



Central Region Venturing Monthly Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2
July 2007



Welcome to the second edition of the 2007-2008 monthly Central Region Venturing Newsletter. Each edition will feature information that you will find useful for your council's Venturing program. We will highlight items that support the development of your Teen Leadership Councils, Roundtables, chairmanships, commissioners, professional staff, council-wide activities and the Central Region Venturing Areas. We look forward to being of service to you in Venturing.

Amanda Vogt

Central Region Venturing President/Newsletter Editor

Keith Gehlhausen

Central Region Venturing Chair

Debbie Keyes

Central Region Communication Coordinator

Joe Vollmer

Central Region Professional

The Areas of Central Region

Area 1: North / South Dakota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota

Area 2: Indiana and Michigan

Area 3: Northern Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, and Wisconsin

Area 4: Ohio and West Virginia

Area 5: Southern Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska

Announcing the New Central Region Area Venturing Presidents

Area 1 Venturing President: TBD

Area 1 Venturing Chair: TBD

Area 2 Venturing President: Katherine Maxim

Area 2 Venturing Chair: Jeff Gerald

Area 3 Venturing President: Nicole Gates

Area 3 Venturing Chair: Kris Zabrosky

Area 4 Venturing President: Katelyn Childs

Area 4 Venturing Chair: Len Roberts

Area 5 Venturing President: Dan Bedell

Area 5 Venturing Chair: Bob Vogt

Contact us at:

Amanda Vogt

president@crventuring.org

Keith Gehlhausen

venturing-chair@crventuring.org

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staff-advisor@crventuring.org

Debbie Keyes

communication-coordinator@crventuring.org

To contact the entire Central Region Venturing Comm. email Debbie Keyes and she will pass it on.

This Month's Q & A

Every month, we will answer questions frequently asked by Venturers, Advisors, or Professionals. If you have any questions you would like answered please email them to president@crventuring.org

We would like to thank David George, the 2006-2007 National Boatswain and the 2007-2008 National Venturing President, for taking the time to answer these questions.

What is Sea Scouting?

Sea Scouting started in England in 1911 and was brought to the United States in 1912. For decades, it existed as its own program in the BSA and then became part of the Exploring program in 1949. Since 1998, Sea Scouts has been part of the Venturing program, under the guidance of the Boy Scouts of America.

I am a Venturer. Can I get the Quartermaster award?

That depends. If you are a registered member of a Sea Scout ship you may earn the award. If you are not a registered Sea Scout, you cannot. However, you may earn the Sea Scout Bronze award as a Venturer.

Do I have to know how to sail?

No. The 2006-2007 National Boatswain joined Sea Scouts because he wanted to attend the U.S. Naval Academy. He cared nothing about sailing. His mind was sure changed, though, and he learned how to sail with his ship. In fact, Bill Koch, winner of the 1992 America's Cup, attributes his learning how to sail to reading the Sea Scout manual as a youth.

For answers to more Sea Scouting questions, please visit:

www.nationalventuringyouthcabinet.org where you can find more frequently asked questions and information about Venturing across the nation.

Advisor You Should Know

Each month we will feature a Venturer or an Advisor that you should know. If you know a Venturer or an Advisor you would like to nominate, please send Amanda Vogt a short bio on them and a photo. This month our Advisor of the month is the Central Region Venturing Chair, Keith Gehlhausen.



Keith is from Buffalo Trace Council in Evansville, Indiana. Keith has previously served at the unit level as a Venturing Crew Associate Advisor, Sea Scout Ship Mate, Explorer Post Advisor, Varsity Team Coach, and Scoutmaster. At the council level, Keith has served as Council Venturing Chair, Powder Horn course director, Kodiak course director, and Wood Badge staff. At the regional/national level, he has served as Powder Horn CDC director, Venturing division staff for the 2005 National Scout Jamboree, and serves as a member of the National Venturing Council Support Committee. Keith has received the Silver Beaver, as well as the Council and Regional Venturing Leadership Awards.

For more information on the Key Three of Central Region Venturing Committee please visit our website (www.crventuring.org)



Consulting Tip of the Month

Every month we will feature a resource that could be beneficial to your council or crew. This month we are featuring the conservation department website for each state in Area 1.

North Dakota: <http://www.nd.nrcs.usda.gov/>

South Dakota: <http://www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Michigan: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr>

Wisconsin: <http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Iowa: <http://www.iowadnr.com/>

In the next few months we will feature the conservation departments for the other 4 Areas. These are useful to find parks, or to help plan conservation projects as requirements for several Venturing Awards.

Venturing Awards and Recognition Program

Encourage your Venturing crew members to work towards the completion of one of the Venturing awards. The process of working towards the awards will help keep youth interested in Venturing.

Bronze Awards

Venturing has 5 different Bronze Awards. A Venturer may earn anywhere from 1 to 5 of the Bronze Awards. All five Bronze Awards contain the common elements of experience, learning a skill, and sharing your experiences and skills with others.

