

Presentation Outline and Handouts

Presentation slides and handouts are found under “Additional Resources” at:
http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Varsity_Coach_Leader_Specific_Training

Presentation Outline

Part A: Varsity Coach's Role within the Team

1. Overview
2. History and Objectives
3. The Role of the Varsity Coach
4. Where Varsity Scouts Come from and Where They Go
5. Team Organization
6. Adult Leaders on a Varsity Team
7. Working with Young Men

Part B: Varsity Scout Team Action Plan

1. Team Kickoff Meeting
2. Team Elections and Appointments
3. Team Leadership
4. Program Planning
5. Team Leaders' Meeting, Team Meeting and Team Events
6. Ultimate Adventures

Part C: Outdoor/Sports Program, Advancement and Team Administration

1. The Outdoor Program
2. Reflection
3. Advancement
4. Membership
5. Paperwork and Finances
6. The Uniform
7. Adult Varsity Scout Training and Awards
8. Summary and Closing

Handouts

- Standard terminology
- Varsity Scout Team Action Plan
- Sample Team kickoff flyer
- Varsity Scout Individual Interest Survey
- Resource Survey for Varsity Scout Team Adults
- Seminar Schedule
- Program Planning Clinic Schedule
- Annual Varsity Scout Team Planning Chart
- Varsity Scout Team Activity Planning Worksheet
- Varsity Scout Team Activity Planning Worksheet (alternate)
- Varsity Scout Team Meeting Plan Worksheet
- Sample parent's night high-adventure plan and supply list
- Sample Trip Plan
- Sample high-adventure float plan and itinerary
- Sample high-adventure risk management plan
- Waiver of Responsibility
- Program Features at a Glance
- Varsity Scout Letter Scorecard
- Denali Award Scorecard
- Varsity Scout Leader Letter Scorecard
- Varsity Scout Leader Progress for the Coach's Key and Varsity Scout Leader Training Award

Sample Advancement Program Manager Team Event

Knot Night

- Flyer
- Station sign-off strips
- First Class knot instructions

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Standard terminology

The use of **standard terminology** applies across BSA programs when there exists parallel organization structures, activities and methods. In essence, separate programs use different names to mean the same thing. When appearing in handbooks and other communications, standard terms often may be substituted for the distinctive title used by each different program. For example, issued guidelines for a *Roundtable* meeting can be applied to a *Varsity Huddle* or a *Venturing Forum* or a *Sea Scout Wardroom*.

Relevance to BSA programs

Standard terms are particularly relevant between Boy Scouting and Varsity Scouting, and between Venturing and Sea Scouting:

“ Standard Venturing terminology is used universally by the Boy Scouts of America for both Venturing crews and Sea Scout ships. This is necessary in publications and training manuals that encompass all of Venturing....All Venturing crews (including Sea Scout ships) have the option of using distinctive titles related to their specialized program. ”

— Sea Scout Manual, pg. 7, #33239C © 2002, 2004 Printing

“ While the terminology differs, a Varsity Scout team is organized along similar lines as a Boy Scout troop. Many Varsity Scouts have been members of Scout troops and know the structure of BSA units. ”

— Varsity Scout Guidebook, pg. 19, #34827A © 2000 Edition

In some cases of standard terminology, methods may be parallel but the aims have differences between programs -- for example the team system method used in Boy Scouting differs in aims compared to Venturing. In other cases standard terminology parallels do not apply to all four programs -- for example assistant patrol leaders have no equivalencies in Varsity Scouting and Venturing.

