

The Varsity Letter

San Diego-Imperial Council - Boy Scouts of America

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"Success Map"

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The progress and success of our Varsity Scout program depends largely upon making the fullest use of all good experiences and resources we have available.

Resources are more than books or people. Resources include scouting successes such as smooth-running activities and campouts, productive Team Leadership Meetings (TLM's), and Program Managers fully prepared with their assignments. These are all examples of successful resources that should be used to the fullest extent.

Ask yourself what went right....

In 1981, I had a team of 11 Varsity Scout boys. I had zero experience with Varsity Scouting. My Assistant and I endorsed the "Where did we go right" policy wholeheartedly. Our only problem was getting it started soon enough to analyze and review successful activities and team events.

At first we found ourselves swamped with problems. For every four situations that needed something done immediately, there was only one that we could label "no problem". And that's about all the attention we gave success. We would breathe a sigh of relief, give ourselves a pat on the back and then forget about them as we turned back to the business of solving those pressing problems.

But what about that one success, I thought?

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Planning a Service Project



Team 387 with their finished outhouse they built for a land owner who lets groups camp on his land.

The Scout Oath includes the phrase "to help other people at all times," which reminds us to always be of service to others. Begin planning your project by discussing various service ideas with your Scouts. Adult leaders, your chartered organization, and the local government are also good resources for ideas. Projects will be more meaningful and fun if they are well-planned.

Your project should:

Be significant. The project should be something important. When it's done, everyone should be able to look back with satisfaction on an effort that has made a difference in your community.

Be democratic. Scouts are more likely to buy into the project if they have taken an active part in selecting, planning, and organizing it.

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(Service Projects from page 1)

Be clearly defined. A project must have definite beginning and end points, with logical steps in between. A clear goal allows everyone to measure the progress along the way, and increases everyone's sense of participation and pride in a job well done.

Be well-prepared. This begins long before the project starts. Ask these questions: What is the project's purpose? Who should be contacted as resources? How many Scouts must be involved to complete the work in the allotted time? What tools or resources are needed? What safety issues must be addressed?

Be promoted. Promote your project within your community. This will not only provide additional workers, but will increase the visibility of Scouting and the impact it has on your community. Create a yard sign that says Team "No. ___ Service Project"

Include reflection. When the project is complete, spend 10 or 15 minutes discussing it. How could we have done better? How could we have involved more scouts or parents?

Include Recognition. Take pictures of the service project. At the next Court of Honor or Parents Meeting show what the boys did. If the service project provided advancement point out which boys earned their rank by participating in this project.

Share your project with others. Here is your chance to share a great project your unit accomplished. Send the newsletter editor some photos and a brief description of what you did. Make sure that you include who benefited by this project. Send your info to:

Lon@AtkinsonStudios.com

Backpacking/Winter Camping Hot Beverage Recipes



Tangy Hot Apple Cider

- 4 packets instant apple cider mix
- 3 tablespoons Tang
- 3 whole cloves
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 1/4 cup raisins
- 3 cups water

At home: Combine the cider mix and Tang in a zipper-lock bag.

In camp: In a pot, combine raisins, cloves, and water; heat slowly over a low flame until the water is aromatic and amber-colored (about 10 minutes). Remove from heat and stir in the cider mix and Tang. Pour into two large mugs, add a cinnamon stick, and nibble on the raisins (but skip the cloves--they're not very tasty). Or pour the cider through a strainer to remove the chewy bits. This recipe contains lots of vitamin C, which makes this drink a perfect on-the-trail substitute for morning O.J. Serves 2.

Camper's Hot Chocolate

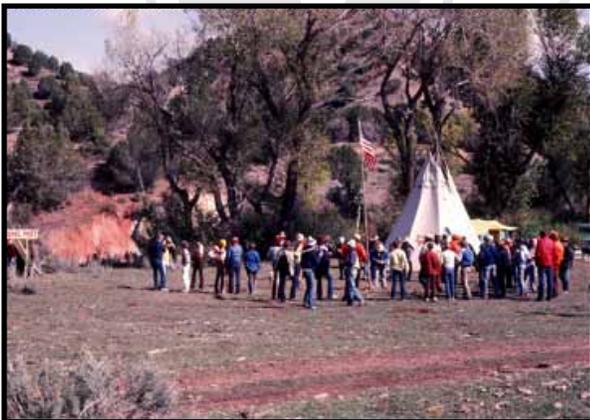
- 1 (8 quart) box non-fat powdered milk
- 1 (6 oz.) jar powdered non-dairy coffee creamer
- 1 pound powdered sugar sifted
- 1 (16 oz) can powdered chocolate milk mix

Combine all ingredients thoroughly. Carry in tightly covered container. To serve combine 3/4 cup hot water and 1/4 cup hot chocolate mix. Top with miniature marshmallows if desired.

(Success Map, continued from page 1)

With it we were obviously doing something right. I began to think that if we pursued the whys of our successes as actively as we did our failures, we would have a "SUCCESS MAP" on a way to go, as opposed to one more of many ways not to go.

It was right then that we decided to identify our successes. About this time our District was holding a Mountain Man Rendezvous in Diamond Fork Canyon. We had a tepee hid away in our Scout storage closet, but no poles. I was able to scrounge up some Tepee poles from a friend in Mapleton and so we had a workable Tepee for the camp.



We went to the Rendezvous and slept in the Tepee; just imagine 11 boys all sleeping inside with their feet to the center and heads to the outer edge. They had a blast especially when the M&M war games started. Now this was a successful Rendezvous for us.