Earning at least one Bronze Award is required for the Venturing Gold Award. The Bronze Award is designed as the entry-level award for a Venturer so that they can acquire usable skills that will carry them along the trail to the Venturing Silver Award.

This month we will focus on the Religious Life Bronze Award.

Continued on the next column...

Religious Life Bronze Award

To earn the Religious Life Bronze Award you must complete nine activities (examples are listed below). The full requirements for this bronze award can be found in the Venturing Handbook or at the following website:

(<http://usscouts.org/advance/venturing/ReligiousLifeBronze.html>)

Examples of activities include:

Earn your denomination's Venturing-age religious award

Learn about cultural diversity

Plan and lead a service project such as helping to build a Habitat for Humanity house, participating in a community cleanup project, or taking on a fix-up project for a nursing home or nursery

Serve as a volunteer in your church or synagogue or other nonprofit organization for at least three months

Serve as a Sunday school teacher or assistant for a children's Sunday school class for at least three months, or as a volunteer for a church/synagogue children's activity such as vacation Bible school

Complete a Standard First Aid course or higher course or its equivalent

Go on a religious retreat or religious trek lasting at least two days



How to Conduct the Venturing Leadership Skills Course

(from the Venturing Roundtable Guide #34342)

"Leadership is an elusive concept that, at times, can be vague and ambiguous."
Phillips, Lincoln on Leadership

All current and future leaders of a crew can gain leadership skills by taking the Venturing Leadership Skills Course (VLSC). In fact, the VLSC is leadership training for ALL Venturers. It is a requirement for the Silver Award and the Venturing Advisor Award of Merit. It is also recommended, but not required, as a predecessor to Kodiak.

The first thing to do is pick up a copy of the *Venturing Leadership Skills Course* book #34340C. It includes a sample schedule, the syllabus, and the handouts. Read through the book and decide how you are going to conduct the course...within your crew, with multiple crews, or at a district or council level. Include your officers in this decision.

VLSC could be included as part of the crew officer's seminar annual retreat. Teach it to the officers first, then they can teach it to the rest of the Crew. Have the officers use this as their "Plan a Crew Activity" during the Organization section. They can present the entire course to the Crew at a weekend outing. An alternative is incorporating the modules into Crew meetings.

If you have a smaller Crew, consider partnering with another Crew for the course. If you are a new Crew, find a local Crew who have already gone through VLSC and have them run it. You can also attend a district or council course.

Continued on Next Column...



How to Conduct the Venturing Leadership Skills Course Continued...

Ideally, you should choose an outdoor setting, but some of the modules are better done inside. Ideally Venturers will conduct the course with support from the adults (not just adults delivering the course).

Some things you should consider as you prepare to conduct a VLSC:

- Venturers are young adults, treat them as such - trust & listen to them
- Don't lecture - spend more time on the hands-on activities & reflections
- Younger Crews need more breaks from the activity
- Make it fun, be enthusiastic

Resources:

Venturing Leadership Skills Course
book #34340C
Venturer Handbook #33494C

Powder Horn Updates

We would like to encourage your Council to make plans to host a Powder Horn course or cluster with neighboring Councils to share resources in putting on a Powder Horn. Before a course is planned or approved, is the best time for potential Course Directors, Assistant Course Directors, and the Staff Advisor to attend the Powder Horn Course Director's Conference. It will soon be a prerequisite for course approval for the above named staff to attend the PH CDC about 18 months before the course date and before course approval is granted. So Council's even with mild curiosity or an inkling of conducting a course should send people to the CDC this fall. October 26-28 in Rochester, Indiana. Information Can be found at: http://www.powderhorn-bsa.org/PDF/CR_07_PH_CDC.pdf

Central Region Membership Update

For the first half of 2007 Venturing membership is up across the region. The only area of decline has been in Sea Scouting.

The Membership Committee has put together a set of goals for the next two years to strengthen our membership drive in all areas of Venturing.

Special attention will be paid to reversing the declines in Sea Scouting and to increasing the college-age membership. Work is being done with both professional staff and volunteers to make sure everyone knows the Venturing story.

Membership should be a priority of every officer and advisor in Central Region. Whether it is starting new crews or strengthening existing ones, we all need to have a membership focus in whatever we do.

The Membership Committee would like to hear your success stories. Perhaps there is a council that has a great program for increasing membership, or for selling sponsors on the Venturing program.

Please let us know so we can share the story widely, and piggy-back on each others successes. Remember - it's not one Council or Area against another, but rather the Scouting/Venturing values against the world.

Let's help each other succeed.

New Positions Available

The Central Region Venturing Communications/Website team is looking for some team members (youth or adult). We are asking you to send us the name, email and phone number of candidates that could fill the following:

Website Tech: Work with the Central Region Venturing Webmaster. Be proficient and experienced in writing custom web applications using both PHP scripting and MySQL databases. Be able to provide a portfolio or work samples.

Social Network Tech: Work with the Central Region Venturing Communications Coordinator. Be knowledgeable in MySpace, YouTube, and Facebook to manage external content in such proposed accounts. Ability to produce videos & podcasts a plus.



