



GREAT SALT LAKE COUNCIL

Teepee Talk

INDIAN SPRINGS DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

District "Key Three"

- Dist Chairman Dee Nelson
dfnelson255@gmail.com
- Dist Commissioner Dan Bradford
danbradford@reagan.com
- Dist Executive Jerry Mosley
gmosley@bsamail.org

Roundtable Commissioners

- Cub Scouts Lawrence Knight
ldknight@utahskyproperties.com
- Boy Scouts Everett Taylor
everettwtaylor@gmail.com
- Varsity Scouts Lance Goodman
- Venture Scouts Mark Hunsaker
hlovetocamp@g.com

Other District Staff

- Klondikes/
Camporees Phil Roth
phil.roth1@gmail.com
- Training Cory Cook
corykcook@hotmail.com
- Webmaster **POSITION AVAILABLE,
CONTACT DAN BRADFORD
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED**

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Indian Springs District & Great Salt Lake Council Calendar of Events

2014

02 Jan	Indian Springs District Roundtable @ Woods Cross North Stake Center, 7pm
11 Jan	University of Scouting @ Salt Lake Institute Building
31 Jan	“Above and Beyond” District Recognition Dinner North Salt Lake Parkway Stake Annex, 6:30pm
31 Jan - 01 Feb	Varsity Biathlon @ Fort Buenaventura
02 Feb	Scout Sunday
06 Feb	Indian Springs District Roundtable @ Woods Cross North Stake Center, 7pm
07 - 08 Feb	Indian Springs Klondike Derby @ Antelope Island
22 Feb	College of Commissioner Science @ Salt Lake Institute Building
06 Mar	Indian Springs District Roundtable @ Woods Cross North Stake Center, 7pm
22 Mar	Scouting for Food
29 Mar	Ticket Sales Kickoff for Utah Scouting Expo (formerly Scout-O-Rama)
17 May	Utah Scouting Expo (formerly Scout-O-Rama)
13 - 14 Jun	Varsity Big Event
19 Jul	Varsity On Target

Details may be found in attached flyers or visit the council website at <http://www.qslc-bsa.org>

Building Science Into Outdoor Activities and Campouts

Material taken from Jake Gehring's presentation at Roundtable in December 2013:

There are lots of opportunities to take a normal Scout outing and build in a segment that has to do with physics, chemistry, math, astronomy, or other topics that can provide a wholly new perspective on the world around us. Here are a few ideas you may want to try out in the coming months:

Pennies in Icewater

Scouts may not have much of a concept of how dangerous cold weather can be. One way to demonstrate this in a safe environment is to lay out the following experiment: in a large tub of water, add lots of ice. At the bottom of the tub, distribute a few hundred pennies. Ask the boys to remove the pennies from the tub and place them in a neighboring jar.

As the cold affects their hands, the Scouts will find that they lose the fine motor skills that are required to pick up (or even to feel) the pennies at the bottom of the tub. You can point out that severe exposure to the cold can have the same result to the whole body. Then discuss what kinds of clothing and strategies will keep them safe and comfortable in low temperatures.

Fire out of Water

You might pose your scouts a riddle: how can you create fire on a campout using water? There are two methods you might discuss, or even demonstrate:

The first is collecting methane (marsh gas) from the bottom of ponds or lakes where you may be camping. You can cut away the bottom of a 2-liter bottle and collect the bubbles from the bottom of the pond as you disturb the muck which produces the methane as it is decomposed by bacteria. You can raise the bottle, unscrew the cap, and ignite the gas as it escapes out the top. There are a couple of good YouTube videos which demonstrate this interesting process, see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08XP1PP8A-M> for an example.

The second example, much harder but also possible, is to focus the rays of the sun using a lens constructed from a piece of ice. This will require some practice and

experimentation, but there are also several YouTube videos along this line, see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owF15LQT78o>.

Windows to the World

The magnifying power of binoculars can allow Scouts to see so much more of the world around them. Most locations in Utah are fantastic for spotting birds, for example, as we are positioned right along the western border of the "great central flyway," and the northern end of the Great Salt Lake is an important breeding area for waterfowl. Migratory birds journey southward from their breeding grounds in the north to winter quarters in Mexico and even further.

Binoculars are great for examining these creatures, and for other wildlife. You can even use binoculars to observe the planets in our solar system, or their moons.

The Glory of the Night Sky

A fun game with binoculars or a telescope is to give Scouts a drawing of a constellation or even one punched out with an awl on the bottom of a #10 can. You can put a tea light in the can and *voila!*, an instant glowing constellation that works well in low-light. You can create a finding game where Scouts progress from station to station, see the glowing constellation on the ground below them, then are challenged to point it out in the night sky.

Colored Campfires

A one-foot length of 3/4" copper pipe, when drilled through with 15 or 20 holes, can turn a fire from the customary orange/yellow color to brilliant greens, blues, purples, and reds. The pipe will not cause this effect on its own, but if you insert a length of 1/2" garden hose into the pipe before tossing it into the fire, the chemicals in the hose interact with the copper and the results create different flame colors. See <http://chemistry.about.com/cs/howtos/a/aa052703a.htm> for more information.

What Goes Around, Comes Around

During your next fishing adventure, open up a fish's stomach, show what it's been eating. Not only is this a requirement for the Fish and Wildlife Management merit badge, but this is also a perfect opportunity to explain about the food chains that fish are a part of, as well as why certain kinds of bait or lures work well for

certain kinds of fish.

iPod or Cell Phone Teardown

For a more technological kind of activity, consider “tearing down” a older-model or busted cell phone to examine its contents and identify what kinds of functions they provide to give a phone its features. There are great websites that walk you through this process, see http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=iphone+teardown&sm=3



“A Century of Honor” Video Now Available at www.lds.org

On October 29, 2013, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints hosted a nationwide Scouting Open House Night. On this evening, the LDS church invited packs, troops, teams, and crews to join them as they open their doors to tell the story of Scouting in our local communities and invited youth to join this life-changing program.

