



Hello everyone!

It's officially February and Area 3 has a ton of news to share with everyone. Read on to learn more about our upcoming Area 3 Game Show Event, VOA applications, our recap on the Area 3 Conference, and more!



The Area 3 Presents: A Game Show Weekend!

Area 3 is proud to announce that we will be holding our first ever Game Show Weekend on April 21-22nd, 2017!

Are you a Venturer, Sea Scout, Explorer, or Boy Scout? Yes? Then it's game time! Area 3 promises a weekend of fun and games -

literally! Bring a team and be surprised with the events of the weekend. (We will tell you that an Amazing Race will take place in Springfield!)

Sign up with a team of 3-

6 people, including someone 21 or over. Or, sign up by yourself and get placed in a team! Plus, everyone who signs up gets a patch. Arrive Friday night 7-8

for games (up to 10:30 if not), or Saturday at 7:15. Ends 5pm Saturday. [Register here!](#)

Officer Applications - Grab Yours Now!

Are you that person who just can't get enough Venturing? Area, Region, and National Venturing Officers' Association (VOA) applications are out! If you have any questions about Area VOA responsibilities, contact an Area 3 officer or advisor. We would love to talk to you!

As a VOA Officer, you will have privilege and responsibility of serving the Venturing community. You will work with a team of youth officers and adult advisors to suggest programmatic changes, lead events, and host trainings for the Venturing and Scouting community. As an officer, you have the opportunity to give back to the program and leave a mark on future generations of Venturers.

Deadlines are coming up:

National: February 28, 2017

Region: March 15, 2017

Area: March 31, 2017

[Find the applications here!](#)

So, What's a CSVE Anyway?

CSVE stands for Council Standards of Venturing Excellence! A CSVE is an award created to recognize Councils who are killing the game - running outstanding programs or going above and beyond to make Venturing as great as it can be! Another great thing about a CSVE is that it allows your council to receive a personalized Venturing program. Make sure to submit the CSVE form by February 15th to be eligible for the award. We ask councils to turn in the CSVE form even if they don't qualify for the award! Click here for your CSVE form:

<http://venturing.org/csve.html>



The Central Region Sea Scout Rendezvous

Do you love the water, but wish you knew more about sailing? Then come check out the Sea Scout Rendezvous on May 20 from 7 am to 7 pm! It will be at Camp Illinek in Springfield, IL and is open to Venturers, Sea Scouts and older scouts! More information to come, but for now you can [subscribe to their Facebook event here!](#)

Explore STL with the Greater St. Louis Area Council!

GSLAC Venturing Officers Association invites you to explore Saint Louis in a way you haven't seen before. Join us in this amazing event! We'll be using the MetroLink and buses as transportation across STL! It will be a photo scavenger hunt race and you won't want to miss it! April 1st, 9:00am - 4:00pm. Registration is ☐\$17 ☐until March☐ 24th. \$19 after the 24th, and \$20 at the door!

Abraham Lincoln's ILSC

Abraham Lincoln is hosting an ILSC training on March 18th at their Council Service Center on South 6th Street Road. Email John Nelson at john.nelson@scouting.org for more information!

A Message from our National Commissioner on Philmont Training Center:

This coming summer we have two great conferences focused on all aspects of Venturing. During Week 5 (July 9-15) we will be offering Growing A Venturing Program. This vibrant program helps leaders understand how the Venturing ALPS program model builds on success from the past and provides a framework for a dynamic program of adventure, leadership, personal growth, and service. This program model is grounded in a flexible program of continuous, youth-led adventure with the new recognition system providing Venturers with benchmarks of progress. Using this program model as a framework for supporting your crew's program and for establishing council support for crew program needs forms the heart of this conference. This conference is designed for crew advisors, crew committee members, and crew officers.

During Week 9 (August 6-12) we will be offering Venturing BLAST! – for all key Venturing Officer Association (VOA) youth leaders, adult advisors, and staff advisors. This will be a great week full of adventure, training, shared experiences, and fellowship. Participants will be able to join with other leaders from across the nation to network, build friendships, learn more about the ALPS program model, and develop skills to help VOAs support an explosive Venturing program that will recruit and retain youth! As you can imagine, this isn't your typical classroom course. Ditch the projector and PowerPoints and immerse yourself in the beauty of PTC while enjoying some exciting adventures at Philmont. Both of these courses are also open to the youth in your crews. Don't miss this opportunity of a lifetime to meet top-notch instructors and Venturers from all over the nation! Don't wait to register. The courses are expected to fill up rapidly! [Click here to register today.](#)



The 2017 Area 3 Conference!

On January 20th and 21st, Area 3 had their annual Area 3 Conference! This year it was held at Mt. Zion, IL. It was a lot of fun and some amazing things happened! For example, we had a cardboard drive-in, which means everyone got cardboard and duct-tape and made their own modes of transportation to watch the movie UP in! Plus we held all kinds of unique trainings like Kodiak Training and How To Speak Millennial. Fun was had by all, and we can't wait for next year's conference!

Advisor's Minute

I am truly happy for all the participants and staff that helped at the Central Region Area 3 Conference in Mount Zion, Illinois in January. The Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church and Lincoln Trails volunteers were a wonderful host to Area 3 Venturing. We had over half of the councils from Area 3 send participants and staff member to the conference. We had excellent training's and discussion throughout the entire day. The entire Area 3 Committee deserves a pat on the back for a job well done. Without the committee, the conference would not have succeeded.

However, the year is not over. We are now in February and guess what the Area officers have planned, an Area 3 Venturing event! We will be doing quite a bit in Springfield, IL on April 20-21, 2017. More information can be found on the Central Region Area 3 website: <http://www.crea3venturing.org/area-events/gameshow>. I hope to see your unit attend!

The youth of Area 3 have a lot of roles and responsibilities; however, their term is ending at the end of May 2017. Because of that, it is time to find the next Area 3 officers. Applications are now online and the deadline is approaching fast. March 31 is the deadline to apply for Area level positions. The application can be found online: <http://venturing.org/apply-to-be-a-voa-officer.html>. I encourage everyone that has been a Crew President and above (example: District VOA, Council VOA officers) to apply to be one of the Area 3 Venturing Youth Officers.

Finally, we need your help to get the word out on different events and activities throughout the Area. Please take a few moments to share this newsletter with your Council, District, Unit and scouters that you know.

Yours in Venturing and Scouting!

Eric Mircsov

Central Region Area 3 Venturing Advisor
