



The Central Point



Newsletter of Central Region Venturing | Boy Scouts of America

February Newsletter 2015



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Area 3 Update!

Venturing in Missouri, Illinois and Iowa

Hey Central Region!

Our Area 3 Venturing Conference took place last month in Bloomington, IL. We were delighted to have all of our 101 guests including those from the Central Region VOA as well as from the Southern Region. The Area 3 VOA and conference staff would like to thank everyone who could attend for contributing their time to learn more about the Scouting program. We look forward to hearing about the relationships that were built at the conference and of the knowledge that was shared. Just a reminder, if you are looking for any of the presentations that were used at the conference, you can visit the website by going to: <http://www.crea3venturing.org>. Thank you again for coming!

We would also like to extend an invitation to all to the 2015 Fall Fun Rally (FFR). The FFR takes place September 25-27, 2015 at Beaumont Scout Ranch in the Greater St. Louis Area Council (GSLAC). This is the 42nd anniversary of the FFR and we would be delighted to have everyone join us. Last year, there were Scouts and Scouters in attendance from over 14 different states from three of the four Scouting regions in the nation totaling to over 1,300 people. There were over 40 events and several trainings throughout the weekend and something for everyone. Mark your calendars and make sure to join us this fall! Don't miss out on all of the fun! To check out more about the FFR, like us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/FallFunRally>.

Venture on,

Katie Bruton
CR Area 3 Venturing President

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Age Change Update!

As you may have heard, Venturing will be undergoing several changes in regards to age requirements this year. These changes will take place beginning March 1st and will undergo a 3 year phase-out.

Why is this happening? Currently, all Venturers 14-21 years old are counted as youth. This means that a 20 year old and a 14 year old can share a tent on a camping trip since they are both youth in the program. However, this means that a legal adult in society can tent with a youth. Additionally, suppose you have two good friends (both male) – one is 17 and one is 19 years old. In Venturing, they can tent together, but as Boy Scouts, they cannot. The goal of these changes is to ensure consistency across all programs of the Boy Scouts of America and to abide by societal regulations dealing with age.

How will this change work? Starting March 1st, 18-21 year old Venturers will be “adult participants.” This means that they will register as Venturers using an adult application, will take Youth Protection Training, will undergo a background check, and must follow adult membership standards. However, they will still participate in Venturing as youth, meaning that they can still earn awards, hold leadership positions, etc. Additionally, tenting, showering, restrooms, etc. will slightly change. Instead of having 4 zones with a cutoff at 21, there will be 4 zones with a cutoff at 18. This means that the 4 zones for tenting, showering, etc. will be under 18 male, under 18 female, over 18 male, over 18 female.

So, now I have to register all of my adult participants as adults? That’s a lot of work! Don’t worry! This change will happen over 3 years. All currently registered adult participants on March 1st, will NOT have to submit an adult application until they turn 21. The exception is if the adult participant attends a high adventure base or serves on a staff such as camp staff. Any new adult participants after March 1st will go ahead and register using an adult application. Youth Protection Training and the background check will be completed at the time the adult application is submitted. Please see the matrix below for a better understanding of who needs to do what and when.

I’m still confused. Who can I contact for more information? More information can be found at <http://www.crventuring.org/document2.php?s=1&id=887>. If you have further questions, please contact Emily Mausshardt at president@crventuring.org with any questions you may have. Additionally, your Scout Executive should have received the official communication on these changes. You may wish to work with your Scout Executive for more information, as well.

Status	Age	Action	Enforcement
Currently registered Venturer or Sea Scout on March 1, 2015.	18 years old or older (Born before March 1, 1997 and, therefore, turns 18 PRI-OR TO March 1, 2015)	No action necessary so long as the Venturer/Sea Scout is continually registered in the same unit.	The member must meet all adult membership standards but does not require a background check now Youth Protection Training.
Currently registered Venturer or Sea Scout on March 1, 2015.	Younger than 18 years old (Born on or after March 1, 1997 and, therefore, turns 18 ON OR AFTER March 1, 2015.	No action necessary until the youth turns 18 at which point he/she registers as an adult and meets all requirements of an adult; enters the adult participant phase (still coded as a Venturer/Sea Scout.	Youth Protection Training and background check will be enforced when the adult application is turned in at the next time of charter renewal. If the member turns 18 within 30 days of the charter renewal, enforcement will take place at the next charter renewal.
New Venturer or Sea Scout on or after March 1, 2015.	18 years old or older and less than 21 years old (Born before March 1, 1997)	Registers as an adult and meets all requirements of an adult, but is an adult participant (still coded as a Venturer/Sea Scout)	Youth Protection Training and criminal background check are enforced at the time of application. Member must meet all adult membership standards.
New Venturer or Sea Scout on or after March 1, 2015.	Younger than 18 years old (Born on or after March 1, 1997).	Registers as a youth Venturer/Sea Scout (as usual—no change)	No enforcement required.
Venturer or Sea Scout (current or new) who applies for an adult leadership position, such as camp staff.	18 years old or older (Born before March 1, 1997 and, therefore, turns 18 PRI-OR TO) March 1, 2015.	Registers as an adult and meets the same requirements as adult leaders as part of the leader application process.	Youth Protection Training and criminal background check are enforced at the time of application. Member must meet all adult membership standards.

