

# The Central Point



Newsletter of Central Region Venturing | BSA

June Newsletter 2011

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## Central Region Venturing Conference



On June 17–19, the Central Region VOA and Advisors met in Evansville, IN for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Central Region Venturing Planning Conference. The weekend featured an orientation for the new Area Presidents and vice presidents and meetings for Communication, Program, Administration, Sea Scouts, Powder Horn, Kodiak, and more.

*Members of the Central Region VOA gather at the Central Region Conference in Evansville, IN on June 17-19.*

All seven Area Presidents were in attendance, along with National President Dan Carriveau, Regional President Dustin Readenour, and Regional Vice Presidents Zabrina Johnson, Sarah Mittrucker, and Thomas Spargo. Saturday featured a court of honor where youth officers were inducted into their new position and some officers received awards. Dustin Readenour, Past Area 3 President; Thomas Spargo, Past Area 1 President; Elizabeth Wisman, Past Area 2 President; and Blaine Lott, Past Central Region Vice President of Communication, received the Central Region Venturing Distinguished Service Award for their work during the 2010-2011 year. Central Region Sea Scout Boatswain Peter Schmidt received the Venturing Gold Award, Area 3 VP of Program Whitfield Montgomery received the Council VLA, and Katelyn Childs, 2008-09 Regional President, received her Wood Badge beads.

Welcome to the 2011-2012 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 council VOA, Venturing Forums, professional staff, council wide activities, and the Central Region Venturing Areas. We look forward to being of service to you in Venturing.

## Follow us on:



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## Administration Report

This year has started out strong with a great administration breakout session at the Regional Venturing Conference. Sarah Mittrucker, Central Region Venturing Vice President of Administration, with the support of her advisor, Ken King, have a well-planned year ahead of them as they work to support area vice presidents and area associate advisors in the important administrative duties that support Venturing throughout the Central Region. Sarah's goals for the year include a focus on improving membership, engaging more Venturing alumni, supporting the youth officer selection process, assisting in the establishment of council VOAs, and supporting her area vice presidents of administration. Sarah hopes to increase awareness of the Council Standards of

Venturing Excellence and Venturing Leadership Award. She plans to use October as a major promotional month for the awards and recognition at the council level. The administrative functions throughout the region are led by Sarah, her area vice presidents, supported by Ken, and all of the area associate advisors. This committee is ready for an excellent year of Venturing as they work to support the efforts of all area and regional Venturing leaders.



*Sarah Mittrucker  
Region VP of  
Administration*



## Area Vice Presidents

All Area Vice President positions have been filled in Central Region. To find out more about each these youth officers, please visit the area pages at:

[http://www.crventuring.org/Area\\_Pages/Central\\_Region\\_Areas/](http://www.crventuring.org/Area_Pages/Central_Region_Areas/)

### Area 1

VP of Administration, George Battis  
VP of Program, Ryly Sann,  
VP of Communications, Sarah Hopkins

### Area 2

VP of Administration, Chrystal Scherf  
VP of Program, Elisabeth Wisman  
VP of Communication, Tyler Burnett

### Area 3

VP of Administration, Whitfield Montgomery  
VP of Program, Tom Wester  
VP of Communication, Rachel Levine

### Area 4

VP of Administration, Jonathan Hebb  
VP of Program, Ariel Hunt  
VP of Communication, Nathan White

### Area 5

VP of Administration, Casey Lafferty  
VP of Program, Michelle Boyer  
VP of Communication, Brigid Rasins

### Area 6

VP of Administration, Jacob Ramsey  
VP of Program, Cameron Dennis  
VP of Communication, Sarah McMurphy

### Area 7

VP of Administration, Terres Gacek  
VP of Program, Aileen Dalton  
VP of Communication, Connor Parker

Give a Warm Welcome to the new 2011-2012 Area Vice Presidents!

## Area 6 Venturing Summit



*"This is your opportunity to ask questions and provide input about the future of Venturing in Area 6."*

Central Region Area 6 is planning a Venturing Summit on Sep 10 – 11, 2011. Area 6 includes 12 Councils in eastern Illinois, most of Indiana and western Ohio. The event will be hosted by Crossroads of America Council at Camp Kikthawenund in Franklin Indiana (just north of Indianapolis). The conference will start at 10:00 am on Saturday morning and finish at noon on Sunday. The cost is expected to be \$35 and includes food, lodging, and a patch. A variety of training sessions are planned throughout the summit with a social on Saturday night. All Venturing leaders and Venturers are invited to attend. This is your opportunity to meet area and regional youth officers

and volunteers, ask questions, and provide input about the future of Venturing in Area 6. Sessions will include how to start and maintain a Council VOA, updates to the Venturing Standard Operating Procedures, opportunities beyond your crew and council, and latest news from national and Central Region Venturing. Watch the Region, Area and Council Facebook pages for more information as registration and other information becomes available.

