

**2018 FINAL  
PLANS**

# **ON-TARGET ARIZONA**



## **ARIZONA AND SOUTHWEST REGION, BSA VARSITY SCOUTS**

Saturday, September 8, 2018

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### **To: Groups Participating in Operation On Target Arizona**

Greetings fellow On Target Fans and participants! We are a week away from the inaugural Operation On-Target Arizona for 2018. The activity you are about to participate in was formerly a Varsity Scouting activity. However, with the dissolution of that program we have decided to offer it up to the community as a whole to keep it alive as a elevating activity for youth groups and others interested in the history of the heliograph. If you have planned right, you are about to have a mountain top or pinnacle experience that you will remember forever. It should be a culmination your planning activities and will guide you and your group through the upcoming year. I commend you for your choice to participate in **Operation On-Target Arizona** this year.

There are about 15 groups participating in this year's activity. This will be an interesting year for this activity. If there is sufficient interest, we will continue with it into the future. Groups will be on Arizona peaks mostly in the Tonto Basin this year. Every Group should have ample opportunity to send and receive signals from several peaks. Please make every effort to be at your appointed location and be ready to go at 9:00 am. For some of you, that means a hike beginning at daybreak! In the past we have had some groups trying to contact Teams that had left early, so plan to stay until noon. Also, don't forget to finish up with a "**reflection**". This is a great opportunity to contemplate on your life (see Proverbs 4:26: Ponder the path of thy feet and let all thy ways be established.), and plans for the future and set goals and directions for the future.

The following items are included in the packet:

1. An Introduction to the Mountain Top Signaling Experience - A page of instructions about Operation On Target Arizona.
2. A letter send to Stakes in the Mesa Area asking for support for Operation On Target Arizona.
3. An **Operation On-Target** after action report form to be filled out and returned following the event. We are keeping a copy of these reports to help in the coming years. Please fill it out and get it back to me at **varsitymike@gmail.com** as soon after the activity as possible. Remember also that On-



Operation On-Target - A Varsity Scout Mountain Top Experience!

Target is a Gold Passport Activity for the Mogollon Mountain Man Rendezvous and you must fill out an After-Action Report and have it turned in by the end of the year to qualify.

4. A list of reflection suggestions and ideas to culminate the activity
5. For past activities, with a more national presence, we have had special VIP letters for Operation On-Target reflections. We do not have that this year and suggest you develop a reflection of your own. Perhaps a letter from a local mentor or hero to your group.
6. A letter to Ham Radio Operators telling them the primary and secondary frequencies for the activity is also included. Please communicate with and send this radio plan to the radio operators as soon as it is possible so they can program their radios and be ready for the activity.
7. And finally, a page to help remind all of us that Safety is of peak importance! We want everyone to have a great time, and return home safe!!

Don't miss the opportunity to teach your group about being "On-Target" in their personal lives. Please do not come down from the mountaintop until you have spent time together with the group to reflect on the how we can all be better in our personal lives. **Operation On-Target** is the perfect opportunity to review our **Duty to God and Country**, our **Duty to Others**, and our **Duty to Ourselves**. Use this time to make sure the group is *On-Target* personally and collectively!

I hope you have a safe, fun, and successful activity this weekend. Be aware of the rules of the wilderness here. The public lands are for everyone's use. Get permission to cross any private lands and to climb any Lookout Towers. If you do your best you will have a wonderful time. Fill out an after-action report and send it to me or mail it to the address above. We will try to make it worth the effort to fill it out. I hope you have bright sunshine all day long!



**Michael D. Heaton**  
**Operation On-Target Arizona Coordinator**

*The coward never starts,  
The weak die on the way,  
Only the strong come through.*

*- Vaughn J. Featherstone*



# OPERATION ON TARGET!

## Introduction to the Mountain Top Signaling Experience

- 1. Use Your Leadership.** If you have been trained, then you probably know this; but here is a reminder on how to use group leadership for Operation On-Target:
  - **Leader** – Train the team leaders on how to plan, prepare for, and carry out Operation On-Target.
  - **Assistant** – Assist and other youth team members prepare for the activity.
  - **Youth Leader** – Train Program Managers on their roles for Operation On-Target
  - **Other Youth Leaders** – Coordinates the group efforts to select a peak, register the group, plan training meetings to be prepared for the activity (See the list below).
  - **Other** – Work with the group to implement other areas of interest while preparing and participating in Operation On-Target; Advancement, Service, High Adventure, Personal Development,
- 2. Know the Date & Time.** Operation On-Target in the Southwest Region is ALWAYS on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of September**. Signaling is from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on that Saturday. The sign-up sheet at [www.OnTargetAZ.com](http://www.OnTargetAZ.com) opens around May 1<sup>st</sup> each year
- 3. Know your resources!** There are multiple resources available to your group for this activity. One is the Operation On-Target Activity Chapter in the old Varsity Program Features Books. You may find this on line on the Mesavarsity.org website (some items have not been incorporated into the new site yet). Group training also presents opportunities to learn on the basics of Operation On-Target. Check these out:
  - [Operation On-Target Program Feature](#)
  - <http://ontarget.mesavarsity.org/>
  - <http://www.bsaontarget.org>
  - Reflection & YIP Letters
- 4. Get Prepared!** Plan on spending time in weekly group meetings making preparations. Construct hand mirrors for each participant to keep and practice. Construct a larger signal mirror that is approximately 24" X 24". The Operation On-Target Program Feature contains instructions on making and aiming hand mirrors and larger mirrors. Practice using the mirrors before heading to the mountain top.
- 5. Pick a peak.** Some teams do this as early as possible so they can go to their favorite place. Just decide where your team wants to go, and then go to the [www.OnTargetAZ.com](http://www.OnTargetAZ.com) web site and sign up as soon as possible. Instructions are simple and peaks are assigned on a first come, first served basis. The OT coordinator will coordinate any special requests with 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 on the web site to see who is signed up and where they will be set up. **Note:** Special arrangements may be necessary depending on where you choose to participate. For instance, Red Mountain is on the SRP-MIC property and special permission is necessary to access the mountain. Also if you plan on using a fire tower at your peak you will need to get permission. 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.
- 6. Know how to tell directions.** There are a couple of options here; compass or GPS. Either way it is important that the participants are comfortable with using these devices or the whole activity could be very difficult. Here are the general steps:
  - Get a map with good coverage of the area that includes your site and the sites you will be signaling (See Maps footnote below).
  - Locate your peak.
  - Locate peaks you will be signaling.
  - Calculate the bearing to the peak you are signaling.
  - Write them down and take them with you on the activity!
  - Learn how to put the bearing into your device so it will give you a direction to signal.
  - It also helps to know how to reverse a bearing so you can tell a Team how to find you! (Hint: -180 degrees)
- 7. Develop your Communications Plan.** Yes, the mirrors are for communication, but it is much more fulfilling to know that the other group actually saw your flash! Operation On-Target has been associated with the Amateur Radio System (HAM) since its inception. HAMs provide a net control and help to confirm that a flash was seen. They also help to find

