

The Varsity Letter

San Diego-Imperial Council - Boy Scouts of America

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May 2011

25th Varsity Scout Triathlon



The 25th Varsity Scout Triathlon is in the books. It was a great success. The weather was cool, breezes were nice and the crowd enthusiastic.

Considering it was Easter weekend we still had a great turnout of participants. We had a total of 210 racers. 107 young men, 9 women and the rest were men 19 and older. 31 racers did not finish the race.

Everyone seemed to have a good time. Those that camped over night had a great evening and were ready to go the next morning. This is a great way to enjoy the Triathlon.

A great big thanks go to Barry Baker, who started this tradition 25 years ago. Thanks also goes to Tom Naylor and Andy Schmidt for their time and effort in putting together this years Triathlon. And a special thanks to all those leaders and young men that volunteered to work the event on Saturday. Thank you all.

Scale Palomar Mountain the Hard Way!

Most visitors motor right up to the cool forests of Palomar Mountain's parks or observatory on the curling South Grade or East Grade roads. Exercise-minded hikers might try an alternative east-side approach that actually reaches the highest point of the range — 6140-foot High Point. This 13-mile-round-trip effort involves 3600 feet of elevation gain and loss, and should require about seven hours of time (excluding snack breaks) for the typical physically fit hiker.

It's worth mentioning that an early start is advised, particularly in the lingering summer heat of September. More important than anything else is the requirement of packing along a large amount of drinking water. Another thing to keep in mind is the possibility of fall-season closure of this or other backcountry spaces due to extreme fire danger. This hike lies on Cleveland National Forest territory, Palomar Ranger District (760-788-0250).

You start at Oak Grove, a small community on Highway 79, 25 miles southeast from Interstate 15 at Temecula and 27 miles northwest from Santa Ysabel.



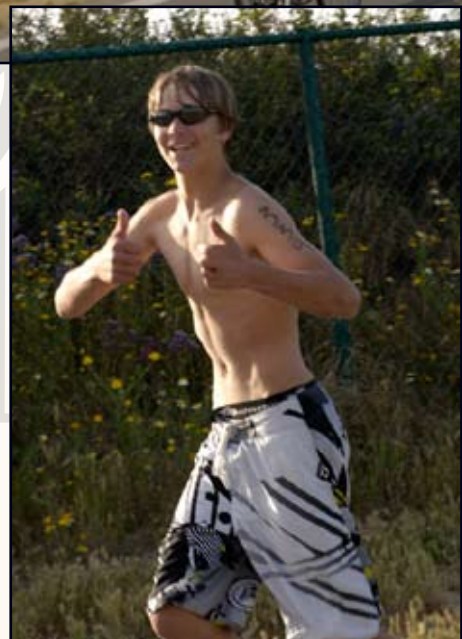
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Page 2

2011 Triathlon:



(Continued from Page 1)

Park at the Oak Grove fire station, at mile 49.1 on Highway 79. Don't forget to post a National Forest Adventure Pass on your parked car.

From the back of the fire station, find and follow the Oak Grove Trail across a currently dry streambed and up to a ridgeline. On the ridgeline the trail begins cutting back and forth across an old firebreak. You're in the usual chaparral plant community of the mid-elevation mountains, where chamise, ribbonwood, scrub oak, and manzanita thrive. A view opens to the north toward the lofty summits of San Gorgonio Mountain and San Jacinto Peak.

At about 1.8 miles you reach Oak Grove Road, which is closed to public travel below this point. Go uphill (west) on the road and continue toward the next road intersection at 3.4 miles. High Point Road goes north from here, bound for Aguanga. You stay left (west) and continue uphill to the next road intersection, 5.2 miles, where Palomar Divide Road heads south along the spine of Aguanga Mountain. Stay right and head west around the oak- and pine-dotted north flank of High Point. At 6.2 miles you veer left on the steep road to the High Point summit, which happens to be the loftiest point of elevation within a radius of 14 miles.

The 67-foot-high fire tower on High Point is one of the remaining few in San Diego County. It may be possible to climb up the first few flights of steps for a better view of the surroundings. The list of peaks visible — including the one you're on — reads like a roster of the highest points in Southern California. Combs Peak, whose summit is right about eye level if you stand on the tower, is the nearest rival, 14 miles to the east. Parts of the Santa Rosa, San Ysidro, and Vallecito mountains in the

Anza-Borrego Desert are visible, along with the Laguna and Cuyamaca mountains farther to the southeast. In the north are the real Southern California giants: Old Baldy, San Gorgonio, and San Jacinto. On very clear days, more typical of November through February, several of the Channel Islands are visible far out in the Pacific.

This article contains information about a publicly owned recreation or wilderness area. Trails and pathways are not necessarily marked. Conditions can change rapidly. Hikers should be properly equipped and have safety and navigational skills.

Oak Grove to High Point
Hiking length: 13 miles round trip
Difficulty: Strenuous



Two New Merit Badges:



Geocaching



Robotics

Here are a few highlights of what Scouts will learn while earning Geocaching merit badge:

- Precautions necessary to have a safe time while searching for geocaches
- Geocaching etiquette and how the principles of Leave No Trace apply
- Geocaching terms
- How GPS technology works
- Steps for finding and logging a cache
- How to use <http://geocaching.com>, the official online home of geocaching.

The Requirements for this merit badge can be found at <http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Geocaching>

Robotics was just announced this month. Yes, one of the requirements is to build a robot. The scout will also learn about careers in the robotic fields. They will have to learn about competition with robots and attend a robotics competition.

