

The Varsity Letter

San Diego-Imperial Council - Boy Scouts of America

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The 1830 Mountain Man Rendezvous



It is June 15th, 1830, and Peg Leg Smith, John Colter, Hugh Glass and the other mountain men in the Brigade were getting ready to go to Rendezvous. The 1830 Rendezvous will be held in Wyoming and they will have to travel two weeks to get there. But, oh it will be worth it. Peg Leg is looking forward to selling all his beaver 'plews' (pelts) at the gathering of the mountain men, and buying himself a new gun and other supplies to keep him in the mountains trapping beaver for another year. But that's not what he is excited about. He's looking forward to seeing his old friends, doing some 'horse trading' and of course, telling stories that might just be a little more exciting than what really happened. Most of all Peg Leg is looking forward to the competition. This big ol' horse he 'borrowed' from the Blackfoot Indians is really fast. He has been practicing throwing his tomahawk and even though he has this peg leg, he thinks he can still out wrestle even some of the younger men. His friend Jim Beckworth, once described Rendezvous as "a whole lot of mirth, song, wrestlin', shooting, trading, running, jumping, singing, racing, target-shooting, yarns, frolic, with all sort of extravagances that white men or Indians could invent." Yep, the 1830 Rendezvous is going to be big.

The 13th Annual Blackfoot Fort Mountain Man Rendezvous



It's August, 2013, and Team Captain Al Latham of Team 100 is getting ready for the Varsity Scout Blackfoot Fort Mountain Man Rendezvous being held on September 20-21. This year his team wants to camp 'primitive' and dress as mountain men. If they do this, Al knows that they will get to camp in the best campsites, those that are reserved for 'primitive' camping. Team Coach Bill Rubin purchased some painters tarps and this week they are going to work on how to set them up as shelters.

They will also practice throwing the caber and cannonball. Big Fred from their team won both events last year.

Team 100 is going to do great this year in the competition: black powder shooting, Flint & Steel Fire Starting, Slingshots, mountain man Frisbee archery, caber and cannonball throwing, hawk and knife throwing and whatever surprise events that gets thrown at them, they'll be ready.

(Continued on page 3)

Duty to God is a Fundamental to Scouting

Gary E. Stevenson, Presiding Bishop

We live at a time when there is great need for youth to look outward, focusing less on themselves and more on others. This is a time to reinforce and defend duty to God. That is the message of Scouting. It always has been, and ever should it be.

May we never neglect our duty. May we be true to the standard upon which scouting was based—duty to God. I end where we began, with an emphasis on the importance of a strong foundation, anchored in bedrock, strong enough to withstand a category 5 hurricane. Our young men need a foundation that is stronger than any and all of us—the foundation of duty to God.

Some may not see the sacred gatekeeping role scouting plays. They may see only fundraising and not a foundation. Others may brand scouting activities as merely outdoor recreation, but it can and must be shown that BSA is not a camping club; it is a character university centered on duty to God. I quote again from Robert Baden-Powell: "The whole of [scouting] is based on religion, that is, on the realization and service of God."

I stand here today with a resolute belief that Scouting must never overlook this core principle. We still need duty to God. We always will. When the societal and political winds come, and they surely will, scouting cannot unhinge itself from this foundational principle. This great organization cannot be deterred when we remain strong in our solid foundation, when we stand united for duty to God.

As Eric Liddell raced toward the finish line in *Chariots of Fire*, someone in the crowd asked, "So where does the power come from—to see the race to its end?" Then came the answer I hope we always remember: "From within." Thank you.

Varsity Scout Adult Leader Training: October 18th-19th

The course address the needs of adults who have recently accepted the responsibility of delivering the Scouting program to youth by serving as Varsity Coaches and assistant Varsity Coaches. This is a New Leader Training course and is required for those desiring to be a trained leader The training explores the eight methods of Scouting.

The course also covers the required Outdoor Leaders Skills Training.

Participants completing training should:

Have the confidence that being a Varsity Coach is a manageable challenge. Understand the abundant available resources. Know that the structure of the Boy Scouts of America ensures that they are part of a supportive team working to deliver the promise of Scouting to the youth.

Have a short action plan to apply what they have learned during the three sessions of Varsity Coach Leader Specific Training.

For more information, there is a flyer on Page 5 of this months newsletter or contact Ed Jones:

edjonesheating@hotmail.com

Eagle Scout Leadership Positions

Positions of Responsibility are leadership roles that Scouts perform. Some of them are appropriate for advancing to Star, Life, and Eagle Scout ranks. Specifically, these are all acceptable for the Rank of Eagle Scout.

In order to advance to the rank of Eagle Scout, you must hold one of these leadership positions for six months or more:

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

(Mountain Man Rendezvous, from page1)



Phil bought himself a great hat at Purple Heart Thrift Store and he has been sleeping with it under his pillow for two weeks. It's going to look great.

The mountain man shirts the women in the church made for them along with all the foo-fa-rah they will wear will probably earn some of them the 'Best Dressed' Mountain Man Award. Yep, it's going to be a great Rendezvous for Team 375 this September. If only we could figure out how to use the flint and steel and to set a beaver trap!

Is your Team or Troop getting ready for Rendezvous? The Blackfoot Fort Mountain Man Staff is planning on another super activity. With good food, lots of competition, tons of stuff to see and do.