We no longer let ourselves be satisfied with just this one successful Mountain Man Rendezvous activity. Instead we took the time to find out why. Our district Rendezvous Committee did a super job at coordinating the event and this allowed us leaders to sit back and observe and understand what was going on.

We observed their leadership skills and what they did to get a couple of green-horns like us even interested in bringing our team to an event that none of us knew anything about. We learned that once they got us interested in Mountain Man skills then the boys also got all fired up, especially when it came to black powder rifles.

By the time those great District leaders got through with us, we knew exactly what needed to be done to make sure such a "SUCCESS MAP" developed in our team.

If you ignore the reasons behind those successes, you are failing to take advantage of one of the greatest potential resources you have within your grasp. In every success is a "MAP" that lays a key to further successful endeavors.

After a loss, any good football coach gathers the team together for analysis and review. They discuss what they did wrong and what made them lose. Poor blocks, a slow start, a fumble, an untimely interception, are all studied carefully to give the players a better idea of what not to do the next time.

But good coaches don't leave it at that. Even after an overwhelming victory, time is set aside for an in-depth study of what went right. A strategic play or a perfect block is analyzed as closely as were the poor blocks or interceptions of the game before.

I'd say that in about 2 months after instituting the "Where did we go right" system, we began to see an improvement. The number of problems diminished and a smooth-running team operation became the norm instead of the exception.

Four Steps in Advancement



A Scout advances from Tenderfoot to Eagle by doing things with his patrol, squad, troop, team, with his leaders, and on his own. A well-rounded and active unit program that generates advancement as a natural outcome should take boys to First Class in their first 12 to 18 months of membership. Advancement is a straightforward matter when the four steps or stages outlined below are observed and integrated into troop programming. The same steps apply to Varsity Scouting.

1. The Scout Learns

He learns by doing, and as he learns, he grows in his ability to do his part as a member of his troop and/or team. As he develops knowledge and skill, he is asked to teach others; and in this way he learns and develops leadership.

Once a Scout has been tested and signed off by someone approved to do so, the requirement has been met. The unit leader is accountable for ensuring proper advancement procedures are followed. A part of this responsibility includes the careful selection and training of those who approve advancement. If a unit leader believes a boy has not learned the subject matter for a requirement, he or she should see that opportunities are made available for the Scout to practice or teach the requirement, so in this way he may complete his learning and further develop his skills.

2. The Scout Is Tested

The unit leader authorizes those who may test and pass the Scout on rank requirements. They might include his patrol leader, squad leader, senior patrol leader, team captain an assistant unit leader, or the unit leader. Merit badge counselors teach and test him on requirements for merit badges.

3. The Scout Is Reviewed

After he has completed all requirements for a rank, the Scout meets with a board of review. For Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, and Life ranks, and Eagle Palms, members of the unit committee conduct it. The Eagle Scout board of review is held in accordance with National Council and local council procedures.

4. The Scout Is Recognized

When the board of review has approved his advancement, the Scout deserves recognition as soon as possible. This should be done at a ceremony at the next unit meeting. The certificate for his new rank may be presented later, during a formal court of honor.

Excerpt from the 'Guide To Advancement' regarding Merit Badges

[7.0.3.2] — Group Instruction It is acceptable—and sometimes desirable—for merit badges to be taught in group settings. This often occurs at camp and merit badge midways or similar events. Interactive group discussions can support learning. The method can also be attractive to “guest experts” assisting registered and approved counselors. Slide shows, skits, demonstrations, panels, and various other techniques can also be employed, but as any teacher can attest, not everyone will learn all the material.

There must be attention to each individual's projects and his fulfillment of all requirements.

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Items to Put on Your Varsity Scout Calendar

2013

November 17th

Varsity Scout Leader Huddle
Penasquitos Stake Center
See Flyer on Page 6

2014

Huddle:

January 16th

100% Varsity Scout Leader Huddle

28th Varsity Triathlon

April 25-26th

Mountain Man Rendezvous

September 19-20th

BSA Founder's Award



Who Can Earn This Award?

Worn by all youths and adults whose names are on a new-unit charter or who join the new unit before it recharter for the first time; members of veteran units still in operation who were on the original charter may also wear the bar.

Founder's Bar is worn directly under the unit number.

Supply/BIN Item Number

Founder's Bar, No. 610129; pocket certificate, No. 34776; certificate, No. 34775

Varsity Scout Leader Huddle

November 7, 2013 - 7:00 PM

**Pensasquitos Stake Center
12835 Black Mountait Road, San Diego**

Midnight Challenge!

- What in the world is the Midnight Challenge? Come and find out how you can use this in your Varsity Team!
 - Come ready to share experiences and get ideas of how varsity scouting can put you in a position to improve a young man's life like no other team.
-

President Thomas S. Monson, who has served on the BSA National Executive Board longer than any other member, said, "Scouting brings out the best in each of us. You've learned much from Scouting. Live what you've learned and will continue to learn. Help others to hike the trails, to keep steadfast in the paths of truth, of honor, of duty, that all of you can soar together on eagles' wings."

This is the place for Varsity Scout Ideas and Training
Get ideas for your Weekly Scout Program, winter adventures and Advancement.

Who Should Attend?

- Stake Young Men President & Varsity Counselor
- Ward Young Men President & Varsity Counselor
- Varsity Scout Coach & Assistants
- Bishopric & Committee Members over Varsity Scouts
- Stake Presidency Councilors & High Councilors over YM