



The Central Point



Newsletter of Central Region Venturing | Boy Scouts of America

January Newsletter 2015



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2015: New Awards

Happy New Year, Central Region!

Over the past several months, we have experienced the Changes to Venturing, and now, the changes are final! Today, January 1st, the Venturing Bronze, Gold and Silver awards have been retired, and all 150,000 Venturers in the nation are starting to work on new awards. To all Venturers registered before June, congratulations, you already earned the Venturing Award and can start working towards the Discovery Award. For everyone else, start working on your Venturing Awards. The race has started to see who will be the first person to ever earn the Venturing Summit Award! I hope the title goes to someone in the Central Region!

Just to refresh with the new year, there are four new awards for Venturers, the Venturing Awards, which is a joining award, the Discovery Award, which encourages Venturers to get more involved with their Crew, the Pathfinders Award, which encourages Venturers to start leading their Crew, and the Summit Award, which encourages Venturers to start mentoring their Crew. Award requirements can be found [here](#).

If you want to learn more about the new program and how to create a strong Venturing program, check out All About Venturing training at [Philmont Training Center](#). The Central Region is hosting from August 9th-15th, 2015! See you there!

~ Brian Parro

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Area, Regional and National Officer Applications

You have likely seen some of this year's VOA officers all around this newsletter. Maybe you've seen them on our Facebook groups or another social media, or maybe you have had the chance to hang out with them in person! Our regional and area presidents and vice presidents have been hard at work so far this term, helping to make Venturing great for you. But did you know you could be just like them? If you are or have been a crew president or higher in the past, you can apply to be an area, regional or national officer for the 2015-2016 term! The term will run from June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016, and the application will be released soon at www.scouting.org/venturing and at www.crventuring.org. If you are interested in running for the national president or vice president position, the application is due by February 1, 2015. If you are running for a region president or vice president position, your application is due by February 15, 2015. If you're interested in running for an area president or vice president position, your

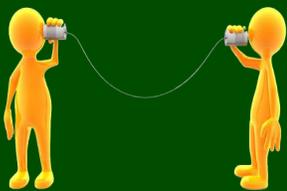


application will be due by March 1, 2015. We hope you consider this leadership opportunity and help to further the great Venturing program within your own region and area! If you talk to any current or past area, regional or national officer, they'll surely tell you about the great experiences and the exceptional people (like you!) they have encountered through their positions, and how it might change your view on things. Get out there and lead the adventure!



~ Lizzie Schneider

Improving Crew Communications



How many of you are having difficulties finding effective ways to communicate with your Crew? Are emails no longer cutting it? Don't be afraid to venture out and try something new! There are many easy communication tools available for free that you can use to help your Crew. To start, create a Facebook Page and a Facebook Group, this will allow all Crew members to get updates about the Crew on Social Media. Try using the GroupMe app to open an easy flow of communications among your Crew! GroupMe is a smartphone app that makes large group texting easy! If you want to just have the Crew President to text the Crew, try the Remind101 app. This app allows Crew members to subscribe using their phone number, so they can receive text updates from the Crew about upcoming meetings and events! Do you have any other ideas that work for your Crew? Email vp-communications@crventuring.org and your idea will be featured in an upcoming newsletter!

Sea Scout Update

If your New Year's Resolution is to learn more about Scouting, one place to do so is at the Area 3 Venturing Conference. At this conference, you can learn all about Sea Scouting, the new changes to Venturing, and so much more. The conference will be held on January 9-10, 2015 at Centennial Christian Church (1219 East Grove St.) in Bloomington, IL. Make sure to register NOW! For more information, visit: www.crarea3venturing.org.

On January 17-19, 2015, there is a Sea Scout Academy at the brand new Sea Scout Base Galveston in Galveston, TX! The Academy is designed to help Sea Scouts grow in their leadership skills and move through advancement. Spend time sailing and growing your skills! Check out more information at: <http://www.bacbsa.org/event/1637645>.

Looking for another way to build your leadership skills? We have just the thing for you! After you have taken ILSC/ILSS and NYLT, you can attend National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE). NAYLE is an experience where you build on and apply the leadership knowledge that you acquired during ILSC/ILSS and NYLT while having an awesome time! This year, NAYLE will be offered at all of the BSA High Adventure Bases! The first course is February 28-March 6 at the Florida Sea Base. To find more information about the courses, visit: <http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2014/09/25/nayle/> and check out NAYLE's Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/BSANAYLE>.