Teams and coordinate efforts to make contact. Check the web site or final packet for the Radio Plan. Provide it to your HAM radio operator. As a back-up, mobile phones are sometimes useful but are out of service in many remote locations. The phone numbers are listed on the Peak List in the final packet. You should have those numbers available if you don't have a HAM Radio Operator with you.

8. **Prepare A Reflection.** A reflection is a mountaintop ceremony is conducted when signaling is complete. ***This is the most important part of Operation On-Target.*** Don't underestimate this value of this opportunity!! It is an excellent opportunity to discuss the importance of being On-Target in all aspects of our lives. This is an opportunity to have a meaningful devotional or thought, present awards, set goals, and discuss the participants feelings through a reflection. Also, letters from prominent people may be available discussing the importance of keeping their lives On-Target. Obtain these letters prior to the activity and they should be read during the Mountaintop Ceremony. You may wish to augment the letters with letters from parents or close role models close to your team members, perhaps even parents.
9. **Time Capsule.** Some Teams use a Time Capsule to preserve thoughts from each year's On-Target only to be read at the next On-Target reflection or other special occasion. Since the forest service or other land owners frown on leaving these capsules, you should carry it back home and store it until the next event. There are instructions for a time capsule in the On-Target Program Feature; but there are many other options for the capsule. The Team Historian can make the capsule or just write down the experience to preserve the story of the operation. With any activity, it is helpful to have a great story to tell. On-Target is no different. A good story can be shared in a parent's night, group newsletter, or just stored in the time capsule for next year. You might even tell your story on a web site, Facebook page or Blog. Be creative.
10. **REMEMBER that this is a great opportunity for the participants to grow personally.** Make sure everyone is involved in the planning and preparation.
11. **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, visit historic locations, find a Geocache, or even take a swim in a favorite swimming hole.

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

#### Footnotes:

- I. **Maps** - One option is to use a **pilot's aeronautical chart** of the state for your compass work. If you know a pilot he can help you obtain an aeronautical map. If not, a good resource is 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
- II. **Operation On-Target History** - The Boy Scout event, Operation On-Target, has been an annual event since 1981. While there had been similar peak mirror-signaling events before, most notably the 1965 "Signal Festival", it was in 1980 that Doug Brewer, then Great Salt Lake Council, BSA, Varsity Scout Training Chairman, separately conceived of using his 1973 mirror-signaling experience with boys on peaks to promote a new family of Scouting called Varsity Scouting. Thus in 1980 was created "Operation On-Target!" a, multi-council, multi-state activity promoting the new Varsity Scouting and emphasizing goal setting for the boys to "get on Target with the program and in life" and symbolically signaling to the world their having done so. You can read more about the early years of Operation On-Target in the hyperlinked news articles cited by the Wikipedia article, "Operation On-Target", including the 1984 Boy's Life article, "Varsity Scouting On-Target".  
  
Operation On-Target began on the third Saturday on July each year. It is still held at that time in Utah, Idaho, Colorado and some surrounding locations. In 1992 because of the summer heat and monsoon rainstorms, Arizona councils moved the date for Operation On-Target to the third Saturday in September. This move has increased participation tremendously and has made for a more successful signaling experience.
- III. **Awards** – In the past, various award pins and a couple of patches have been developed over the years for Operation On-Target. Some are still available. You could prepare you own awards now since the BSA has stopped promoting the Varsity Scout Program.

Dear Brethren.

On May 11, 2017, the Church announced that it would withdraw from Varsity Scouting and Venture programs sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America, effective December 31, 2017. As youth leaders in the Arizona region, it is critical that we develop and implement activities that are meaningful and purposeful.

Operation On Target has been a bright light of the 14 & 15-year-old Varsity Program since its inception. These types of activities are still encouraged and should be a part of the youth program. Those who have participated know that the purpose for the activity was not simply to climb to a high place and flash mirrors, but to participate in an activity with a multitude of opportunities to speak with the young men and “reflect” on life. Topics such as “Is Your Life On Target”, “Let Your Light Shine”, “High On A Mountain Top”, etc. There is a myriad of discussions and leadership training that can be implemented and be reflected upon!

With this in mind, it has been recommended that Operation On Target be continued as an opportunity for our youth participation. The Mesa North Stake was asked to lead the effort to perpetuate the activity and provide leadership and we are requesting your support of the activity. The activity is a no fee event and it is completely up to each group how they implement it. We request your support by sharing this information with your youth leaders and providing support where possible.

