

The Varsity Letter

San Diego-Imperial Council - Boy Scouts of America

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The American Flag Indoors



The flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the speaker's right as he faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the speaker (to the right of the audience).

From a Staff in a Church or Public Auditorium off the Podium.

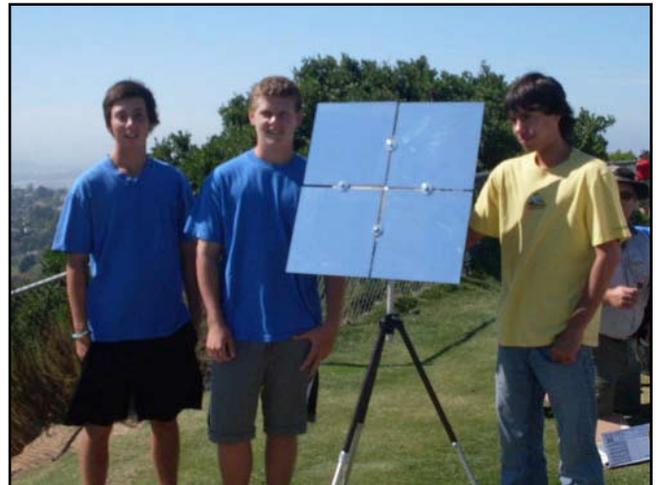
Custom and not the flag code, hold that the flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence as part of the audience, in the position of honor at the audience's right.

Used to Cover a Casket

It should be so placed that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.

(continued on page 2)

On Target 2012



On-Target is July 21st! This great national Varsity Special Event is a great activity for your Varsity Team to get involved with.

This event has been run every year since the mid-1980s. Its goal is to have Varsity Scout Teams from across the country climb mountain peaks (or buildings), and from there use mirrors to signal each other. They will also talk to each other with ham radios or cell phones, creating a link between them and other teams that are participating.

Time is running out and you need to reserve the mountain top that your team will want to climb and signal the other units on top of their mountains.

To reserve the peak of your choice, see page 6 of this month's newsletter. You can also go to our Varsity Website for additional information and help getting ready for On Target

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

High Adventure/Sports Field of Emphasis

As we prepare for summer we need to be aware of the many helps that the BSA has produced to help you, the Varsity Scout Leader. The following is from one of the best: 'The Varsity Play Book'. A copy of the valuable book can be downloaded from our Varsity Scout Website:

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

Scroll down to 'Books for Reference'.

The Varsity Scout Outdoor Program is where Varsity Scouting works best and is also where most young men want to be: In the outdoors.

Here are just a few of the reasons a strong outdoor program is important to the health of a Varsity Scout Team:

- The outdoors is a classroom that is ideal for teaching and learning Scouting skills
- When Varsity Scouts hike, cook and eat together, while sharing the challenges of outdoor living, they will learn to practice patience, respect the points of view of others and develop lasting friendships.
- Leadership comes to life in the outdoors.
- The outdoors is where adventure awaits. Activities such as backpacking, cycling, fishing, orienteering, and rock climbing are some of Varsity Scouting's best adventures.

At a minimum Varsity Scouts should spend at least 10 days and nights outdoors each year.

The best available adult leadership should be recruited to accompany each team during high-adventure activities. In accordance with YPG, a team must have a minimum of two adult leaders, each one physically fit and registered as an adult member of the Boy Scouts of America.

(Flags from Page One)

Other than being Flown from a Staff

The flag should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window it should be displayed in the same way, that is with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street. When festoons, rosettes or drapings are desired, bunting of blue, white and red should be used, but never the flag.

For additional information on flag etiquette:

<http://www.usa-flag-site.org/etiquette.shtml>

Blackfoot Fort Mountain Man Rendezvous!

The Varsity Scout Mountain Man Rendezvous is fast approaching. This will be our 11th rendezvous and it will be held on September 14-15th.

Each year members of the rendezvous staff make themselves available to visit Varsity units and teach the boys about the Mountain Men. We also bring tomahawks and targets and let the boys do some throwing.

There is a limited number of dates available. So you need to schedule early. The visits are only made from June through August.

We prefer visiting units that have not been to the rendezvous before or units with new boys that have not been. It also works to have more than one unit meet together for this presentation.

If you would like to schedule a visit, please contact the Booshway at:

Booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com

The Ultimate Wood Burning Backpacking Stove



(Editor's Note: I have used a small wood burning stove for the past few years for camping. Love it, but it's kind of heavy. I saw this stove advertised and thought it was a great idea to share.)

The Solo Stove is the ultimate backpacking stove - a lightweight, compact, efficient eco-friendly backpacking stove that will last you a lifetime.

The Solo Stove is a natural convection inverted downdraft gasifier stove that incorporates a secondary combustion for a more efficient and cleaner burn. The bottom vents allow air to enter and flow up the bottom of the grate to feed the primary combustion, a top down smolder. In addition, air entering from the bottom vents heats up within the inner wall and rises up and out the top fire-box vents causing a secondary combustion at the top of the stove. The Solo Stove doesn't just burn wood. It actually cooks the smoke out of the wood and then burns the smoke not once, but twice! This technique makes for a cleaner burn which means less smoke and also allows the stove to burn more efficiently which means it requires less fuel than regular wood stoves. For info:

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

Backpacking Mud Pie

If you can make mud, you can make Mud Pie. All you have to do is whip up some instant pudding and toss in some nuts, cookie crumbs or granola.

