



# The Varsity Letter



**GREAT SALT LAKE COUNCIL, BSA**  
**Council No. 590, Salt Lake City, Utah**

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## Varsity training available at University of Scouting

Several courses built around the Varsity Scout program are offered at this year's University of Scouting, to be held Saturday, December 2, at Murray High School (5440 South State Street).

Printed catalogs are available at the council service center and at all scout shops. An electronic version is available through the council web site, <http://gslc-bsa.org/training/uofscout.cfm>.

Registration forms are included in the catalog or may be down-loaded from the web site. Class size is limited. Classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, so early registration is advised. Scouters may register for up to seven hours of courses. Five hours are required to earn the Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctorate degrees. On-site check-in and registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Classes run from 8:30 a.m. until 3:20 p.m. Bachelor's and Master's Degrees with the accompanying council shoulder strip will be handed out at 3:30 p.m. in the registration area as Scouters turn in their evaluation forms.

### Council Vice President's Message

## Varsity Scouting Brings Lifelong Benefits

*By Bry Davis*

In a recent BSA brochure entitled "What Will Your Son's Future Hold?," it states that boys today are at risk. They are more likely than girls to drop out of school, less likely to enter or graduate from college. Boys are more likely to have low self-esteem and more likely to be diagnosed with learning disabilities. Other experts say that American boys are in crisis. One thing is sure--boys will grow into men. What kind of men they become is the question. A study conducted by Harris Interactive shows that Scouting programs build boys mentally, physically, socially, and

spiritually. The skills they learn in Scouting helps mold young men into productive, responsible, and happy adults.

Varsity Scouting teaches skills of doing one's very best, to always be honest and treat others with respect. Duty to God and country are raised to a high level. Leadership is learned and practiced by setting goals, communicating, and serving others. Teaching and learning are mostly done by the "hands on" method. Boys thrive on trying it themselves. Varsity Scouting builds self-esteem in a boy by caring adult leaders who encourage, mentor, and coach. A leader's challenge--repeat the Varsity Pledge with your team every meeting. As you recite this pledge, envision your boys five or ten years from now. Your influence will brighten the boy's future and the future of our community, the nation, and the world.

## Turkey Shoot results told

The annual Varsity Turkey Shoot took place October 28 at the Great Salt Lake Gun Club in Salt Lake City.

The competition attracted shooters representing more than 70 Varsity teams and Venture crews.

Team 6613 in Taylorsville captured top team honors with a team average score of 19.2.

Top individual honors went to Garrett Costley, Team 6344, who hit 24 of 25 clay pigeons. His longest streak was 14 straight. Runners-up honors went to Matt Maycock and Taylor Armstrong of Team 6613. Maycock hit 23 of 25 clay pigeons, with a streak of 17

straight to take second place. Armstrong hit 22 of 25 pigeons, with a streak of 18, to finish third.

The team trophy and individual medal awards were announced at the November council Varsity round table.

Essentially a trap shoot, the Turkey Shoot is a shotgun game in which shooters fire at targets flying directly away from them from five different positions. Shooters were judged not only for their accuracy but also for their streak (the number of pigeons hit in succession without a miss). Participants competed as individuals and teams for frozen turkeys and other prizes.

For some boys, this was a first-time experience. Others practiced during district events and even on their own to prepare for the competition. Either way, all who came benefited from beautiful fall weather and perfect shooting conditions.

The 2007 Turkey Shoot is scheduled October 20.

Thanks to Norbest® Turkey, the Great Salt Lake Gun Club, and the Lee Kay Center for making this a fun activity for all who participated.

### VS Basic Training offered

The Varsity Scout basic training class is designed for all adult and youth team leaders. Those who can benefit from the basic training include adult coaches, assistant coaches, program advisers, and committee members, and youth team captains, co-captains, and program managers.



The *Varsity Scout Guidebook* (WW34827A) is the class textbook.

Please bring your personal copy with you to the training.

As we learn of planned training dates the information will be posted on the web site (<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/training/>). Check back often so that you can have that opportunity for the training that will help you become the greatest Varsity Scout leader ever.

Basic Training (New Leader Essentials & Leader Specific)			
Dist.	Location	Date	Time
GSLC	University of Scouting	12/02	TBA
14	TBA	01/06	8 a.m.