List of BSA standard terminology

A comparison of standard terminology parallels in Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting, Venturing, and Sea Scouting

Unit	Boy Scout troop	Varsity Scout team	Venturing crew	Sea Scout ship
Youth member	Boy Scout	Varsity Scout	Venturer	Sea Scout
Direct-contact adult leader	Scoutmaster	Team coach	Advisor	Skipper
Assistant adult leader	Assistant scoutmaster	Assistant coach	Associate advisor	Mate
Leader specific training	Boy Scout Leader Specific Training	Varsity Coach Leader Specific Training	Venturing Leader Specific Training	Venturing Leader Specific Training
Youth protection guidelines	Youth Protection Training	Youth Protection Training	Venturing Youth Protection Training	Venturing Youth Protection Training
Team system	Patrol method	Squad method	Group activities	Group activities
Youth leader training	Troop Leadership Training (TLT)	Team Leaders' Training Seminar	Crew Officer's Briefing	Quarterdeck Training
Immediate youth leader training	Introduction to leadership (module one of TLT)	Introduction to leadership (informal session)	--	--
Youth leader group	Patrol leaders' council (PLC)	Team leadership	Crew officers	Petty officers
Annual program planning meeting	Troop program planning conference	Program planning clinic	Crew officers' seminar	Quarterdeck meeting
Monthly program planning meeting	Patrol leaders' council meeting	Team leaders' meeting	Crew officers' seminar	Quarterdeck meeting
Unit meeting plan	Troop Meeting Plan	Varsity Scout Team Meeting Plan Worksheet	Regular Crew Meeting Agenda	
Top youth leader	Senior patrol leader	Captain	President	Boatswain
Second youth leader	Assistant senior patrol leader	Cocaptain	Vice president	Boatswain's mate
Youth secretary	Scribe	Team secretary	Secretary	Yeoman
Youth sub-group leader	Patrol leader	Squad leader	--	Crew leader
Second sub-group leader	Assistant patrol leader	--	--	Assistant crew leader
Youth financial position	Scribe	Team secretary	Treasurer	Purser

Youth equipment position	Quartermaster	Quartermaster (equipment manager)	Crew quartermaster	Storekeeper
Youth new-member mentor	Troop guide	--	Crew guide	--
Youth skill instructor position	Instructor	Instructor	--	Specialist
Program scope	36 troop program features, 28 venture patrol program features	5 fields of emphasis	6 experience areas, crew specialty	19 special skills
Youth program planners	Patrol leader's council (troop) Venture patrol leader (venture patrol)	Program managers	Activity chairs	Crew leaders and activity chairs
Program highlight	Big event	Ultimate adventure	Superactivity	Rendezvous, regatta
Adult leader youth review	Scoutmaster Conference	Coach's Conference	--	
Youth review meeting	Board of review	Progress review	Crew review	Board of review
Awards ceremony	Court of honor	Court of honor	Recognition ceremony	Bridge of honor
Highest youth award	Eagle Scout	Denali Award	Silver Award	Quartermaster Award
Adult leader closing portion of meeting plan	Scoutmaster's Minute	Coach's Corner	--	--
Council unit leaders' meeting	Roundtable	Varsity Huddle	Venturing Forum	Wardroom
Adult unit committee	Troop committee	Team committee	Crew committee	Ship committee
Multiple units committee	District	District	District	Division
Local council	Council	Council	Council	Squadron
Area committee	Area	Area	Area	Flotilla
Regional committee	Region	Region	Region	Fleet

Program Features at a Glance

Use this chart as a guide to planning your program. Teams may plan activities other than those listed in the individual program features.

