

40th Annual Operation On-Target (July 18 & Sept 19, 2020)

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 18, 2020**, 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 18!** 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 / (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. There are many preparation resources on the 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. 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.

For assistance with mirror-making, peak selection, or finding a ham radio operator, contact:
Richard Fowell: (310) 373-7097 [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

[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>