

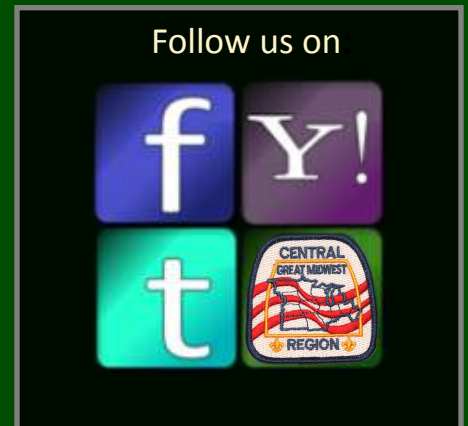


The Central Point



Newsletter of Central Region Venturing | Boy Scouts of America

December Newsletter 2014



Philmont Training Center Venturing Training 2015

Have you ever seen a meteor shower? What about a meteor shower where you can see the sky as clear as day? Guess what? You have the chance! There will be a meteor shower during the week of April 9 -15, 2015. Do you know what else is happening that week? Central Region's Venturing week at Philmont Training Center! You could watch the meteor shower from PTC. How cool is that!? During that week, you will learn more about the ALPS model for Venturing, as well as leadership, youth development, and so much more! This course was designed with you in mind – don't expect to just sit around all day as there will be plenty of hands on learning! All Venturers and advisors 18 years of age and older are invited to attend. The cost is \$550 for the week. You could make the training part of your family vacation! Did you know – there are tons of cool opportunities for your spouse and children to participate in while you are in training at the Philmont Training Center!

Are you interested in attending? Be sure to sign up now, because there are a limited number of spots available! If this week doesn't work for you, don't worry! There are 4 other opportunities – there are 3 other weeks at Philmont Training Center this summer, as well as one week at Florida Sea Base this winter. For more information and to register, go to <http://reservations.scouting.org/profile/form/index.cfm?PKformID=0x34505e514>. We can't wait to see you there!

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~ Emily Mausshardt

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Crew 43's Leave No Trace

In October 2013 at the D-Bar-A Scout Reservation in Metamora, Michigan, Three Venturing Crew members and two advisors participated in the Leave No Trace Train the Trainer Training. This was a weekend event to prepare those participating on the seven principals of Leave No Trace (LNT). In preparation prior to our arrival, each of us was given one principal which we had to learn and prepare a skit or game to teach all in our selected group. Backpacks with our camping gear was also requested to be included for the trip.

We arrived early Saturday morning despite the event started on Friday evening. We were warmly welcomed into the group and shared our names, the Crew we represented and our reason for participating. All the meals were warm and plentiful. Breakfasts consisted of make-your-own breakfast burritos and the dinner Saturday was a memorable hobo stew or foil pouch stew on charcoal.



Following breakfast, our Saturday started with lectures and video on the seven principles of LNT : 1) Plan Ahead and Prepare; 2) Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces; 3) Dispose of Waste Properly; 4) Leave What You Find; 5) Minimize Campfire Impacts; 6) Respect Wildlife; and 7) Be Considerate of Other Visitors.



Our lunch was a simple snack lunch we backpacked off to a remote location for additional training specific to a couple of the principles.

After returning from lunch, we broke into seven groups. At this point each of us, with our prepared skit or game, had the opportunity to teach all in our group the principal. Each of us was a bit worried whether our skit/game would be accepted and none of us are comfortable in front of groups. To our surprise, the skits/games turned out easier and more enjoyable than anticipated. We were critiqued in our presentation and further discussion ensued to help us teach others on all the principles.

Following the hobo dinner, the group was instructed to a relay game of "pickup the plastic dog poop in a ziploc bag." Crazy as it sounds, it is part of disposing of waste properly if you travel with a pet, either in a natural setting or a city/suburb setting.

All in all, I was personally impressed with the instruction, all that was learned, the information that was provided us as future instructors of the seven principle of LNT, and for me, the generous meals. Although I am now trained as a trainer, I would enjoy repeating this training with any of my Crew that has not yet done so.

~Mark Wollensak, Advisor, Venturing Crew 43

Area 3 Venturing Conference



Hey Central Region!! Want to learn more about the new changes to Venturing and Sea Scouts? Would you like the opportunity to partake in the new Time Management Training required for the Discovery Award? Need to do ILSC? Come to the Area 3 Venturing Conference! It takes place on January 9-10, 2015 in Bloomington, IL.

For more information and to register visit:

www.craea3venturing.org

~Amanda Sander

Sea Scout Update

As the holidays approach, it is a time to think about how you can give back to others. There are all kinds of things you and your unit can do to make the season a little happier. Many ships, crews, and citizens in Chicago help volunteer for an organization that provides families with Christmas trees that cannot afford them. To read more about Chicago's Christmas Ship, visit: <http://christmasship.org>. You could also volunteer at a soup kitchen, help with a holiday dinner, or run a toy drive. One thing that people across the nation are getting involved with is Operation Christmas Child. For Operation



Christmas Child, you pack a shoebox with things that we sometimes take for granted but others long for such as toys, clothes, a toothbrush, and school supplies. The packed shoebox is then shipped to children in need around the world. It is a great thing to think about doing in the future to brighten a child's holiday. For more information, visit: <http://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>. The possibilities are nearly endless with some dedication and the spirit to help others.

