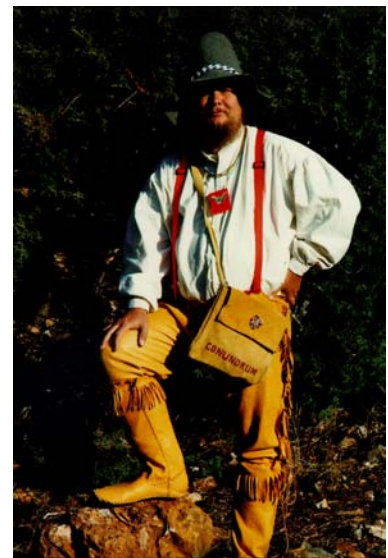


Introduction

Welcome to the Rendezvous! A rendezvous offers tremendous opportunity to develop new skills, provide challenges, build teamwork and to teach character building traits. This reference is built on years of working with and developing the rendezvous activity within the Mesa district. Over the years we have been able to tune and grow our rendezvous to what we now consider to be a spectacular event. Through this publication I hope to share some of what we have learned and to assist you in getting ready for participating in a full rendezvous event.

A rendezvous is a term taken from the days of early America where the mountain man or frontiersman traveled through the wilderness trapping and trading for a living. Once in a while these men would come together in a “Rendezvous” event and test their skills against one another. These were men who were skilled at hunting, hiking and camping. These men often made their own clothes. They learned to rely on and understand nature for their survival. When they came together they also traded items with one another and with the Indians and “flatlanders”. Their trade items were prepared ahead of time using the materials available to them such as furs, claws, metal, wood, etc. All of this together is what a rendezvous is all about.

Some may ask, “Why do you (or why should we) honor the Mountain Men? They were generally rough shod, uncouth and immoral”, and to be perfectly honest I don’t know of a lot of virtuous or lovely things that were done by Mountain Men, although I’m sure there were some. However, they did a lot of things that were praiseworthy and of good report. They were among the first white man to explore and map the western territories of the United States. They blazed trails to Oregon and California and later some of them acted as guides for pioneers that crossed the plains, others set up trading posts along the trails or served as army scouts. They eased and quickened the settling of the West. They were skilled in survival, self-confident, independent and resourceful. Learning these traits will help all of us be more successful in life. That is why we honor the Mountain Men and immortalize their skills in modern day Rendezvous reenactments.



A picture of me from our 1999 rendezvous

Gordon B. Hinckley in his book “Standing for Something” said “...many of our forbears and those who built the foundations of this land were imperfect. They were human. They doubtlessly made mistakes and fell short from time to time. But the mistakes were minor when compared to the marvelous work they accomplished.” He further states that if we highlight the mistakes of a person and gloss over the greater good, we draw a character that is often ugly, dishonest and lacks integrity. He then continues to state, “*The Lord uses imperfect people – you and me – to build strong societies.*”

I have had the privilege of participating in, and being involved with the organization of several rendezvous over the years. This reference is a compilation of the things I have seen and learned through those events. It seems as each time a rendezvous is held, leaders search for resources and information to help them prepare for and conduct the rendezvous activity. This reference is my

The Unofficial Varsity Scout Reference for Rendezvous!

attempt to share some of my knowledge and thoughts relating to this grand event. I don't consider myself to be an expert on the subject by any means, but I have been involved through quite a number of these and feel I can share some of that here with you. I am as what's known in our district as a "Passionate Advocate" of the Varsity Scouting program. I've seen it work miracles in the lives of young men. The Rendezvous can play a critical role in helping these miracles happen. Enjoy!

Understanding and Applying the Basic Principles

The rendezvous as presented in this reference is a Varsity Scout activity. Varsity Scouts are boys ages 14 and 15 who are grouped into Teams. Nearly all of the Varsity scout teams in our area are sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints or LDS church. This publication is written from my perspective and thus, will contain references specific to the LDS church and to Varsity Scouting. These references are meant to assist Varsity leaders in delivering the full purposes of the rendezvous activity for their scouts. Scouting is a game with a purpose – the rendezvous activity provides opportunities to teach the youth character building principles and to reinforce the teachings of the church in their lives. These same principles are shared by most other religious organizations, therefore this reference can and should be easily applicable to almost any character building organization.

The important aspect of this reference is to understand the basic principles involved such as why we do each activity, what is the true purposes involved, what do we need to accomplish, etc. Then these basic principles can be applied to help accomplish the true purposes of working with the young men. So if you are involved with Varsity age boys in an organization other than the Boy Scouts of America, or if you are sponsored by an organization other than the LDS church, this reference will help you in developing a true high adventure teaching and learning program for the youth. Take the basic principles and make them applicable to your goals. The activity is a lot of fun and the youth will absolutely enjoy it, we as leaders need to take that opportunity to use it in strengthening the youth and preparing them for life as adults.

Who is This Book Intended For?

This book is designed for youth and adults in Varsity Scout teams as well as those leaders who may be responsible for organizing a rendezvous event. There are sections of this reference specific to preparing teams for participation including what they can do to prepare, patterns, resources, etc. There are also sections which specifically detail out the planning process required to conduct this event which includes, checklists, forms, handout materials, etc. This guide is therefore meant to be of benefit to anyone who has or will have a connection with rendezvous event.

Welcome to Rendezvous!

This section gives you a thumbnail sketch of what's in a rendezvous and what's involved in it. The first step in getting enthused and ready is to understand what a rendezvous is and what it is not.

What a Rendezvous Is

- A gathering of Varsity Scout Teams to show off their skills and team spirit
- An outdoor camping experience
- A chance to see and live in a similar way as our forefathers did in the early days of America
- An opportunity to learn new skills and to use other skills previously learned
- A High Adventure activity for youth 14-18 years old.
- A team building experience.
- A place to show off your craftsmanship

What a Rendezvous Is Not

- A Camporee.
- An activity for youth under 14 years of age
- Something to just show up, do, and leave
- An activity that can be thrown together quickly
- A place to rest and relax