There will be some changes, but the principle and application remain the same. The biggest change is the name and the web site where information is disseminated. Operation On Target Arizona will now be based on the website [www.ontargetaz.net](http://www.ontargetaz.net). The traditional date of the third Saturday of September will remain the same. The activity process is to go to the website, choose a peak, prepare for the signaling, participate in the activity, and then participate in a reflection.

Other changes include removing “Varsity Scouting” from the event. With this in mind, we would like to encourage any and all groups to participate. If your young women want to participate, then they can sign up and choose a location to signal. Others are welcome to participate also.

We hope this can remain a valuable activity for our young men quorums and become such to others who want an uplifting activity and opportunity to participate in a large-scale event.

Group training will be available by request. If you have questions or want training, please go to the web site or send an email to [mikeheaton@ontargetaz.net](mailto:mikeheaton@ontargetaz.net).

Thank you!



# Operation On-Target 2018 After Action Report

(Turn in following the activity on September 15, 2018. We will use the information to form a database for further reference describing the peaks in our system. This is also our record for the Mesa District Mogollon Rendezvous Gold Passport!!)

## General Information:

Group ID. \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_ Youth Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Peak/Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Drive/Hike: \_\_\_\_\_ Car/Truck/FWD: \_\_\_\_\_

Hike-In Dist.: \_\_\_\_\_ Hike Diff. Easy/Moderate/Difficult: \_\_\_\_\_

Trail Marked (Good/Bad): \_\_\_\_\_

Visibility (360°/270°/ 180°/ 90°/ Give Details) : \_\_\_\_\_

Peak Capacity/How Many Teams: \_\_\_\_\_ Recommend for next year? (yes/no): \_\_\_\_\_

Why or why not: \_\_\_\_\_

How is the Cell Phone Coverage?    \_\_\_ Great    \_\_\_ Good    \_\_\_ Intermittent    \_\_\_ Non-Existent

Did you have a Ham Radio Operator?    \_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ No

Detailed instructions on how to get to the actual site for signaling:

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GPS Coordinates: North: \_\_\_\_\_ West: \_\_\_\_\_ Elevation: \_\_\_\_\_

## Use of Mirrors:

On Look-out Tower: \_\_\_\_\_ Ground: \_\_\_\_\_ Both: \_\_\_\_\_

Need Two Setups? \_\_\_\_\_ Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

## Access:

Open/Controlled: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Problems/Comments \_\_\_\_\_

## Activity:

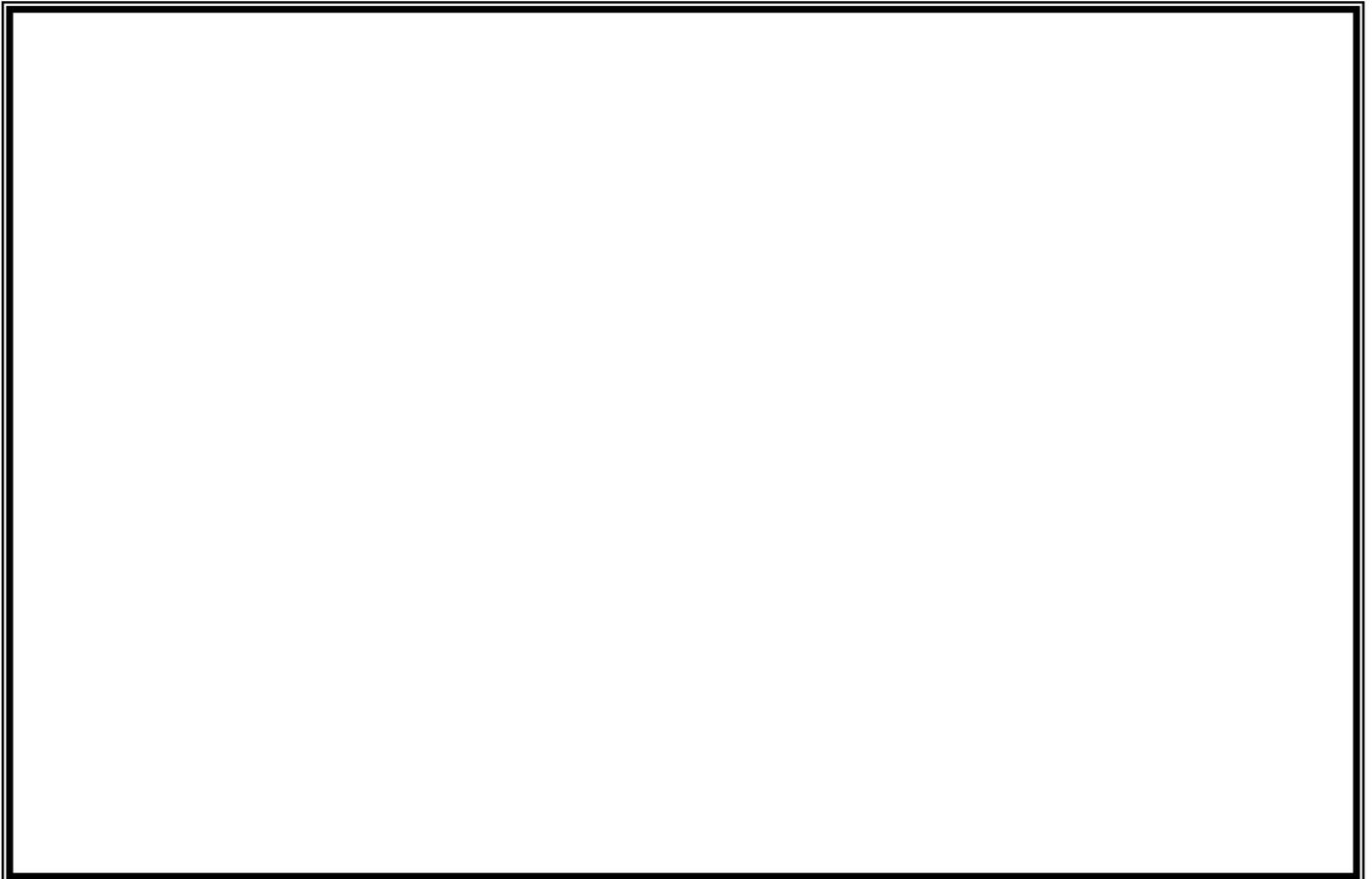
No. of Youth: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Leaders: \_\_\_\_\_

How many times has this unit participated in On-Target (circle one): 1-3    4-5    6-10    Never Miss It!

