

The Varsity Letter

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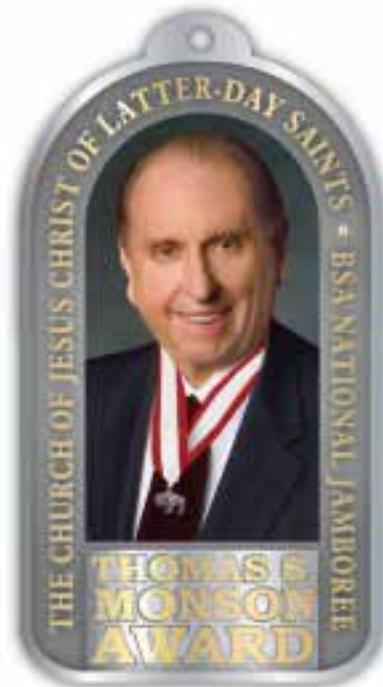


Happy 4th of July!

In the early years of our Republic the rest of the world looked on with amusement and a little trepidation. They expected the United States to fail and waited and waited and waited for it to do so. Over 200 years later the Idea of America not only holds strong, but has influenced the world in ways even the Founding Fathers would have never been able to predict.

So on July 4th, 1776, when Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, John Adams and a few others unveiled the official Declaration of Independence, it was about much more than declaring political freedom from England. The Declaration of Independence was the first time in history a nation had been founded on the principal that all people "are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness" and that these rights would be guaranteed. It has fed the character of the people and institutions of the United States of America ever since. The founding fathers were declaring not just the independence of a nation but of all humankind.

The Thomas S. Monson Award



The Thomas S. Monson award may be earned by youth and adults of all ages. It will be introduced at the 2013 National Scout Jamboree, and will then be available for others to receive after July 2013. Pre-orders are accepted immediately, and will be shipped August 1, 2013.

The Requirements:

1. Read "100 Years of Scouting in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints," which is included on this card. With your family or a Scout leader, discuss two things you learned from this history.
2. Read "Run, Boy, Run," which is included on this card, and write your feelings about this story in your journal.

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The Varsity Letter Newsletter's Temperamental Editor Has Quit in a Fit of Rage!



He was heard yelling as he ran through the publishers parking lot: "Nobody loves me. Nobody loves the Varsity Letter. Four years I sweated over this motley newsletter and no one cares! I Quit! I'm going to do a newsletter for the Beehive class of the Lakeside Ward! They'll love me."

I haven't quit. Yet. I have been working on this newsletter for four years. I was asked to do it by our Varsity Committee Chair. I thought it would be a great idea and fun.

Many times I have asked for input. Tell me about a great trip you took with your boys. Send me your boys favorite recipe, what would you like to know about. Four years and four people have responded.

I don't know if anyone actually reads this. I don't know if anyone cares. So, I will ask one last time. If you want this newsletter, if you read this newsletter you need to let me know. Or this will be the last one.

Lon@AtkinsonStudios.com

The Thomas S. Monson Award, (continued from page 1)

Electives

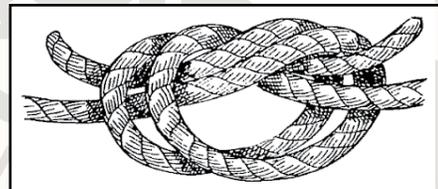
1. Complete at least two requirements toward earning the Genealogy merit badge.
2. Complete at least two requirements toward earning the Family Life merit badge.
3. Memorize the thirteenth article of faith, and discuss with your family or a leader how this article of faith and the Scout Law support each other.
4. Meet two youth outside of your area and discuss with them how Scouting has benefited your life or the life of a Scout you know.
5. Share your feelings about doing your duty to God with your family, a friend of another faith, or a leader.

Award available only until August 31, 2013

(Download 100 Years of Scouting in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and requirements here, and click on link near bottom of page.)

http://ldsbsa.org/?page_id=1267

Best Knot Ever?



Square knot, Buntline Hitch, Bowline? It doesn't matter what the best knot is if you cannot tie it. If you have trouble, as I do, learning how to tie a knot from directions or even illustration, here is a website for you. They have illustrations and video directions, including for those pesky fishing knots. They also sell all kinds of knot tying paraphernalia to help teach the boys how to tie on a good one!

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

Remembering the purpose of Duty to God and Scouting

A Message From the Young Men
General Presidency



2013 marks 100 years of the partnership between The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Boy Scouts of America. One of the great defining threads of both of these organizations is "Duty to God."

Often times it is wise to pause and reflect on why we do what we do. In the hustle and bustle of life, we can become too preoccupied with complete a task, unintentionally thinking the measurable completion of the task is more important than the intent of the task.

The story is told of a father who was feverishly working on a talk that he was asked to give at church in a few weeks. While preparing for the talk, one of his sons asked him if he could help him with his homework. The father responded, "Sure, but can you wait?" His son said okay and off he went. An hour passed and his other son came to him and asked if he could give him a ride basketball game. The father responded, "Could you ask your mother?" This son likewise said okay and off he went. Freed from another distraction, the father returned to preparing his talk. At the top of page one was the title of his talk, "Finding and Spending Meaningful Time With Your Children."

