

# The Varsity Letter

San Diego-Imperial Council - Boy Scouts of America

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## January 100% Varsity Scout Leader Huddle

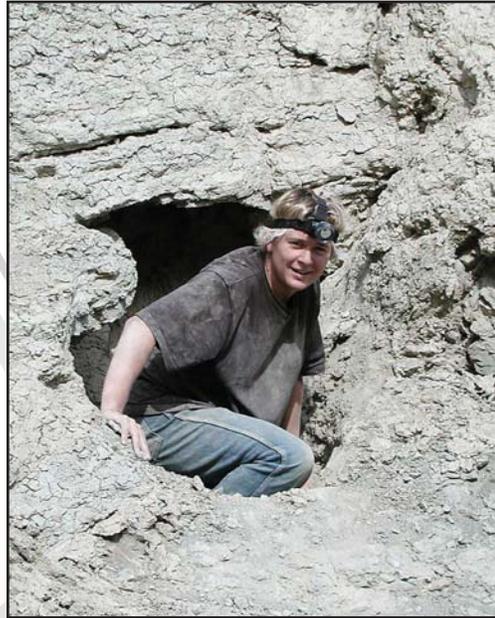
Mark your calendar for the annual 100% Varsity Huddle which will be held on January 19, 2012. The Huddle will be held at the Penisquitos Stake Center on Black Mountain Road.

This year we are honored to have as our keynote speaker Elder Allen Haynie, our Area Seventy. Elder Haynie is a former Young Men president, Bishop's Counselor, Bishop and Stake President. He is a long time supporter of the Boys Scout program in the church. Especially the high adventure aspects of scouting. He graduated from Brigham Young University and then clerked for Judge Clifford Wallace of the 9th Circuit. He practices law with his brother in the law firm of Haynie and Haynie in Rancho Bernardo.

Elder Haynie will be holding a special meeting prior to the Huddle. He has requested that all Stake Young Men Presidents and their Counselor over Varsity Scouts meet with him at at 6:30 pm. The Huddle will start at 7:00 pm.

Those that should attend the January 100% Varsity Leader Huddle are the Bishops, Bishop Counselors over Young Men, Ward Young Men Presidents and Counselor over Young Men. All Varsity Scout leaders. Also Stake Young Men Presidents and Counselors over the Varsity Program.

## The Famous Mud Caves



Anybody that has ever taken their Varsity Scouts to the Mud Caves has had a great time. For the most part, only the caves that are right on the road are investigated and crawled through. But there are many other caves to visit. Here is a great link to information on the many caves that make up The Mud Caves:

[http://www.hiddensandiego.com/wiki/index.php?title=Preview\\_Arroyo\\_Tapiado](http://www.hiddensandiego.com/wiki/index.php?title=Preview_Arroyo_Tapiado)



### 2012 Varsity Activity Dates & Contact Information

#### Huddles:

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| 100% Huddle -    | January 19th |
| March Huddle -   | March 15th   |
| May Huddle -     | May 17th     |
| August Huddle -  | August 16th  |
| October Huddle - | October 18th |

#### Varsity Leader Training

- Session I February 21st (Tuesday Night)
- Session II February 25th (Saturday)
- Session III-A March 3-4th

#### Varsity Training Chair

- Ed Jones: [edjonesheating@hotmail.com](mailto:edjonesheating@hotmail.com)

#### Varsity Triathlon: April 28th

##### Triathlon Chair

- Andy Schmidt:  
[andy@schmidtsboardhouse.com](mailto:andy@schmidtsboardhouse.com)

#### On-Target: July 21st

- Larry Purcell: [lpurcell@san.rr.com](mailto:lpurcell@san.rr.com)

#### Mountain Man Rendezvous

September 14-15th

- Lon Atkinson:  
[Booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com](mailto:Booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com)

#### Varsity Chairman:

- Barry Baker,  
[iambarrybaker@yahoo.com](mailto:iambarrybaker@yahoo.com)

