



Central Region Venturing Monthly Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 8
January 2008



Welcome to the eighth 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

**Welcome to the 10th
Anniversary of
Venturing**



**Welcome to the 96th
Anniversary of
Sea Scouting**



Contact us at:

Amanda Vogt

president@crventuring.org

Keith Gehlhausen

venturing-chair@crventuring.org

Joe Vollmer

staff-advisor@crventuring.org

Debbie Keyes

communications-coordinator@crventuring.org

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

The History of Venturing

In honor of the 10th Anniversary, I am going to start an ongoing column about the history of Venturing. With that in mind, I thought no person could tell the history of this program better than one of the men who helped create it ten years ago. Therefore I asked Bill Evans, Associate Director, National Venturing Division for view of Venturing's history.

When Did Venturing Begin?

Officially Venturing was created by the Boy Scouts of America's Executive Board on February 9, 1998. However if you ask Bill Evans, Associate Director, National Venturing Division, who was there that day and helped create Venturing, he would expand a little.

In 1995, the Outdoor Exploring Committee chaired by Dr. Dick Miller of Waynesboro, Virginia, met in Long Key, Florida. The primary purpose of the meeting was to address the issue of how to support and sustain the amazing growth that outdoor Exploring was enjoying. During a five year period in the early 90s, Outdoor Exploring had grown 94% to almost a hundred thousand members.

What resulted from that committee meeting was what is now known as the Ranger Award, the Silver Award, and Bronze Awards. Evans said that when the committee would come up with an idea, it would sound familiar. Then they would refer to a 1950 edition of the Explorer Handbook and find their idea had already been applied years ago. So, if you are a history buff and have an early edition Explorer Handbook, you can see the many similarities between early day's of Exploring and today's Venturing.

If you really want to trace the roots of Venturing, according to Evans, you have to go way back. Evans says the need for a senior Boy Scout program probably surface the second day after Scouting started in the United States in 1910.

Actually in the very first National Executive Board meeting report, it is stated that there was a discussion about losing older boys. It was no surprise to our founders that older boys needed an age specific program with challenges appropriate for them.

Older boy programs cropped up across the country during those early years causing the need for national action. In 1935, the BSA created Senior Scouting, publishing the *Guide to Senior Scouting*. There were several options including Explorers, Sea Scouts and Air Scouts.

In 1949 the BSA consolidated the senior programs, with the exception of Sea Scouts, into just Exploring. In the early 1950s a boy could be an Explorer in the troop or in a standalone unit called the Explorer Post. The Explorer advancement program included the Bronze Award, the Gold Award, and the Silver Award. Sound familiar? The last Silver awards were earned in 1966 as Exploring began to turn more toward career emphasis.

That is until the new Venturing Silver Award was re-introduced in August 1998. The new Venturing advancement award medals are very similar in design to their predecessors of the 1940s and 1950s.

Stay tuned next month for a continuation of this story. When did the idea of Venturing really kick off, and who was involved?

Person You Should Know

As we move into the tenth Anniversary of Venturing let's get to know one of Venturing's big supporters, Kerry Cheesman.



Kerry has been around Scouting since he was a boy. He is one of the many who loved the program so much he has never left it. He has served on the National Venturing Committee since 2000. He is also a Silver Beaver recipient along with being a National Venturing Leadership Award recipient.

Talking with him while in Columbus in November, his biggest love is that he has been able to share this experience with his two Eagle Scout/ Venturing Silver Award recipient sons, Ian and Nathan.

To see just how involved in Venturing Kerry has been check out his bio at: <http://www.nationalventuringyouthcabinet.org/files/DrKerryCheesman.pdf>

Silver Award Congratulation Letters

If you know of a Venturer who has earned their Venturing Silver Award, I would love to offer my congratulations.

If you will send their name and what address you want me to send the letter to, I will personalize a letter of congratulations to them.

Council Standards of Venturing Excellence

If you have not submitted your council's paperwork for the Council Standards of Venturing Excellence please do not forget.

The Central Region Committee would love to recognize your council at the National Meetings for having an outstanding Venturing program.

Please visit www.crventuring.org for the details on this award.

With your help we can continue to build Venturing in the Central Region.

What's Going on Around the Central Region

Area 2 White Water Rafting Trip: June 14th-17th

\$200 fee includes two days on the New River Gorge, camping fees, meals, patch and a t-shirt

Each rafter is responsible for their own transportation, camping gear, and meals during travel.

Meals while at Songer are included in the cost. All Venturers and Boy Scouts ages 14 and older are welcome. (younger scouts and family members may be able to attend). We ask for 1 adult for every 6 youth. BSA guidelines apply to minimum adults for each group.

A \$50 per person reservation fee is due by Friday, March 14, 2008 to Lake Huron Area Council. This deposit is non refundable but is transferable.

For additional information visit the Lake Huron Area Council website at www.lhacbsa.org

Contact Cliff Aldrich at 989-573-0668 or caldrich-4@chartermi.net for questions/ concerns.

2008 Area and Regional President Applications Will be Available on the Central Region Venturing Website

Don't forget to submit applications for qualified Venturers for the 2008-2009 Central Region Venturing President position, and the Central Region Area President positions.

Also if you are a Sea Scout please submit an application for the Central Region Boatswain on the Central Region Website as well.

Trivia Question of the Month

Every month we will feature a trivia question about Venturing, answer on page 8.

Question: What does every other BSA program logo have that the Venturing logo does not have?

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.

