

The Varsity Letter

San Diego-Imperial Council - Boy Scouts of America

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August 2012

11th Annual Blackfoot Fort Mountain Man Rendezvous September 14-15th



The 11th annual Varsity Scout Blackfoot Fort Mountain Man Rendezvous is less than two months away. Now is the time to start getting your team ready. Teams that have spent the time to make outfits and primitive camps have an even greater experience at the event. You can get some tips on dressing and camping by going to the rendezvous website: <http://www.varsityrendezvous.com/>

On Page six of this newsletter are some photos from last years rendezvous. You can also download the 2011 rendezvous slide show, unit pictures or award winners by going to:

http://varsityrendezvous.com/photo_downloads.html

If you have any questions, please contact the Ol' Booshway, Lon Atkinson at:

booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com



An Interview with Varsity Coaches Bob and Jim

A casual conversation with two Varsity Coach's in the San Diego-Imperial Council.

1. Do you attend the Varsity Leader Huddles?

Bob: No, I have been a Varsity Coach for many years. I doubt that the Huddles have anything to offer me.

Jim: Even though I have been a coach several times, I find that I go home with new ideas for my unit at every Huddle I attend.

2. What do you think is the best part of the Varsity Huddle?

Bob: Don't know. I don't go to them.

Jim: I think the best part is the information that is shared between the other leaders. It great to hear how and what other leaders are doing to help their units succeed.

3. Are you or have you taken your Scouts on a High Adventure trip this summer?

Bob: Well, the boys couldn't decide on going to Havasupai again or to go to Mataguay. So we aren't going to have a super activity this year.

Jim: After hearing about some of the trips other leaders have taken their scouts, at the Huddles this spring, we gave the boys several choices to choose from. Looks like we are going to the Kern River and doing mountain biking, kayaking, water skiing and hiking in the Giant Redwoods this year. The boys are really looking forward to it.

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4. Are you going to be holding a Yearly Planning Conference this fall?

Bob: No, we plan all year long as we go.

Jim: At the last Huddle I heard a great idea about camping in the dessert in Oct. and making it the planning conference for the year. We are going to try that.

5. How many of the young men in your Ward are active in the Varsity Scout Program?

Bob: We have seven boys in the Ward but only three come out to scouts. So we are thinking of combining them with the scout troop.

Jim: We have six boys in our Teachers Quorum. But for Varsity Scouts we have ten active boys. Three of them are non members that come with their friends.

6. Are you going to the Varsity Scout Leaders Huddle on August 16th?

Bob: No, I'm too busy and my assistant doesn't want to go.

Jim: Of course. This would be a tough calling if it weren't for all the information I get from the Huddles and the other leaders that attend. My assistant Fred, and our committee chair, Barbara, will be attending with me.

Where will you be on the night of August 16th?

Great ideals and principles do not live from generation to generation just because they are right, not even because they have been carefully legislated. Ideals and principles continue from generation to generation only when they are stamped on the hearts of children as they grow up."

LaVerne Parmley

Varsity Scout Leader Huddle: August 16th

Penisquitos Stake Center, 12835 Black Mountain Road, San Diego.

Gathering time activity starts at 6:30. Come before the Huddle and have a chance to practice throwing a tomahawk in preparation for the Blackfoot Fort Mountain Man Rendezvous!

Huddle begins at 7:00 PM. At this huddle you will walk away with three new team meeting activities from the five field of emphasis.

Come and share what has been successful in your team and learn what works for other teams. Learn about the many great opportunities that are available to the Varsity Teams in the San Diego Imperial Council.

The Coach's Corner:

At the end of a Varsity Scout meeting is a great time for the Varsity Coach to take a few minutes to teach his boys a life's lesson. It's called the Coach's Corner.

A Strong Character

To all china, the Great Wall seemed a superb way to gain security. So at great expense, and loss of life, it was finally built. But within a few years it was breached three times by the enemy. Not only this: it was breached, not by failure of the wall itself, but through bribery of the gatekeepers. It was the human element that failed. What collapsed was character.

Remember, the test of a wall, or an oak tree, or a man is: How sound is he at the heart?

The Sweet Sixteen of BSA Safety

Few youth organizations encompass the breadth, volume, and diversity of physical activity common to Scouting, and none enjoy a better safety record. The key to maintaining and improving this exemplary record is the conscientious and trained adult leader who is attentive to safety concerns.

As an aid in the continuing effort to protect participants in a Scout activity, the BSA National Health and Safety Committee and the Council Services Division of the BSA National Council have developed the "Sweet Sixteen" of BSA safety procedures for physical activity. These 16 points, which embody good judgement and common sense, are applicable to all activities.

