

Eagle Ridge

2012 Fall Training Message

At the District Summer Camp our leaders had a great opportunity to hear from Alan Rogers who works in Risk Management with both the GSLC and the LDS church. He is also currently a Counselor in an LDS Stake Presidency. He gave us some great insight, statistics, helpful hints and resources that we can utilize in running a quality program for our young men. Here are some of the highlights from his presentation:

Everything we do has an impact – either positive or negative.

We do a lot of things right. Nationwide, LDS scouts account for about 1.4 million meetings per year and 75,000 nights of camping. Summer camp is in addition to that. About 74,000 LDS scouts attend summer camp. 14% of all registered BSA members (all denominations) are in Utah, made up of 3 councils.

There are many things our youth can do, if we put in the time for proper planning and training.

Alan mentioned the **Guide to Safe Scouting** multiple times. It is designed as a resource manual. Look in the guide under the activity you are planning for additional guidelines to share with the youth planning the activity. The Guide is available online, or for purchase at the Scout store. The Guide also lists activities that require additional training, such as safe swim defense, etc. and activities that are unauthorized. It also lists age requirements for activities.

One thing Alan personally does with an activity the young men want to do is ask the following things:

- What is the purpose behind the activity and what are the risks?
- Are the risks balanced out with what the activity purpose is?
- Besides being fun, why else are we doing it?
- When planning activities he lets the boys only use “build quorum brotherhood” twice.

Brother Rogers described a safe scouting activity using a sandwich as a reference.

- Bun – qualified supervision
- Meat – scouting safety
- Bun – discipline



**Qualified Supervision + Scouting Safety
+ Discipline = Safe Scouting Activity**

An activity needs all three to work. An example of this is an activity that has adequate supervision and the proper planning, but if the people involved in the activity don't have the discipline to follow the plan things can go wrong.

Keys to Safety

Some elements of scouting safety that Alan discussed were:

- Training (he said roundtable is the most underutilized resource)
- Two deep leadership (at least one leader must be BSA registered, and one leader must be 21 or older),
- Safety rule of 4 in the backcountry, buddy system, and tour plan.
- A tour plan is required for overnight activities and higher risk activities, such as swimming, climbing and shooting. GSLC also requires a tour plan for canyoneering. One of the purposes of a tour plan is to be better prepared. It requires an emergency plan/contact. It also gives registered leaders access to a BSA general liability insurance when proper procedures are followed
- Alan also suggested registering parents that volunteer as members of the scout committee. This would allow the liability insurance to be primary for them. If they are not registered with BSA then if an accident occurs their personal insurance (auto, homeowners) becomes the primary liability and BSA becomes secondary.
- Most importantly he said don't change an activity to a “priesthood activity” to get around BSA guidelines. Don't put that liability upon yourself and the church just because you don't want to take the necessary steps to do it right.

Priesthood leaders should ask 5 questions every time you go out on an activity and scout leaders should be able to readily answer them.

1. Where are you going?
2. When are you going?
3. How are you going to do it?
4. Who's going to go?
5. And why?

He suggested using BSA summer camps, especially for 12-13 year old boys. That will take off a lot of the responsibility. They make sure the staff is all trained and they know the safety risks. He loved the example our District set with this year's summer camp.

What to do in case of an accident

You may need to notify law enforcement, the bishop, stake president or the local BSA council (or more than one) depending on the situation. If a leader or youth is injured during a scouting or church activity they are potentially eligible for church activity medical assistance. It helps cover out of pocket costs. It acts as a secondary insurance if the person has insurance. BSA has a similar product: health special risk insurance. Units can purchase it if not part of an LDS sponsored unit.

Online Resources

He gave us resources online that are available. In addition to our BSA council website gslc-bsa.org and BSA National's website scouting.org we also have resources from the LDS church. One site ldsbsa.org is very good with resources of tying LDS and Scouting together. The other site is lds.org. Go to lds.org, to resources, to Aaronic priesthood, to scouting. Here you will find the Scouting Handbook for Church Units, updated June 2012 (available online only, but can be printed), adult training, safety and many additional sections

Also on the gslc-bsa.org site there is a red rectangle with the word safety in it on the lower left side of the page. Click important details of this presentation and more or the direct link is <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/safety-resources/45823>. Take the time to explore these online on that box to follow the link to many. e. Has a tour plan been filed when needed? Do we have an emergency plan in place? Are leaders familiar with the Guide to Safe Scouting and willing to follow its guidelines? Do we have a purpose, have we planned it out, and are we willing to listen to the Spirit and follow its promptings? Have a fun time with proper planning and training.

Upcoming Trainings:

October 27 (Sat) 8 am - Leader Specific Training (Basic Training)
13375 South 6000 West, Herriman Cost: free. Last 2012 basic training (think rechartering) for our district. Also we plan to have training for Merit badge counselors. Highly recommended (may be required) for those teaching at the Merit badge pow wow in January 2013.

November 3 (Sat) 8 am – 1:30 pm Trainer's Edge.
7265 South 2700 West, West Jordan. Cost: \$6 Flyer and registration on Council website: gslc-bsa.org under training (late registration \$8).

November 10 (Sat) 8 am – 3 pm Cub Scout Pow Wow (for leaders)
Stansbury High School (Tooele county) Cost: \$10 includes book and CD, optional lunch \$6.25 (late registration \$15) Information and registration on Council website.

One **Woodbadge** course is still available for 2012. **Nov. 1-3 & 8-10**
Register online or at a Scout store. Cost \$190. Scholarships may be available. \$50 deposit will secure a spot. Fees cover meals, lodging and program materials. Camp Tracy. Duane Sjoberg course director email: duanesjoberg40@gmail.com

Finally, it is on a sad note that I let you know that I will no longer be on staff with District 29. Our family has moved to Vernal, Utah (Utah National Parks council) and it means I will need to resign my position as District Training Chair and Cub Scout Training Chair (I never did get that position filled). I will continue to help the district as I am able and am committed to filling in until a replacement has been found (Scott don't take forever). I have been on District staff since the district began in May 2008, so it is hard to leave.

Our family has many great memories of events and people in this district and council. I have watched this District grow from a small organization that no one in the council has heard of to a large group to be reckoned with! Trust me, getting the opportunity to serve at the Council level has shown me that our District 29 Eagle Ridge is known by all the districts in our Council and is held up as an example on how to do things right in Scouting.

We have great leaders for our boys. Continue to get trained, run a quality program, and consider serving on District staff. It takes a little time, but is worth it. It's fun and everyone needs to take the time to give back to the District and share their knowledge. This way we all get stronger.

See you on the scout trails. I can't give up Great Salt Lake Council and some of the awesome events planned. One last plug: Go to Woodbadge. I used to be an Eagle . . .

- Lisa Mahoney, (former) D29 Training Chair