## Fun Fall Rally – St. Louis, MO



*Fun Fall Rally - "The Biggest Venturing Event in the Nation!"*

The biggest & best Venturing event in the nation is happening once again in our own Central Region and you're invited! Last year, the Fall Fun Rally was the first National Venturing Event with nearly 1,400 Venturers from over 50 councils in attendance. Although not an official national event this year, it is still going to be national in scope and reach. Venturers from across the nation are expected to be in attendance. The cost for the event is \$14 by August 2, and goes up to \$22 at the door. There will be an option for 5 meals on Saturday and Sunday. Meal prices are \$18 by September 3, and go up to \$25 at the door. This is a youth lead event with the Venturing Officer Association of the Greater St. Louis Area Council staffing the 39<sup>th</sup> year for

the Fall Fun Rally. Some activities this year include: Rifle, Shotgun, and Archery ranges; National Venturing Fencing Competition, Skit/Talent Competition, Fear Factor Event, Horseback Riding, Adult Venturing Training, Sea Scouting Activities, and much, much more. Mark your calendars for September 23 – 25 at Beaumont Scout Reservation just 35 minutes from downtown St. Louis. All Scouts over the age of 14 are welcome to attend (with adult leadership). To learn more about this event, visit <http://funfallrally.org> or become a fan on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/FallFunRally>

## Program Report

At the Central Region Venturing Conference program breakout meeting, we discussed the program job description in the Venturing Standard Operating Procedures. A big focus of our meeting was “Youth led, Adult supported.” After discussing roles of youth officers and adult advisors, we launched into goals. Each area was challenged to host one Area Venturing Conference and one Area Venturing fun event over the next 12 months. Be on the lookout for information about each area event by September.

The regional and area program committees will also be working to improve awareness and promote ILSC, Kodiak, NYLT, NAYLE, and other training courses for Venturers and Venturing volunteers.

The areas were also encouraged to support and promote council Venturing events. Are you hosting an event in your council that is open to all Venturers? Please submit it to our calendar at:

[http://www.crventuring.org/event\\_submission.php](http://www.crventuring.org/event_submission.php)



*Zabrina Johnson  
Region VP of Program*

## Communication Report

During the communication breakout meeting at the Central Region Venturing Conference, the communication team discussed recurring duties for the region and area officers. We plan on posting messages on the region and area Facebook groups on a weekly basis. Councils will be encouraged to regularly update their Venturing Facebook groups on a regular basis, as well. We plan to continue improving our use of Twitter by providing more frequent tweets, growing the number of followers, and encouraging the use of the hash tag feature during events. The CR Venturing Yahoo groups will also be updated at least twice a month. Some of the biggest changes the team discussed were the CR Venturing Newsletter and website. “The Central Point,” as the newsletter

will be called from now on, will continue to be published monthly, and will feature more articles than before. The design was changed to give it a fresh look. The website will also be going through some changes later this year with more advanced area pages, the addition of council pages, the expansion of the “Where to go Venturing” feature, as well as some Facebook and Twitter integration. A few other things that you can look forward to are some new podcasts and “how to” videos on the website, plus area newsletters being published at least 4 times per year. Overall, the breakout was very productive, and the communications team looks forward to an exciting year!



*Thomas Spargo  
Region VP of  
Communication*





Area 1 Upcoming Events:

July 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, Bay Jammer 2011, Menominee, MI

Sept 9-11, Sept 30<sup>th</sup>- Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, Powder Horn, Samoset Council, Rhinelander, WI

Oct 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, Smiley's Amazing Race, Rhinelander, WI

President: [Jennifer Wells](#)

Advisor: [Chris Sandberg](#)



Area 2

Upcoming Events:

July 9<sup>th</sup>, Thunder base high adventure camp, Alpena, MI

July 31<sup>st</sup> – Aug 4<sup>th</sup>, Venturing Super Camp, Traverse City, MI

Aug 8<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup>, Kodiak, Manistee River, MI

Aug 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, NYLT – GRFC, Twin Lakes, MI

Aug 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, Powder Horn – LHAC, Paul Bunyan Scout Reservation, MI