#### Varsity Communications:

- Marty Bramwell,  
[martybramwell@yahoo.com](mailto:martybramwell@yahoo.com)

#### The Varsity Letter Newsletter:

- Lon Atkinson  
[Lon@AtkinsonStudios.co](mailto:Lon@AtkinsonStudios.co)

### A Hike For Those Who Like A Challenge: Indianhead

Indianhead, a 3990-foot promontory perched along the north wall of Borrego Palm Canyon, juts dramatically from the desert floor near Borrego Springs and the Anza-Borrego Desert visitor center. There are several true mountain-climbing routes to Indianhead's summit, but probably only one route is decently accessible to mere hikers. Those hikers, though, must possess a good sense of balance and have a fair share of enduring leg strength.

This no-nonsense hike — seven miles out and back for the round trip, perhaps seven hours worth of walking and scrambling, and involving an elevation gain and loss of 3200 feet — starts with an easy walk on a nature trail but then becomes progressively tougher the farther and higher you go. You'll need lots of drinking water, even in winter, and sturdy hiking boots. Allowing for the early sunset this time of year (4:40 p.m.), an early-morning start is absolutely mandatory if you hope to reach the summit and return on the same day. You should also have (and know how to use) a topographic map of the area that will indicate critical turns in the route as detailed below.

First, find your way to the day-use parking lot at the west end of Borrego Palm Canyon Campground (west of Borrego Springs) that doubles as the trail-head for Borrego Palm Canyon Nature Trail. From there, head up the canyon bottom via the well-traveled nature trail. At 1.5 miles, where a grove of native California fan palms thrives, the nature trail ends at a fenced enclosure overlooking the palms and a seasonal stream. . Go beyond this, and cross over to the south side of the canyon stream, where you can pick up a fair trail through open terrain dotted with granitic boulders and prickly forms of vegetation.

(Continued on Page 5)

### High Adventure Training

It is the Varsity Coach and Assistant Coach's responsibility to become fully trained. Especially if you are taking your Varsity Team out on a Super Activity.

Here is a list of the high adventure training available to you through our Council. Please take advantage of these great training programs.

#### High Adventure Leader Trek Training

##### (HALTT)

Prepares unit leaders for backpacking trips, consisting of three sessions, the first two of which are shared with Water Trek Training. Training certification is required for units seeking High Adventure Awards.

[http://highadventure.sdicbsa.org/train\\_haltt.htm](http://highadventure.sdicbsa.org/train_haltt.htm)

#### HALTT Retraining

One-day single-session refresher course for unit leaders whose HALTT certification has expired.

#### Water Trek Training

This course prepares unit leaders to operate on flat and moving water. It consists of three or more sessions, the first two of which are shared with HALTT. Training certification is required for units seeking High Adventure Awards for aquatic activities.

[http://highadventure.sdicbsa.org/train\\_water.htm](http://highadventure.sdicbsa.org/train_water.htm)

#### Water Trek Retraining

For unit leaders whose Water Trek certification has expired. Consists of attending the first two meetings of session III-B.

#### Specialist Training

Prepares unit leaders in various areas beyond the basic HALTT training. Multiple sessions covering different aspects of the High Adventure experience.

[http://highadventure.sdicbsa.org/train\\_special.htm](http://highadventure.sdicbsa.org/train_special.htm)

#### Unit Backpack Training

"Learn by doing" opportunity for leaders and their units.

[http://highadventure.sdicbsa.org/train\\_unitpack.htm](http://highadventure.sdicbsa.org/train_unitpack.htm)

#### Trail Building

Instruction in trail construction and maintenance, for Scouts and Leaders. (Trail work is required for many High Adventure Awards.

[http://highadventure.sdicbsa.org/train\\_trail.htm](http://highadventure.sdicbsa.org/train_trail.htm)

#### BSA Climbing Instructor

Help keep climbing/repelling as part of your unit's activities by becoming certified as soon as possible as a BSA Climbing Instructor for your Unit, District, or Council.