Around this time of the year every council should start thinking about those special youth and adults that have shown great leadership skills at the crew, district, or council level. These people should be nominated for the **Venturing Leadership Award**. Here are the details:

Qualifications:

1. Be registered and involved in Venturing as a Venturer or an adult for at least one year.
2. Hold a leadership position or office on the unit, district, council, area, regional, or national level (as appropriate for the level of award presented).
3. Show exceptional dedication and give outstanding leadership and service to Venturing and to Venturers on the level appropriate for the award.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.scouting.org/venturing/support/resources/pdf/25-203.pdf>

What's Going on Around the Central Region (Continued)

Area 3- 2008 Youth Leadership Conference:

The Chicago Area Council and Central Region Area 3 will be hosting their annual "Youth Leadership Conference" from March 14-16, 2008. This year's will be held at the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, Illinois.

The Conference is a major gathering of all Venturing and Exploring youth and adults from the Central Region. There will be informational sessions on everything from building leadership skills and current teen issues, to how to get into college and learning to dance! In addition, agencies from all over the Midwest will exhibit their resources. The event will conclude with an evening banquet and dance complete with awards, guest speakers, and an incredible multi-media show!

Some of the Venturing Highlights include:

- A session presented by the Central Region Youth President
- Venturing Leadership training sessions
- Venturing trivia and game shows
- A mini-Powder Horn session
- A Sea Scout session
- Networking with your fellow Venturers
- A great time!

Registration fees are \$80.00 a person. Lodging costs are \$85.00 plus tax per night for single, Double, Triple and Quad Occupancy.

To receive an event sign-up packet or for more information, please contact Nicholas K. Haff, the event's Adult Chairman, by email at: cpdpost9917@gmail.com or by phone at: (773) 679-6062.

What's Going on Around the Central Region (Continued)



The Central Region is Celebrating the 10th Anniversary with the Fall Fun Rally. Greater St. Louis Area Council is hosting their Annual Fall Fun Rally, and is opening it up to any Venturer or Sea Scout to attend. Held September 19th-21st, 2008 it is going to be an event you don't want to miss. Full of non-stop fun activities ranging from a rifle range, to field activities, to a big dance at night, be sure to check this event out.

More information can be found at www.stlbsa.org in the near future.

Southern Region's Winterfest February 1st-3rd, 2008



Winterfest is the largest Venturing/ Exploring event in the nation. This year's event takes place February 1st-3rd, 2008 and has many competitive and noncompetitive events including talent shows, volleyball tournaments, first aid competitions, and a dance for crew members.

If you missed Winterfest 2007, you missed an outstanding event. Over 2,300 Venturers and Explorers participated. We hope to see you in Gatlinburg this February for a great time!

For more information on Winterfest and other Venturing events, please check the Southern Region Venturing website: www.srvnturingbsa.org

Summer Camp Jobs

Most Venturing Crews plan for a super activity over the summer months. To help pay for those super activities, many will work at BSA camps. For some, this is their personal super activity!

Summer camp jobs are now being listed on the Discussion Boards of the Central Region Venturing facebook group.

Please let your Crew members know about this listing service. You may also wish to post your council camp staff openings in this topic (Summer Camp Jobs) on Facebook.

We now have over 800 people on the Central Region Venturing Facebook group & many of them may soon be looking for summer employment.

Hire the best in the BSA - hire a Venturer!

To either, post openings or view them, please join our facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2292491801> - if you do not have a facebook login, you will be asked to create one.

Current entries include: Philmont, Northern Tier, Sea Base, D-Bar-A Scout Ranch and Camp Chief Little Turtle

Congratulations to the New Central Region's Order of the Arrow Chief



A few days ago Tyler Elliot was elected as the 2008 Central Region Order of the Arrow Chief. Let us send our support and congratulations to him as we wish him a productive year.

Let us also thank Don Hough the 2007 Central Region Order of the Arrow Chief for an excellent year of service to the Boy Scouts of America.

Central Region Area Pages

Area 1

Upcoming Events

Jan. 5th: Okpik- WI
Jan. 11th -13th: Hannah Winter Resort
(every weekend through end of Feb.)
Jan. 18th-20th: Arctic Adventure
Jan. 25th-27th: Okpik Outdoor Session
Feb. 15th-17th: Arctic Adventure
Feb. 16th: Winter Amidships
Feb. 28th: Buck Hill Lock-in

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
Felicity Smith *Chris Sandberg*

Area 2

Upcoming Events

Jan. 25th-27th: Super Ski Weekend
Feb. 15th-17th: Venturing Kick-Back
Weekend 08

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

Jan. 11th-12th: Crew 27 Lock-in
Jan. 19th: Snowstorm
Feb. 17th: Arctic Blast

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

Jan. 18th-20th: Sea Scout Winter
Training Weekend
Feb. 8th-10th: Wilderness First Aid- OH
Feb. 16th-17th: Mad River Mountain Ski
Weekend

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

Jan. 12th: Ski Night at Hidden Valley
Jan. 12th-13th: Cave Camping/
Wilderness Training
Feb. 15th-18th: Kanik

Councils of Area 5

Area 5 includes 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 & Sea Scouting Discussion Lists

Please sign up for the many Yahoo Groups and Discussion Lists dedicated to Venturing and Sea Scouting. Information on these groups can be found by searching Yahoo Groups for Venturing, clicking on "Discussion Groups" at seascout.org, or by clicking on the links below.



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



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



Sea Scouting Discussion List: this group shares information with Sea Scouts and Sea Scout leaders across the nation: <http://listserv.seascout.org/cgi-bin/wa?A0=SEASCOUT-NET>



Central Region Sea Scouting Discussion List: this group is used to share resources and ideas, and to ask questions about Sea Scouting in Central Region: <http://listserv.seascout.org/cgi-bin/wa?A0=SEASCOUT-CREGION-NET>