The Scouting Open House Night is part of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints becoming the BSA’s first official chartered organization. On October 29, LDS churches in every community across the nation invited all chartered organizations to be part of the join Scouting event. The LDS Church had offered to open its doors for all units to hold a join Scouting event in their chapels/stake centers.

A video of the special broadcast, which involves great musical numbers, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, and Scouts repelling from the ceiling of the LDS Conference Center, is available at <http://www.scouts100.lds.org>

BSA to Use Scout Law and Scout Oath for all Scouting Programs

The following information from the “Bryan on Scouting” blog at <http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org>

It’s official: The resolution to move to one Oath and Law for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity, Sea Scouts, and Venturing was approved this morning by the Boy Scouts of America’s executive board.

Essentially, this means every Scout of any age will use the Scout Oath and Law instead of reciting separate, program-specific sayings. Cub Scouts will recite the [Scout Oath and Law](#) instead of the [Cub Scout Promise](#) and [Law of the Pack](#). Similarly, Venturers will no longer use the [Venturing Oath and Venturing Code](#).

Because it will take time to transition into this new approach, **the changes are not immediate**.

The Venturing change will not happen until **late 2013 or early 2014**; the Cub Scout change will take effect in **mid-2015**. Stay tuned to my blog for exact dates as I get them.

Additionally, the newly adopted resolution replaces the full-hand Venturing sign and salute with the three-finger Boy Scout sign and salute.

Frequently asked questions

Here are the BSA’s answers to some questions already received...

Q: What, specifically, is being changing?

A: Cub Scouts:

- Adopt the Scout Oath and Law for use in the Cub Scout program, retiring the Cub Scout Promise.
- Revise the Core Values of Cub Scouts to align exactly with the 12 points of the Scout Law.
- Retire the Law of the Pack, while maintaining the concept of “Akela” as leader.
- Maintain the current Cub Scout motto, sign, salute, and handshake.

A: Venturing:

- Retire the Venturing Oath, Code, sign and salute
- Adopt the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout sign, and Scout salute
- Engage the task force and National Youth Cabinet to

determine whether Venturing should have a differentiating motto/slogan or adopt "Be Prepared"

Q: Why are these changes happening?

A: Each of our programs is designed to help instill the goals of the BSA mission in its members' daily lives. As the BSA strives to operate as one organization, build continuity of membership over a person's life, and deliver its mission, considering one Oath and Law as a tool to unify our membership is appropriate. Additionally, the earlier and longer a member is exposed to the values of the Scout Oath and Law, the better the opportunity is that they will be able to live those values in their lives.

Q: How did these recommendations come to be?

A: Two separate task forces have worked on the deliberations leading to the recommendations – the Strategic Plan Goal 411 Task Force and the Venturing Task Force. Each of these is volunteer-led and staffed (approximately 50 and 25 volunteers, respectively).

These task forces made the initial deliberations and recommendations beginning in 2011 and early 2012 respectively.

In the case of the Cub Scout, the 411 task force consulted with cognitive and child development specialists and educational practitioners involved in Scouting. Specifically, these professional and scouters were asked to consider age & developmental appropriateness of the current Cub Scout Promise and Law of the Pack versus the Scout Oath and Law. The outcome of this study suggested that comprehension difficulty is high for both but not materially higher for the Scout Oath. Further the study group concluded that Cub Scouts could understand the Scout Law just as well as the Cub Scout Promise with appropriate support and guidance. Additionally, research among parents (62% favorable) and Cub Scout leaders (59% favorable) was also supportive. Cub Scouts would not be asked to memorize or recite the Scout Law at early ages.

With respect to Venturing, the primary discussion points centered around the length and lack of use of the current Venturing Code, the desire to support a seamless set of value statements between Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturing (one program) and a desire to align Venturing's value statements with those used for similar age programs worldwide.

Q: Isn't the Scout Oath and Law much more difficult for

Cub Scout age boys to memorize and understand?

A: This was an initial concern of the task force. To address this concern, the task force recruited a group of individuals with experience in child development and linguistics and a group of educational practitioners. All of these individuals are Scouters.

After study, the group's conclusions were:

- Both sets of value statements contain complex concepts requiring support and guidance for the user to fully understand and learn to live by.
- Both sets of values statements are written at a relatively high reading level, but the Scout Oath is not significantly more difficult to read and comprehend than the Cub Scout Promise.
- The Law of the Pack is significantly more difficult for Cub Scout age boys to understand than either the Cub Scout Promise or the Scout Oath and contains concepts for which younger Cub Scouts are not developmentally prepared.
- Cub Scout age boys will be able to learn and comprehend the Scout Oath with support and guidance similar to that currently provided when learning the Cub Scout Promise (cards as prompts, guided discussion on meaning, etc.).
- Cub Scouts in early ranks should not be expected to memorize the Scout Law but are developmentally ready to begin exposure to the words of the Law and are ready to begin building understanding of the concepts with help.

Q: Cub Scouts is not Boy Scouts. If Cub Scouts use the Scout Oath and Law, what will separate the programs, what will the boys look forward to?

A: Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts are separate programs. Cub Scouts preparing to move to Boy Scouts will continue to anticipate the new uniform, the increase in independence and leadership growth of the patrol method, the enhanced opportunities for fun and adventure thru age appropriate troop activities they could not do as Cub Scouts and the Boy Scout advancement program and other opportunities. Use of the same Oath and Law will unify them with their older "brothers" but will not make them Boy Scouts.