



Greetings from the VOA!

Your Greater St. Louis Area Council VOA is working hard already to make this year the best yet. Already, we are planning events and making changes to better Venturing in GSLAC. One thing you can expect again this year is monthly updates through e-newsletters like this one. We look forward to a successful year with each and every one of you.

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CLIMB THE NIGHT AWAY

2017 Climb The Night Away is January 13-14, 2017

Climbing from 8 to midnight, but there's much more!!! We will have many activities around the gym for those who do not like to climb, or are too tired to climb. After midnight, the giant bouldering area will remain open to those who want to continue to climb, plus activities like the squeeze box, milk crate climbing, V-box, slacklining, movies, games, and on and on.

Registration is now open at <https://scoutingevent.com/312-2017climbthenightaway>. Cost is \$32 for the night including food at the lock-in and all the lock-in activities. After January 5 the cost goes up to \$36. Registration is limited to 250 people, so sign up now! A [flier is also available](#).



Come to the Venturing College of STEM University on Dec. 17th to complete the **Hang On! -**

Engineering NOVA award. Registration Deadline: Friday, December 9 or when 100-youth capacity reached.

Who: Venturers and Scout leaders

When: Saturday, December 17, 2016

Time: 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Where: UMSL Express Scripts Hall, 1 University Blvd Saint Louis, MO 63121 Park in lots N or I. Overflow parking on W. Drive or in the W. Drive Parking Garage

Cost: \$20.00 per youth and \$15 per Leader/Adult. Includes: Lunch (pizza,soda, & cookies), STEM U patch, and program materials.

WINTERFEST

Does the **largest annual Venturing & Exploring event *in the***

country sound exciting to you? Well, you can be there for it this year!

On **February 10-12, 2017**, you have the chance to travel to **Gatlinburg,**

Tennessee, and see what all the hype is about. They'll have everything from Scuba to Kayak flipping, to Volleyball, to Climbing Towers, to Fireman Quick Dress Competitions.

Plus, you get to hang out at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. You'll get to walk around Gatlinburg and experience the sights and sounds. All you have to do is contact Christina Vogt if you're interested and she will work with you to confirm a spot. Hurry though, you must confirm and pay \$50 down by December 19th in order to facilitate hotel reservations and other pre-event costs. [Here is the flyer](#), which has much more information! Don't miss this incredibly fun event with Explorers and Venturers from all over the country!



Upcoming Events

- Dec. 17 -- [STEM Venturing College](#)
Dec. 29 -- [Venturing Academy](#)
Jan. 13-14 -- [Climb the Night Away](#)
Jan. 20 -- [Area 3 Venturing Conference](#)
Jan. 28 -- [University of Scouting](#)
Feb. 10-12 -- [BSA Winterfest](#)
Apr. 1 -- Explore St. Louis (Spring event)
Apr. 1 -- Venturing Awards Due
June 1 -- Celebration Dinner **tentative*
June 2-4 -- [Swift Service Weekend](#)
June 11 -- [Swift -- Aquatic Adventure](#)
June 18 -- [Swift -- Rendezvous at Swift](#)
July 9 -- [Swift -- Back to Basics](#)
July 16 -- [Venturing NYLT](#)
Sept. 22-24 -- [Fall Fun Rally](#)



Swift Base 2017

Registration for Swift 2017 is open. This one of a kind Venturing camp is a summer camp just for Venturers. Rock Climbing, Rappelling, Mountain Biking, Challenge Course, Water Skiing, Tubing, Shooting Sports, and much much more!

Back in 2017 are theme weeks, highlighting different adventures each week:

- June 11 -- Aquatic Adventure
- June 18 -- Rendezvous at Swift
- July 9 -- Back to Basics & Outdoor Skills

Check out a [video for Swift 2017](#) that you can share with your unit!

[Registration is now open](#) for both units and provisional attendees.

Click the picture above for a video of some of the fun for Swift 2017!



Advisor's Minute

Chris Ford -- Advisor

At Fall Fun Rally in September, you elected new officers for the Council VOA, and for 12 of our Districts. In October, that group of new officers and their advisors came together for a very intense 24 hours of training, committee formation, and the first VOA meeting of the new year. And now you should be seeing the beginnings of the work they are doing.

The VOA is more than just a place for our best Venturers to be recognized for their leadership potential. The jobs you elected them to are real positions which accomplish real things. You will see results of that work in the Climb the Night Away coming in January, the Explore St. Louis event in April, many district events and activities, trainings, your District VOA meetings or Venturing Roundtables and concluding with the next Fall Fun Rally in September.

Even more important than those activities, the mission of the VOA is to enhance the Venturing Program in the Council. The Venturing Program resides in the Crews and Ships. The activities they plan provide programs you probably couldn't do in your crew. But more importantly, the VOA should be helping you to run better program in your crew or ship; better activities, more adventure, useful training.

Get connected with the VOA, attend and learn from their meetings, and ask them to help you improve your unit program, because that is the most important part of their job.



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