Start getting your scouts ready. Practice some of the events at your weekly meetings. Make the effort to work on some outfits and come as mountain men. If you need more information you can visit the Varsity Scout Mountain Man Rendezvous website:

www.varsityrendezvous.com There are lots of pictures there from previous rendezvous. Or you can contact the Booshway, (if you don't know yet, the Booshway is the guy in charge!) Lon Atkinson at: Booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com Remember, this activity is for registered Scouts 14-17 years of age. See flyer on Page 6.

The News on Merit Badges

Sustainability Merit Badge:

The long-awaited requirements for the Boy Scouts of America's Sustainability merit badge have been released.



The badge joins the Eagle-required list as an option to Environmental Science merit badge. Scouts must earn either Sustainability or Environmental Science on their journey to Eagle.

Scouts may begin working on Sustainability MB once pamphlets arrive in Scout Shops and at scoutstuff.org in August, but you can get a first look at the requirements by clicking on the link:

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

Major Updates:

Cycling

Update released at 2013 Jamboree.

Cooking:

Update expected after 2013 Jamboree

Note: This merit badge will become Eagle-required on Jan. 1, 2014

Details: Coming soon, but the rumor is that it will better incorporate the BSA's healthy living initiatives.

New Merit Badges Coming Soon:

Mining in Society

Launch: February 2014 at the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration's Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City

Animation

Estimated release: 2014 Description: Computer or traditional animation tasks that will test a Scout's creativity, artistic skills, and storytelling abilities.

2013 Varsity Scout Cabinet Contact Information

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On-Target Chair

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

Items to Put on Your 2013 Varsity Scout Calendar

September 20-21st

Mountain Man Rendezvous

Lon Atkinson - Booshway
Booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com
www.VarsityRendezvous.com

October 17th

Varsity Scout Leader Huddle

Penasquitos Stake Center

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

October 18-19th

Varsity Scout Leader Training

Ed Jones - Training Chairman
edjonesheating@hotmail.com

LORD ROBERT BADEN POWELL:

"When you want a thing done, 'Don't do it yourself' is a good motto for Scout Leader."

"A fisherman does not bait his hook with food he likes. He uses food the fish likes. So with boys."

"Scouting is a man's job cut down to a boy's size."

"Scouting is a game for boys under the leadership of boys under the direction of a man."

"A boy is not a sitting-down animal."

"We must change boys from a 'what can I get' to a 'what can I give' attitude."



V A R S I T Y T R A I N I N G

For Varsity Coaches, Asst. Coaches, Committee members,
Bishopric Counselor and YM Counselor over Varsity

October 18-19th, 2013

Santee Stake Center
10052 N Magnolia Ave
Santee, CA 92071

Fri. Oct. 18- OVERNIGHT EXPERIENCE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE TRAINING

Varsity Specific & Outdoor Leader Skills

Registration: 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Class: 7:00 - 8:30 pm and continuing at the Campfire.

Snaks provided at the Campfire.

Sat. Oct. 19 - Varsity Specific & Outdoor Leader Skills: 6:00 am - 4:00 pm

Breakfast and lunch provided.

What to bring: Personal camp gear: bag, tent, pad, chair, personal items.
Wear your uniform and bring your Scout Adult Leader Book (and Varsity
Leader Guidebook—if you have one).

Cost: \$30.00

Pre-Registration is require.

Registration is available at www.sdicbsa.org under Training/Varsity leader

Reservation must be submitted by 10/14/13

questions, contact:

Ed Jones at 619-561-3828 or

edjonesheating@hotmail.com





2013 VARSITY SCOUT
**BLACKFOOT FORT MOUNTAIN
MAN RENDEZVOUS!**
SEPTEMBER 20-21, 2013

Rendezvous! The great gathering of the Varsity Scout Mountain Men. The place to go to swap stories, compete, camp, eat, make new friends, and have as good a time as they did in the early 1800's

A trapper's camp full of mountain men will show your young men what it was like to work and live in the mountains. There will be campfire skits, singing, demonstrations, Rocky Mountain Woofums, a great breakfast, competition, running, shooting and throwing. Skills will be taught, with competition for teams, individual scouts and also the leaders. Make this part of your yearly program, and start preparing your team to become mountain men! Make mountain man clothes and equipment and come to the Rendezvous looking and camping as Mountain Men!

Events:

Black Powder Shooting, Knife & Tomahawk Throwing, Caber & Cannonball Tossing, Flint & Steel Fire Starting, Mtn Man Frisbee, Archery, Slingshots, Canoeing, some surprise events and the infamous Colter Run.

Unit Awards:

- Colter Run 1st, 2nd, 3rd
- Booshway Award for Top Mountain Man Unit.
- The Bridger Award for the Unit with the most competition Points.
- The Best Primitive Camp Award.

Individual Awards for Adults and Scouts:

1st, 2nd & 3rd Place: Archery, Black Powder Shooting, Hawk and Knife Throwing, Cannonball & Caber Tossing, Best Looking Mountain Man Outfits.

**We are only accepting Online Registraton for the
2013 Rendezvous. Click here:**

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

For more information: Lon Atkinson 619-818-5903 or email him at:

Booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com

Also visit the Official Rendezvous Website: www.VarsityRendezvous.com

This activity is for registered Scouts ages 14-17