

# Mesa Varsity Huddle Holler

## From the top...

Mike Heaton

Greetings Varsity Scouters.... Or should I say Wahh Pilgrims! The Boosway has blown his horn and rendezvous is upon us!! During the odd numbered years, in the month of March we hold the Mesa District Mogollon Mountain Man Rendezvous. This year should prove to be one of the best one ever. The new districts to the south of Mesa have started their own rendezvous and will be building their own tradition. What that means to us is that there will be fewer participants and more opportunity to do activities and excel in the events! Oh yeah, there should be more camping room too!!

We also just received word that we will once again have special guests from Salt Lake City to be with the young men and to meet and instruct the leaders. The visitors will be members of the Church General Young Men's board and the LDS Relations office. You won't want to miss this opportunity to rub shoulders with these fine brethren.

Teams should be well on their way to making regalia and mountain man accoutrements. This is particularly important this year since a professional film crew has offered to come and film the rendezvous and provide a DVD to remember it by. A crew from GET Entertainment, Inc. the producer of the Merit Badge Series DVDs is planning to film the activities and make a Mogollon Rendezvous DVD. As they film they will be paying particular attention to those Teams with regalia while participating in the various outposts at the rendezvous. They will also do interviews with various Scouts and Leaders to add to the final product. So finish up those capotes, breeches, and par fleches and head on up to the R-C Scout Ranch in March.

To further help with your regalia, you could attend the Western National Shoot for the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association taking place at the Ben Avery Shooting Range next week. It starts on the 11th of February. There will be a Traders Row set up with a plethora of mountain man paraphernalia. You can get skins, beads, leather, trinkets, round balls, black powder, and all kinds of other stuff. You could fill you entire possible bag there if you have it completed!!!

Remember the rendezvous is just around the corner and the more you put in to being prepared, the more you'll get out of it!!!



### This month's huddle:

- Triathlon
- Frontiersman
- Medicine Bags
- High Adventure
- And More Rendezvous

### Varsity Pledge

As a Varsity Scout, I will:

Live by the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan;

Honor the dignity and worth of all persons;

Promote the cause of freedom.



### Useful Links

[WWW.MESAVarsity.ORG](http://WWW.MESAVarsity.ORG)

[RENDEZVOUS.MESAVarsity.ORG](http://RENDEZVOUS.MESAVarsity.ORG)

[WWW.GRANDCANYONBSA.ORG](http://WWW.GRANDCANYONBSA.ORG)

### Coming Attractions:

- 2/7 Varsity Leader Specific Training
- 2/14 Scouting for Food
- 2/28 University of Scouting
- 3/5 Varsity Huddle
- 3/19-3/21 RENDEZVOUS!!
- 4/23-4/25 Climb on Safety Course

# The Development of Varsity Scouting—Part 1

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## Origins

Varsity Scouting was the brainchild of Dr. JD Mortensen, a prominent thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon in Salt Lake City, Utah, and an influential member of the Boys Scouts of America [BSA]. He served for 13 years on the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' Young Men Mutual Improvement Association [YMMIA] General Board and for several years as chairman of its General Scout Committee. He wrote numerous manuals and supplements for the YMMIA. He served on the faculty at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, as Advancement Chairman for the Great Salt Lake Council, and as a Chaplain at four National Jamborees. He was a recipient of the Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope, and Silver Beehive awards for his work in Scouting.

The major sponsors of Scouting in the early 1970's were the Catholic and Protestant Churches. Dr. Mortensen observed that Scouts belonging to units chartered to these organizations tended to remain in Scouting longer and advance further than did the Scouts in units sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints [LDS]. He turned his attention to finding out why. Dr. Mortensen understood the basis for the close ties that exist between the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Boys Scouts of America. The Church's Aaronic Priesthood/Young Men organization used Boy Scouting and Exploring as its "activity arm" in the United States. No other organization has adopted Scouting as the official program for its young men in the same way as the LDS Church.

The concept of Priesthood, its quorums, and youth leadership are an essential part of a young men's development in the LDS Church. Young men in the LDS Church become eligible to receive the Aaronic Priesthood when they reach the age of 12. After they successfully complete a personal worthiness interview with the Bishop, they are presented to the Ward [local congregation], whereupon the Aaronic Priesthood is conferred upon them.

There are three basic offices within the Aaronic Priesthood: Deacon, Teacher and Priest. Each office is associated with a specific age group. Customarily, Deacons are 12- and 13-year-olds, Teachers are 14- and 15-year-olds, and Priests are 16- and 17-year-olds. Each of the young men in the Ward holding the same office is organized into distinctly separate groups called "quorums". Each quorum is led by three of its members who have been "called" to preside.

Dr. Mortensen saw that boys were being lost to Scouting around the age of 14. While this was not unusual, he saw that the young man's Aaronic Priesthood experience was having an effect on his participation in Scouting. The two available Scouting programs, Boy Scouting and Exploring, did not align effectively with the Aaronic Priesthood's three quorums. This mismatch in organizational structure combined with a predisposition that exists throughout Scouting for boys to leave Scouting about the age of 14. The answer seemed obvious: a third program for 14- and 15-year-old young men had to be created.

