



## Central Region Area 5 Venturing Monthly Newsletter

Welcome to the February edition of our monthly Area 5 Venturing newsletter. Each edition will feature information that you may 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, and council-wide activities. We look forward to being of service to you in Venturing.

*Amanda Vogt*

Area 5 Venturing President

*Bob Vogt*

Area 5 Venturing Advisor

### The Councils of Central Region Area 5 Venturing

Central Region Area 5 consists of 15 Councils throughout 4 states. They are: Okaw Valley Council, Trails West Council, Mississippi Valley Council, Great Rivers Council, Ozark Trails Council, Pony Express Council, Jayhawk Area Council, Coronado Area Council, Santa Fe Trail Council, Cornhusker Council, Overland Trails Council, Greater St. Louis Area Council, Heart of America Council, Quivira Council, and Mid America Council. Council's addresses and websites are listed on page 5.

### New Council VOA

Congratulations to Ozark Trails Council for the election of four new officers to form their new Venturing Officers Association. They are:

President: Chad McCall  
VP of Administration: Nicholas Brinley  
VP of Program: Suzie Feakes  
VP of Communication: Sarah Depuy  
Advisor: Andre Coltrin

### The Central Region Website

The Central Region has updated their website. Please feel free to use the resources it provides to assist your council's Venturing program. If you have an upcoming Venturing Event that you would like posted on the Area 5 page please send it to me, and I will forward it on to the right people.

Also If you have not done so, I would recommend signing up for the Central Region Venturing Yahoo Group. This is a great way to ask other people questions about Venturing and to share ideas and events with each other which will help our Venturing program to continue to grow.

Link to Central Region Venturing

Website: <http://www.crventuring.org/>

Link to Central Region Yahoo Group

Website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/crventuring/>

### Contact us at:

Amanda Vogt [area5president@crventuring.org](mailto:area5president@crventuring.org)  
16041 Forest Valley Dr.  
Ballwin, MO 63021

Bob Vogt [area5chair@crventuring.org](mailto:area5chair@crventuring.org)  
16041 Forest Valley Dr.  
Ballwin, MO 63021

## Upcoming Area 5 Venturing Events for 2007

- July 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>: Great Rivers Council- **Week Long Venturing Camp**  
Contact: David Harris [dharris@bsamail.org](mailto:dharris@bsamail.org)
- June 17-23, July 8-14 and July 15-21:  
Greater St. Louis Area Council- **Swift Base Venturing Camps**  
For more information: <http://www.stlbsa.org/Camping/Summer+Camps/Venturing/>

Please send us your council's Venturing events & Venturing Adult Leader Trainings. We will list them on the Area 5 Venturing Calendar.

### This Month's Q & A

*Do you have a Venturing event, meeting, or training that you would like myself or the Area 5 Advisor to attend?*

I have been challenged by the Central Region President to attend events, meetings or trainings, in as many other councils as possible. This month the answer to the question comes from you. Please email me any dates for events you have. I would love to be able to meet everyone of you. I can only do that if you let me know when you are meeting.

### Venturer You Should Know

Every month we will feature a youth or adult in this section that we feel you should know. If you would like to nominate them please send a picture, and a short paragraph describing them and how they have impacted Venturing.

This Month we are featuring Cindy Wilson. She is a senior at Quincy High School in Quincy, Illinois where she participates in, and has help to direct, her school's choirs She performed in two of her High School's Musicals.

As a Venturer, she has been Crew President for Crew 96 in Quincy for the last two years and has completed two multi-Council treks at the Philmont Scout Ranch, serving as Crew Leader on one.

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### Venturer You Should Know Cont.

She has earned both the Religious Life and Outdoor Bronze Awards, the Venturing-level religious award for her denomination, and the Venturing Gold and Silver Awards. She was recently awarded the Council Leadership award and represented the Mississippi Valley Council by delivering the State of Scouting Report to the Illinois General Assembly. She works with the Mississippi Valley Council Training Committee as a staff member for Outdoor Leader Skills Training and has worked as a counselor at her Council's Cub Scout Resident Camps and Day Camps for the past three years.



Outside of Scouting, she works with elementary school children every day after school as a volunteer tutor as part of an enhancement program in her Advanced Placement Psychology class.

She has been admitted to Valparaiso University where she will pursue majors in Elementary Education and Psychology with a concentration in Special Education.

## Consulting Tip of The Month

Great Outdoor Recreation Pages  
(GORP): <http://gorp.away.com/index.html>  
Leave No Trace: <http://www.lnt.org/>  
National Park Service: <http://www.nps.gov/>

## Venturing Awards and Recognition Program

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

## Venturing Gold Award

The Gold Award is available to all Venturing members of the Boy Scouts of America.

The purpose of the Gold Award program is to:

- Recognize achievement by young adults.
- Encourage personal growth through exposure to activities related to the following areas: citizenship, leadership, service to others, community/family, outdoor experience, and total fitness.
- Offer challenging and stimulating opportunities for young adults to develop and achieve personal goals in leadership, character development, and personal fitness.
- Provide a favorable image of Venturing among youth, parents, schools, and communities.

