

The Varsity Letter

San Diego-Imperial Council - Boy Scouts of America

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Varsity Scout Blackfoot Fort Mountain Man Rendezvous September 14-15, 2012



The Mountain Man Rendezvous has been heralded as the best event of the year for your Varsity Scouts. This will be the eleventh year of this version of the rendezvous and it will be full of great activities and events.

It will have good food, great competition, lots of fun and amazing awards. There is new activities this year and the trading post is stocked with even more mountain man provisions.

Registration is on going. You can download a registration form and also learn all about the Rendezvous from the official website:

www.VarsityRendezvous.com

For additional information you can contact the Booshway, Lon Atkinson:

booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com

Preparing the Eagle Scout Project Proposal

There has been some question concerning the new Eagle Project Proposal. This information is from the Project Workbook.

Your proposal must be completed first. It is an overview, but also the beginnings of planning. It shows your unit leader, unit committee, and council or district that the following tests can be met. For your proposal to be approved, it must show the following:

1. It provides sufficient opportunity to meet the Eagle Scout service project requirement. You must show that planning, development, and leadership will take place; and how the three factors will benefit a religious institution, a school, or your community.
2. It appears to be feasible. You must show the project is realistic for you to complete.
3. Safety issues will be addressed. You must show you have an understanding of what must be done to guard against injury, and what will be done if someone does get hurt.
4. Action steps for further detailed planning are included. You must make a list of the key steps you will take to make sure your plan has enough details to be carried out successfully.
5. You are on the right track with a reasonable chance for a positive experience.

Your proposal need only be detailed enough to show a reviewer that you can meet the tests above. If you find in order to do that, the proposal must be lengthy and complicated, your project might be more complex than necessary.

Boy Scouts of America Legal Issues Website

This website was created on behalf of the Boy Scouts of America to inform the public about the legal issues that confront Scouting.

Scouting has been under legal assault and publicity barrage since the Supreme Court of the United States affirmed the Scouts' First Amendment right to freedom of association in 2000. Scouting will defend itself and the constitutional rights we all share as Americans.

Most importantly, Boy Scouts of America will not allow the attacks to sway it from its mission: to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Please visit this site often to be kept current on its contents:

<http://www.bsalegal.org/>



We are looking for [NRA Certified Muzzle-loading Instructors](#) for the Varsity Scout Mountain Man Rendezvous being held on September 15th. If you can help or know someone who is certified, please email Lon Atkinson at:

Booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com

Search and Rescue Merit Badge



Every year, thousands of people who were reported missing are saved by specialized search and rescue (SAR) teams. With high-tech navigation tools readily available, many people are able to self-evacuate from remote areas. But the critical skills of SAR are still essential to saving lives. That's why the BSA is announcing its first Search and Rescue merit badge at the 2012 National Search and Rescue Conference hosted by the National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR) and the Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) in Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

Scouts aiming to earn the Search and Rescue merit badge will first learn the important differences between a search and rescue. A search is an emergency situation requiring a team of trained searchers to locate, access, stabilize, and transport a lost person to safety. A rescue is an emergency situation where the person's location is known but he or she must be removed from danger and returned to safety. The term SAR is used together because rescues are often required after the person is found. Scouts will learn the fundamentals of SAR, but the badge will not qualify a young person as a trained searcher. While the BSA seeks to equip young people with relevant and useful skills, the organization stresses that Scouts should never attempt a search or rescue on their own.

Requirements may be downloaded here:

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

The August Huddle Was Really Stinky!

Yes, that right, by the end of the Huddle, the room really stunk! But let's start at the beginning.

The Ol' Booshway was there with some tomahawks and target stands for the gathering activity. Pretty serious competition ensued.

Lon Atkinson started the meeting talking about the up-coming Varsity Scout Mountain Man Rendezvous. Only five of the Varsity leaders in attendance, had not been to the rendezvous, but they along with all the other leaders vowed to be in attendance this year.

The Booshway mentioned that there would be some new events for this years rendezvous.