18	TBA	01/13	8 a.m.
27	TBA	01/18	TBA
04	TBA	01/20	8 a.m.
13	3673 W 4700 S, W Valley	01/20	8 a.m.
28	552 E 11400 S, Sandy	02/03	9 a.m.
11	TBA	02/08	TBA

#### (Leader Specific)

Dist.	Location	Date	Time
20	TBA	01/06	8 a.m.
20	TBA	01/13	8 a.m.

## Varsity Vision introduced

Vision is a picture of a future success. Varsity Vision is delivering the promise of Scouting to every eligible young man who joins a Varsity Scout Team so as to build young men's character for today and years into the future. Adult leaders carry this very important responsibility for success. Success happens best when the leader invests time to be trained.

Our mission is to prepare young men to make ethical and moral choices over their life times. The Varsity Scout program can fulfill this mission and bring great success in the future of the young men.

The Great Salt Lake Council Varsity Committee has developed Varsity Vision Training to help Varsity Leaders have success. This training is available through the districts. We invite Varsity Team Coaches and Captains to attend. Success is what our Varsity leaders need and deserve. The future picture is filled with success as we deliver the promise of Scouting. Contact your District Varsity Vice Chair or a member of the Council Varsity Committee for more information and training dates.

## District news roundup

Several events for Varsity Scouts and leaders are planned by local districts throughout the Great Salt Lake Council over the next few months. Many of the following events are included in the published 2006-2007 council calendar, available at the service center and Scout Shops. District vice chairmen are encouraged to submit information about upcoming Varsity activities to the editor for inclusion in the *Varsity Letter*.

A web site for each district in the Great Salt Lake Council is included in the district section of the council web site. The URL is <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/districts/index.cfm>.

**District 3 (Indian Springs)**

Lance Goodman (298-7097) is looking for more help to round out the district huddle staff. Please call him with your nominations or to volunteer.

**District 13 (Granger)**

Basic Training will be presented on Saturday, January 20 and April 14, 2007, at the Jordan LDS Stake Center, 3676 West 4700 South, in West Valley. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. New Leader Essentials begins at 8 a.m. followed by Leader Specific Training.



Darryl Banks is looking for volunteers to serve on the district committee and huddle staff. Please call him with your nominations or to volunteer.

The monthly district round table meeting has moved to the Jordan LDS Stake Center, 3676 West 4700 South. Monthly Order of the Arrow chapter meetings are held in conjunction with round table.

Granger District serves the Granger, West Valley City, and Hunter areas. Stay abreast of district events, current news, and meetings via the district's web site. The URL is <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/d13/>.

**District 17 (White Buffalo)**

The district Klondike Winter Camp will be held on January 19-20, 2007 at Rockport State Park. This event is for all scouts 11-17 yrs of age. Remember to file your tour permits as this is 48 miles northeast of West Jordan/Taylorville. Propane and charcoal are permissible. For further details, see the flyer at <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/d17/klondike2007flyer.pdf>.

District 17 holds monthly round table meetings for all families of scouting at the LDS meetinghouse at 6695 South 2200 West, West Jordan. This meeting is held the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Monthly Order of the Arrow chapter meetings are held in conjunction with round table.

**District 28 (Eagle Peaks)**

District 28 has finalized its training calendar for this year. We will hold two training sessions and they will include the New Leader Essential and the Varsity Program Specific Training.

Our dates and times will be as follows:  
Saturday, February 3, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Rick Collins will be the contact person. The location is: Eastridge First LDS Ward meetinghouse, 552 East 11400 South, Sandy.

**Council news****Council round table report**

The council has purchased of a portable climbing wall. Districts will be able to schedule the climbing wall for district events.

**Denali/Court of Honor:** Invite member of Young Men General Board to attend court of honor. Send the name of the recipient, unit number, and date of court of honor to Bry Davis, [trainx@comcast.com](mailto:trainx@comcast.com).

**On Target:** The new 2006 On Target pin is still available. On Target is moving to September in 2007. The new date is September 15.

**Wood Badge:** Scouters are encouraged to share the spirit of Wood Badge. A new council patch is available to staff members. A fleur-de-lis pin is awarded for recruiting participants and a log and ax pin is awarded when the recruit completes his ticket and receives his beads.

