



# The Varsity Letter



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

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## Annual primitive biathlon planned February 10

The annual mountain man biathlon organized by the Great Salt Lake Council is scheduled Saturday, February 10, at historic Fort Buenaventura in Ogden. Limited overnight camping is available to teams on a first-come first-serve bases on Friday, February 9, prior to the competition.



Rather than utilizing the Olympic-style target rifles and cross-country skis of the modern-day biathlon, the Varsity Scout rendezvous theme will be invoked at this unique event as participants traverse a marked trail on snowshoes (weather permitting) and utilize primitive muzzle loading black powder rifles. The biathlon is a timed event with two stops on the course to shoot at targets from standing and prone positions.

Prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third-place individuals and one for the best team score.

Teams may consider incorporating the biathlon into the cross country skiing, shooting sports, and snow camping Varsity Scout program features. Participation in the biathlon satisfies the Varsity Letter award requirement to participate in a high adventure/sports



activity (<http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/Advancement/index.htm>, see requirement 2). Organizers are planning various

team building activities such as a tug of war, a winterized soccer match, and primitive fire starting techniques using flint and steel.

Historic Fort Buenaventura ([http://ogdencvb.org/visitors\\_fortbuenaventura.asp](http://ogdencvb.org/visitors_fortbuenaventura.asp)) is located at 2450 South 'A' Avenue, near the old baseball park west of Ogden. Exit I-15 at the City Center/24th Street exit, turn right at Pennsylvania Avenue at head east. Just before the overpass turn right onto 'A' Avenue, then turn left at James Brown Drive. Continue to the Fort Buenaventura sign. Park amenities include a covered bowery with picnic tables.

Pre-register online at [gslc-bsa.org](http://gslc-bsa.org) or at the Scout Office (525 Foothill Boulevard). This will give you earlier run times. Run times will be scheduled at 10-minute intervals, beginning at 9 a.m. Pre-registration ends January 31, 2007, at 5 p.m. Tour permits are required. The cost is \$7 per participant. Use of snowshoes and rifles is included in this price. Eye and ear protection will be provided.

For event specifics and registration information, download the event flyer from the council web site (<http://gslc-bsa.org/varsity/biathlon/index.htm>), or contact Rick Johnson at 451-5628 or [rickjohn@utah.gov](mailto:rickjohn@utah.gov) or Dave McCammon at 582-3663, extension 228.

## Council Vice President's Message Scouting beyond Eagle

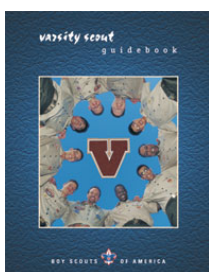
*By Bry Davis*

Some Scouts and parents may think that after the Eagle Award is earned their scouting days are over. That is far from the true. One of the five fields of emphasis of Varsity Scouting is Advancement. Varsity Scouts may continue to earn merit badges, which may develop into lifelong interest and rewarding careers. More excitement and recognition await them in achieving the Varsity Letter and Denali Award.

It is certain that when Varsity Scouts continue on the advancement trail they will learn more about themselves, the importance of character development and leadership. In fact, Varsity Scouting methods follow the eight BSA methods of Scouting. Youth need to be recognized for their achievements. This is most important to help build confidence in them. The memories of such recognition will serve them well as they mature and accept the responsibilities of building successes for tomorrow.

### 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/var-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
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, vice chairman, 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 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. Training sessions will include the New Leader Essential and the Varsity Program Specific Training. Training will be held at the Eastridge First LDS Ward meetinghouse, 552 East 11400 South, in Sandy, on Saturday, February 3, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rick Collins is the contact person.

### 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 Bryn 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 in November by Homer Robertson, Bryan Hurd, Wade Frischknecht, and Travis Stockwell, who attended the bilingual Wood Badge course in October and November 2006. 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).

**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.



## Varsity Scout earns Denali Award

### Pony Express District (14):

Karl J. Gomez of Varsity Team 7062 (sponsored by the Westbrook 7th Ward, West Jordan Utah Westbrook Stake) has earned the Denali Award and a second silver palm. Gomez, age 15, is the team advancement program manager. Brent

Thomas is the team coach. Jeff McKnight is the assistant team coach.

A Board of Review for the Denali Award and Silver Palm was conducted December 17, 2006. The award will be presented at a Stake Court of Honor on March 29, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at the Westbrook Stake Center, 4113 West 6200 South, West Jordan. Karl's parents felt this would be a great opportunity to introduce to some the award and let them know there about advancement opportunities after Eagle as well as in the Varsity program. The family plans a recognition dinner as soon as possible to recognize Karl for his willingness to continue his advancement in Scouting. The dinner will be for those who contributed to his scouting career and special friends.

## On Belay course slated

Registrations are now being accepted for both youth and adult participants who want to see a Varsity Scout team in action. On Belay teaches that a young man is capable of



planning and running a program which meets the aims and methods of Scouting. It teaches young men to aspire to higher

values and rely upon a coach and his committee as a resource to accomplish the activities they have planned.

The course will run July 23-28, 2007, at East Fork of the Bear Scout Reservation. Paul Aldous is the course director. Registration includes the cost of project materials, instruction supplies, handouts, food, cap, T-shirt, and insurance. For information, see the On Belay web page, <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/varsity/onbelay/index.htm>. Registration forms are also available at district roundtable meetings and at any Scout Shop, or downloaded from the web.

## 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-bsa.org](mailto:woodbadge@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 published

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!

## 2007 Varsity calendar

**Biathlon**, February 10, 2007

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

**Big Event**, Thursday-Saturday, June 14-16, 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>.