Sea Scout Update

As we move into the month of February, there are many updates of which Central Region scouts should be aware. First of all, I would like to formally introduce myself. My name is Alex Zoiopoulos and I am currently serving as the 2015 Central Region Boatswain. As someone that has gained so much from this wonderful program, I want to give back to it in any way I can. One of my goals is to increase participation and interest within our program. One of the ways I hope to achieve this is to let you know about regional and national events ahead of time. If you would like to know more about me, there is a link to my full bio and contact information at the end of the article.



Area 7 Venturing Conference

If you would like to learn all things Sea Scouting and Venturing, the Area 7 Venturing Conference is the perfect place to go! This is a great opportunity to learn leadership skills and get certification that can help you and your crew/ship in many ways. The conference will take place on March 7th and will be held in Lake Geneva, WI. For information about the conference, location, and registration, follow this link: http://www.crventuring.org/cal_popup.php?ID=1109. Register as soon as possible.

SEAL 2015

Although summer may seem far away, this is your chance to register for amazing scouting experiences during your break! In our last update, we mentioned SEAL, a fun leadership course for youth Sea Scouts. This course will put your current skills to the test and can take care of many requirements for the Quartermaster Rank. For a complete description and application, click on this link: <http://seascout.org/articlelinkseal>. Registration ends March 1st.

USCG Barque Eagle

If you have already done SEAL or want to do something else, you can also sign up to go on the USCG Barque Eagle during the summer. While aboard the Eagle, you will act as a crew of one of America's only functioning tall ships! It's a fun and rewarding experience few people can do. The application deadline is March 31st so sign up for it as soon as you can. The proposed dates are as follows: July 12th-18th, July 19th-25th, July 26th-August 1st, and August 2nd-8th. Here's a link to the application: <http://www.nerseascout.org/2015-CGC-EAGLE%20Application.pdf>.

In the coming months, there will be many other events within the Central Region to help you get your scouting fix. I will go over most of them in detail, but you can see a current list of all our events by going to the Central Region Venturing website: http://www.crventuring.org/Activities/Events_Listing/.

Other links:

My full bio and information:

http://seascouting.crventuring.org/officer_popup.php?ID=15

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: @seascoutbsa

~Alex Zoiopoulos

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!



Area 5 Update

Happy February Central Region! Area 5 has been really busy over the past six months! We have held two events so far, including the Venturing Forum in August where we presented about changes to Venturing and were able to build connections with Council Leaders from around the Area. On November 22nd we held our Area 5 Venturing Leadership Conference! We had 108 in attendance and shattered previous attendance records! In addition to our two events, we have been working hard with the councils to build membership, communications, programs, and award earnings. Since June, we have had two VOAs form and have put two more in the works. Without the dedication of adults and youth alike, this feat would not have been possible.

We are just now beginning to gear up for our Area 5 Fun Event! It will be held on April 10-12 in Omaha, Nebraska. We will be providing bussing from Kansas City for anyone who would like to take advantage of that. Event activities will include a mixer, several competitions, and a trip to the highly regarded Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium. We will also visit several locations across the city and will have an award ceremony, making this an event you won't want to miss! I would also like to take advantage of this opportunity to announce our Area 5 Fun Event Logo Contest! We are looking for one talented Venturer or Venturing Adult to design the logo for the Fun Event. We will use this logo on both the shirts and the patches. Whoever designs the winning logo will get a free registration to the Area 5 Fun Event! Please send designs to Dani Stilwell at Area5VP-Program@crventuring.org. If you have any questions, feel free to contact her.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone who is involved in Venturing. If you are new to the program, welcome, and prepare for an experience that will change your life. If you have a little bit of experience and more importantly a passion for the program, consider lending your talents to the council level. Whether it be on the VOA Committee, the VOA itself, or as an adult advisor, I know every council in the Region would appreciate your services. If you don't know how to begin, contact your council's Venturing staff advisor, or your Area president.