**Skills Instruction:** A presentation on the importance of uniforms was made by Homer Robertson, Bryan Hurd, Wade Frischknecht, and Travis Stockwell. The group is available to make the presentation for district round table meetings by calling Robertson at 963-0872 or sending e-mail to [h.a.robertson@att.net](mailto:h.a.robertson@att.net).

**Skills Instruction:** Tracy McCoy gave a presentation on snow caves. McCoy recommended a book entitled *Snow Caves for Fun and Survival* by Ernest Wilkinson. He also mentioned that a recent (November 2006) issue of *Boys' Life* magazine has an excellent article about camping in snow caves. McCoy is willing to teach groups about snow caves. For further information, call 451-5306, or send e-mail to [mccoy@networld.com](mailto:mccoy@networld.com).

The December 2003 issue of the Varsity Letter has several tips on winter camping. The newsletter is available on the council web site and may be accessed at <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/vletter/letters/2003/vletter200312.pdf>

**Skills Instruction:** Don Sims demonstrated initiative games.

**Round table resources:** District vice chairmen are reminded that members of the council committee are available to visit district round table meetings and help make presentations on any subject. Arrangements to bring a climbing wall can be made. District committee members are invited to attend the monthly council Varsity round table on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Round table is held at Murray High School, 5440 South State. The meeting is held in the Spartan Room (room 112) on the first floor (<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/training/documents/map.pdf>). Parking is available on the south side of the school and Scouters may enter the school from the south side. Members will receive training which they can then pass on to the coaches and other leaders at the district round table the following month.

## Wood Badge courses set

Registration is under way for Wood Badge for the 21st Century--a single training program for Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, Venturing, council and district volunteer leaders and professionals.



Eight courses are scheduled for 2007.

The cost for the 6-day course is \$190.00. For more information call 582-3663 and ask for the Camp Desk, send e-mail to [woodbadge@gslc-](mailto:woodbadge@gslc-bsa.org)

[bsa.org](http://www.gslc-bsa.org), or visit the web site:

<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/woodbadge>.

Registration forms are available at district roundtable meetings, at any Scout Shop, or downloaded from the council web site.

## Program Helps available

The Great Salt Lake Council has a 23-page publication called "Varsity Program Helps." The publication is available in PDF format through the council web site, <http://gslc-bsa.org/varsity/docs/varsity-program-helps.pdf>.

Also in PDF format is the 12-page "The Great Salt Lake Disappearing Varsity Scout Workbook," which is available at <http://gslc-bsa.org/varsity/docs/disappear-varsity-workbook.pdf>.

## VarsityScouter.org website offers valuable resources

The Varsityscouter.org web site has undergone a facelift. The revised and upgraded site offers valuable resources to Varsity team coaches, captains, program managers, and other leaders. The site features separate sections devoted to each of the five program areas--High Adventure and Sports, Special Programs and Events, Personal Development, Advancement, and Service. Included are 75 initiative games, requirements for the Varsity Letter and Denali Award, event photographs, etc. The site is maintained by Chris Hogan. Surf on by <http://www.varsityscouter.org> today!

## Council stresses safety

With the winter camping season upon us, Scouters are encouraged to review Safe Scouting procedures and make certain that all guidelines are adhered to.

Make certain that all adult volunteers have received Youth Protection Training and are familiar with the Guide to Safe Scouting. Scouters should also adhere to Age-Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting Activities. Other safety resources include Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat, NRA Safety Instructor Certification, Climb On Safely and Topping Out.



## 2007 Varsity calendar

**Biathlon**, February 10, 2007

**Scout-O-Rama Expo 2007**, May 12, 2007

**Big Event**, Thursday-Saturday, June 14-16, 2007

**Operation On Target**, Saturday, July 21, 2007

**On Belay** Junior Leader Training Conference, July 23-28, 2007

**Turkey Shoot**, October 20, 2007

## The Varsity Letter

Submissions are welcome and can be e-mailed to [gslcvarsity@bsaemail.org](mailto:gslcvarsity@bsaemail.org). The copy deadline is the third Wednesday of each month.

Previous issues of the Varsity Letter are available online via the Great Salt Lake Council Varsity Scout Web site at <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/vletter/index.htm>.