The first speaker was Ned Isrealen from Team 657. He shared a Power Point presentation about some great mountain bike rides in the Laguna Mountains. These are rides that almost any of the boys can make. The majority of each trip is off road and down hill. His Power Point presentation can be downloaded from our Varsity Website:

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

He also talked about safety and the equipment that would be needed.

Now for the stinky part. Our Huddle Commissioner Andy Schmidt, brought several 10 foot pieces of pvc pipe and a bag of elbows and t's. The group activity was to make a bike stand. Three teams worked on making one stand each. The only directions they had was a photo of a complete stand.

The stink was the glue used to glue all of the pieces together.

The parts List:

- All 3/4" Schedule 40 PVC
- (2) Wheel Upright - 22 3/4"
- (2) Wheel base - 12 1/2"
- (4) Base - 7"
- (5) Splices - 1 1/4"
- (6) Elbows - 90 degree
- (6) Tees
- PVC Glue



With a little bit of effort, your bike stand should look like this:



Don't miss the October Huddle!

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.

Be a Blessing

Many of you have heard of a woman in India named Mother Teresa who has devoted her life to serving the poor. She is known around the world. She has shown that you do not have to do big things to be a blessing to others.

If someone is hungry you can feed them.
If they are dirty you can help clean them.
If they are sick you can care for them.
If they are lonely you can talk to them.
If they mourn someone you can give them words of comfort.

You do not have to be rich or famous or a person of great importance to do any of this. You simply have to care about others as much as you care about your own needs. Mother Teresa has cared for many who were sick, fed many who were hungry, and cleaned many who were dirty. She gave up all her worldly possessions when she started doing this many years ago. She was not always famous but she always cared, helping people in the slums of Calcutta, India.

Each of you can be a blessing to others as you live your lives. You can say a kind word when someone is down; you can buy a meal for someone who is hungry. When you help someone, keep it to yourself, you do not need to tell others what a good person you are. The world will notice your example by how you treat others. When the opportunities arise, always be a blessing to family, friends and strangers!

How to Earn the BSA 50 Miler Award



Most people think nothing of traveling 50 miles by car, bus, or plane. But 50 miles on foot? That's another story—and just the sort of achievement the 50-Miler Award recognizes. Scouts can earn this colorful award by completing 50-mile, five-day treks by several nonmotorized means.

What is the objective of the 50-Miler Award? The award seeks to stimulate interest in Scouting ideals and promote activities that improve personal fitness, self-reliance, knowledge of the outdoors, and understanding of conservation.

Who is eligible for the 50-Miler Award? Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, Venturers, and Scout leaders.

What constitutes a qualifying trip? A chartered unit or provisional group might organize a trip, usually a high-adventure trek. The unit must make a complete plan for the trip that includes possibilities for advancement.

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The group must cover a trail (or a canoe or boat route) of not less than 50 consecutive miles and take a minimum of five consecutive days to complete the trip—all without the aid of motors. During the trip, each participant must spend at least 10 hours working on a conservation project such as trail maintenance

Ten hours of service seems like a lot. Is there an alternative? If it's not possible to complete the service requirement during the trip, you can do a similar project in your home area. This is how Philmont crews can complete the 50-Miler Award, because they do only three hours of service during their treks and an additional seven hours later.

What means of transportation can we use on our trip? The award covers hiking, bicycling, boating, and canoeing. Pack animals may be used where appropriate, but requirements prohibit the use of motors.

Can a Scout or Scouter earn the 50-Miler Award more than once? Yes.

How do we apply for the 50-Miler Award? Complete the 50-Miler Award application (No. 34408A) and submit it to your local Scout council service center. Find an application at:

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

Who approves the award? The unit leader or provisional group leader signs the application, which is then submitted to the local Scout council service center for final approval. **Who approves the award?** The unit leader or provisional group leader signs the application, which is then submitted to the local Scout council service center for final approval.

2012 Varsity Activity Dates & Contact Information

Mountain Man Rendezvous

September 14-15th

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

• Lon Atkinson:

Booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com

Huddles:

October Huddle - October 18th

Huddle Commissioner:

Andy Schmidt: andy@schmidtboardhouse.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