1. Qualified Supervision
2. Physical Fitness
3. Buddy System
4. Safe Area or Course
5. Equipment Selection and Maintenance
6. Personal Safety Equipment
7. Safety Procedures and Policies
8. Skill Level Limits
9. Weather Check
10. Planning
11. Communications
12. Plans and Notices
13. First Aid Resources
14. Applicable Laws
15. CPR Resource
16. Discipline

To read the entire document with descriptions of each of the sixteen items, go to the following website:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsourc/Healthand-Safety/Resources/sweet16.aspx>

S.A.F.E.

In addition to following the Guide to Safe Scouting and the Sweet Sixteen of BSA Safety, think of the S.A.F.E. approach to your activities this summer.

1. Sensible and Suitable - Is the activity Sensible and Suitable for your youth? What gospel purpose does the activity fulfill? Does the activity bring young men closer to Christ? Does the activity further the mission of the Boy Scouts of America? Is the activity appropriate for all participants, including both youth and advisors? Is the activity appropriate given the age and skill level of the youth and leaders? Are the leaders adequately trained for the activity? Does the activity comply with the Guide to Safe Scouting?

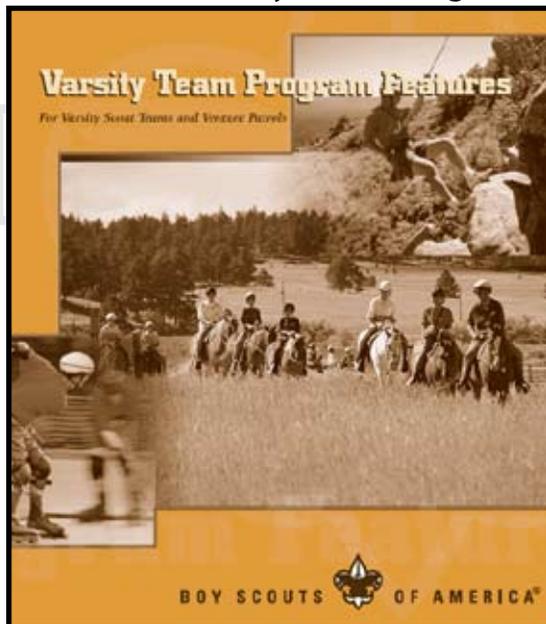
2. Approvals - After prayerfully considering the activity, do you feel that the Lord confirms that this activity is appropriate? Have you obtained appropriate approvals from your bishop, parents, young men? Did you file tour plan? Did you obtain approvals from any government agencies?

3. Formulate - Did you plan effectively? Planning on Tuesday for a campout on Friday may not be the best plan. When you conducted your planning session, did you use the boy leaders? Did you consider the risks and what safety controls could be implemented to make the activity safer? Did you consider the Buddy system? Did you plan enough adult leaders? What contingency plans have you made?

4. Ensure/Evaluate - Did you ensure that the safety guidelines you established were understood, committed to and then followed by all participants and leaders? As the activity was underway, did you ask yourself what you would do if there were changing circumstances? After the activity was concluded, did you conduct a reflection to determine whether your goals and objectives were met and what you can do next time to make the activity even better?

Varsity Team Program Features:

A must have for every Varsity Coach and Assistant Coach who wants to have a successful Varsity Scout Program!



Contents of the three volumes of the Varsity Team Program Features:

Volume I

Backpacking, Basketball, Bowling, Canoe
Camping, Caving, Cross Country Skiing, Cycling,
Discovering America, Fishing

Volume II

Freestyle Biking, Frontiersman, Mechanics,
Operation On-Target, Orienteering, Rock
Climbing and Repelling, Roller Hockey,
Shooting Sports Snow Camping

Volume III

Soccer, Softball, Survival, Swimming, Tennis,
Triathlon, Volleyball, Waterskiing, Whitewater
Canoeing

Download them here:

<http://varsity.sdicsa.org/resources.html>

2012 Varsity Activity Dates & Contact Information

Huddles:

August Huddle - August 16th

October Huddle - October 18th

Huddle Commissioner:

Andy Schmidt: andy@schmidtboardhouse.com

Mountain Man Rendezvous

September 14-15th

<http://www.varsityrendezvous.com/>

• Lon Atkinson:

Booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com

Varsity Leader Training

VALT: October

Woodbadge '13: May 16-18th, June 6-8, 2013

Training Chairman: Ed Jones

edjonesheating@hotmail.com

On-Target:

David Jenkins: david.w.jenkins@navy.mil

Varsity Chairman:

• Barry Baker: iambarrybaker@gmail.com

Varsity Communications:

(Mailing List)

• Marty Bramwell: martybramwell@yahoo.com

The Varsity Letter Newsletter:

• Lon Atkinson: Lon@AtkinsonStudios.com

Rendezvous Help!!

If you are planning on attending the Blackfoot Fort Mountain Man Rendezvous on Sept. 14-15 and have an NRA Muzzleloading Instructor or RSO Certification, please contact the Booshway:

booshway@varsityrendezvous.com

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