



The Central Point



Newsletter of the Central Region | Boy Scouts of America

December 2017

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Happy Holidays, Central Region!

By Dominic Wolters – CR Venturing President

As snow flies in the north, and temperatures drop all over the Region, it's time to celebrate! The Central Region VOA would like to wish a happy holiday season to all Scouts, Venturers, families, and crews.

We hope that your new year will be filled with outdoor adventures, challenges that see you grow as a person, and opportunities for you to share your passions with others!

We appreciate that you chose Venturing out of many possible activities, and we hope to continue providing you with memorable experiences throughout the New Year and beyond.

Wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season to you!



-The Central Region VOA



President: [Dominic Wolters](#)

VP of Administration: [Kevin Leahy](#)

VP of Program: [Catherine Colletti](#)

VP of Communications: [Pamela Petterchak](#)

AREA 5 CONFERENCE RECAP

By Emily Jackson – CR Area 5 VP of Communications

The Central Region Area 5 Leadership Conference was an amazing success! We had many Venturers attend, and Venturers who taught the trainings were excited to pass on their knowledge. Nathaniel Jansen from Ozark Trails



Council, who took Project Management, described his class as “super fun!” Everyone, whether taking a class, or if they were teaching a class, thoroughly enjoyed what they were doing.

If you missed out this year, do not be disappointed, because there will be more trainings! Check out the Central Region Area 5 Facebook page if you are interested in training. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CRV.Area5/>

RECRUITMENT

By Jeff Gerald – CR Venturing Advisor

In order for a crew to be sustainable, they must continually draw in new members. Luckily, this isn't a chore! A larger crew can lead to more activities and more fun! Often times, crews lose members as their youth grow older and either move to a different location or age out. One of the best ways to prevent this is to ensure that your crew membership always represents a variety of age groups. A crew that is constantly bringing in new members will not only positively impact more youth, but it will also offer a better program to the Venturers already involved.

Research has shown that the best way to draw in new members is quite simple: talking to them! We call this peer-to-peer recruiting. Asking your friends to join you for an activity or event and try out Venturing is the heart of peer-to-peer recruiting. Sharing your experiences of the amazing adventures you've completed and posting exciting pictures on social media can definitely help to get the word out to your peers. To assist with this effort, a [Venturing Recruiting Toolbox](#) has been put together with helpful resources you may need to recruit new members. They are intended for an individual crew member to hand flyers or brochures to prospective members. Councils and crews may use these materials to promote recruitment.

Your crew may find it helpful to create a [Recruiting Plan](#). One aspect of the plan is to design events that draw in new members. One of the requirements for the [Pathfinder Award](#) is actually to design a project that sustains and grows your crew! However, be sure to remember that recruitment is not a once-a-year experience. Your crew may have multiple open houses throughout the program year, or invite guests to many of your events. Crew sustainability and recruitment are ongoing responsibilities for your crew.

For more information, visit <http://www.venturing.org/recruiting.html>

VENTURING.ORG RESOURCES

By Cathie Seebauer – National Venturing Vice President

Have you seen? Venturing.org is your one-stop-shop for all things Venturing!

Check out our National **“Training Toolbox”**, which is a database filled with pre-made Venturing-specific PowerPoints, with topics such as VOAs, trainings, awards, and marketing. No need to reinvent the wheel every time you present! (<http://www.venturing.org/training-toolbox.html>)

If you or someone you know is going off to college next year, check out our list of **Scholarships**. Dozens of universities, BSA local councils, and religious, civic, and military organizations offer college scholarships to Venturing Summit Award Recipients.

(<http://www.venturing.org/scholarships.html>)

Ever have questions about whether your lovely forest-green Venturing uniform is being worn correctly? Look no further than our **“Venturing Uniform Guide”** to learn all the fun details about things like patch placement, acceptable pants, and wearing emblems from other programs.

(<http://www.venturing.org/uniform-guide.html>)

You can also find an **Events Calendar** listing tons of gnarly Venturing events across the nation! In the search bar, you may specify your region and area to filter the calendar to events close to you.

(<http://www.venturing.org/events.html>)

CRV PINTEREST

Pamela Petterchak – CR VP of Communications

Calling all Pinterest users! Did you know that Central Region Venturing is on Pinterest? Our Pinterest account has over fifty Boards full of useful information, including “Awards and Recognition,” “Venturing Patches,” “Central Region Venturing Store,” and many more. We also have numerous Boards dedicated to specific program areas, like “Astronomy,” “Backpacking,” and “SCUBA!”

