. Isom has a guide service on the Green River. Thanks to Dave for his years of service to the district.

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.

Hunter East Zone will host the first basic training of 2004 on January 24 at the LDS meetinghouse at 5065 West Janette Avenue (3890 South). Registration commences at 8:00 a.m. with training starting at 8:30 a.m.

Other scheduled dates for basic training are 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 marathon in March.

A spring mountain man rendezvous organized jointly by the Granger and Deseret Peak (11) districts is scheduled in April.

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 two-week merit badge pow wow 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.

A three-week 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)

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.

The annual district Varsity/Venture cross country ski trip is scheduled February 6-7.

A three-week district merit badge pow wow is scheduled February 14, 21, and 28.

The annual district Varsity/Venture caveman weekend is planned March 5-6.

A combined Varsity/Venture backpacking trip is set May 14-15.

Rock climbing day is slated May 22.

Training: District leaders do not plan to host another basic training session until spring.

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

OA elections: If your unit has not yet held an

election for the Order of the Arrow in the past 12 months it is time to do so. Please enable the young men you serve to have the opportunity to receive this honor. To have an election, just call Chapter 17 Chief Michael Bresnahan, 561-5621.

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

District 20 (Summit)

A two-week merit badge pow wow is scheduled January 3 and 10.

Contact Mark King for additional information.

District 22 (East Millcreek)

Valley View Zone will host the first basic training of 2004 at the LDS meetinghouse at 2245 S 3900 E, on Thursday, January 15, at 6:30 p.m. For additional information, contact Mark Featherstone or Paul Aldous.

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 full district training schedule is posted on the web site at http://www.gslc-bsa.org/d26/basic_training.html.

Council news

Council roundtable report

Top shooters recognized: Winners of the 2003 Turkey Shoot received their awards. Three shooters hit 23 pigeons each with the longest streak making the difference between gold. Kyle Ellison of Team 7771 took gold with 23 straight hits, Preston Ward of Team 6541 received silver with 22 straight hits, and Brandon Price of Team 6902 achieved bronze with 19 straight hits. Team 7771 in District 15 captured top team honors with a high team score of 89 and best team average of 17.8. The competition attracted 368 shooters representing 79 Varsity teams and Venture crews.

“Winter camping is one of the most advanced and challenging outdoor adventures. It can also be one of the most satisfying. Varsity Scout teams setting out on cold-weather camping adventures need a solid foundation of basic camping and survival techniques, and healthy doses of patience and optimism.

“The best time to begin preparing for winter adventures is during the warmer months of the year. That will allow time to read about cold-weather clothing, nutrition, and winter ecology, and to gather or make equipment and clothing. As the weather cools, Varsity Scouts can practice outdoor skills on day hikes and overnight outings. Adult team leaders with training in cold-weather living should carefully instruct Scouts in every phase of winter camping.

“Many local outing clubs and universities sponsor classes in winter survival, and so do some sporting goods shops and military units. A number of BSA local councils conduct cold-weather camping programs. The Northern Tier National High Adventure Base and Philmont Scout Ranch offer courses in the best winter camping techniques.” (*Varsity Guidebook*, page 56; see also clothing checklist on page 82.)

Cold-weather tips: Jim Sherman (Indian Springs District 3) and Glen Jones (Wasatch Peaks District 18) shared information about winter camping through a demonstration and handout.

Winter camping provides wonderful opportunities to stretch the team and let boys develop stick-to-it-ness.

It isn't possible to simply pack up and go home when boys become wet. What do you do? Prepare the team to meet any contingency. Stick with it unless safety becomes an issue.

Teams will benefit from winter camping by:

- developing preparation, planning, and training skills before the camp.
- determining skill level of winter camping and what equipment the team will need.
- actual winter camping can be fun and exciting, team effort setting up, building snow caves and cooking meals brings the group together.
- reflection after the camp will build team spirit (they did it!) and provide new ideas and improvement for the next camp.

There's an easy way to remember the basics of what to wear in a cold-weather camping situation--**C.O.L.D.** Clothing should be
C= Clean; Also, avoid
O= Overheating by wearing light, loose
L= Layers; and most importantly, stay
D= Dry at all costs by leaving cotton clothes at home, and always carrying a change of clothes.

Clothing: Wicking action against the skin is important. Wool is great because it “breathes.”

Inexpensive Projects: gaiters, fleece vests, and wool pants

Hands: A minimum of 3 pairs of gloves is recommended.