**Mirror Contacts:**

Location/Peak	Radio Verified	Team Number
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____
11. _____	_____	_____
12. _____	_____	_____
13. _____	_____	_____
14. _____	_____	_____
15. _____	_____	_____
16. _____	_____	_____
17. _____	_____	_____
18. _____	_____	_____
19. _____	_____	_____
20. _____	_____	_____

Draw any maps and/or pictures that would be helpful:



## Reflection Ideas.....

### **THE REST OF "ON TARGET" ...THE MOUNTAIN TOP EXPERIENCE AND COACHES CORNER**

Following the signal flashing and recording the event from your peak, you as the adult leader have the opportunity to create a memorable experience. This is a great opportunity for a reflection on the On Target experience and on life and our purpose in life.

#### **Hold a Reflection and create a memorable experience!**

One idea is that after you have eaten your lunch; take 20 minutes to share your thoughts on the creation of this beautiful earth and of the many blessings that we have been given by our Heavenly Father. Read aloud the creation and what our relationship is in the creation. What we are to know and what we are to accomplish while we live thru our mortal sojourn here. Express your inner feelings along with your love and concern for each member of the group.

- Ask for questions and points to be clarified.
- Ask a group member to offer a prayer of thanksgiving.
- Ask each member to ponder their life and their goals.
- Give each youth the letter that you received from his parents, that expresses, their love and esteem for them and how much they mean to their family, how they are an important part of their family and am willing to help out.
- After a few minutes of contemplating, have the group share their feelings with each other. Conclude with a word of prayer and have a safe trip home.

#### **Another thought....**

On-Target is an excellent activity that has many purposes but its main purpose is to increase a young man's commitment in his duty to God. This is primarily accomplished through the Mountaintop Ceremony following the signaling. The signaling is a discovery experience that is used in drawing parallels to other subjects. The signaling will be fun, but the real meaningful portion will be the reflection conducted by the Team Coach during the Mountaintop Ceremony.

The Mountaintop Ceremony could include the following:

1. Song and prayer
2. Present the On-Target Pin for each participant
3. Other advancement including merit badges
4. Read letters from famous person and religious leader
5. Prepare time capsule memorabilia
6. Reflection
7. Coach's corner
8. Closing prayer

It is critical that the Coach be prepared to conduct an effective reflection. Attached, you will find various discussion points that can be used during the reflection. However, the Coach needs to be constantly observing the activities and how they can be discussed in the reflection. The Coach needs to know this information, but the reflection should not be a sermon by the Coach. Make every attempt to draw out these points from the young men. It is not necessary that they bring out every point. It is important that the parallels that are drawn are meaningful to them and that they feel the Spirit. **FOCUS ON WHAT THEY FEEL!**

## Reflection Ideas.....

Possible questions you can ask that will draw out their feelings are:

1. Did you have fun? Why?
2. Was it difficult to aim the mirror? When was it most difficult? Was there anything that you did to help you aim the mirror?
3. How did you feel when you saw the first signal from another peak?
4. If a hike was involved, ask them about the difficulty of the hike? How did they feel?
5. How do you feel being on top of this mountain? Do you remember how the Lord uses mountains with His people in the scriptures? Discuss.
6. What other aspects of this activity can you relate to the scriptures? (Light, signaling, etc.)
7. What was the purpose of this activity?
8. Any other questions that you feel are appropriate. If you are prayerful and prepared, you will be lead and guided to ask the right questions.

If the Coach is prepared, is observant of the activities of the weekend and conducts an effective reflection, the young men, and the Coach, will come closer to God.

### **Spiritual Parallels to Gospel Principals Taught By Operation On-Target**

1. Mountains - Holy Places of God
  - a. I Nephi 11:1 - Nephi is caught away in spirit to a high mountain.
  - b. I Nephi 17:7 - Nephi is commanded to get into mountain to speak with Lord.
  - c. I Nephi 18:3 - Nephi goes into mountains often to pray.
  - d. Ether 3 & 4 - The Brother of Jared speaks with the Lord upon a mountain.
  - e. D & C 17:1 - Urim and Thumim given to Brother of Jared on mountain.
  - f. Moses 1:1 - Moses is caught up into mountain.
  - g. Moses 1:1-2, 42 - God speaks to Moses on mountain.
  - h. Mountains are physically closer to where God dwells, very clean places, secluded places, take great effort to reach.
  - i. Temples today are called the Mountain of the Lord.
2. Light - Light is what mirrors reflect to give signal.
  - a. 3 Nephi 12:16 - Let your light so shine... see your good works.
  - b. D & C 86:11 - The Lord's servants to be light unto Gentiles
  - c. D & C 103:9 - Saints sent to be Light unto the world
  - d. I Nephi 17:3 - The Lord will be your Light in the wilderness.
  - e. Light is a symbol of knowledge, truth and righteousness.
  - f. Area covered by mirror flash is large and has tremendous range.
  - g. Brilliance of mirror flash – Brilliance of God's personal Being. Relate to Joseph Smith's first vision and his description of God.
3. Ensign unto the Nations – Flag or banner (Example to the world)
  - a. 2 Nephi 11:12 - The Lord will lift up an Ensign to the Nations.
  - b. D & C 64:42 - Zion to be an Ensign unto people.
  - c. Hymn - High on the Mountain Top (See lyrics)
4. Visual and audio signaling. Prayer