All of this and more can be found at <https://www.pinterest.com/crventuring/>

Have an idea for a Board or an interesting Pin to share? Send your idea to vp-communications@crventuring.org



CR AREA 3 SPOTLIGHT

By Maddy Agers, Bella Davenport, and Andrea Penrose – CR Area 3 President, VP of Communications, and Committee Member

The month of December is looking like relatively relaxing event-wise. Although we don't have many events coming up, the past couple months have been pretty busy for us. In October, Area 3 held the October Event with a Human V. Zombies theme. We played tons of games and spread the word about Venturing. We plan to have this event again next year, so be sure not to miss out!

In November, the Greater Saint Louis Council was able to successfully pull off another annual Scouting for Food on the 11th. Be sure to check out our Facebook page and see what Scouting for Food is all about! In November, many of our Area 3 officers went to the Area 5 Conference and taught some trainings. Check out Facebook group and you'll see some live videos of our trainings. November was also a month of our Area 3 Program Conference which went swimmingly for our officers. Most of our classes can be seen on our Facebook group, so be sure to check it out when you get a second.

Though we don't have tons of events coming up right away, Area 3 will be working hard this winter season to promote the two biggest events of the rest of our term. On February 16 at 7pm, we kick off our annual Venturing Conference. At Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church, Area 3 officers and advisors along with some other awesome volunteers will be teaching tons of classes. We'll have regular trainings, like Project Management Training, as well as some fun classes, like how to dance to Cotton Eyed Joe. After working hard with all your trainings, we'll roll right into our Game Show event. You can check out our Area 3 Conference Newsletter, the Area 3 website, and our Facebook group to find out more information and to sign up. We hope to see you all there!

Setting our sights farther into the future, we've put together a contingent bus ride to VenturingFest 2018 with Area 5. If your crew is looking for a way to get to VenturingFest, look no further; there's no better way to get to Summit than to ride with fifty fellow Venturers. We're leaving out of St. Louis on the evening of June 30th, and we'll spend an afternoon in Charleston. After spending an amazing week at the Summit in West Virginia, we'll load the bus up again and head off to another adventure. We'll be exploring caves at the Cumberland Caverns Tour, and if you're not interested in spending the night in a cave, you can spend the night in a nearby hotel. After that we'll head back to St. Louis. If you're interested in going you should can find out more information on the Area 3 website or Facebook.

To keep up to date with all the happenings in Area 3, you guessed it, check out our Facebook, hit up our website, subscribe to our monthly Newsletters, and follow us on Instagram. From all of us with Area 3, we hope you have a relaxing winter break and get to spend quality time with your family, both inside and outside of Venturing.

Central Region Venturing Area 3 Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CRV.Area3/>

CR AREA HIGHLIGHTS

<p style="text-align: center;">AREA 1</p> <p>Check Area 1 social media for more information about Area 1.</p> <p>Website: www.area1crv.org Facebook Group: Central Region Venturing Area 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AREA 2</p> <p>Area 2 has been working on the details for their upcoming Area 2 Conference: University of Venturing. University of Venturing is a two day training on January 19-20th. The conference is styled after an actual university, with an orientation Friday night and on Saturday courses on Venturing. These courses include things like Conference Call Etiquette, Gourmet Cooking with Gordon and more! The conference will take place in Lansing, MI.</p> <p>Website: www.area2crv.org Facebook Group: Central Region Venturing Area 2 Pinterest: Venturing Area 2 Central Region</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">AREA 3</p> <p>Check out the Area 3 Spotlight article on page 4 for more information about Area 3.</p> <p>Website: www.area3crv.org Facebook Group: Central Region Venturing Area 3 Twitter: @CRVArea3 YouTube: CRVenturingArea3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AREA 4</p> <p>This past weekend, Area 4 hosted Leadership Spark! It was an amazing success. WorldFest 2018 planning has begun, and will become our main focus after Spark. The event is May 4-6, 2018. Buckeye Council (Canton OH) is planning a Venturing Week of resident summer camp for Venturers only June 10-18, 2018 at Seven Ranges Scout Reservation. They are asking for support by way of promoting the opportunity throughout Area 4 and the Central Region. Promotions will begin in early December as details are finalized.</p> <p>Website: www.area4crv.org Facebook Group: Central Region Venturing Area 4</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">AREA 5</p> <p>Area 5 hosted the Area 5 Leadership Conference last month! Go to page 2 for more details!</p> <p>Website: www.area5crv.org Facebook Group: Central Region Venturing Area 5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AREA 6</p> <p>We had to cancel our Fall event "A Taste of Venturing" due to not enough people registering. We are working on and sending out info regarding Spring Icebreakers morning in April.</p> <p>Website: www.area6crv.org Facebook Group: Central Region Venturing Area 6</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">AREA 7</p> <p>Area 7 is working on getting our plans out for the conference in March. we are working on the flyer now to get out to people now.</p> <p>Website: www.area7crv.org Facebook Group: Central Region Venturing Area 7 Twitter: @CRVArea7 Instagram: @crvarea7 Snapchat: @crvarea7</p>	

