

Central Region Program Area 5 Venturing Update November 2008



VENTURING • BSA

*Bob Vogt, CR Area 5 Venturing Chair/ Update Editor
Eric Mirsovs, CR Area 5 Communication Coordinator*

Council Standards of Venturing Excellence

Is your Council's Venturing Program at the top of its game? Is your Council meeting the "Standards of Venturing Excellence." Introduced in 2007, the Council Standard of Venturing Excellence Award is designed to give a council the roadmap to follow in developing an excellent Venturing program for our youth. In 2007, 6 councils were recognized for their outstanding Venturing programs. The 2 councils from Area 5 that received the CSVE Award were Heart of America Council and Greater St. Louis Area Council.



Did your Council qualify? Did it submit the application? Will it qualify for the 2008 CSVE Award? Attached to this email is a copy of the 2008 application for the CSVE Award. Take time now to review this 1 page application and set into motion the steps for your Council to be recognized for Venturing excellence.

When all of the requirements are completed, a council will be eligible to earn the award. The Council Standard of Venturing Excellence Award is determined based on successfully achieving the 2008 criteria by December 31, 2008.

The Council and TLC leadership completes the form. It is completed shortly after the end of the calendar year for which you are submitting for the award (example, for 2008, you should complete and mail the form no later than February 15, 2009).

Recognition items will include a plaque, recognition in the Central Region newsletter, listing in the Central Region luncheon program at the Annual BSA

Meeting in Orlando, and listing on www.crventuring.org

To apply for the award, fill in the council information at the top of the form, mark the requirements that have been completed, and get the requested signatures. Mail or fax the completed form to the Central Region Venturing office.

Central Region Venturing Newsletter

Attached to this emailed Venturing Update are the October & November 2008 issues of the Central Region Venturing Newsletter designed and written by Katelyn Childs, the CR Venturing President. As always, we need your help in sending the newsletters out across our Area 5. Please forward it to all of your Venturing contacts (youth & adult) and professionals that work with Venturing. Increasing our communications amongst Venturers can only help to increase our membership.

Venturer in the News

Inspiring "Making a Difference" TV news story recently appeared on NBC affiliate KSDK Channel 5 in St. Louis on Amanda Vogt, National Venturing President. To see the video, just click on this link: <http://www.ksdk.com/news/difference/story.aspx?storyid=157728&catid=88>



Great Venturing Sites:

National Venturing Cabinet Officers:

www.nationalventuringyouthcabinet.org

Central Region Venturing: www.crventuring.org

Central Region Sea Scouting:

www.seascouting.crventuring.org

Venturing Crew in the News



Venturing meet Fencing, a perfect fit!

Article appeared in the 9-08 'Echo' newsletter of the Okaw Valley BSA – Article by Pearse Wilson, Advisor and fencing coach for Crew 1826

Millstadt, IL Venturing Crew 1826 has been fencing recreationally as just one of its varied activities for several years, but in the Spring of 2008 we decided to start a fencing team with the goal to compete nationally. Our crew was not interested in only fencing so we made the decision to continue in the other activities we have always participated; e.g. riflery, camping and boating, dodgeball night (yes dodgeball night), road trips, even ethnic restaurant nights; and to add the fencing team for anyone who was interested.

Venturers are the perfect age to start fencing. With training, their bodies get stronger faster. They have lightning fast reaction time. They are old enough to have the patience required to learn the mind game. Competition is age based, Cadet Class (14, 15, 16), Junior Class (17, 18, 19). Best of all, fencing is a sport for both young men and women.

Fencing has been called 'physical chess'. Like chess, the moves on both offense and defense are amazingly simple and easy to learn. The difficulties come in the combinations, the feints, and the tricky. Fencing is a sport that is fun at any skill level, but to compete requires dedication to training the body and mind. A fencer, who is in poor physical condition but has learned well the moves and the mind games, can compete with a great athlete who has no mind game. To win at a more advanced level requires both physical athleticism and a keen mind.