Central Region Area Pages

Area 1

Upcoming Events

July 13th-15th: Bay Jammer
July 15th-21st: Venturing Rocks
Aug. 6th-12th: Kodiak- Bay Lakes
Sept. 7th-9th: Whitewater Kayaking
Sept: 21st-23rd: Wood Badge C-09-07
Sept. 21st-23rd: Whitewater Kayaking

Councils of Area 1

Area 1 includes the following councils:
Bay Lakes, Central Minnesota, Chippewa Valley, Gamehaven, Gateway Area, Hawkeye Area, Hiawathaland, Mid-Iowa, Northeast Iowa, Northern Lights, Samoset, Sioux, Twin Valley, Voyageurs Area, Winnebago, and Northern Star

Information on these events and links to these councils can be found on www.crventuring.org

Contact them at:

Area President area1president@crventuring.org Area Chair area1chair@crventuring.org
To be determined... To be determined...

Area 2

Upcoming Events

July 21st-25th: Venturing Summer Camp
July 22nd-27th: AdVenturing Week at CCLT
July 22nd-28th: Adventure Woods and Water
August 10th-12th:Makahiki
Aug. 24th-26th: Powder Horn MI W/E 1
Aug. 24th-26th: Wood Badge C-16-07

Councils of Area 2

Area 2 includes the following councils:
Anthony Wayne Area, Blue Water, Buffalo Trace, Chief Okemos, Clinton Valley, Crossroads of America, Detroit Area, Gerald R. Ford, Great Sauk Trail, Hoosier Trails, Lake Huron Area, LaSalle, Sagamore, Scenic Trails, Southwest Michigan, and Tall Pine

Information on these events and links to these councils can be found on www.crventuring.org

Contact them at:

Area President area2president@crventuring.org Area Chair area2chair@crventuring.org
Katherine Maxim Jeff Gerald

Central Region Area Pages

Area 3

Upcoming Events

July 27th-29th: Napowan Venturing Weekend
July 15th, 22nd: Wilderness Factor
Weeks 5 & 6 begin
July 28th-29th: Blackhawk Regatta
July 1st-7th, 15th-21st, and 29th-4th:
Carlen Venture Base Sessions

Councils of Area 3

Area 3 includes the following councils:
Abraham Lincoln, Blackhawk Area, Calumet,
Chicago Area, Des Plaines Valley, Glaciers
Edge, Illowa, Lincoln Trails, Milwaukee County,
Northeast Illinois, Northwest Suburban,
Potawatomi Area, Prairielands, Rainbow,
Southeast Wisconsin, Three Fires, and W.D.
Boyce

Information on these events and links to these councils can be found on www.crventuring.org

Contact them at:

Area President area3president@crventuring.org Area Chair area3chair@crventuring.org
Nicole Gates Kris Zahrobsky

Area 4

Upcoming Events

Aug. 17th-19th: Powder Horn OH W/E 1
Aug. 17th-19th: Annual Sea Scout Regatta
Sept. 7th-9th: Powder Horn OH W/E 2
Sept. 15th-17th: Wood Badge C-35-07

Councils of Area 4

Area 4 includes the following councils:
Allohak, Black Swamp Area, Buckeye,
Buckskin, Dan Beard, Erie Shores, Great Trail,
Greater Cleveland, Greater Western Reserve,
Heart of Ohio, Miami Valley, Mountaineer Area,
Muskingum Valley, Ohio River Valley, Simon
Kenton, Tecumseh, and Tri-State Area

Information on these events and links to these councils can be found on www.crventuring.org

Contact them at:

Area President area4president@crventuring.org Area Chair area4chair@crventuring.org
Katelyn Childs Len Roberts

Central Region Area Pages

Area 5

Upcoming Events

July 1st-8th: Venturing Week at Hohn SR
July 8th-14th, and 15th-21st:

Swift Explorer Base Sessions

August 8th-13th: HOAC Venturing Week

September 7th-9th: Wood Badge C-47-07

September 14th-16th: Greater St. Louis

Area Fall Fun Rally

Councils of Area 5

Area 5 include the following councils:
Cornhusker, Coronado Area, Great Rivers,
Greater St. Louis Area, Heart of America,
Jayhawk Area, Mid-America, Mississippi
Valley, Okaw Valley, Overland Trails, Ozark
Trails, Pony Express, Quivira, Santa Fe Trail,
and Trails West

Information on these events and links to these councils can be found on www.crventuring.org

Contact them at:

Area President area5president@crventuring.org Area Chair area5chair@crventuring.org
Dan Bedell Bob Vogt

Venturing Yahoo Groups

Please sign up for the many Yahoo Groups dedicated to Venturing. Information on these groups can be found by searching Yahoo Groups for Venturing, or by clicking on the links below.



Central Region Venturing Yahoo Group: this group is used to share resources and ideas, and to ask questions about Venturing in the Central Region
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/crventuring/>



Venturing List: this group shares the above information with Venturers and Advisors from across the nation. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/venturinglist/>