President: [Nick Huyser](#)

Advisor: [Jeff Gerald](#)



Area 3 Upcoming Events:

July 10<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup>, Swift Base, Knob Lick, MO

July 24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, NYLT, Knob Lick, MO

July 31<sup>st</sup> – Aug 5<sup>th</sup>, Central Region NAYLE, Knob Lick, MO

Aug 19<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>st</sup>, Powder Horn, Wasburn, IL

Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, Fun Fall Rally, High Ridge, MO

April 20<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012, Powder Horn, High Ridge, MO

President: [Christina Vogt](#)

Advisor: [Bob Vogt](#)



Area 4

Upcoming Events:

Aug 7<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup>, Aquatics Week 2011, Peninsula, OH

Aug 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, Powder Horn, Rock Creek, OH

Don't forget to submit your upcoming events!

President: [Blaine Lott](#)

Advisor: [Dale Hayes](#)



Area 5 Upcoming Events:

July 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, Venturing Camp, Bonner Springs, KS

Aug 6<sup>th</sup>, End of Summer Blast, Sedan, KS

President: [Sarah Griffey](#)

Advisor: [Julie Dalton](#)



## Area 6 Upcoming Events:

July 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, Venturing Camp, Yellow Springs, OH  
 July 10<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, Venturing Camp, Bloomington, IN  
 July 24<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, Kodiak HTC, Hoosier National Forest, IN  
 July 24<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, Venturing Camp, Bloomington, IN  
 July 31<sup>st</sup>, Aug 6<sup>th</sup>, Kodiak Training, Bloomington, IN  
 Aug 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, Makahiki 2011, Warsaw, IN  
 Oct 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, Extrem-O-Ree, Cincinnati, OH

President: [Tyler Andrews](#)

Advisor: [Len Roberts](#)



## Area 7

Upcoming Events:

July 10<sup>th</sup>, Thomas R Smith Sea Scout Regatta, Chicago Yacht Club

July 25<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup>, Lost Battalion Adventure Base, Oregon, IL

Submit your council or area event by going to the CRV website!



President: [Aaron Beatty](#)

Advisor: [Kris Zahrobsky](#)

## President's Corner

By Dustin Readenour

I am so excited to be serving as the 2011-2012 Central Region Venturing President. I had a fantastic start to my term when I attended the BSA National Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA. There I met the other Regional Venturing Presidents; Chief Scout Executive Bob Mazzuca; National Commissioner Tico Perez; National President Rex Tillerson; and many others. While there the National Venturing Youth Cabinet held their annual orientation. During the orientation, we discussed changes to the SOPs, the Venturing Leadership Award, and the Cabinet's goals for the next year. Overall, the week was very productive and great fun!



The other important event I attended was the Central Region Venturing Planning Conference and VOA Orientation. We had a great turnout with over 70 participants. All of the new Regional and Area VOA members learned how to do their job. They had the opportunity to work with their areas in order to make plans for the coming year. In addition, we installed all of the officers for the 2011-2012 year and recognized the outstanding officers from last year. Finally, we had a presentation about Venturing at The Bechtel Summit. Announced during this presentation was the new Summit website, [www.sbrlive.org](http://www.sbrlive.org). The weekend wrapped up with some fun at a local climbing gym. I am confident this will be a productive year!

## 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 Ventures to come to your event!



## Contact Us

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Newsletter designed and  
compiled by  
Thomas Spargo

## Save the Date! – Powder Horn CDC

On September 16 – 18, there will be a Powder Horn Course Directors Conference in Clair, MI. This conference is for anyone interested in learning more about how to plan a Powder Horn course. Future course directors, assistant course directors, staff advisors, and other staff members make up the majority of our participants. Councils considering holding a course in 2012 or even 2013 are strongly encouraged to send the anticipated course director and several others to this Conference.

To find more information about Powder Horn, the CDC, and courses in our region, please visit:  
[http://crventuring.org/Training/Powder\\_Horn/](http://crventuring.org/Training/Powder_Horn/)



## Central Region Venturing Conference (continued)

Participants got a firsthand look on the progress and details of the Summit Bechtel National Scout Reserve, along with a look into the University of Evansville Scouting Scholarship and Venturing Crew. After Saturday night's activities, the

youth were treated to some climbing time at a local indoor rock climbing gym.

The youth officers had a great time at the conference and were glad they had the opportunity to be at the event. The Area 2 President, Nick Huyser said: "The Central Region Conference was a great time, [and] I really enjoyed meeting other Venturers from around the region."

## 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.