Jumping in with both feet

We began our team in February with the goal to compete this fall. Our first big test will come at the Burton Open Tournament at Northwestern University near Chicago in October. Then what will be an even bigger test, we will compete in the United States Fencing Association's, North American Cup which will be held at the Convention Center in St. Louis in November.

The fencers at the Burton Open will be predominately college athletes with a few high school

fencers sprinkled in. It's even possible we will see and fence against some Olympians just returned from Beijing.



At the USFA North American Cup we will fence against athletes in our age brackets. It's likely we will see some female Olympic athletes in St. Louis as women in fencing tend to excel at an earlier age than men. A list of athletes

attending is not yet available but we may see as many as 500 fencers from across North America competing in St. Louis in November.

Will we win? Who knows. Winning is not the only reason we compete. Just as the Boy Scouts of America adopted Teddy Roosevelt as our 'Chief Scout Citizen', Millstadt Venture Crew has adopted Teddy Roosevelt's quote:

"...The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, but who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself for a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat."

If any Venturing age youth want to learn fencing, we are happy to have you join us. Contact Joe Wilson at 618-520-0616 or email at digio91@aol.com



One last thought; people always ask, "Why the white uniforms?" Modern fencing is very safe due to the equipment we use but remember this is an old and traditional sport. And the tradition of this sport was combat. So why was the traditional uniform white? It's easier to see the blood.

(The Crew has done well in the tournaments

including 1st, 2nd & 3rd place tie in one)

Promote Your Council's Venturing Events

If your council has Venturing events, camps, or activities that you want to promote across our Area 5, just send to me the information and I will include it in the next Area 5 Venturing Update. Send to Bob Vogt, Area 5 Venturing Advisor at revogt1@gmail.com.

Venturing Leadership Awards

Red = National VLA
Green = Regional/Area VLA
Blue = Council VLA



For both Youth & Adults.

Do you have Venturers in your council that are outstanding leaders? Do you have adult leaders that go above and beyond? Have you recognized them with the Venturing Leadership Award? If you don't take the time to complete the application, then who will?

Why take the Venturing Leadership Skills Course?

The Venturing Leadership Skills Course (VLSC) is



designed to help teach youth adults the attitudes and skills that good leaders demonstrate. Practicing and mastering these skills will help enable Venturers to have positive leadership experiences in every facet of Scouting and life. It does not matter the type of activities a particular Crew has chosen, this is a leadership skills building course that all potential youth leaders should take to help shape their leadership styles. VLSC is a requirement for the youth to earn the Venturing Silver Award, it is a suggested course for any Venturer interested in participating on a Kodiak Trek, and is a requirement for the Advisor to earn the Advisors Award of Merit. VLSC is the first course of three offered through the Nature of Leadership Program!

What is Powder Horn?



Powder Horn is a training opportunity designed to expose the Venturing or Boy Scout leader to activities and resources necessary to operate a successful Venturing Ranger Award or Troop High

Adventure program. It does this in several ways. First it helps Venturing Leaders and Scouters to safely conduct outdoor activities of a fun and challenging nature. It provides an introduction to the resources necessary to successfully lead Venturers and older Boy Scouts through a program of high adventure. And it familiarizes the Advisor with the Ranger program so that he or she can help the Venturer to meet the requirements of the Ranger Award. This course is based on the Venturing Ranger requirements giving participants an exposure to outdoor/high adventure activities. Scout leaders will also benefit from this course when your unit participates in unit high adventure.

2009 Powder Horn Course Offered

The Mid-America Council welcomes you to its Powder Horn Course. The course is being offered over 2 weekends. The 2 weekends are March 12-15th, 2009 and March 26-29th. Brochure is attached.

Many people ask what they will learn at Powder Horn ... you will say "many things" after attending the course. The older youth of America are looking for the next step, high adventure. They want to raise the bar. To help them accomplish these goals, you will learn how to supply safe resources and information vital to a great high adventure unit program. That is what Powder Horn is all about! You will learn what is needed to put on unit high adventures, how to plan the trip, who may come and present information to your youth members. You will learn about the safety requirements needed for many Scouting events. You will be taking part in many of these high adventure activities yourself at Powder Horn. This will give you some first-hand experience with many different activities a troop or crew would build into a full high adventure activity.