~ Ramin Rostampour

Area 4's World Fest

Dive into a mix of cultures, activities, and games at WorldFest: An International Experience! Gather your nation (unit) and explore the grounds whether you participate at the enormous midway (filled with military displays, challenge courses, inflatables, Native American dancing, animals, re-enactors, and much, much more), participate in camp wide games, or shoot anything from pistols to black powder. The list grows longer by the day and promises you nothing short of an amazing, fun-filled Venturing experience! So create your own identity and culture as a unit and join the Area 4 VOA at their annual fun event on April 24-26 at Seven Ranges Scout Reservation in Kensington, OH! Register now before it is too late! Check out <https://sites.google.com/a/crventuring.org/c4voa/worldfest> for more details! Hope to see you

WorldFest April 24-26, 2015 Kensington, OH

Central Connection!

Check out the most recent Central Connection episodes at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXbo0J-Q6Xn1QWFM0dr_geg! This summer has been full of educational Central Connections, all about the Changes to Venturing! Check back on February 10th and February 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>

Area 7 Conference!

I hope you all are ready because Area 7's annual Venturing Conference is almost here! This year's conference will be held on March 7, 2015 in Lake Geneva Wisconsin at the Grand Geneva Resort! If you are looking for a day full of important information and fun activities this is the event for you. All of our courses are geared toward what you're interested in learning about, whether that be the changes to Venturing, the new awards, new trainings available, upcoming events, teambuilding, or even networking! The Area 7 Venturing Officers Association is working endlessly to put on an event for all the amazing venturers we serve! Last year Area 7 was honored to be the host of the largest conference in the Central Region and we are definitely planning to put on another incredible event for all of you. If you have any further questions or are interested in our event visit the Central Region Area 7 Venturing Facebook page! I'm sure I can speak for my entire team when I say we hope to see you there! (:

~ Katlin Adams



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:



S- F Scout Ranch

High Ridge, MO

Home of the Fall Fun Rally!

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,

Happy February! As I write this, parts of the Northeast Region are being covered by over 2 feet of snow! (Meanwhile in many parts of the Western Region, it is averaging 65-degrees.)

As you hopefully have seen, the official application for all National, Regional, and Area youth leadership positions has been released! There are slightly altered dates that are important for the application process.

For the National Venturing President and Vice-President positions, the application is due by February 15th.

For Regional Venturing President and Vice-President positions, the application is due by February 28th.

For Area Venturing President and Vice-President positions, the application is due by March 15th.

For many youth (because of age), this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! (And if you are one of the youth that has a chance to apply for a second term, we need your expertise!) As a past youth officer, I can tell you this is a life-changing experience. Not only will you be able to meet new friends and learn new skills, but you will be able to participate and showcase your Venturing leadership abilities outside of your Crew and Council.

When I talk to fellow Venturing members along my travels, I am often asked, "What has been the key moment in your Scouting career?" Many will respond when they earned their Eagle or Silver Award, or learned a key skill. For me, it was the moment my Scout Executive encouraged me to apply for Central Region Venturing President. They believed in me, supported me, and I am forever thankful for the amazing doors it has opened for me.

I encourage all of you reading this to apply (if you are eligible). If you aren't eligible, I would like to ask you to think about an amazing youth you have had the opportunity to meet and encourage them to apply. (A personal invitation is sometimes exactly what will inspire someone.) We NEED youth on all levels that are passionate about Venturing and can lead our program from 2015 and beyond!

Nervous? Have a million questions? Think that you can't do it or that the responsibility is "too large?" I would encourage you to reach out to your current Area officers, Region officers, or any of the past Area and Region officers and ask them about what they do for a real-life answer. This is definitely an opportunity that you won't want to let pass you by!

When you aren't completing the application or encouraging someone else to, let's hope for a great month. Enjoy the Superbowl, Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, and Presidents' Day. The countdown begins for leap year in 2016!

Thank you for all that you do!