Remember to check out the following links to stay connected and up-to-date during the holiday season:

National Sea Scout Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/SeaScoutsBSA>

National Sea Scout Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/seascoutsbsa/>

National Sea Scout Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SeaScoutsBSA>

National Sea Scout Instagram: @seascoutsbsa



~Katie Bruton
Central Region Boatswain

Tell Us About Your Crew!

What makes your crew the best crew out there? What have you done recently that was fun and exciting? Submit your story to and it will appear in the next edition of the Central Point!

Has your crew ever played a live version of Where's Waldo? How about dressed up like superheroes to go bowling?

Submit a short story or even a longer one about your crew's activities! If you have pictures, please include those, too your story.

[Click Here to send your story.](#)

Submit your Venturing event on the Central Region Website!

Go to <http://crventuring.org> and click on the "submit a calendar event" button on the lower left side of the page. Fill out the form, and now you will be able reach thousands of Venturers to come to your event!



Caption Contest

This Month's Photo:



"What have my scouts gotten me into this time!?"

~ Caption Submitted By: Tim Branson

Last Month's Photo:



" looks like the crews are arguing again.... "

~ Caption Submitted By: Aaron Surgi

We know you can do better than this caption! Watch out for the next Caption Contest Photo on Facebook and comment on Facebook or send your caption to vp-communications@crventuring.org.

Central Connection!

Check out the most recent Central Connection episodes at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXbo0J-Q6Xn1QWFM0dr_gqg! This summer has been full of educational Central Connections, all about the Changes to Venturing! Check back on October 10th and October 24th for brand new episodes of the Central Connection!

The New Venturing Handbook is HERE!!!

The new Venturing Youth Handbook is now available for purchase. Get yours today at a local Scout Shop or order them online at <http://www.scoutstuff.org/bsa/new-items/handbook-vt-youth.html#.VB7kecmul59>

Did You Know...

- Five Presidents of the United States in the past 60 years were involved with Scouting, but only one, Gerald Ford, was an Eagle Scout
- The Boy Scouts of America is the first organization that Babe Ruth, the homerun king, was a member of.
- Of the 12 men to walk on the Moon, 11 have been involved with the BSA as youth
- Every President of the United States serves as the honorary president of the Boy Scouts of America



Name That Camp!!

Each edition of the Central Point will feature a photo from a Boy Scout camp in the Central Region. Can you name that camp?

This Month:



Last Month:



Camp F. L. Cary

Indiana

Home of the Area 6 Taste of Venturing

Program Offerings: Camping, Backpacking, Kayaking, Canoeing, Boating, Swimming, and much, much more!

For more information regarding camps throughout the Central Region, go to Where to Go Venturing: [click here](#)

If you would like your photo to be a "Name that Camp?" clue, please email it to Brian Parro at

vp-communications@crventuring.org.

Advisor's Minute

Happy December Everyone!



So, I MAY have talked about the weather in my last article. If I recall correctly, somewhere around that last week of October, it was nearly 75-degrees in the Chicago area. Sadly, it is now 26-degrees with a fresh layer of powder nicely covering the grass. Going forward, it might be best that I no longer write of the weather in future articles, or we may have conditions like in Buffalo, NY!

All joking aside, I am a fan of December. I like the month and the beginning of the winter season. Yes, it does start to get cold, but the warmth of the twinkling lights from seasonal decorations seems to make it all worth it. The times are spent with good food and hearty laughter, surrounded by family, friends, and loved ones from near and far.

I have been honored with being able to spend the last couple of months visiting 5 of our 7 Areas. Both Emily and I have been able to share adventures with many of you, engage in great conversations, and make many memories that will last a lifetime. (And for those 2 remaining Areas, we promise we will see you in 2015!)

While we find ourselves at the end of another year, take a moment to reflect on the good times, the times that could be better, and make goals for what we want to do with the upcoming year. What is your favorite memory from 2014? If you thought of your "Top 5," how many of them would be Venturing or Scouting related? I am certain that at least 4 of 5 would be for me.

Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hannukah, Festivus, Kwanzaa, or just the season, I hope you have an absolutely amazing, safe, and magical time with your friends, family, and loved ones. Certainly 2014 has been an amazing year, but I can't wait for you to see what Emily and her team have planned for 2015!