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## Venturing Gold Award Cont.

Candidates for the Venturing Gold Award must submit a written petition to their crew Advisor, in which they should outline their plans and ambitions for their projects to achieve the award. Advisors are encouraged to have a conference with each candidate to ensure that the Venturer has developed a well-conceived plan, and that he or she has specific goals in mind. After completing all work, a crew review committee including four to six Venturers and Venturing adults will review the candidate's written presentation and interview the candidate to determine if he or she has successfully fulfilled the requirements for the Gold Award.



## Bylaws

According to the Central Region Bylaws, every Area should have their own bylaws as well. Currently I am in the process of creating a set of bylaws to propose to the Central Region for Area 5. If you have any suggestions please let me know by February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

## Southern Region's Winterfest Gatlinburg, TN

On January 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> over 2,350 Venturers, Explorers, and Adults gathered in Gatlinburg, TN to enjoy a weekend of fun and exciting events and competitions.

This year I headed down with a group of 5 Greater St. Louis Area Venturing Officers, and four adult advisors, including the Area 5 Venturing Advisor and myself.

While there we participated in a multimedia tabletop display promoting the Greater St. Louis Area Venturing Camp, Swift Base, and different activities that a VOA might do.



Other activities included fireman, police, and medical competitions, along with rope course activities, Dutch oven cooking, backpacking competitions, and many more.



While there The Area 5 Venturing Advisor and myself had the opportunity to meet

with Central Region Venturing President, Chris Szybisty. We talked with him about Central Region goals, and Area 5 Venturing goals for the remainder of our terms.

Also while there I had the opportunity to meet the Southern Region Venturing President, Michael Bebeau, and the Southern Region Boatswain, Jennifer. I had dinner with them and with the National Venturing President, Maggie Belli. While at dinner I had the opportunity to discuss with them different obstacles and opportunities that Venturing has for the youth of this country.

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## Winterfest Continued...

On Saturday night there was a Venturing Roundtable that anyone could attend. I helped to lead the roundtable



discussion along with the National President, and the Southern Region Officers. While there Crews had the opportunity to ask other crews questions about Venturing. It was an awesome experience as units that were 25 years old got advice from units four months old and they got information from older crews.

If you get the opportunity this event is definitely worth your time and gas money. The Greater St. Louis Area Officers got some ideas that will help spread Venturing in their council, and had a lot of fun doing it.

## Help Strengthen America

Chris Szybisty, the Central Region Venturing President, has a project that he would like to see every council, district, or crew do within the Central Region.

Venturing is not well known in most communities. To help with this and to help our communities, he has proposed to the Central Region Venturing Committee that every Venturing group does a service project outside to scouting that will help the community. He proposed doing this some time this spring. While he realizes this is short notice, if some councils can come up with a project this year it could be used as a pilot group for a regional service project next year.

One idea to make it easier for you this year would be to find an organization that already exists. Then ask them if they are looking for more manpower for a day and that you have a group of older teenagers that would love the opportunity to be of service to their community. Think about the idea and let me know what you think, the information for this event is currently on the Central Region Website.



Chris, Maggie, Amanda



## The 15 Councils of Central Region Area 5 Venturing

### Illinois Councils:

**Okaw Valley Council**

335 West Main Street  
Belleville, IL 62220

<http://www.okawbsa.org>

**Trails West Council**

1055 Harrison St.  
Wood River, IL 62095

<http://www.twc-bsa.org>

**Mississippi Valley Council**

2336 Oak St.  
Quincy, IL 62301

<http://www.mississippivalleybsa.org>

### Missouri Councils:

**Great Rivers Council**

1203 Fay St.  
Columbia, MO 65201

<http://www.bsa-grc.org>

**Pony Express Council**

1704 Buckingham  
St. Joseph, MO 64508

<http://www.ponyexpressbsa.org>

**Ozark Trails Council**

1616 S. Eastgate  
Springfield, MO 65809

<http://www.ozarktrailsbsa.org>

**Greater St. Louis Council**

4568 West Pine Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63018

<http://www.stlbsa.org>

**Heart of America Council**

10210 Holmes Rd.  
Kansas City, MO 64131

<http://www.hoac-bsa.org>

### Kansas Councils:

**Jayhawk Area Council**

1020 Monroe  
Topeka, KS 66612

<http://www.jayhawkcouncil.org>

**Coronado Area Council**

644 S. Ohio St.  
Salina, KS 67402

<http://www.coronadoscout.org/>

**Santa Fe Trail Council**

1513 E. Fulton Terrace  
Garden City, KS 67846

<http://www.sftcbsa.org>

**Quivira Council**

1555 S. 2nd Street  
Wichita, KS 67214

<http://www.quivira.org>

### Nebraska Councils:

**Overland Trails Council**

2808 O Flannagan  
Grand Island, NE 68803

<http://www.overlandtrailscouncil.org>

**Cornhusker Council**

600 South 120th Street  
Walton, NE 68520

<http://www.cornhuskerCouncil.org>

**Mid America Council**

12401 West Maple Road  
Omaha, NE 68164

<http://www.mac-bsa.org>