A scout who is interested in this merit badge can go to a special section of the Boys Life website. Here they will be able to find kits to build and find other help with this merit badge including downloading the Robotics Merit Badge requirements.

The Robotics Boys Life webpage is found here: <http://boyslife.org/section/about-scouts/merit-badge-resources/robotics/>

May Varsity Leader Huddle: May 19th, 7:00 PM

You won't want to miss the May Huddle! As we started in April, there are two Huddle locations to make it easier for you to attend. The North Huddle is held in the Escondido South Stake Center and the South Huddle in the San Diego East Stake Center. You can find the address and directions to the Huddle locations by going our Varsity website:

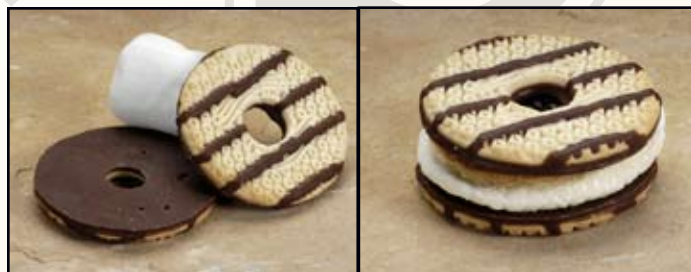
<http://varsity.sdicbsa.org/calender.html>

This months Huddle is going to be about physical fitness and getting your boys and you ready for the Super Activities you have planned. We are also going to have our Coach's Roundtable discussion and a chance to try the Poor Man's Smores. (see below)

You don't want to miss these Huddles. At the very least you should have one representative from your unit in attendance.

Poor Man's Smores

Everyone, especially scouts, love Smores. But they are expensive, a lot of work to cook and messy. So here is a quick and easy way to make a Smores like dessert as you sit around the campfire. Buy a package of fudge stripped cookies and a bag of marshmallows. You burn the marshmallow on the campfire the way you like it and then squish it between two fudge stripped cookies, chocolate side in and your done. Eat and enjoy.



Operation On-Target Workshop

Operation "On Target" will be held on Saturday July 16th. In order to help your unit learn about and prepare for On-Target we are holding the first **Operation On-Target Kickoff Workshop** on Saturday, June 11.

The purpose of the Kickoff Workshop is to teach the adult and youth leaders about On Target. One adult and one youth leader from your unit is invited to attend. They will in turn be able to go back and teach On Target to the other boys in the team, construct personal mirrors, and make preparations for the activity.

We will have two very experienced On-Target scouters, from Arizona and Orange County, who will explain every aspect of Operation On-Target. They will teach you how to make it a memorable experience for their teams. Including making signal mirrors, selecting a peak and how to have a great mountaintop experience.

Mark your calendars and reserve your workshop space now!! There is a limited number of people that can attend, so make your reservation soon. The workshop will start at 9:00 am and end at 12:00 noon. We will provide a barbecue lunch for all attendees. There is no cost for this great opportunity to learn from the Pros.

On Target Kickoff Workshop:

Saturday, June 11, 2011 from 9:00am to noon
Location: Atkinson Studios. 9550 Chesapeake Dr. Ste. 203 San Diego, 92123. Directions: <http://www.atkinsonstudios.com/index2.html>

Register for the workshop with Larry Purcell.
lpurcell@san.rr.com

Remember, one adult and one youth per unit. Seating is limited. Reserve your place now.

2011 Varsity Scout Dates And Contact Info:

Varsity Scout Leader's Huddle:

May 19th - Thursday, 7:00 pm
July 21st - Thursday, 7:00 pm
September 8th - Thursday, 7:00 pm
November 17th - Thursday, 7:00 pm

North Huddle:

Barry Baker: iambarrybaker@yahoo.com

South Huddle:

Lon Atkinson: Lon@AtkinsonStudios.com

Varsity Leader Training:

October 21-22nd. Santee Stake Center
Ed Jones: edjonesheating@hotmail.com

Varsity On-Target:

June 11th: On-Target Preparation Meeting.
July 16th: On-Target
Larry Purcell: lpurcell@san.rr.com

Mountain Man Rendezvous:

September 16-17th
Lon Atkinson:
Booshway@VarsityRendezvous.com

Varsity Mailing List:

Marty Bramwell: MartyBramwell@yahoo.com

Varsity Newsletter:

Lon Atkinson:
Lon@AtkinsonStudios.com

Council Activity Dates:

May 12-14th- WoodBadge Training
May 21st - Shooting Sports Day, Matabuena
June 2-4th - Woodbadge, 2nd weekend

Varsity Huddle

The Year of Adventure

May 19th - 7:00 PM
Two Locations to Choose From

North Huddle: Escondido South Stake Center
Felicitto & 15 Frwy

South Huddle: San Diego East Stake Center
The Zion Building

Driving Directions: <http://varsity.sdicsa.org/calender.html>

- Physical Fitness: Getting your Scouts ready for their Super Activities.
 - Triathlon Slide Show
 - Coach's Roundtable Discussion
 - And much much more!
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Who Should Attend?

Varsity Scout Coaches & Assistants
Bishopric Counselors over Varsity Scouts and Teachers
Quorum. Stake Leaders are also invited and encouraged to attend.

For additional information contact:
South Huddle: Lon Atkinson: Lon@AtkinsonStudios.com
North Huddle: Barry Baker: iambarrybaker@yahoo.com