In addition to NAYLE, SEAL is another great leadership opportunity. SEAL is a national Sea Scout leadership training based at sea. SEAL focuses on sailing and navigation. Although it is a tough course, it is rewarding. There are various locations this coming summer including: Newport Beach, CA: June 18-28; Chesapeake Bay, MD: June 20-28; Galveston Bay, TX: July 10-19; Long Island Sound, NY: July 11-19; and Seattle, WA: July 22-31. Fee: \$245-\$280.

These are all great ways to learn even more about the wonderful world of Scouting!

If you are looking to give back as a leader, National Sea Scout Boatswain applications are due February 1st!

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

Sea Scout Term of the Month:

Apprentice Rank

Definition: Sea Scouting has a rank structure similar to the Boy Scouts'. The Apprentice Rank is the first rank in Sea Scouting where the Scout learns the history of Sea Scouting, basic marlinspike seamanship skills, safety, and basic ideals.

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!



~Katie Bruton

Central Region Boatswain

Crew 43– Canoe Adventure

On our latest trip (July 2014), Venture Crew 43 went up to Hersey, Michigan to canoe the Muskegon River. We were offered to stay at a local Scouter's cabin, which offered a great view of the river. After arriving and setting up camp on Friday, July 25th, we played in the river. The property was on a part of the river that was shallow and sandy, which made it perfect for playing dodgeball and sharks and minnows. On the following day, we drove to a spot 17 miles upriver and put our canoes in the water.

Our first leg of the journey was a ten mile paddle down a mix of residential and natural parts of the river. To me, this was the most enjoyable part of the river, because I could see the kinds of homes people had while still being very close to nature. I also saw several Belted Kingfishers snatching bugs out of the air throughout the morning.

After the 10 miles, we docked at a playground/campground area and had lunch. In addition, we got to pretend we were kids again by exploring the playground. They had a curious little swing that swung in a circle. We had fun seeing who could make the most consecutive rotations on it.

The second section of the river we paddled was only about seven miles, and most of it was undeveloped. With the exception of the river aesthetic Jack and Sarah added, every sound came from the ecosystem of the river.



We pulled out back at the cabin at around 3:30 in the afternoon.

Upon returning to our campsite, we began making a not-so-ordinary dinner: we couldn't prepare it with any utensils. This means each of us had to find and make a kabob and then used them to roast a mix of beef, chicken, pineapple, peppers, and onions. We even roasted a couple cans worth of the bread that is normally put on a baking pan and cooked in the oven. That was tasty. For desert, we cored out oranges and baked brownies over a fire.

On Sunday, July 27th, we packed up camp and put our canoes in the river for the final part of our journey. I don't remember how long it was, but it did rain for about half of our travels. We also formed a giant "raft" out of the four canoes by forcing them together. We would've stayed this way until we had to leave the river if Advisor Mark hadn't shot two cherry pits into Jack's and Sarah's boat. After we arrived at the pullout in Hersey, we packed up the canoes, changed, distributed lunch, and headed home.

I would certainly do this again. Not only do I like canoeing, I also enjoyed the various activities that we did. The trip definitely had its unique events that I'd be ready to experience again. Overall, it was a good trip, and it would be even more fun if more people come the second time.

Jonathon Jacobs, Venturing Crew 43



Caption Contest

This Month's Photo:



"How to double your Crew size in one easy step!"

~ Caption Submitted By: Denise Mausshardt

Last Month's Photo:



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

~ Caption Submitted By: Tim Branson

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_gaq! 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...

- The 23rd World Scout Jamboree is this July and August in Japan, and there are still open spots! You can go to Japan with the BSA!
- The Boy Scouts of America has served nearly 100 million youth since 1910..
- Any youth Venturer can apply for a VOA position
- Mike Rowe, the host of Dirty Jobs, is a Distinguished Eagle Scout



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 Kikthawenund

Frankton, IN

Home of the Area 6 Fun Event!

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

Hello Central Region!

Welcome to the future! In Robert Zemeckis' vision, we would have shoes that automatically lace themselves, clothing that self-dries, flying cars, and those beloved hoverboards. (That and the Chicago Cubs would be winning the World Series!) Although there are recent scientific breakthroughs on the development of all those products, I am fairly confident that we aren't too close to the Cubs winning a World Series.

(Chicago fans: Just a joke. For those that don't know me; I have no baseball allegiance. But, the fact that they haven't won a World Series since 1908 is a bit of a tradition in itself!)

All sports aside, can you believe it is 2015? For many of us, remember when you first watched the "Back to the Future" series and saw what the future might possibly hold? Or even the first time you read George Orwell's, "1984"? Even the "Hunger Games" series gives us their version of the future. Exciting? Absolutely! A little scary? Indeed.

