

Text in Blue is
a Clickable Link!

The Varsity Letter

San Diego-Imperial Council - Boy Scouts of America

Volume 12 No. 6

Circulation 260+

June 2012

May Huddle



The May Huddle was full of great ideas for Varsity Leaders. We started off with a good gathering time activity: a slide show of a recent activity. At this meeting it was a slideshow of the 2012 Triathlon.

Our main program was another slide show and a discussion on hiking Mt. Whitney. Corey Toomer shared some thoughts that came from his recent hike up Mt. Whitney with his family. There was a good discussion amongst the leaders following Corey's presentation about this trip with more ideas coming from leaders who had hiked to the top of Mt. Whitney.



Capturing the Vision of Scouting

By David L. Beck, Young Men General President
(from the article, 'Capturing the Vision of Scouting'
in the June 2012 Ensign)

In a program as demanding as Scouting, some leaders are concerned and tentative and might feel inadequate or overwhelmed. These feelings are normal. The best way to deal with such feelings is to just jump in—now. The Lord has called you, and He will qualify you and bless you to the degree that you learn your responsibilities and magnify your calling.

Training is essential to understanding Scouting and feeling confident that we can implement the program. Training motivates us to succeed because as we develop a degree of mastery, we gain confidence that we really can be successful Scout leaders. We hope Young Men advisers, in addition to receiving training, are given enough time in their Scout callings to make a difference in the lives of the young men they serve.

Young Men advisers in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints should be the best implementers of Scouting in the world. Training is an important step toward that end.

Thank Heavenly Father for this season in your life to influence young men. Be there for them and give them a vision of what they can become as they learn their duty as priesthood holders—whether they are wearing a Scout uniform or a white shirt and tie.

<http://www.lds.org/ensign/2012/06/capturing-the-vision-of-scouting?lang=eng&query=boy+scouts>



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. There will be no dates in September.

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

What's New on the Websites:



www.sdicsba.org/varsity

Under 'Resources':

- Backpacking Equipment Lists
- Meritbadge Counselor Application
- May's Varsity Letter Newsletter

Under 'Special Events Triathlon':

- Triathlon '12 Slideshow
- Triathlon '12 Results

Under Special Events "On Target"

- On-Target 'How to' Document"
- On-Target 2012 Sign up flyer.



www.VarsityRendezvous.com

Under 'Links & Downloads':

- History of the Hawken Rifle
- Hawk and Knife throwing targets
- Instructions to build target stands
- Link to a great Muzzleloading Forum
- All of the 2012 Rendezvous Forms

Under 'History':

- Description of a Free Trapper (from a news article published in 1840)

Under 'Photos':

- Slideshow of last years Rendezvous
- Link to photos of last year winners

Oakzanita Peak & Descanso Creek

(This trip is from the column: Roam-a-Rama in the San Diego Reader.)

Take I-8 toward Alpine and continue east to exit 40, signed as Hwy 79/Japatul Rd. Go north on Hwy 79 about 3 miles to Oakzanita, which is on the right. There is limited parking in a small gravel lot beside the road and no facilities or drinking water.

Visitors in late March into June will be met with a multi-hued display of California lilacs, manzanitas, winter currant, wild rose, the occasional peony or lupine, and a brilliant assortment of small annual wildflowers. Also the view from the peak on a clear day is inspiring.

The Lower Descanso Creek trailhead is about ten yards from the Oakzanita sign, just off the highway. The name is a give-away as to what you will be seeing in this area — lots of oaks and manzanita. Begin hiking south (to the right as you face the sign). The trail soon turns east and follows Descanso Creek, taking you past an abundance of arroyo willow, basket bush, wild rose, winter currant, eastwood manzanita, and California lilac, with occasional sycamores and oaks in various stages of recovery.

Shortly after crossing the creek and passing through an oak grove, you come to the East Mesa Fire Road (0.8 mile from the trailhead).

Go right on the fire road for a short distance (0.11 mile) and find the Upper Descanso Creek Trail on your right (0.91 mile from the start). The Upper Descanso Creek Trail gradually but steadily takes you away from the creek and up the northwest facing slope of the canyon through vigorous growing ceanothus, mountain mahogany, and scrub oak.

