



# AREA 7 VENTURING NEWSLETTER

## CONFERENCE RECAP

On Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, Venturers from all over Area 7 and beyond traveled through blustery winter weather to Key Lime Cove Resort & Waterpark in Gurnee, Illinois, to attend the 2014 Central Region Area 7 Venturing Conference. Even with the weather outside, it was a warm, tropical atmosphere inside. With a total of 129 Venturers, advisors, and special guests in attendance, energy and excitement consumed the room. Not only did this make this the largest Area Venturing Conference in the Central Region, but this was also the first time all 11 Councils of Area 7 were represented!



The day kicked off with networking and a photo booth complete with props. After the unveiling of the youth-produced Area 7 Venturing opening video, Michael Carpanzano, President & CEO of the Bolingbrook Area Chamber of Commerce, delivered the keynote speech. He explicitly directed his thoughtful



words to the youth in the room, which he referred to as the “future leaders of their communities and the nation.” His remarks inspired the youth and cheery disposition helped set our day off in a great direction!

Christina Vogt, the 2013-2014 Central Region Venturing President, presented the new changes to the Venturing program. While many had heard news of the name changes, Christina expanded on the vision, mission, and specific elements of the program. Presentations on various summer program opportunities followed, including Sarah Mittrucker, the 2012-2013 National Venturing Vice President, presenting on the Messengers of Peace program, an international scouting opportunity open to all registered Scouters. She also helped present to the adults that were present on the new changes to the Venturing program. In the afternoon there were presentations on proper backpacking, high adventure bases, Sea Scouting, and the new NOVA awards for Venturers.



The day wrapped up with a Court of Honor where the Area Venturing Leadership Award was presented to four youth for their exceptional work done over the past year: Brian Parro, Vice President of Administration; Elise Sawa, Vice President of Program; Kaia Ball, Vice President of Communication; and Andrew Swibes, Area 7 Committee member. During the court of honor, our very own Area 7 Advisor, Kris Zahrobsky, was also recognized for being selected to

receive the Central Region Silver Antelope Award. He will officially receive the award at the Boy Scouts of America National Meeting in May in Nashville, Tennessee.

At the end of the day it was time to head to the waterpark and celebrate after a great day of learning and networking. We are thankful to all those who could make it, and hope that we can have even more join us next year!





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

BY: BRIAN PARRO

AREA 7 VENTURING VICE PRESIDENT OF ADMINISTRATION

COUNCIL STANDARDS OF  
VENTURING EXCELLENCE AWARD



## COUNCIL STANDARDS OF VENTURING EXCELLENCE

As you heard in our last issue, the Council Standards of Venturing Excellence is a prestigious award that a Council can earn by having an awesome Venturing program. Area 7 is proud to announce that two councils in our area have earned this amazing award, Three Fires Council and Three Harbors Council. Also, 10 councils in Area 7 submitted the application, which is a new record for our area and is the highest proportion submitted in the region, so I would like to give a big thanks to everyone who made the Council Standards of Venturing Excellence programs a success in 2013.

Are you interested in earning this award for your council in 2014? Find the form at [www.scouting.org/venturing](http://www.scouting.org/venturing) and start planning an awesome Council Venturing program for 2014. Contact Brian Parro at [bparro@comcast.net](mailto:bparro@comcast.net) if you have any questions.



## TRAINING FOR VENTURERS



Are you interested in one of the several amazing training programs for Venturers? Well, this year you have even more options for some fun training!!! For the first time ever, National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE) is expanding to Northern Tier and Florida Sea Base in addition to Philmont! You will be able to have the experience of a lifetime at NAYLE in whichever high adventure scene you love the most. Each high adventure base will have its own unique adventures, but they will all expand on NYLT and it will be the highlight of your summer!

If you are interested in NYLT or ILSC, check out [www.area7crv.org](http://www.area7crv.org) and check the upcoming events. Every council in Area 7 is hosting a NYLT course this summer, so what are you waiting for? Sign up **TODAY!**



## TRAINING FOR ADULTS

ADULTS- Have you ever wondered how Venturing is able to be completely youth led?

The answers lie in the special Venturing Specific Leader Training, which can be taken online OR through your local council! At VSLT, you will learn all about Venturing and how you can better assist your youth as an advisor and role model. Also, check out the summer programs at Philmont Training Center specifically for Venturing. This summer at the PTC will be the best yet for Venturing!



## VIDEOS



For those of you that were unable to attend the Area 7 Venturing Conference, here are the links to the opening video, the teaser trailer for the upcoming Area 7 Venturing Extravaganza in October, and the closing video from the Area 7 Venturing Conference with photos highlighting the day! We hope you enjoy!

<http://youtu.be/3-Gltq2bplo>

(Opening Video)

<http://youtu.be/mPOLN6j36Ns>

(Closing Video from Area 7 Venturing Conference w/photos from the event)

<http://youtu.be/nrEyLRmE78s>

(Area 7 Venturing Extravaganza 2014 Teaser Trailer)

# COURT OF HONOR

This year, the Central Region Area 7 Venturing Committee was very proud to present the Area-Level of the Venturing Leadership Award (VLA) to four outstanding youth. These four Venturers have given unending amounts of unselfish efforts to aid in the success and growth of your Area 7 Venturing program. In addition to living the Venturing Oath and Code each day of their lives, they have provided the highest levels of leadership and service to our organization.