The entertainment industry certainly exaggerates the concept of the future to make sure they have a great product to keep you on the edge of your seat. The truth is: The future is in our hands. While we may currently not be able to affect the status of military action in other countries or decide major policy change concerning some hot topic, we are blazing the trail for Venturers all over the Central Region and the entire Country.

Although it is highly debated who said the quote, "Be the change you want to see," this can help bring us to an introspective question: "What can we do to better our program?" How can we "Lead the Adventure" for ourselves and for those around us? Back in 1998, the vision for our Venturing future may not be exactly how it is now. Regardless, we must ask and act on what we can do now to give ourselves and others the best future imagined.

One possible answer is to consider running for a National, Regional, or Area leadership position. Did you know that applications for the National Venturing President are due February 1st? (And applications for the Central Region Venturing President are due February 15th! But, more on this in the February issue.) This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be part of a select group of youth that are able to carve out what Venturing will look like for years to come. You will have the opportunity to travel, meet new people, connect with old friends, and lead the change you want to see.

May your month be filled with warmth and adventure!

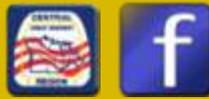
Yours in Venturing,

Kris

Kris Zahrobsky
Central Region Venturing Advisor/ Chairman



Area 1



Upcoming events:

January 11th, 2015, Eagle River District Training, Somerset, WI

August 9th-15th, 2015, Venturing Training at PTC, Philmont Training Center

President: [Michael O'Hara](#)



Advisor: [Chris Sandberg](#)



Area 2



Upcoming Events:

January 17th, 2015, Area 2 Venturing Conference, Detroit, MI

January 24th, 2015, Venturing Bi-athlon, Gregory, MI
January 24th, 2015, University of Scouting, Auburn, MI

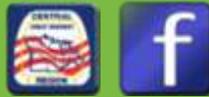
President: [Joey Jenkins](#)



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, University of Scouting, Westerville, OH

April 24th-26th, 2015, Area 4 World Fest 2015, Kensington, OH

President: [Nate Steele](#)



Advisor: [Duane Zobrist](#)



Area 5



Upcoming Events:

January 9th, 2015, WinterQuest 2015, Iatan, MO

February 6th, 2015, Mid-Iowa VOA Ice Climb, Cedar Falls, IA

April 10th-12th, 2015, Area 5 Fun Event, Omaha, NE

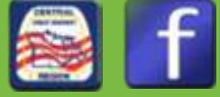
President: [Ramin Rostampour](#)



Advisor: [Julie Dalton](#)



Area 6



Upcoming Events:

January 10th, 2015, University of Scouting, Springfield, IN

March 20th-21st, 2015, Area 6 Leadership Conference, Frankton, IN

President: [Jennifer Bullock](#)



Advisor: [Carla Gargas](#)



Area 7



Upcoming Events:

January 17th, 2015, Snowstorm, Bedford Park, IL

March 7th, 2014, Area 7 Venturing Conference, Gurnee, IL

President: [Katlin Adams](#)



Advisor: [Rachel Zahrobsky](#)



President's Corner



Happy January and Happy New Year, Central Region!

I hope you have had an enjoyable holiday season with your family and friends. The New Year means a lot of things – remembering to date documents 2015 instead of 2014 (this may take until June for me...), marking up a new calendar with events and activities happening in 2015, and creating New Year's resolutions. As you begin marking your calendar, be sure to check out www.crventuring.org to find area and council events near you to attend!

As you start thinking about a (or several!) New Year's resolution, I challenge you to create a Venturing resolution, too. Recently, I travelled home for the holidays and attended my council's VOA meeting. As they started drafting the 2016 event themes/ideas, the VOA Advisor told the officers, "Think about the things that you know Venturers can do, but that you have never done. Incorporate those activities – nothing is off limits as you brainstorm!" Activities that came to my mind immediately included white water rafting and surfing, among others. Although these activities are a little bit hard to do in Missouri, the Advisor's statement left me thinking about trying new activities. With that, I challenge you to set a goal for the year related to Venturing – try something new! You could earn one of the new awards, go climbing for the first time, or attend a different summer camp. As your crew starts planning out the year, dream big, try something new – and remember, nothing is off limits as you brainstorm! New and exciting, although sometimes a bit off the wall, ideas come when you dream big. These ideas become the events that leave other Venturers saying, "I know Venturers can do that, but I never have and I want to," just as the VOA officers in my council did. So, what will your Venturing related New Year's resolution be?

Have a great January and beginning of 2015!

Yours in Venturing,

Emily

Emily Mausshardt
Central Region Venturing President



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 Keyes

communications-coordinator@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.