The skeletons of the pre-fire manzanitas protrude above the living chaparral but are only sparsely represented among the living here. After you have gone about 1.6 miles, the Upper Descanso Creek Trail ends at a low saddle where you meet the Oakzanita Trail.

Go to the right on the Oakzanita Trail for an easy 0.6 mile to reach the boulder-strewn, 5054-foot peak. Look for the peak register at the top if you want to sign your name. On a clear day you can expect dramatic vistas in every direction. Note both Cuyamaca and Stonewall peaks in the distance. There is even a hitching post to tie up your horse, if one brought you.

After descending from the peak via the Oakzanita Trail, continue east, past the junction with the Upper Descanso Creek Trail and through what must have been a beautiful stand of massive oaks and pines. Most of the pines are now charred stumps. Some scattered Jeffery and Coulter pine seed trees survived, so the area may eventually recover. Seedlings have been planted to help this recovery along, some of which have survived and are growing vigorously.

After hiking 1.5 miles from the peak along the Oakzanita Trail, you will arrive at the East Mesa Fire Road. Go left down the fire road. After 2.5 miles of easy downhill walking on this narrow dirt road, you will come to the well-marked Lower Descanso Creek Trail off to the left. Take it, and in 3/4 of a mile, you will be back at your car.

This is almost an 8-mile loop. It is a moderate hike over easily navigated, well marked trails with an elevation gain of about 1000 feet. A sign at the trailhead warns of mountain lions. Poison oak and rattlesnakes are also possibilities. Long pants are recommended for protection from chaparral plants that are beginning to encroach onto the trail in a few places.

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.

Everything I need to know I learned from Noah.



- Don't miss the boat.
- Don't forget that we're all in the same boat.
- Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone might ask you to do something really big.
- Don't listen to critics; just get on with what has to be done.
- Build your future on high ground.
- Two heads are better than one.
- Speed isn't always an advantage; the snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- When you're stressed, float awhile.

Remember that woodpeckers inside are a larger threat than the storm outside!

Dennis Gillic

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

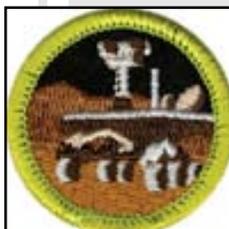


Newest Merit Badges:

The following are the newest BSA Merit Badges.



Welding: February 2012
Requirements:
(<http://www.boy scout trail.com/boy-scouts/meritbadges/welding.asp>)



Robotics: April 2011
Requirements:
(<http://www.boy scout trail.com/boy-scouts/meritbadges/robotics.asp>)



Chess: September 2011
Requirements:
(<http://www.boy scout trail.com/boy-scouts/meritbadges/chessmb.asp>)



Geocaching: Dec. 2010
Requirements:
(<http://www.boy scout trail.com/boy-scouts/meritbadges/geocaching.asp>)



Inventing: June 2010
Requirements:
(<http://www.boy scout trail.com/boy-scouts/meritbadges/inventing.asp>)

New Merit Badges coming out soon:

- Kayaking: May 2012
- Search and Rescue: Summer 2012
- Programming: 2012-2013
- Game Design: 2013
- Animation: 2013-2014

Do You Remember The Varsity Scout Five Fields of Emphasis:

1. High Adventure/Sports;
2. Advancement;
3. Personal Development:
 - Spiritual Growth
 - Leadership
 - Citizenship,
 - Social and Cultural
 - Physical Fitness
4. Service;
5. Special Programs & Events

For additional information please go to:
<http://varsity.sdicbsa.org/program.html>

Hike and Backpack Responsibly

Travel responsibly on designated, trails.

- Stay on the trail even if it is rough and muddy.
- Walking on the trail edge and cutting switch backs increases damage, causing erosion and visual scarring.
- Walk single file to avoid widening the trail.
- Spread out in open country where there are no trails. Spreading out, rather than following each other's footsteps, disperses impact and avoids creating a new trail.
- Flagging and marking trails is unsightly. If marking is necessary, remove it as you leave. Consider using a Global Positioning System (GPS) instead of flagging.
- Comply with all signs and respect barriers.
- Buddy up with two or three hikers, reducing vulnerability if you have an accident.

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
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