## Reflection Ideas.....

- a. The Team's outgoing signal is like a prayer to God. The return signal is like God answering our prayers.
  - b. In order for the communication to be effective, the sender must be aimed properly (focused). In order to see the signal, the Team must be looking in that direction to see the light. Sometimes we are looking in a different direction and miss the signal (or answer to prayer). Sometimes we can't see the signal because the haze covers it.
5. Climb to Highest Peak    Goal Attainment
  6. Team Work, Priesthood brotherhood, Cooperative effort
  7. "On-Target"... Obedience to the Lord's commandments allows us to be in tune with the prompting of our Heavenly Father. We are in line with the Lord's desires and programs.
  8. Using a mirror to reflect some of the sun's light is symbolic of our using the Priesthood to reflect God's power to do well in the world.
  9. The larger the mirror, the further the signal can be seen. The stronger our testimonies are, the more people we can influence for good.

### **"Let Your Light Shine"**

At a spectacular lookout point at Beaver Varsity Scout High Adventure Base, in Central Utah, an older Scout Leader recalled to his boys the following account.

"I remember as a boy scout, in 1926, climbing high above tree-line to the top of that distant peak right there, Mt. Delano, in a similar Operation, much like Operation "On-Target!" It was our nation's Sesqui-Centennial Celebration of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence, then 150 years ago!"

"Someone conceived of the idea of symbolically spanning the message of independence across our great land by assigning groups (mostly Boy Scout Troops I suppose) to peaks and vantage points in a long line all across the United States from Boston to Los Angeles. Then after dark, at an appointed time, a bonfire would be started in Boston and as soon as it was seen by the next troop, they'd light theirs, and so on."

"I remember carrying my share, a 4 foot length of telephone pole to the top. Why, we made our fire so big that the boys on Timpanogas saw ours so brightly that they lit theirs before those on Mount Nebo in between even got theirs started!"

"I've often thought about that. If we let our light shine so brightly, perhaps our good example will make up for others who maybe are a little slow of doing what they ought to be doing."

## Reflection Ideas.....

### **“Rise Above the Rest”**

The story is told of King Louis XIV’s son, the prince, who was kidnapped by a band of evil revolutionists. They took the lad and over many months exposed him to every conceivable vice. They tempted him with sumptuous, rich foods and with wine, and liquor. Their language was filthy and profane. They told him dirty stories to pollute his young mind. They tempted him by making women of loose moral character available for his every desire. There was nothing that the mind of man can conceive, which these men were no prepared to indulge him.

Many months passed, he never compromised one standard. They were baffled and astonished. They said, “Why? Why have you not taken advantage of all these luxuries, food, liquor, loose women, etc?” He stood before them fair and tall, head erect and replied; “I cannot do what you ask, for I was born to be a king.”

You young men were born to be kings and gods. Always rise above the rest; walk in high places stand on holy ground and walk uprightly before the Lord.

**You may have other ideas and personal experiences. Use them to make you own Mountaintop Experience more meaningful!!!**

# Arizona & Southwest Region

## ON-TARGET ARIZONA!

### 2018 Radio Plan

**To Operation On-Target Amateur Radio Operators:**

Thank you for accepting the opportunity to help this group participate in the annual On Target activity, where they will attempt to flash as many other mountaintops as they can. Your help can be crucial to the group having success in this event.

**Your Job**

Your job will be to help them confirm the flashes to and from the other mountain peaks. You will help them talk to other radio operators on those peaks as the boys attempt to direct the sun's rays reflecting from their mirrors to those peaks. However, radio traffic may be heavy so don't let the Team stand around waiting for radio contact. They should continue to signal known peak locations from the list attempting to make contact!!

Wide area repeaters will be used to help provide the communications. The repeaters will help get the radio operators together. Then they will finish the confirmation talk on a simplex channel.

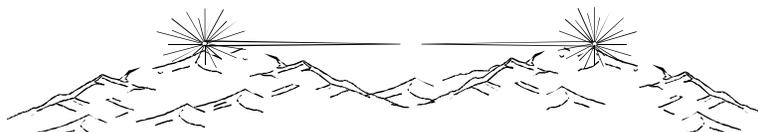
The Rim Link repeaters will be used again this year for the Tonto Basin. Mt. Ord may also be linked to Flagstaff, Pinal and Greens Peak. When we talk on one of those repeaters, the other linked repeaters can hear it. Since the Mt. Ord repeater will be the heaviest used repeater, we have cleared its use with the ARA. We thank them for their graciousness!! Also due to the heavy use the Mt Ord repeater at **146.920 (+162.2PL)** MHz will have a net control to coordinate traffic. Please defer to net control when using this repeater. If there are groups in other areas of the state, and near the borders with New Mexico and California the other linked systems may be used. These are open systems and will not be dedicated to our use since we do not have the density of groups on mountain peaks in these areas. So please be courteous and follow good repeater etiquette when using these repeaters. [www.AZRepeaters.net](http://www.AZRepeaters.net) has a good site on repeater etiquette for your reference.

The **Tonto Basin net** will be held on the **Mt. Ord repeater, 146.920 + 162.2PL**. Groups in the Phoenix area may want to use the **Bishops Storehouse repeater on 146.720 -100PL**, but there will be fewer groups this year, and the Ord repeater may be the best option.

The Net Control on the Phoenix net will be Gary Goetz, K7WZX. Other help on the net may be Chuck and Sue Rogers, W7CBR and K7SKH.