Learn more about how your council can conduct a Powder Horn Course contact:

Area 5 Powder Horn Coordinator

Julie Dalton, Quivira Council

Email: buffalogall@cox.net

Home Phone: 316-943-6202

Do a Kodiak Trek in 2009



The Five Commissions of Kodiak:
Effective Team / Values and Vision /
Communication / Decision Making /
Planning

Learn how to conduct a Kodiak Trek in your Crew, District, or Council contact:

Area 5 Kodiak Coordinator

Rick McIlvoy, Greater St. Louis Area Council

Email: rmcilvoy@sbcglobal.net

Home Phone: 636-394-5728

Cell Phone: 314-609-8001

Do You Have a Venturing Story to Tell?

If you have a great Venturing story to tell, please send it to revogt1@gmail.com

You're Invited to a New York Powder Horn

Course Dates:

May 15, 16 & 17, 2009

May 29, 30 & 31, 2009

Course Location: Dow Drukker

Scout Reservation; Camp Turrell/Camp Kluge,
Cuddebackville, NY, 12927

Course Cost: \$235.00

For future information on the course please **E-mail** Dan Stryker at dan@gainsllc.com. An informational flyer is attached to this Venturing Update.



Your CR Area 5 Venturing Committee

We are here as a resource for your council.

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Great Missouri Valley Challenge Regatta



Ahoy - Skippers

Attached to this Area 5 Venturing Update is the formal Notice of Race for the 2009 Great Missouri Valley Challenge Regatta to be held on July 11-12, 2009 at Lake Manawa in Council Bluffs, IA.

2008 was our inaugural event. The participants had a great time and some really competitive racing. We had a wide range of skill levels competing from novices to active racers. In the 10 qualifying races on Saturday, we had 7 different sailor's take a first place. To make this a true challenge event, the scores of the top 5 racers from each Ship were combined to determine a team score. Ship 542 won the Challenge Cup. Like the America's Cup, this notice opens the door for the 2009 challenge.

This is the only inter-Ship sailing event in Area 5.

Attached is an article and pictures from the 2008 Great Missouri Valley Challenge Regatta. Come join us on the water for 2009.

Rod Phipps, Skipper, Ship 542
7523 North 54 Plaza, Omaha, NE 68152
402/350-1970

Venturing at the Central Region's Area 5 Conference

On Saturday, October 11th, at the Heart of America Council office in Kansas City, Venturing took center stage at the annual Area 5 Conference. The conference is attended by the Area 5 Scout Executives, Council Commissioners, Council Presidents and other selected key Scouters and professionals.



Representing Venturing was Sarah Ward, Area 5 Venturing President, Amanda Vogt, National Venturing President, Eric

Mircsov, Area 5 Venturing Communication Coordinator, and Bob Vogt, Area 5 Venturing Chair.

After opening comments by Bob Vogt, Sarah Ward & Amanda (assisted by Eric) filed the next hour covering 3 primary topics. First was the importance of a functioning Venturing Officer Association (VOA) to be in each council and a VOA Advisor to lead them. They pointed out that in the Area 5 councils that had at least 2 of the 3 key Venturing positions filed (VOA President, VOA Advisor, & Professional with responsibility for Venturing) that in 2007 those councils on the average grew Venturing membership by 13%. The councils that had only 1 or none of the key person in place had a 3% drop in Venturing membership. They talked about the functioning and role of the VOA and how when the Venturing youth take ownership of their program, that great things will happen.



The 2nd area of presentation was on marketing of Venturing. A number of methods were presented with special attention spent on the successful "Teen Retreat" concept recently done in the Coronado Council.



The 3rd topic that Sarah & Amanda spoke about was the leadership training program called Kodiak & Kodiak X. After taking a few minutes to explain the basics of these top notch programs, Sarah & Amanda lead those in attendance in actually doing a small part of the actual training program. It was fun to watch the enthusiasm that the

Professionals and seasoned Scouters participated in the Kodiak training.

Amanda finished with a story that reminded all, that what they had learned that day only does their councils good if they take the lessons learned and turn it into action within their councils.