(Continued on page 4)

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.



Destruction From Within

All the waters of the seven seas can't sink a ship, unless it gets inside.

A giant tree was standing on the slopes of the Rockies when Columbus discovered America. How many times it had been hit by lightning and bent by storms before he came, we do not know. But there are visible evidences that lightning had hit it six or seven times since, and it has stood the ravages of floods, the destructive force of violent storms and has furnished shelter for many kinds of wild animals during these storms. But now it lays crumbling in decay on the mountain side, brought to that state by the work of termites eating away its strength and heart from within. Their destructive power was not visible from the outside until it was too late. The insidious work of hidden destroyers had felled a giant.

What kind of hidden destroyers are eating away at your strength and heart.

Varsity Scout Blackfoot Fort Mountain Man Rendezvous Needs Your Help!

We NEED a few new staff members:

If you have attended the rendezvous as a leader and would like to return as a member of the staff, please let me know. You will need to attend a meeting in August, and be able to be at the Mataguay early on Friday, September 20th. (Or come up on Thursday night for the famous Booshway's pot luck barbecued Steak dinner.) Drop me a note and let me know if you are interested.

We NEED Certified Muzzleloading Instructors and/or Range Safety Officers:

In order to have as many of the scouts shooting at a time, we need additional certified instructors and RSO's. If you have a current certificate and would like to work on gun range, please let me know. You do not have to come up on Friday, but need to be there early on Saturday, September 21st. If you are interested in becoming certified, let me know. We are looking at holding a course.

We NEED an Enclosed Cargo Trailer:

We need to borrow an enclosed cargo trailer. 5-6' wide and 12-14' long. We would need to borrow it from September 13th-28th. We have so much equipment to haul up to the rendezvous we need a trailer. We load it up on the Saturday before Rendezvous and unload it the Saturday after. Please let me know if you have one or know where we can borrow one.

We NEED Tomahawk Target Rounds:

We need slices of trees to use for our target rounds for tomahawk and knife throwing. If you know someone who is going to have a tree cut down, or is a tree trimmer we really need rounds. The need to be around 16-20" in diameter and 6-10" thick. We could use any number from 1-18. We will pick them up. They need to be from a soft wood tree, such as pine (the best) or cottonwood. Please let me know if you can help us out.

We Need a Photographer:

We need someone to shoot digital photos of the rendezvous people and activities that we can use for promotion and for our newsletter. Friday night and/or all day Saturday. Let me know if you help us.

Contact Lon Atkinson, the Rendezvous Booshway (the guy in charge):

Booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com

Duty to God and Scouting

(continued from Page 3)

The purpose of Duty to God is to strengthen a young man's testimony and his relationship with God, learn and fulfill his priesthood duties, and apply standards from For the Strength of Youth (the why).

The purpose of Scouting is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law (the why).

There are various projects, assignments, merit badges, rank advancements, etc. (the what) that are critical in accomplishing the purpose of Duty to God and Scouting, but they are not the end objective. The key is maintaining an appropriate focus and balance on are doing what we are doing. This can be difficult, because those things that matter most are usually those things that are most difficult to measure. Hence, the need to pause from time to time and remind ourselves what is our purpose and am I fulfilling it.

May we remember and help our young men to remember that they are sons of God "and as such they have a divine nature and destiny" (The Family: A Proclamation to the World).

2013 Varsity Scout Cabinet Contact Information

Varsity Chairman:

- Barry Baker: iambarrybaker@gmail.com

Huddle Commissioners:

- Stephen Baker: ircommando@gmail.com
- James LaLanne: ijamesl@yahoo.com

Training Chairman:

- Ed Jones: edjonesheating@hotmail.com

Triathlon Chair:

- Tom Naylor: tnaylor@finsvcs.com

Newsletter Editor:

- Lon Atkinson: Lon@AtkinsonStudios.com

Mailing List:

- Marty Bramwell: martybramwell@yahoo.com

Mountain Man Rendezvous Chair:

- Lon Atkinson: Booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com



Create memories. And then photograph them.
Show them at our court of honor. Then give them
to the families for memories forever.

Items to Put on Your 2013 Varsity Scout Calendar

Varsity Scout Leader Huddles Penasquitos Stake Center

August 15th

October 17th

- Stephen Baker: ircommando@gmail.com
- James LaLanne: ijamesl@yahoo.com

100 Year celebration - ZION'S CAMP

Camp Mataguay

July 8-13th

<http://www.zionscamp2013.org/>

Varsity Scout Leader Training

Ed Jones - Training Chairman

edjonesheating@hotmail.com

October 18-19th

Triathlon

Tom Naylor - Triathlon Chairman

tnaylor@finsvcs.com

On-Target

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

Date still to be determined.

Mountain Man Rendezvous

Lon Atkinson - Booshway

Booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com

www.VarsityRendezvous.com

September 20-21st