

OPERATION *ON-TARGET*

NUTS AND BOLTS

1. **A vital resource** is the Operation On-Target Activity Chapter in the second volume of the new Varsity Program Features Books. Either order one from the Grand Canyon Council Scout Shops or pick one up at Huddle. It does a very good job of explaining the program.
2. **Spend time in weekly Team meetings making preparations.** Construct hand mirrors for each Varsity Scout to keep with him and practice. Spend time in weekly meetings constructing a larger signal mirror that is approximately 24" X 24". The Operation On-Target Activity Booklet contains instructions on making and aiming hand mirrors and larger mirrors.
3. **Pick a peak** wherever your team wants to go, and then send in the enclosed registration form as soon as possible. Please list your top three preferred peaks. Peaks are assigned on a first come, first served basis. The District and/or Council OT Committee will coordinate any duplications in peak assignments in the event that some other team has applied for the same peak and attempt to make sure that you won't be off somewhere by yourselves. Check the peak list and assignments page in this site.
4. **Get permission to use the tower** if you are going to one of the many peaks where there is a fire tower. Contact the local district forest ranger and gain access. Many of the peaks have a fire tower that increases visibility. Since the fire danger will have passed, (hopefully), it is important to discuss this with the forest service early so a ranger will be there to let you on the tower. It is also important to discuss any restrictions that may be at your selected peak.
5. **Know how to use a compass** to find the direction for each peak being occupied. It is important that the young men are comfortable with using their compasses.
6. **You will need to obtain good maps of the area where you are going.** One option is to use a **pilot's aeronautical chart** of the state for your compass work. A good one can be obtained at no charge from the Arizona State Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division at their office in Phoenix or at any of the small airports in the area. The best maps for any of the National Forest areas are the **maps published by the US Forest Service for each of the forests.** These show the roads and trails. If you have to hike in a **topographical map** of the area around your peak will also be of great benefit. Get these at any good map store

7. **Make the activity fun.** Link in other activities with On-Target. Suggestions are backpacking to the peak, do a service project, or work on advancement.
8. **Review your resources** and arrange to have a HAM radio operator with you at your peak. This can enhance your success, giving you immediate confirmation of the signal your Team has sent. Check the instructions for the HAM radio operators. Signaling is from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday.
9. **A Mountaintop Ceremony is conducted** when signaling is complete. This is an excellent opportunity to discuss the importance of being On-Target in all aspects of their lives. This is an opportunity to have a meaningful Coaches Corner, present awards such as an Activity Pin, and discuss the young men's feelings through a reflection. Also, letters from prominent people have been prepared discussing the importance of keeping their lives On-Target. These letters will be available prior to the activity and should be read during the Mountaintop Ceremony.
10. **Prepare a time capsule** for the Team next year in conjunction with the Mountaintop Ceremony. Instructions for the time capsule are in the Team Resource Book.
11. **Appoint a historian to record the activities.** An important part of On-Target is to have a great story to tell. Those can be shared in a parent's night. A Flashback may be held where you will have an opportunity to compete in the Best Told Story contest. Be creative in presenting your story. Use pictures, videos, music, etc. It is most effective if the story covers all aspects of the activity from preparation to mountaintop.
12. **A Flashback** may be held in Mesa District Varsity Huddle in October. Awards may be presented for longest flash, largest mirror, etc.
13. **REMEMBER that this is a great opportunity for the Varsity Scout to grow personally.** Make sure the young men are involved in the planning and preparation.

If done with the right preparation the Operation On-Target activity will be meaningful and fun even if it is cloudy or it rains.