To be continued next issue...

**Don't forget that back issues of the "Huddle Holler" are available at [www.mesavarsity.org](http://www.mesavarsity.org)! Lots of great information and resources are yours for the downloading.**



## Climbing/Rappelling Instructors Course

The course goal is to ensure that you can safely and effectively manage a climbing program for your unit. It will help you to solidify your knowledge of climbing and to bring it into line with the current policies of the BSA.



### Course Dates and Times

Thursday, April 23, 2009 - 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Friday, April 24, 2009 - 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 25, 2009 - 6:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**You must attend all three sessions to qualify for your instructor's certification.**

For more information contact Craig Anderson at [cdanderson@lopezappraisal.com](mailto:cdanderson@lopezappraisal.com); 480-773-4451 (cell) 480-821-5949 (home).

# Cast Iron Chef Cook-off Mogollon Rendezvous 2009

By John Buck

The official rules for the cook-off will be available online soon and at the March Huddle as a handout.

## ARE YOU READY FOR THE SECRET INGREDIENT?

What will it be? Who knows? Hmmm.....



Remember to have the boys practice making one or more of the following:

1. **MAIN DISH**
2. **BREAD**
3. **DESSERT**

A secret ingredient will be provided and must be used in at least one dish. (Using it in ALL will definitely score more points.)

One thing this year we will be looking at and judging on is "AUTHENTICITY". This is a "Mountain Man Rendezvous" and we believe that the dishes prepared should represent the era and lifestyle of the Mountain Man/Trappers we are representing.

Also it is important to emphasize that this is a cook-off for the boys. They should do all the cooking and presentation and be ready to answer questions from the judges.

Above all it should be a FUN time for the boys.

This is a chance to develop a new skill and show-off a little.

Till next month....



# Risks of Scouting (Safety First—Things to Remember)

By Mike Zaccardi

## The Sweet 16 of BSA Safety (page 28-29 Health and Safety Guide)

**4. Safe Area or Course.** A key part of the supervisors' responsibility is to know the area or course for the activity and to determine that it is well-suited and free of hazards.

### Some Safe Area or Course Issues/Stories:

- Several years ago a troop from Utah was hiking in Paria Canyon (in AZ). A sudden rainstorm about 15 miles away, created a flash flood that came down the narrow canyon they were hiking in. Two leaders and three boys were drown in a 60 foot high wall of water.
- On a hike, a sudden flash flood washed out several bridges and trails in a side canyon of the Grand Canyon and trapped a troop on one side of the river for a day.
- While on a hike-in camporee (now known as the "death march") in a Superstition wilderness area. The organizers assured everyone that there would be water (from natural sources) at the destination. After a 5 mile hike in, there wasn't any water. Most of the boys had already used up their water. The next morning (after a waterless night) the decision was made to cancel the camporee and get out as soon as possible. Most troops made it safely back to the trail head although many of the boys were dehydrated. Unfortunately one troop took the wrong trail and ended up at another trail head about ten miles away from their car. Fortunately there was water at that trail head.
- A troop went to the old mining site of Sasco for a campout. They played capture the flag with no lights. During the game a boy fell down a shallow mine shaft and broke his thigh. He had to be air evaced out. Helicopter costs and medical costs (including 3 surgeries) in excess of \$120,000.
- One year at camporee the 11 year olds were to hike 1.5 miles into the camp. The person marking the trail did not actually hike the trail but rather put a sign up at the start, in the middle and at the end. Unfortunately, the sign in the middle was in the wrong place and the 11 year olds hiked the wrong way. About midnight, someone noticed that none of the 11 year olds had registered and they sent out a search party. Fortunately, there were two adult leaders that hiked with their patrols and they managed to collect all the 11 year old "lost boys" (about 60 to 80 boys) and keep them together in the dark until they were found.



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## Articles Needed for Holler

Are your teams doing something exciting?

Have you some piece of information or advice that would be helpful to your fellow coaches?

Find something interesting online?

SHARE it with others! Write it up and send it to the District Varsity Scribe to be included in future issues of the 'Holler'.

Email it to [jbuck.az@gmail.com](mailto:jbuck.az@gmail.com)

“A Scout is never taken by surprise; he knows exactly what to do when anything unexpected happens.” - Baden Powell

## Varsity Squad (Stake) Assistant District Commissioners

<u>Stake—Room Assignment</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Home Phone</u>	<u>Work Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
<b>Alta Mesa—15</b>	Richard Latimer	480-985-2682		Richard_TL@msn.com
<b>Central—11</b>	Greg Morris	480-733-5203		greg@envirosapedesigns.com
<b>Chandler Alma—13</b>	Craig Anderson	480-831-5949	(w)480-838-7332	cdanderson@lopezappraisal.com
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<b>Hermosa Vista—Nursery</b>	Leonard Jones	480-649-8499	(c)480-707-8547	L1packaging@yahoo.com
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