**The Simplex Frequencies**

Simplex Frequencies For Coordination Between Peaks	
Frequency	Notes
146.40	
146.42	
146.44	
146.46	
146.48	
146.50	
146.52	National Simplex Calling Frequency (Don't Use for On Target)
146.54	Assigned to Mt. Ord #1
146.56	Historically Busy – Don't use for On Target
146.58	



# Arizona & Southwest Region

## ON-TARGET ARIZONA!

### 2018 Radio Plan

147.40	
147.42	
147.44	
147.46	
147.48	
147.50	
147.52	
147.54	Assigned to Mt. Ord #2
147.56	

#### The Repeaters

ARA Rim Link Repeaters (Net Control)				
Frequency	Location	Off-Set	PL-Tone	Notes
<b>146.920</b>	<b>Mt Ord</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>162.2</b>	<b>Net Control – Tonto Basin Hailing Frequency</b>
<b>146.720</b>	<b>Bishops Storehouse</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>Phoenix Area Hailing Frequency</b>
EAARS Repeaters				
145.21	Jacks Peak	-	141.3	EAARS (Lordsburg & Silver City)
145.27	South Mt.	-	141.3	EAARS (Alpine, AZ)
145.41	Pinal Peak	-	141.3	EAARS*** (Globe, AZ)
147.08	Mule Mtn.	+	141.3	EAARS (Bisbee, AZ)
147.16	Mt Lemmon	+	141.3	EAARS (Tucson, AZ)
146.94	Ft. Thomas	-	141.3	
147.28	Guthrie Peak	+	141.3	EAARS (Greenlee Co., AZ)
147.06	Little Florida Mt.	+	141.3	EAARS (Deming, NM)
146.70	Greens Peak	-	141.3	EAARS (Springerville, AZ)
145.47	Caballo Mtn.	-	141.3	EAARS (Truth or Consequences, NM)
145.35	West Peak	-	141.3	EAARS (Mt. Graham)
146.86	Heliograph Pk	-	141.3	EAARS (Mt. Graham)
CALZONA Repeaters				
146.68	Smith Peak	-	162.2	Calzona (Aquila, AZ)
146.94	White Tanks	-	162.2	Calzona*** (West of Phx., AZ)
147.12	Black Mtn.	+	103.5	ECRA (Near Glamis, CA)
147.24	Monument Pk.	+	103.5	ECRA (Laguna Mts., CA)

\*\*\* These repeaters have access into parts of Maricopa County. If you are on a peak that will reach out of Maricopa County, use these frequencies.



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#### The Dedicated Simplex Frequencies

As in the past, we have assigned a dedicated simplex frequency to the busiest locations: Mt. Ord. - Mt. Ord will use 146.54 and 147.54 as their communications frequency. It is not likely that it will be necessary to assign more than that this year. Those peaks who would like to contact Mt. Ord may find them on that frequency and should not have to call on the repeater asking for them.

#### Tactical Call Signs

Tactical call signs are used for Public Service events such as bike rides and marathons. They are also sometimes used on Emergency nets. In our case, they help to identify the location of the operator. Each operator will use his mountain peak name as his Tactical call sign. Thus we will hear Mt. Ord (or just Ord), Mt. Peeley, Colcord, Aztec, etc. **These Tactical call signs will be used in lieu of your FCC assigned call sign for all initial calls and exchanges of traffic. You terminate an exchange with your Tactical call sign plus your FCC assigned call sign, as shown in this example: "Diamond Point... We are done for the day... AC7R Clear." Your FCC call sign at the end indicates "I'm done talking."**

#### What to Bring:

You will need at least one radio. A mobile radio can be used if you can get close to the boys with your car or haul the equipment and a battery to where the boys are. The power of the mobile is not usually necessary; however, since we are on mountain tops and our handheld radios (HTs) usually do just fine. Some like to bring two HTs; one to talk to the repeater and one for Simplex operation.

Program the repeater (+ PL) and Simplex frequencies into the memory channels of your radios before the event, so that you can quickly switch to the assigned frequencies. Practice switching from the Memory to the VFO mode of your radios.

#### Other items to bring:

2nd charged battery for each radio

Alkaline pack with fresh batteries for each radio (No one likes to run out of power)

Peak list printed from the On Target website ([www.ontargetaz.net](http://www.ontargetaz.net))

Any special equipment needs, i.e. filter, yagi antenna

#### When does it happen?

The operational time is from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Saturday, **September 15, 2018**. We would like to have a quick check-in on Friday the 14th at 8:30 PM on the Mt. Ord linked repeaters to check out our equipment. We realize not everyone will be able to check in at this time, as some units will be camping overnight in places that may not be able to hit the repeater. Please try from wherever you are so we can work out procedures. On Saturday morning we would like to establish communications with everyone on the repeater frequencies starting around 8:30 a.m. to allow time to work out any glitches that may arise and to make sure our radios are operable.

#### Proper repeater etiquette

The Net Control Operator (NCO) controls the operation of the net. This is a directed net, meaning that you don't transmit without permission. When you want to check in or you are called by NCO, respond by using your tactical callsign and proceed with your exchange, completing with your FCC callsign.

When the NCO calls a station and while talking to him, all other stations should standby. When the NCO has



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completed with this station, he will call for any more check-ins. Between calls, if you have important information to share with the NCO, you call by saying, "Info".

Typical etiquette is to wait for an opening to insert your desire to call NCO and ask for an assignment to a new simplex frequency. Just remember a Scout is Courteous and this includes on the radio.

We are "borrowing" these repeaters from the ARA and need to be mindful that any emergency traffic will take priority at any time. We usually get a question or two from other radio operators who want to know what is going on. NCO typically responds to these questions from outside persons.