Yours in Venturing,

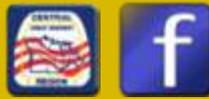
Kris

Kris Zahrobsky

Central Region Venturing Advisor/ Chairman



Area 1



Upcoming events:

February 14th, 2015, Winter Amidships, Fond du Lac, WI
April 18th, 2015, Rock River Regatta, Loves Park, IL
August 9th-15th, 2015, Venturing Training, Philmont, NM

President: [Michael O'Hara](#)



Advisor: [Chris Sandberg](#)



Area 2



Upcoming Events:

February 20th-22nd, 2015, Venturing Kickback Weekend, Twin Lakes, MI
March 6th- 8th, 2015, Caberfae Ski Weekend, Tustin, MI
June 20th- 23rd, 2015, Area 2 White Water Rafting, Fayetteville, MI

President: [Joey Jenkins](#)



Advisor: [Jeff Gerald](#)



Area 3



Upcoming events:

February 27th, 2015, NYLT- PC, Fairmount, IL
February 28th, 2015, Horseback Ranger Day, Metamora, IL

Also, check out Area 3's YouTube page!

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

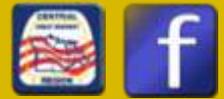
President: [Katie Bruton](#)



Advisor: [Bob Vogt](#)



Area 4



Upcoming Events:

February 7th, 2015, Baden Powell Institute, North Canton, OH
March 7th, 2015, Scouting University, Wadsworth, OH
March 21st, 2015, University of Scouting, Warren, OH
March 21st, 2015, University of Scouting, Zanesville, OH

President: [Nate Steele](#)



Advisor: [Duane Zobrist](#)



Area 5



Upcoming Events:

February 6th, 2015, Mid Iowa Ice Climb, Cedar Falls, IA
March 10th-12th, 2015, Area 5 Fun Event, Omaha, NE
November 22nd, 2014, Area 5 Leadership Conference, Kansas City, KS

President: [Ramin Rostampour](#)



Advisor: [Julie Dalton](#)



Area 6



Upcoming Events:

February 7th, 2015, Training Expo, Nashville, IN
March 20th- 21st, 2015, Area 6 Leadership Conference, Frankton, IN
May 15th-17th, 2015, Venturing Camp, Yellow Springs, IN

President: [Jennifer Bullock](#)



Advisor: [Carla Gargas](#)



Area 7



Upcoming Events:

February 20th-22nd, 2015, Venturing Blast, Oregon, IL
March 7th, 2015, Area 7 Venturing Conference, Lake Geneva, WI
May 1st- 3rd, 2015, Wood Badge C7, Camp Indian Trials, WI

President: [Katlin Adams](#)



Advisor: [Rachel Zahrobsky](#)



President's Corner



Happy February, Central Region!

"I'm not good enough."
"I don't have time."
"So and so is better at that than me."
"I'm not a good leader."
"I don't have an application."

Three years ago, I had every excuse not to apply to be an out-of-council officer. I was far from a competent leader, was not outspoken, and had little knowledge of the Venturing program. Regardless, several people encouraged me to apply to be an area officer. I was too afraid to tell them "no," so I decided to humor them and submit an application.

Looking back on this experience, I am eternally grateful for those who encouraged me to apply. As cliché as it may be, this experience has changed my life. I gained a huge Scouting family, was able to participate in some really neat opportunities, and learned quite a few new skills.

So, why should you apply to be an area or regional officer? Well, you will make friends that support you no matter what, live in different time zones than you, and have the same passion that you do. You will get to work with advisors that are 100% selfless and will help you to grow as a leader, role model, and friend. You will get to see what Scouting is like outside of your own council while learning more about Venturing than you knew there was to learn. You will get to help shape the Venturing program in your area. Oh, and I guess you will learn some life-long skills in the process, such as effective communication, conflict-resolution, and teambuilding. Sounds pretty great, huh?!

I wouldn't have submitted my first application if it hadn't been for a past officer and now area associate advisor that sent me the application link with a firm, "FILL. IT. OUT." type message. It's your turn now! Here is the link to the application: <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/venturing/pdf/VTPresidentNominationForm.pdf>. YOU! Yes, YOU! FILL IT OUT! You are good enough. You are a great leader. You have the application. We want you to be a part of our Venturing Officers' Association next year because we need strong leaders such as yourself!

If you are still uneasy about what the position would entail, you are welcome to contact any of the area or regional officers. We would love to talk to you about it!

Have a great February, Central Region!

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

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Central Region Venturing Associate
Advisor for Communications:

Deb Keyes

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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.