Feet: mukluks made per instructions in the BSA *Fieldbook*

Zero Degree Bed Demonstration: 6 mil plastic, newspapers, wool blanket, 3 lb. sleeping bag or foam. Retains 100 percent of body heat. Note that everything inside will be wet in the morning. No, that does not mean there was an accident. The plastic goes under the bag and wraps around (except for head) to retain body heat. The body constantly is perspiring and the plastic traps this moisture inside the plastic. Have a change of dry clothes in the morning and realize you are not going to sleep in the bag another night unless completely dried.

Winter camping literature:

Boys Life, December 2003, pages 16-19, “Snow Men.” Winter camping is serious business. Learn how to stay warm and have fun, as these California Scouts did.

Varsity Scout Program Features, volume 2, pages 176-214. “Snow camping.”

Boy Scout Handbook. 11th edition. Still the basic book for every Scout, but with more information than ever before. Durable soft cover. WW33105 \$7.95.

Okpik: Cold-Weather Camping. A complete guide to winter camping and survival. Filled with advice on clothing, equipment, first aid, and more. Even includes instructions on building igloos! A must read for outdoor enthusiasts! 160 pages. Paperback. WW34040 \$9.95. Available at Scout Shops.

Fieldbook (No. 33200). Although this BSA publication currently is out of print, a new edition will be published in 2004. Copies of the prior edition still may be found at public libraries.

Favorite Camping Spots: Sites along the Pony Express and Overland Stage Routes were reviewed. Two better known spots, Simpson Springs in Tooele County and Fish Springs in Juab County, were highlighted.

Coach's Corner: Charles Dressen defined custodian as the "keeper of the keys." Leaders are custodians, not merely janitors or cleaners. The challenge is to have our leaders take care of the keys, the Aims and Methods of Scouting, to allow doors to be opened for the boys.

Varsity Scout Program Feature Reports:

Advancement: Charles Dressen reported that, to date, ten Varsity Scouts in the council have earned the Denali Award in 2003. He challenged district leaders to take information about the award to teams.

Special Programs and Events: Rick Johnson reported on plans for the upcoming 2004 biathlon at Fort Buenaventura on February 28. Flyers were distributed to district leaders.

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.

Personal Development: Varsity teams are admonished 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.

Training: Upcoming training opportunities were reviewed. 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:

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.

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 26-31, 2004, 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 12. 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 web.

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 spring weekend course will be held at Camp Tracy in April (15, 16, 17, 22, 23, and 24), and the summer week-long course at the Travis Training Center at the East Fork of the Bear Boy Scout Camp runs August 9-14.

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>. Registration forms are available at district roundtable meetings, at any Scout Shop, or downloaded from the council web site.

Primitive biathlon planned

A mountain man biathlon organized by the Great Salt Lake Council is scheduled Saturday, February 28, at historic Fort Buenaventura in Ogden. Competition begins Saturday at 9:30 a.m. Teams may register upon check-in at the event. The cost is \$5.00 per participant.

Rather than utilizing the Olympic-style target rifles and cross-country skis of the modern-day biathlon, the Varsity Scout rendezvous theme will be invoked at this rather unique event as participants traverse a marked trail on snowshoes (weather permitting) and utilize primitive muzzle loading black powder rifles.

Participation in the biathlon satisfies the Varsity Letter award requirement to participate in a high adventure/sports activity (<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/Advancement/index.htm>, see requirement 2).

Organizers are planning team building activities, tug of war, a winterized soccer match, and a snowshoe races (weather permitting). Optional overnight camping at the fort will also be available.

Historic Fort Buenaventura (<http://ogdencvb.org/fortb.html>) is located at 2450 South 'A' Street, near the old baseball park west of Ogden. Take exit 347 off I-15 in Ogden.

Tour permits are required. For event specifics and registration information, download the event flyer from the council web site (<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/biathlon/index.htm>), or contact Rick Johnson, Biathlon_info@yahoo.com. The registration form is found at

<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/biathlon/registration.pdf>.

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 fully 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.

2004 Varsity Scout calendar

Biathlon, February 28, 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, 2004

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

Jamboral 2004, September 17-18, 2004

47th Jamboree on the Air, October 16-17, 2004

Turkey Shoot, Saturday, October 23, 2004

The Varsity Letter

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

Submissions are welcome. E-mail your suggestions the editor at 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/index.htm>.