#### Repeater example:

NCO: On Target Net Control, K7WZX [NCO is now available to take new calls]  
Operator 1: "Greens Peak" [net control will wait a little bit for any other stations]  
Operator 2: "Milk Ranch"  
NCO: "Greens Peak - Net Control - Go ahead"  
Operator 1: Would like to contact Aztec Peak  
NCO: "Aztec currently on 146.42"  
Operator 1: "146.42, KD7QVM" [Operator 1 gave his call sign, indicating he is done. Note that Operator 2 is still waiting]  
NCO: "Milk Ranch - Net Control - Go ahead"  
Operator 2: "Milk Ranch would like to contact Peeley"  
NCO: "Peeley from Net Control" [all wait for Peeley to respond]  
Operator 3: "Peeley"  
NCO: "Milk Ranch and Peeley, use 146.46"  
Operator 2: "KE7MMP" [Milk Ranch understood, and will comply]  
Operator 3: "Peeley, please say again frequency" [Peeley didn't hear the frequency - what to do if you didn't hear]  
NCO: "Peeley, use 1 4 6 <decimal> 4 6 " [NCO reads back more slowly as required]  
Operator 3: "N7RPL" [Peeley got it this time, end of communication]  
NCO: "Net Control - K7WZX" [NCO ready for more check-ins / call now!]

#### The Process of Confirming a Flash

As we have done in years past, for this activity we will begin on a common "hailing" frequency to establish our initial contacts with the other mountaintop ham operators and their associated Varsity Teams. The Net control operator on the Mt. Ord repeater will monitor the repeater frequency to control the net. His responsibility will be to coordinate the contacts, try to keep order to our communication, and relay any information between stations that may not be in range to make contact directly. Remember to use your Tactical callsign as described above.

Once you have established radio contact with another operator on the repeater and want to try to establish mirror contact, you will be directed to one of the simplex frequencies shown above.

After you have confirmed the mirror flash with the other mountain peak, then QSY back to the repeater frequency for your next radio contact. Then repeat the process again.



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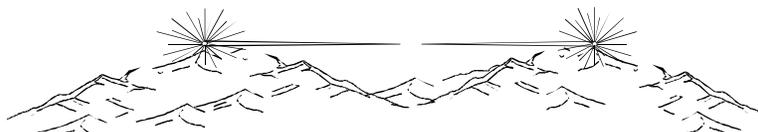
#### Mobile Phones

We have asked for all the groups to provide a cell phone numbers for phones they will have on the peak. Cell coverage is getting better, but is still questionable in many locations. That said, groups are encouraged to call each other on the cell phones. We suggest that each group have a couple of cell phones to maximize their ability to communicate. We prefer using HAM Radios, but should make use of the phones to enhance communication.

#### OTHER NOTES AND TIPS

1. Mt. Ord, being in the middle of the Tonto Basin, is always a very busy mountaintop. It is recommended that at least 2 radio operators be at this site to handle all of the communications and flash coordination. One could at least monitor the net frequency while the other is on the assigned simplex.
2. As you can see from the Peak list, there are several groups that do not have a ham radio operator. If you know of anyone that would be willing to participate, please call or email Mike Heaton, Gary Hinton, or Chuck Rogers. Their contact information is below.
3. Every group has a different skill level in the use of the mirrors. So, the radio coordination will be extremely important, especially for some of the longer distances. Your help is appreciated to help each team make as many successful contacts as possible.
4. *Don't forget that the repeater and simplex frequencies are open to the ham community and are NOT dedicated to our exclusive use. Please be kind and considerate to other traffic, especially on the repeaters.*
5. When using the Mt. Ord repeater or one of the other linked repeaters, key up for 1-2 seconds before talking, so that those at the far end of the link will hear all that you say.
6. When the boys are finished flashing, let NCO know that your peak is going 'Off the Air.' Or, if you will be off the air for a short period, advise NCO that you will be gone for a short period. Then be sure to check back in when you are back.
7. Involve the boys by letting them handle the radio as well. You are the control operator, but you can let them do the speaking. There may be a future ham radio operator in the team.
8. This is an annual event. We really appreciate your participation and hope that you will be available next year. This is a great activity and is getting bigger and better every year, thanks to you.

Mike Heaton KD7YIE OT Coordinator 480-969-5318 <a href="mailto:mikeheaton@cox.net">mikeheaton@cox.net</a>	Richard Latimer W7RTL OT-HAM DPA 480-985-2682 <a href="mailto:rlatimer60@yahoo.com">rlatimer60@yahoo.com</a>	Chuck Rogers W7CBR Sue Rogers K7SKH OT Net Control (NCO) 602-339-0109 <a href="mailto:rogers_charles@hotmail.com">rogers_charles@hotmail.com</a>
	Gary Hinton AC7R OT-HAM DPA 480-833-7173 <a href="mailto:ghinton1@cox.net">ghinton1@cox.net</a>	



# Arizona & Southwest Region

## OPERATION ON-TARGET ARIZONA

### Safety

#### Some Thoughts on Safety:

- **First**, submit let people know where what your plan is and where you plan to be. It is important that folks at home know this information incase an emergency arises. This is a must for all overnight activities!!
- **Location Awareness** - While on the mountain peak, tower, or mountain edge, each adult leader, and each participant must assume responsibility for monitoring potentially dangerous environmental conditions that may include loose, crumbly rock; poisonous plants; wildlife; and inclement weather. Use the buddy system to monitor concerns such as dehydration, hypothermia, and an unusually high degree of fear or apprehension. The leaders are also responsible for ensuring that the group leaves no trace of its presence at the site.
- **Prepare your group!!** Make sure each group member knows, understands, and respects the rules and procedures for safe activities on mountain peaks and other potential dangerous locations. All participants should respect and follow all instructions and rules of the area; especially in areas with special jurisdiction (like the forest service). Any applicable rules should be presented and learned prior to the outing and should be reviewed for all participants before leaving home. When participants know the reasons for rules and procedures, they are more likely to follow them.
- **Lightening** - Aside from the usual safety precautions of an outing, be especially conscious of thunderstorms.