UPCOMING EVENTS

Event Date (s)	Registration Deadline	City	State	Host	Event
12/09/2017	12/07/2017	Mahomet	IL	Prairielands Council	Holiday Party
12/20/2017	12/20/2017			Area 3 (Central Region)	Area 3 VOA-Council/District President Call
01/27/2018	01/24/2018	Madison Heights	MI	Area 2 (Central Region)	GLFSC University of Scouting
02/16/2018-02/18/2018	01/31/2018	Mt. Zion	IL	Area 3 (Central Region)	Area 3 Venturing Conference and Game Show
02/21/2018	02/21/2018			Area 3 (Central Region)	Area 3 VOA Council/District President Call
04/18/2018	04/18/2018			Area 3 (Central Region)	Area 3 VOA-Council/District President Call
04/26/2018-04/29/2018	04/20/2018	High Ridge	MO	Greater St. Louis Area Council	Powder Horn
06/01/2017-06/03/2017	05/20/2017	Alger	MI	Area 2 (Central Region)	GLFSC Rifle River Gauntlet
06/20/2018	06/20/2018			Area 3 (Central Region)	Area 3 VOA-Council/District President Call
08/02/2018-08/04/2018	06/01/2017	Pleasant Lake	IN	Anthony Wayne Area Council	Powder Horn

Find out more about these events at http://crventuring.org/Activities/Events_Listing/

Submit events to the calendar at http://www.crventuring.org/event_submission.php

CRVOO 2018

By Jeff Geraldts – CR Venturing Advisor

Area and Region Venturing Officer selections for the 2018-19 term will be conducted in March and April of next year. Those new officers, as well as their Area and Region Advisors/Associate Advisors, will be invited to participate in our great training event known as CRVOO. We will be returning to North Central College in Naperville, IL, June 14-16. More details will be available in the spring.



ADVISOR'S MINUTE



Central Region,

The Holiday season fills our hearts with immeasurable thanks for the many blessings in our lives. And with those blessings comes a duty to reach out to others.

Many of our fellow Americans suffer from the effects of natural disasters, illness or poverty. Others struggle with personal crisis, cruel addictions, division in their families, or the loss of a loved one. Christmastime reminds each of us that we have a duty to love our neighbor just as we would like to be loved ourselves.

During this time of spiritual celebration, be sure to support those in need, hold close to you those you love, and look forward with great optimism to the year ahead. We are truly blessed to participate Venturing. Share the joy that lies at the core of our program and its participants.

I wish you all a very happy Holiday season!

Yours in Venturing,
-Jeff Gerald
CR Venturing Advisor



FOLLOW CENTRAL REGION VENTURING AT:

Website: crventuring.org

Instagram: [CRVenturing](https://www.instagram.com/CRVenturing)

Pinterest: [CRVenturing](https://www.pinterest.com/CRVenturing)

Facebook: [Central Region Venturing](https://www.facebook.com/CentralRegionVenturing)

Twitter: [CRVenturing](https://twitter.com/CRVenturing)

YouTube: [Central Region Venturing](https://www.youtube.com/CentralRegionVenturing)



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Happy December, Central Region!

The end of the year is a time for reflection, but also for celebration. Many people will take their break from work or school to spend time with family and friends; the Venturing program is all about creating lasting relationships, and December is a great time for crews to recognize and celebrate this as we enter our 20th year of changing lives.

December also heralds the beginning of a new year, full of opportunity, adventure, and unique challenges. I invite you this month, though, to think of how you can impact the Venturing program in the new year. A time for resolutions, the new year is a great time to make your mark and leave your legacy of service to your crew, council, or Venturing nationwide. A great way to do this is by volunteering as an officer at any level of our organization. Information on serving as a member of the National Venturing Officers' Association can be found at <https://venturing.org/apply-to-be-a-voa-officer.html>. From personal experience, I can tell you that serving as an officer within a VOA is an incredibly meaningful and enjoyable opportunity to improve the lives of countless people throughout your Council, Area, and Region.

This service, carried out as a resolution for the new year, is a great extension of your reflections of this last month. In #ThankfulForVenturing, you decided what you appreciated most in Venturing; now, I ask you to act on it to preserve it for future Venturers.

Baden-Powell, the founder of the World Scout Movement, once said that "the real way to gain happiness is to give it to other." If we each can find a way to serve others throughout this holiday season, we will leave the world a much better place.

Happy Holidays, and have a great month!

-Dominic Wolters
CR Venturing President