Suggested Ingredients:

- ½ cup Annie's Homegrown Chocolate Bunny Grahams
- ¼ cup peanuts or mixed nuts
- 2 tbsp JELL-O brand instant chocolate pudding
- 2 tbsp powdered milk
- ½ cup water

Substitutions: In place of Bunny Grahams, any crumbled chocolate cookies will do. In a pinch, you can substitute granola for the nuts.

At Home:

I package the Bunny Grahams and the peanuts in separate 3 x 5 plastic bags, the powdered milk and pudding mix in separate 2 x 3 plastic bags. I place these bags inside another sandwich size bag to stay organized.

On the Trail:

Use your pot or a plastic container with lid to mix the pudding. Combine the powdered milk with cold water. Then add the pudding mix and stir briskly or shake for a minute until the powder is absorbed and the pudding starts to thicken.

After the pudding sets in about five minutes, add your extra goodies and let your spoon guide you.

For more recipes and other good ideas:

<http://www.backpackingchef.com/index.html>

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.

Medal of Honor



Has demonstrated unusual heroism and skill in saving or attempting to save a life at considerable risk to self.

I hardly know when a more striking example of Scout courage and scorn of obstacles has reached us than that of the one-armed Boy Scout Howard Rote.

He dove from the upper deck of a yacht and rescued a child who had fallen off a public pier. Both Howard and the child were in danger of being crushed between the pier and the swinging yacht before the rescue could be made.

This is not the first time Howard has qualified as a life saver. Twice before he has saved persons from drowning, in one case rendering artificial respiration to the unconscious victim, thus doubly saving his life.

Howard is an Eagle Scout. He, too, has not regarded his physical handicap as a bar to progress in Scouting. Any reason why you shouldn't do at least as well as this handicapped Scout?

2012 Varsity Activity Dates & Contact Information

Huddles:

August Huddle - August 16th

October Huddle - October 18th

Huddle Commissioner:

Andy Schmidt: andy@schmidtboardhouse.com

On-Target:

July 21st

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

Varsity Leader Training

VALT: October

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

Training Chairman: Ed Jones

edjonesheating@hotmail.com

Mountain Man Rendezvous

September 14-15th

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

• Lon Atkinson:

Booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com

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



Folding Kayak You Can Make!



Many years ago the scouts in my troop in Riverside County made, what we called Pumpkin Seed boats. Each scout made his own boat to go down the Colorado River.

I got to thinking about that boat, (which I still have), and thought that some of our Varsity Units might get a kick out of making them this summer.

The plans originally came out in Popular Mechanics around 1963. The plans have been modified and modernized a few times. The link provided below seems to be the latest and most used. As with any homemade projects, modifying your own to fit you is half the fun. The picture above is of my boat from the early 80's. The picture below is one that was made from the plans that you can download from our Varsity website.



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

Buying Gear & Stuff for your High Adventure Trip.

Getting ready to go backpacking can be an expensive endeavor. Here are a few ideas that can save you time and money.

Mountain House Foods make, what I think, is the best of the freeze dried foods. If you contact them and give them your Ward's tax ID number, you can buy from them at wholesale prices. Your Bishop should be able to provide you with that number.

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

Backpacker Magazine is a great resource to find out what equipment would work best for you. Each year they publish their Gear Guide. You can download it from this link:

<http://www.backpacker.com/gear-guide-2012-table-of-contents/gear/16381>

Campmor is a good another place to get some deals on equipment. They usually sell over stocked items, but the prices are good.

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

Back Country is a website that sells all the major brands. They almost always have big sales on. The biggest being the 4th of July sale. Free shipping and no tax also makes them a good bet.

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

REI is one of the best stores any where for buying equipment. There are three locations in San Diego. Pay particular attention to product with their brand. Their brand is well designed and usually less than name brand products. If you join, for a slight fee, you get a check at the end of the year. Profit Sharing! It usually is around 10%.

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

Now Get Out There!

OPERATION ON-TARGET 2012

Sat. July 21, 10 am - 1pm

Build a Team "Blaster", then go blasting on the peaks!

Download a complete 'How To' at: <http://sdicbsa.org/varsity/events.html>

Pick a Peak:

Helix
Soledad (Team 352)
Cowles
Pt. Loma
San Miguel
or any other high point

Iron Mtn (Team504)
Black Mtn
Cuyamaca
Palomar (Team xxx)
Paint Mtn

Bring:

cell phone(s)
ham radio (if avail)
compass
binoculars/telescope
camera

THERE ARE NO REGISTRATION COSTS!

Make it an overnight campout or just a day activity!

REGISTER EARLY and CLAIM your Peak!!!

A complete list of participating Teams and Peaks will be available at July Huddle.

Registration Information (PRINT LEGIBLY)

TEAM # _____ Coach Name: _____

Email: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

HAM call sign: _____ Cell phone(s): _____

Peak: _____ Lat: _____ Long: _____ Elevation: _____

Send complete registration info to David Jenkins at: david.w.jenkins@navy.mil

Questions?? Contact David Jenkins: 619-508-1174