

# 38<sup>th</sup> Year! Operation On-Target - Sept 21, 2019

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, September 21, 2019**, teams of Scouts with mirrors will be on mountain peaks across the Southland. Your team can join them! Teams are already signed up for Cuyamaca and High Point (Palomar Mountain). If you plan a high peak hike this fall – **plan it for Sept 21!** The only essential equipment is an (easy to make) signal mirror, though compass and ham radio are recommended.

See which peaks are spoken for on this map: <http://www.bsaontarget.org/registration>, and signup online at the page, or by contacting Richard Fowell at: [rafowell@aol.com](mailto:rafowell@aol.com) / (310) 373-7097.

Pick a peak that sees signed-up peaks, and is over 5,000 ft tall unless you want to risk being below the marine layer. Stonewall Peak and Garnet Peak are two good choices. There are many preparation resources on the [www.bsaontarget.org](http://www.bsaontarget.org) website, including this handy preparation outline: <https://tinyurl.com/OnTargetOutline>

You'll want big mirrors for ranges over 15-20 miles. A 12"x12" mirror tile works to 50+ miles. 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.

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>