

# OPERATION "ON-TARGET" SIGN UP

**ATTENTION ALL VENTURING AND VARSITY SCOUTS**

## Operation "ON-TARGET"

**Sign up for either date. Then again why not do both:**

**July 15, 2017 or September 16, 2017**

(Communications begin at 10:00 am)

**Pick your PEAK. Make your MIRRORS. Select your HAM.  
Have fun signaling and communicating with other  
varsity teams on other mountain peaks!!**



**You can find how to make mirrors in your Varsity Team Program Features Volume II Under Operation "On-Target" or attend the workshop for making mirrors.**

**REGISTER BY JULY 1<sup>st</sup> or SEPTEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> WITH  
Ron Herbert, On-Target Chairman. Phone: (951) 685-6556  
Address: 2275 Rorimer Dr, Riverside, CA 92509**

**DO NOT MAIL REGISTRATION TO THE COUNCIL OFFICE**

Radio  
Frequency  
145.510

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Backup  
145.525  
2<sup>nd</sup> Backup:  
145.540

Contact your Stake Young Men 1<sup>st</sup> Counselor for help and information or contact Ron Herbert



Peak Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Day ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

HAM Radio Operator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Day ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Call sign: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

How many will be involved? Youth: \_\_\_\_\_ Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need a set of instructions to build your mirror assembly? \_\_\_\_\_

# 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Operation On-Target (July 15 & Sept 16, 2017)

Operation On-Target [1-3] is a great mountaintop experience centered on hiking to a mountain summit and signaling other scout units with signal mirrors – at distances of 20-70 miles or more!!

On **Saturday, July 15, 2017**, teams of Scouts with mirrors will be on mountain peaks across the Southland. Your team could be one of them! If you were planning a high peak hike this summer – **plan it for July 15!** The only essential equipment is an (easy to make) signal mirror, though compass and ham radio are recommended.

Pick a peak with line of sight to other teams [4,5], like Mt. Baden-Powell, Mt. Baldy, Santiago, Jacinto, Keller Peak, Palomar or Mt. Wilson. You'll also want to know how to contact them by cell or ham radio, so register your choice with our coordinator, Ron Herbert: (951) 685-6556 - his flyer is on the other side.

You'll want big mirrors for ranges over 15-20 miles. A 12"x12" mirror tile works to 50+ miles. You'll want to add an aimer so you can hit a peak 20+ miles away – view the tutorials at: <http://www.bsaontarget.org/mirrors>  
For peak-peak coordination, we use amateur radio – good for emergencies as well!

Here's a video from a prior year: <http://preview.tinyurl.com/SouCal-On-Target>

Many merit badge activities can be combined with this: Peakbagging, Backpacking, Hiking, Camping, Communications, Cooking, Geology, Nature, Photography and Radio. The only limit to the fun and adventure of Operation On-Target is your own imagination.

There are many resources for preparing for the event [1-8] - the BSA Varsity Team Program Guide Chapter: Operation "On-Target" [1] is an excellent place to start.

While a 12"x12" mirror has been seen as far as 90 miles, for very long ranges, the classic modular, backpackable 2'x2' Operation On-Target mirror design ([1], p. 83, top) can help. This was the setup used by both teams in the all-time On Target distance record (179.77 miles) set Sept. 15, 2012, between San Geronio, CA, and Hayden Peak, AZ. This beat the prior record of 178.43 miles from San Jacinto CA to Charleston Peak, NV (outside Las Vegas), set with similar equipment. [The world record is 192 miles, also set in California].

For assistance with mirror-making, peak selection, or finding a ham radio operator, contact:  
Richard Fowell: (310) 373-7097 [ [rafowell@aol.com](mailto:rafowell@aol.com) ]

- [1] BSA Varsity Team Program Guide Vol. 2, (pages 78-87): "Operation On Target"  
<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/VarsityTeamProgram-V2.pdf>
- [2] Wikipedia: Operation On-Target  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation\\_On-Target](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_On-Target)
- [3] National Operation On-Target web site  
<http://www.bsaontarget.org/about>
- [4] An Excel crosstable of ranges, bearings, and info on good local peak choices:  
<http://tinyurl.com/SouCal-On-Target-Peaks>
- [5] Tips and tools for picking your peak (PowerPoint) on Google Docs:  
<http://tinyurl.com/picking-your-peak>
- [6] Tutorials (text, photos, video) on adding aimers to signal mirrors  
<http://www.bsaontarget.org/mirrors>
- [7] Handouts page at the National Operation-On-Target Web Site  
<http://www.bsaontarget.org/resources/handouts>
- [8] Activity Plan Sheets for Operation On-Target:  
<http://tinyurl.com/On-Target-Activity-Sheets>