



AREA 2 VENTURING

Your source of all Venturing news!

New Area 2 Venturing President

Nick Meier is the new 2016-2017 Central Region Venturing Area 2 President.

Nick is a member of Crew 29 out of the Great Lakes FSC and has been involved with Scouting since Cub Scouts. For the past 7 years he's been a member of Troop 755 out of Northville, MI. Nick received his Eagle Scout in 2011 and has stayed active since then. He is mostly active in the OA where he is the Noquet Lodge Chief. As well, he is in charge of planning Sash 'n Bash 2, a giant camporee with over 5,000 people. Outside of leadership roles he has been backpacking in the Grand Tetons and scuba diving in the Keys with his troop.



Nick lives in Plymouth, MI and attends the University of Michigan pursuing a double major in Political Science and International Studies. In this term, Nick hopes to advance the ranks of the Area 2 Venturing program through recruitment programs and increased communication. His biggest goal is to create a Southern Shores VOA. Nick looks forward to the challenges and fun he'll have with the rest of the Area 2 officers.

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Meet the Vice Presidents



Gordon is currently attending Grand Blanc High School as a Sophomore-Junior. He is from the Rivers North District out of the Water and Woods Field Service Council. Gordon has been a part of scouting for 10 years. As a Webelos 2 he received his Arrow of Light and then crossed over to Boy Scouts. He joined Troop 176 out of Grand Blanc, Michigan. After going to many campouts and earning many Merit Badges he heard about something called Venturing. That prompted the start up of Crew 176. That same year he joined the VOA of Water and Woods. He earned the Silver Award in 2014 and completed Kodiak with his Venturing Crew in Colorado. During 2014 and 2015 Gordon staffed NYLT as a Troop Guide. In 2015 he earned his Eagle, took on the position of V.P. of Communications for the Water and Woods FSC VOA, and got elected in as the President of his Venturing Crew. He enjoys promoting Venturing and getting more people involved because he truly believes Venturing is the best program out there.

Brooke has been involved in the Venturing program for the past five years. She is a member of Crew 2146 out of Hudsonville, MI. Within Crew 2146, she has held the positions of President, Vice President-Program, Treasurer, and Secretary. She was also granted the opportunity to help plan and lead treks to Canada and Philmont Scout Ranch with her Crew. During the 2014-2015 term Brooke served as the Vice President-Administration for the President Ford Field Service Council VOA. At the end of her term, she was honored with the Venturing Leadership Award for her service in the President Ford Field Service Council. Brooke has also been on staff for the following leadership and advancement trainings: NYLT, Kodiak, ILSC, Mentoring, and Time Management. Brooke states that the amazing opportunities and skills she has gained through Venturing have been extremely influential inside and out of Scouting. By being a part of the Area 2 VOA, she wants to meet and encourage more youth to seek out all the opportunities Venturing has to offer.



David Fountain is the 2016-2017 Central Region Area 2 Venturing Vice President of Communications. David is a member of Venturing Crew 357 and Ship 109. In the past, David has served as the Purser of Ship 218 and Vice President of Communications at Water and Woods VOA.

David is an Eagle Scout with nine Palms, and has earned the Venturing Outdoor Bronze, and Sea Scout Ordinary. Since joining Scouting, David has completed National Youth Leadership Training, National Leadership Seminar, Red Cross Lifeguard Training, Wilderness Survival Training.

During the summer of 2016, David will serve as the Patrol Leader for Mackinac Island Service Troop. David will also be attend NEXT at Indiana University, PRISM at Summit High Adventure base. David go to school at St. Clair High School and plans on attending Purdue University where he is going to majoring in forensic science.



Venturing Leadership Awards



On May 19th, Great Lakes Field Service Council held their annual dinner at the Detroit Yacht Club. While there five Venturing Leadership Awards (VLAs) were presented. VLAs are given to those members who serve on Venturing Officers' Associations and put in outstanding work towards helping advance the Venturing program.

Area 2 Venturing President Jacob Hardy and Vice President of Communications Nick Meier were awarded the Central Region Area 2 VLAs for their service to the lower peninsula of Michigan. This past year the two have helped to advance the program through recruitment efforts and new forms of social media. They helped start the Great Lakes FSC Venturing Officers' Association as well. They were presented their awards by Area 2 Advisor Jeff Gerald (left) and Central Region Area Director Matt Thornton (right).

Great Lakes VOA President Tommy Dye along with his advisor Connie Knie are pictured above with their Council Venturing Leadership Awards. Vice President of Administration Cat Hardy also received a VLA. Together have helped to start up a fantastic program for the Great Lakes FSC. Tommy is the first president of the Great Lakes VOA and will continue his extended term until next spring.

**Interested in getting involved with your VOA but not sure how?
Feel free to reach out to Nick Meier at nmeier21@gmail.com to
learn more about your local venturing program.**

New Advisors



The role of Area 2 Venturing Advisor is finally being passed off after nearly a decade. Jeff Gerald, on the left, has served Area 2 for the past 10 years guiding dozens of youth and helping to significantly grow the amount of Venturers in the state of Michigan. He's now passing on the job to Elizabeth Wisman, past Area 2 President and Central Region President, on the right.

Elizabeth, or Lizzie for short, has served in a number of positions and was most recently the Associate Advisor for Communications. After years

of helping the VOA she is ready to take on a new job with a bigger role. She says she's "looking forward to all the paperwork" that comes with the new responsibilities. As advisor she will help to oversee the development of the Venturing Officers' Association. This includes helping the Area 2 president achieve his/her goals. Lizzie's experience from serving on the VOA as a youth will be invaluable.

The transition process will take a couple years as Jeff teaches Lizzie the in's and out's of the job. From managing the youth to working with the Michigan Crossroads Council, it is no easy task. As well, Jeff has no inclination of leaving the Venturing program.

Jeff Gerald will serve as the next Central Region Venturing Advisor. He is very excited for the opportunity to engage more youth and help bring about a greater program.

He has some big shoes to fill as the outgoing Central Region Venturing Advisor, Kris Zabrowsky, is the new National Venturing Advisor. Despite this, Jeff has big plans to help expand the Venturing Program. You can catch Jeff at the Central Region Venturing Officers Orientation at his first event as the new advisor.



Great Lakes Rendezvous

Get ready for a weekend full of fun! The 2016 Rendezvous is happening this September 23-25th and you won't want to miss it! Are you a ninja warrior? How fast can you climb a rope wall? Can you scale a massive obstacle course? The Ultimate Scout Challenge is coming soon and the Area 2 VOA is going to be staffing it! Come visit your officers and leaders from across the state! Can you beat the Area 2 President?



AREA 2 NEWSLETTER

Your source of all venturing news!
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Meet the Editor

Hello!,

My name is Nick Meier and this is my last issue of the Area 2 Newsletter! It's been a pleasure having the opportunity to serve this past year and I loved every minute of it. I'm super excited for this next year as the Area 2 President and you should be too!

We have a lot of big things happening! We are going to create a VOA in Southern Shores so if you are interested in taking a leadership position there, feel free to reach out to me at nmeier21@gmail.com to get involved. We'll be staffing the Rendezvous so you'll get the opportunity to meet the VOA and challenge us to some pretty extreme obstacle courses. Our Venturing Conference this year is going to be HUGE and will feature, spoiler alert, the National President again.

This next year is going to be a ton of fun and you should be excited. If you want to get involved feel free to follow us and reach out to me. Many hands make light work.

Yours in Venturing,
Nick Meier
Area 2 VP of Communications

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