	Sports/High Adventure	Advancement	Service	Personal Development	Special Programs
Backpacking. The team is probably already somewhat experienced at backpacking. Preparation time could involve sharpening packing skills, making equipment, conditioning, and preplanning.	Cover material in the Backpacking program feature. Plan a backpacking trip. The ultimate adventure could be a backpacking trip at Philmont or on a trail such as the Continental Divide trail.	Backpacking merit badge -- check advancement needs for each team member.	While on the backpacking trip, carry out a conservation project.	Plan a worship service during the trip.	Visit an agency responsible for a wilderness area. Have an expert do a session on no-trace camping.
Basketball. Varsity Scout basketball is fun and easy to plan. All you need are two teams, a ball, and a basketball court.	Cover material in the Basketball program feature. Join a league or play other Varsity Scout teams in your community.	Sports merit badge – check advancement needs of each team member.	Conduct a coaching session for youth.	Learn about the prevention and care of sports injuries.	Attend a college or professional basketball game.
Bowling. Bowling could be a great cold-weather alternative to some of the rugged outdoor activities. Bowling requires little equipment and is relatively inexpensive.	Cover material in the Bowling program feature. Join a bowling league by contacting your local bowling center.	Engineering merit badge – check advancement needs for each team member.	Offer assistance to a team member in carrying out his Eagle Scout leadership service project.	Tour a bowling alley. Learn to keep score.	Plan a coed bowling party.
Canoe Camping. There is no doubt the team has already been introduced to canoeing and camping.	Cover material in the Canoe Camping program feature. Plan a canoe camping trip, which can be a special experience. Endurance is required for several days of paddling and portages, so a physical conditioning program prior to the trip is vital.	Canoeing merit badge – check advancement needs for each team member.	Plan a conservation project to be done on the canoe camping trip.	Visit an outdoor sports equipment facility to learn about associated careers.	Build a canoe from natural materials.
Caving. A caving ultimate adventure could give your team a challenging experience.	Cover the material in the Caving program feature. Plan and conduct a caving activity. Participants should learn knot tying, first aid, and safety as you prepare for the trip. In cave exploration, the selection of an experienced cave guide is critical.	Geology merit badge – check advancement needs for each team member.	Assist an elderly homeowner with yardwork and repairs.	Invite a member of a caving organization to present a program.	Have a family night – show slides and videos of caving activity.

<p>Cross-Country Skiing. Mastering the skills necessary to deal with the challenge of winter can provide a confidence boost in the way a young person deals with other challenges in life.</p>	<p>Cover the material in the Cross-Country Skiing program feature. Organize a tour race. A cross-country skiing trip could be an ultimate adventure that would long be remembered. The planning and conditioning for such a trip would take several months.</p>	<p>Snow Sports merit badge – check advancement needs for each team member.</p>	<p>Conduct a winter clothing drive.</p>	<p>Learn winter survival skills.</p>	<p>Attend a cross-country ski event.</p>
<p>Cycling. It can be fun and challenging, and when the element of camping is added, it can become an ultimate adventure. Preparation for a cycling trip would involve biking maintenance, route planning, and conditioning.</p>	<p>Cover material in the Cycling program feature. Plan a bike trip. With the popularity of cycling, there are many expert cyclists available to assist in training and planning a cycling activity.</p>	<p>Cycling merit badge – check advancement needs for each team member.</p>	<p>Plan a service project as part of the bike trip.</p>	<p>Invite a law enforcement officer to explain laws about cycling.</p>	<p>Invite selected parents to tell about their profession.</p>
<p>Frontiersman. In the early 19th century, mountain men began exploring the western frontiers in search of adventure and wealth. Every aspect of their existence was an adaptation of their wilderness surroundings, including their appearance, speech, and diet. Mountain men would rendezvous to sell their furs and to compete with others in fun and games.</p>	<p>Cover the material in the Frontiersman program feature. Plan a team high-adventure event. Consider designing clothing of the mountain man, playing their games, or primitive camping.</p>	<p>Wilderness Survival merit badge – check advancement needs for each team member.</p>	<p>Conduct a service project for a historical society.</p>	<p>Conduct a genealogy search to identify mountain men in their family trees.</p>	<p>Contact a qualified instructor to conduct a session on muzzle-loading firearms.</p>
<p>Mechanics. Gentlemen, start your engines. Begin with the basics of auto mechanics and progress through the drive train of an automobile.</p>	<p>Cover the material in the Mechanics program feature. Plan the team's annual high-adventure event. You may need an outside consultant to assist with this program feature. Automobile safety should be a major emphasis during this experience.</p>	<p>Traffic Safety merit badge – check advancement needs for each team member.</p>	<p>Adopt a part of a highway for litter cleanup.</p>	<p>Invite a law enforcement officer to explain how to get a driver's license.</p>	<p>Attend a motorized speed event. Conduct a safe-driving rodeo.</p>