In the Warm Embrace of Kith and Kin,

Yours in Venturing,

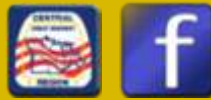
Kris

Kris Zahrobsky

Central Region Venturing Advisor/ Chairman



Area 1



Upcoming events:

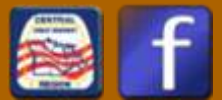
President: [Michael O'Hara](#)



Advisor: [Chris Sandberg](#)



Area 2



Upcoming Events:

December 6th, 2014, Keep it Moving, Kalamazoo, MI
December 6, 2014, VLSC and Crew Committee Challenge
Flint, MI

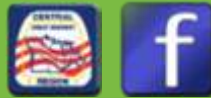
President: [Joey Jenkins](#)



Advisor: [Jeff Gerald](#)



Area 3



Upcoming events:

January 9th-10th, 2015, Area 3 Venturing Conference,
Bloomington, IL

Also, check out Area 3's YouTube page!

<http://www.youtube.com/user/CRVenturingArea3>

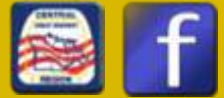
President: [Katie Bruton](#)



Advisor: [Bob Vogt](#)



Area 4



Upcoming Events:

January 24th, 2015, Scouting University, Westerville, OH
March 7th, 2015, Scouting University, Wadsworth, OH
April 24th-26th, 2015, WorldFest 2015, Kensington, OH

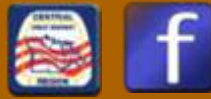
President: [Nate Steele](#)



Advisor: [Duane Zobrist](#)



Area 5



Upcoming Events:

January 9th, 2015, Winter Quest 2015, Iatan, MO
February 6th, 2015, Mid-Iowa VOA Ice Climb, Cedar
Falls, IA
April 10th-12th, 2015, Area 5 Fun Event, Omaha, NE

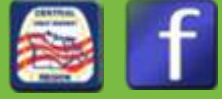
President: [Ramin Rostampour](#)



Advisor: [Julie Dalton](#)



Area 6



Upcoming Events:

January 10th, 2015, Scouting U, Springfield, OH
March 20th-21st, 2015, Area 6 Leadership
Conference, Frankton, IN
July 31st- August 2nd, 2015, Makahiki Fest, Warsaw,
IN,

President: [Jennifer Bullock](#)



Advisor: [Carla Gargas](#)



Area 7

Upcoming Events:

December 6th, 2014, Christmas Tree Ship, Chicago, IL
March 7th, 2015, Area 7 Venturing Conference, Gurnee, IL



President: [Katlin Adams](#)



Advisor: [Rachel Zahrobsky](#)



President's Corner



Happy December, Central Region!

It's hard to believe that November is over already, isn't it!? Although it feels like the month just flew by, let's look at some of the wonderful things that happened this month in the Central Region:

- Area 6 held their Taste of Venturing event with over 40 participants! Have you ever cooked a friend turkey on a campout? One crew at this event did! A cool factor of this event happened on Saturday evening when all of the crews pulled together to cook different dishes for dinner. In addition to the fried turkey, there were stuffed peppers, fettuccini alfredo with chicken and broccoli, dumb cake, and so much more!
- The following weekend, Area 3 had their annual Program Conference where the VOA presented several courses on Venturing and Sea Scouting. At a conference of over 100 adult Scouters, the youth presenters sure made Venturing proud!
- The same weekend, Area 1 was also holding their annual Area 1 Venturing Conference. At a wonderfully planned and executed event, Area 1 Venturers spent the day learning all about Venturing before spending the evening bowling at a local bowling alley!
- On November 22nd, Area 5 held their Area 5 Venturing Leadership Conference. At their conference, they had presentations on rock climbing basics, ILSC, Goal Setting and Time Management Training, leading ethical controversies, marketing your events, and so many more. With approximately 108 participants, Area 5 more than doubled their attendance from last year's conference! What an accomplishment!
- The Central Region Venturing store was officially launched! Have you ever wanted Venturing related apparel (or blankets!)? We have just that for you now – all personalized with the Central Region Venturing logo. Be sure to check out our brand new, as seen on YouTube, Central Region Venturing store!
- Wow! That's a lot to have been accomplished in just 31 days! Did you attend one of these events? Did you enjoy it? Share your story by emailing me at president@crventuring.org! I'd love to hear about your favorite memory!

What are you going to do this month? Does your crew have a super cool event coming up? Each of the events that happened in November had a "cool" factor – crew cooked dinner, youth presenters, a trip to the bowling alley, and an extensive variety of course topics. What is that "cool" factor for your event? If it doesn't have one, what could you add to give it that extra factor? Try adding costumes, food/cooking contest, or a 'bring a friend' aspect to your event! Whatever it is, make your program go WOW! this holiday season!

Have a great December!

Emily Mausshardt



Central Region Venturing President:

Emily Mausshardt

president@crventuring.org

Central Region Venturing Advisor:

Kris Zahrobsky

venturing-chair@crventuring.org

Central Region Venturing Vice
President of Communications:

Brian Parro

vp-

communications@crventuring.org

Central Region Venturing Associate
Advisor for Communications:

Deb Keys

communications-

communications@crventuring.org

About Our Organization...

Venturing is a Scouting program for male and female youth ages 13-21 that lets youth experience new activities, build leadership skills, earn awards, make new friends, and of course have fun.

The Central Region is one of four regions of the Boy Scouts of America. This region includes the states of: Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and West Virginia.