**Flash/Bang.** By referencing the time in seconds from seeing the lightning (the FLASH, or "F") to hearing the accompanying thunder (the BANG, or "B"), we can range lightning's distance. An "F" to "B" of five seconds equals lightning distance being one mile away. An "F" to "B" of ten seconds = two miles; an "F" to "B" of twenty = four miles; an "F" to "B" of thirty = six miles; and so on.

Taking immediate defensive actions is recommended when lightning is indicated within 6-8 miles. The next strike could be close enough to be an immediate and severe threat.

**Standard Lightning Defenses.** A substantial building (not a tent or Adirondack) or fully enclosed metal vehicles are the recommended shelters. However, any lightning in remote terrain inherently creates dangerous conditions.

**Avoid:** Avoid water. Avoid all metallic objects. Avoid the high ground. Avoid solitary tall trees. Avoid close contact with others - spread out 15-20 ft. apart. Avoid contact with dissimilar objects (water & land; boat & land; rock & ground; tree & ground). Avoid open spaces.

**Seek:** Seek clumps of shrubs or trees of uniform height. Seek ditches, trenches or the low ground. Seek a low, crouching position with feet together with hands on ears to minimize acoustic shock from thunder.

**Keep:** Keep a high level of safety awareness for thirty minutes after the last observed lightning or thunder.

## Operation On Target -- Peak Assignment List

LOCATION	LEADER1	LEADER2	CELL	RADIO OP.	CALL SIGN
SPONSOR	EMAIL	EMAIL	PHONE	HAM EMAIL	PHONE
"A" Mountain (Tempe)	CJ Eagar	SterlingStahle			
Ridge Ward	cjeagar@gmail.com	stahlesterling@gmail.com	4803536984		
Woods Canyon Lake Road	Nathan Thompson	WilliamBradshaw		Nathan Thompson	KC7MMI
Evergreen Ward		williambradshaw@yahoo.com			
Aztec Peak	James Coleman	SwenGunderson			
Crew 54	james.a.coleman@gmail.com	Swenbrian@gmail.com	14805599485		
Browns Peak (Four Peaks)	Ben Taylor	BenTaylor		BEN TAYLOR	K17ZLF
Thayer Park Ward	taylorben1@gmail.com	taylorben1@gmail.com	4804353425		
Crook Trail Point	Adam Cooley	LennardFuller		Dennis Schaub	KG7NSQ
Dobson Ward	adamcooley@gmail.com	sparhk@gmail.com			
Diamond Point	Gary Jones	JesseAshcroft			
Miller Ward Troop 452	Garyj608@cox.net	Jesse.ashcroft@hotmail.com	480-964-0291		
Goldmine Mountain	David Bear	Bill Wright		DAVID W WALTER	N3BFO
Troop 955	dwbear75@gmail.com	bill.wright@asu.edu	4803632971		
Hi View Point on the Mogollon Rim	Brian Guatemala	OrlandoEscobar			
Liahona 4th	Patrickalanfunk@gmail.com	orlandoescobar22@yahoo.com	480-202-8322		
Humbolt Mountain LOT 1	Jay Leavitt	DanSafsten			
454 Fairfield Ward, Mesa North Stake	Jay.leavitt@yahoo.com	Kympmies@yahoo.com	480 898-7392		
Mcfadden Peak Lookout Tower	Solomon Sampson	TravisMorris			
LDS - Fremont Hill	solomonsampson@gmail.com	tmremodelingltd@gmail.com	6023915995		
Mt. Ord	Bryson Crump	RobertPhippen		NORRIS D PHELPS	KE7ZZJ
Wayne Lines	civic_si93_@hotmail.com	robert.phippen@gmail.com	4802986176		
Mt. Ord	Bryson Crump	RobertPhippen		NORRIS D PHELPS	KE7ZZJ
Wayne Lines	civic_si93_@hotmail.com	robert.phippen@gmail.com	4802986176		
Myrtle Point	Mike Heaton	SpencerHamilton		Michael Heaton	KD7YIE
Miller Ward TQ	mikeheaton@cox.net	mikeheaton@cox.net	480-969-5318		
Pinal Peak	Nathan Thompson	WilliamBradshaw			
Evergreen Ward		williambradshaw@yahoo.com			
Promontory Butte South	Richard Green	JarodNorton			
Harris Park Ward	richardg@sgmanagement.com	jlnorton1234@gmail.com	602-206-4199		
Thomas Road Overpass	Zach Manis	ShaunJones			
Monument Ward	zackmanis@gmail.com	sjones3188@gmail.com	480-772-8627		
Woods Canyon Lake Road - 5	Nathan Thompson	WilliamBradshaw			
Evergreen Ward		williambradshaw@yahoo.com			

## Operation On Target -- Peak Contact Checklist

X	Peak	Unit	Leader1	Cell	HAM	Callsign
	"A" Mountain (Tempe)		CJ Eagar			
	Woods Canyon Lake Road		Nathan Thompson		Nathan Thompson	KC7MMI
	Aztec Peak		James Coleman			
	Browns Peak (Four Peaks)		Ben Taylor		BEN TAYLOR	KI7ZLF
	Crook Trail Point		Adam Cooley		Dennis Schaub	KG7NSQ
	Diamond Point		Gary Jones			
	Goldmine Mountain		David Bear		DAVID W WALTER	N3BFO
	Hi View Point on the Mogollon Rim		Brian Guatamala			
	Humbolt Mountain LOT 1		Jay Leavitt			
	Mcfadden Peak Lookout Tower		Solomon Sampson			
	Mt. Ord		Bryson Crump		NORRIS D PHELPS	KE7ZZJ
	Mt. Ord		Bryson Crump		NORRIS D PHELPS	KE7ZZJ
	Myrtle Point		Mike Heaton		Michael Heaton	KD7YIE
	Pinal Peak		Nathan Thompson			
	Promontory Butte South		Richard Green			
	Thomas Road Overpass		Zach Manis			
	Woods Canyon Lake Road - 5		Nathan Thompson			