<p>Operation On-Target. This program feature gives the team an opportunity to learn about signaling with mirrors and exposes Varsity Scouts to radio communications, movie-making equipment, photography, and other subjects.</p>	<p>Cover the material in the Operation On-Target program feature. Participate in an On-Target program.</p>	<p>Review each team member's advancement status.</p>	<p>Assist a new team in building signaling mirrors.</p>	<p>Conduct a forum on the importance of being "on target" in everyday life.</p>	<p>Have a family night program to share photos and videos made during the On-Target activity.</p>
<p>Orienteering. This exciting competitive sport is rapidly becoming more popular because of its demanding challenges for even the best of athletes. Much like chess, it is a thinking person's sport.</p>	<p>Cover the material in the Orienteering program feature. Plan and conduct an orienteering activity. This activity is a good opportunity to perfect basic skills learned from previous Scout experiences.</p>	<p>Orienteering merit badge – check advancement needs for each team member.</p>	<p>Plan food for wildlife.</p>	<p>Hold a family night progressive dinner.</p>	<p>Contact other teams and plan an orienteering meet.</p>
<p>Rock Climbing and Rappelling. Just imagine yourself leaning out over a 50-foot drop with the open sky around you. Or perhaps you're climbing the sheer face of a cliff that extends 100 feet straight up. Rappelling and rock climbing can be challenging adventures.</p>	<p>Cover the material in the Rock Climbing and Rappelling program feature. With the help of a qualified instructor and careful attention to following Climb On Safely procedures, all members of the team can safely enjoy this activity.</p>	<p>Review each team member's advancement status.</p>	<p>Conduct a service project at your council camp.</p>	<p>Have an expert do a session on Climb On Safely.</p>	<p>Visit a museum with a geology display.</p>
<p>Roller Hockey. This sport has enjoyed rapid popularity growth with the youth of America in recent years.</p>	<p>Cover the material in the Roller Hockey program feature. Compete with another team.</p>	<p>Skating merit badge -- check advancement needs for each team member.</p>	<p>Collect used sports equipment for a children's home.</p>	<p>Learn about equipment and safety.</p>	<p>Attend a college or professional hockey game.</p>
<p>Shooting Sports. If your team is seeking a change of pace, this may be your sport. The program feature is a great resource of planning the program. A qualified instructor is a must.</p>	<p>Cover the material in the Shooting Sports program feature. Plan a high-adventure outing.</p>	<p>Rifle Shooting or Shotgun Shooting merit badge – check advancement needs for each team member.</p>	<p>Work with a sheriff's department or police department on a service project.</p>	<p>Conduct a hunter's safety course for team members.</p>	<p>Visit a shooting range.</p>
<p>Snow Camping. Ready for a challenge? Snow camping is it. Here is your chance to expand your basic camping skills and develop the experience to survive and have enjoyable camping experience in below-freezing conditions.</p>	<p>Cover the material in the Snow Camping program feature. Conduct a snow camping activity.</p>	<p>Emergency Preparedness merit badge – Check advancement needs for each team member.</p>	<p>Identify a disadvantaged family and complete a service project for this family.</p>	<p>Conduct a leadership skills workshop.</p>	<p>Plan a coed ice skating activity.</p>