[http://highadventure.sdicbsa.org/train\\_climb.htm](http://highadventure.sdicbsa.org/train_climb.htm)

#### Flyer With Dates:

To print out a flyer with dates for the rest of this year and 2012, click on the link below and scroll to the bottom of the page: "Print out flyer"

<http://highadventure.sdicbsa.org/train.htm>



### Coach's Corner

The Coach's Corner is a good way to close a Varsity Team meeting. It winds things down and gives you, the leader, a chance to leave them with a few words to think about. Here is a good One:

Once there was a man who said some things about a friend that were neither true nor complimentary. Afterwards, he felt ashamed and went to his friend and apologized. Still, as he walked around town, he could hear the false words being repeated. Troubled by this, he went to the wisest man in the community.

"How can I undo this terrible wrong that I did", he asked the wise man. The wise man thought for a moment and said, "Bring me a feather pillow." The man did so and quickly returned. "Now go to the hilltop outside of town, slit open the pillowcase, and shake it until all of the feathers are gone." Again, the man quickly did as he was instructed. When he returned to the wise man, the wise man said, "Now go and pick up every single feather and place them all back into the pillowcase." The man replied, "But that's impossible. There is no way that I can find all those feathers and put them back." "Indeed," answered the wise man, "and there is no way to gather back the words that you cast into the air either."

And so it is. Once we speak, we can never gather the words back into the pillowcase. So it is important to think about what we are going to say before we cast our words into the wind.

### Cooler Corn on the Cobb

I recently heard of an inserting way to cook corn on the cobb while on a camp out. If your out there with a dozen scouts and leaders it takes a good size pot to cook corn on the cob. So here is an easy, fool proof way to cook a bunch of corn.

First you take an ice chest. Pick one that the corn will easily fit into. Shuck the corn and place in the bottom of the cooler. Then pour boiling water in the cooler to cover the corn. Close the ice chest and wait 30 minutes and your corn is done. You can leave it in the chest longer as you prepare the rest of the dinner and it will be just as good.



### Help Wanted: Varsity Rendezvous

Our great camp cook, Kathy 'Black Kettle' Madsen is hanging up her apron and spoon. This leaves a great opportunity for someone to take over this challenging, yet fun adventure, cooking for the 2012 Varsity Scout Blackfoot Fort Mountain Man Rendezvous. If you are interested, or know someone who would be, please contact the Ol' Booshway:

[Booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com](mailto:Booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com)

(Indian Head, Continued From Page 2)

Scattered palms are seen again here and there as the canyon narrows and after you round a sharp bend (1.8 miles). Fewer palms are seen here today than before September 2004, when a massive flash flood roared down this canyon, ripped out most of the palms, and floated their trunks toward the campground and beyond. In the intervening years, the regrowth of riparian vegetation alongside the stream has been vigorous, and you might spend considerable time dodging a tangle of shrubs and vines.

You reach the unmarked turnoff point for Indianhead at 2.5 miles into the hike (1800 feet elevation), where a tributary canyon joins in from the north. Climb northeast straight up the ridge just east of this tributary. Scrambling begins in earnest now, on the barest semblance of a path or on no path at all. After about 0.7 mile, you reach a 3220-foot saddle northwest of Indianhead. From that saddle, make your way southeast around huge boulders and over slab rock to reach the highest point on Indianhead's flattish summit.

The entire sweep of the San Ysidro mountain range, with peaks exceeding 6000 feet, lies southwest and west. In the north, beyond lesser ranges, the often snow-capped San Jacinto Mountains in Riverside County float like a mirage. To get a superb view of Borrego Palm Canyon, scramble about 0.1 mile south of Indianhead's high point and work your way out to a jagged outcrop. There you sit, legs dangling, looking almost straight down on the palms dotting the bottom of the canyon.

Hopefully you've allotted plenty of time to return to the trailhead, as that process could take as much time as you used in getting to the summit.

**Hiking length:** 7.0 miles round trip

**Difficulty:** Strenuous

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