<p>Soccer. Soccer doesn't require a lot of equipment, and most youth already know the basic rules.</p>	<p>Cover the material in the Soccer program feature. Join a soccer league. Most parks and recreation departments or YMCAs offer soccer leagues.</p>	<p>Review each team member's advancement status.</p>	<p>Assist with meals-on-wheels or other service project.</p>	<p>Invite the manager of a sporting goods store to demonstrate the different types of soccer equipment and uniforms.</p>	<p>Have a coed soccer game.</p>
<p>Softball. This sport requires very little equipment, and leagues have a wide range of experience levels.</p>	<p>Cover the material in the Softball program feature. Challenge other Varsity Scout teams.</p>	<p>Work on the advancement needs of team members.</p>	<p>Select a service project for your chartered organization.</p>	<p>Have a session on the rules of softball.</p>	<p>Go to a batting cage.</p>
<p>Survival. Use this chance to go beyond the skills you learned with Wilderness Survival merit badge. The ultimate adventure should be to work together with members of the team to solve problems to live in harmony with one another.</p>	<p>Cover the material in the Survival program feature. Conduct a survival activity.</p>	<p>Wilderness Survival merit badge – check advancement needs for each team member.</p>	<p>Plan a neighborhood emergency survival workshop that deals with weather-related emergencies.</p>	<p>Have a CPR course for team members.</p>	<p>Invite other teams to participate with your weekend survival encampment.</p>
<p>Swimming. One of the best forms of physical activity, both for sheer enjoyment and exercise. Swimming has always been a part of the Scouting program, but this activity focuses on the skills of competitive swimming.</p>	<p>Cover the material in the Swimming program feature. Plan a swim meet. Indoor pools are available in many communities, and aquatic instructors can usually be found through the local YMCA and American Red Cross.</p>	<p>Swimming merit badge and other aquatic merit badges – check advancement needs for each team member.</p>	<p>Conduct or attend an awareness program on water conservation.</p>	<p>Arrange to have team meetings at a lap pool. Work on distance and speed.</p>	<p>Attend a college swim meet.</p>
<p>Tennis. This sport was designed as a recreational sport to be played on lawns, but has become one of the most popular sports in America for people of all ages.</p>	<p>Cover the material in the Tennis program feature. Have a tennis tournament.</p>	<p>Work on the advancement needs of team members.</p>	<p>Plan a cleanup of a community playground.</p>	<p>Conduct a fitness session.</p>	<p>Attend a college or professional tennis match.</p>
<p>Triathlon. These long-distance competitions consist of three phases, usually swimming, bicycling, and running. The first competitive triathlons were conducted in the mid-1970s and are often referred to as Ironman races. Winter variations could consist of cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and speed skating.</p>	<p>Cover the material in the Triathlon program feature. Plan a high-adventure activity, lay out the course for a triathlon, and start training.</p>	<p>Personal Fitness merit badge – check advancement needs for each team member.</p>	<p>Clean up a local waterway.</p>	<p>Develop a personal fitness program for the team.</p>	<p>Participate in a 5k run or a bike race.</p>

<p>Volleyball. This sport is easy to learn and the basic rules are simple to understand.</p>	<p>Cover the material in the Volleyball program feature. Plan a volleyball activity with other Varsity Scout teams.</p>	<p>Review each team member's advancement status.</p>	<p>Assist a Webelos Scout den with its activity badge.</p>	<p>Visit a military base. Find out why fitness is vital our country's defense.</p>	<p>Visit a college computer center. Learn how computers are useful in sports.</p>
<p>Waterskiing. This is an exciting, challenging sport whether you're skiing for fun or for competition. Like other sports, the key to waterskiing – the key to enjoyment – is improvement and learning new techniques.</p>	<p>Cover the material in the Waterskiing program feature. Plan a waterskiing activity. Find a qualified instructor to coach the team for this activity.</p>	<p>Waterskiing merit badge – check advancement needs for each team member.</p>	<p>Conduct a waterskier's safety session for a Boy Scout troop.</p>	<p>Visit a law enforcement agency that monitors waterways.</p>	<p>Have a session on the care and maintenance of a motor boat.</p>
<p>Whitewater Canoeing. When it comes to pure excitement and challenge, mastering a whitewater stream has few equals. It requires physical endurance, quick thinking, and superb padding skills.</p>	<p>Cover material in the Whitewater program feature. The ultimate adventure could be attending the Teton High Adventure Base</p>	<p>Review each team member's advancement status.</p>	<p>Assist your game and fish commissioner in tagging fish.</p>	<p>Invite an expert to tell about canoes and kayaks.</p>	<p>Participate in an aquatics program offered in your community.</p>