This year's recipients are:

- Brian Parro**, Area 7 Venturing Vice-President of Administration (*Rainbow Council*)
- Kaia Ball**, Area 7 Venturing Vice-President of Communication (*Three Fires Council*)
- Elise Sawa**, Area 7 Venturing Vice-President of Program (*Chicago Area Council*)
- Andrew Swibes**, Area 7 Venturing Committee (*Calumet Council*)

Please join us in congratulating these amazing youth!



From L to R: Elise Sawa, Brian Parro, Kaia Ball and Andrew Swibes



## SILVER ANTELOPE

It is with great pleasure to announce that our very own Area 7 Advisor, Kris Zahrobsky, has been selected to receive the Central Region's Silver Antelope Award.

The Silver Antelope Award is the highest honor a region can bestow upon an adult volunteer. Please help us congratulate him in receiving this well-deserved honor. Kris is from the Des Plaines Valley Council in LaGrange, IL. He is the **first** former National Venturing Youth Cabinet member to be awarded this prestigious honor and one of the youngest recipients to ever receive the award.



Kris first began his dedicated service at the region level in 2000 when he was

selected as the second Central Region Venturing President. Following the successful completion of his term as a regional youth officer, Kris moved into the role of Area 3 Venturing Chair in 2001. As a very young area volunteer with few resources and little direction, support, or job description, Kris did his best to carve out a role. At that time, Kris was one of only two or three Area Venturing Chairs in the BSA. To his credit, Kris focused his efforts from the beginning on the mentoring of area Venturing youth officers.

Many things have changed since 2001. Kris is now a seasoned area and region volunteer. The role of what is now an Area Venturing Advisor has drastically expanded over time. The original Area 3 has now become Area 7. There are now 28 Area Venturing Advisors throughout the country. And Central Region has developed a Venturing committee that provides support to each of the areas it serves. What hasn't changed? Kris Zahrobsky...the **longest serving** Area Venturing Advisor in the Boy Scouts of America. Kris continues to focus on the youth. His mission is to guide and mentor the youth officers of the Area 7 Venturing Officer Association.

In addition to his service to Venturing, Kris started in Scouting as a Tiger Cub, and went on to earn his Arrow of Light, Eagle Scout, and Silver Award, as well as the Council, Regional and National Venturing Leadership Awards along the way. He is also a Vigil Member in the Order of the Arrow.

Kris and his wife Rachel (also an active Associate Advisor for the Area 7 VOA) live in the Chicago area, where he works as the National Account Manager for Automatic Fire Controls. He has earned a BS in Communication in addition to being certified Firefighter II. Aside from work, Kris enjoys traveling, cooking, playing softball, and haunted houses.

Kris will receive this distinguished award at the 2014 Boy Scouts of America National Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee at the end of May. Please join us in Congratulating Kris on such an amazing honor!

# INTRODUCING...

## THE 2014 - 2015 NATIONAL VENTURING PRESIDENT



Maddie Culwell has been chosen to be the 2014–2015 National Venturing President. She is the current Southern Region Venturing President and has been very active throughout her time in the Venturing program.

She has also served as President and Vice President of Program for Crew, Council, and Area. Maddie served as a Team Guide, Assistant Course Leader of Support and Physical Arrangements, Assistant Course Leader of Program and currently serving as Senior Patrol Leader for NYLT.

She has earned her Outdoor Bronze and Gold, and is awaiting her board of review for her Silver Award.

Outside of scouting, she has received academic recognitions for her grades as well as her reading achievements. She is

currently a sophomore attending Birmingham-Southern College on a Presidential Scholarship. She is majoring in biology on a pre-medical track. Maddie is also involved at school in: The Biology Field Club, Alpha Epsilon Delta (a pre-health honors society), Women in Leadership Development, and the Climbing Club. After earning her Bachelor's degree, she hopes to attend Medical School at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where she wasn't to pursue a career as either a neurologist or neurosurgeon.

Maddie is excited to serve as National Venturing President because she knows that serving is a growing experience, and she always gets a lot out of serving in a position in Venturing. She also wants to see the program continue to grow and succeed, and is looking forward to representing the Venturing program and implementing the new program for next year!



## THE 2014 - 2015 CENTRAL REGION VENTURING PRESIDENT

The Central Region Venturing Officers' Association is honored to announce that the 2014-2015 Central Region Venturing President is Emily Mausshardt.

Emily is currently serving as the 2013-2014 Central Region Venturing Vice President of Communications. She is from the Greater St. Louis Area Council (GSLAC) in Ballwin, Missouri. Emily is currently a freshman at Truman State University pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Math as part of the Pre-Masters of Art in Education.

During her time as a Venturer, Emily has served as the Area 3 Venturing President, GSLAC New Horizons District Venturing President, New Horizons District Ranger Award Presentation Coordinator, Crew 627 President, and Crew 627 Vice President of Communications.



She has earned the Religious Life and Outdoor Bronze Awards, the Gold Award, the Silver Award, and the Pope Pius XII Award. She is currently finishing her Venturing Ranger Award. She is also a recipient of the Council and Area Venturing Leadership Awards. Emily was active in the Girl Scouts through high school and earned the GSUSA Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards.

At Truman, Emily is involved in the Catholic Newman Center choir on campus, and is a member of the national co-ed service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega. She is also a member of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA). While in high school at Visitation Academy, Emily was a member of the National Honor Society, played handbells, and was very active in the technical side of the school's theatre program.

Her main goal for the year is ensuring a smooth transition into the new Venturing program, and she has many monthly goals to ensure this happens throughout her term. Emily's other goals include continuing to enhance the communication tools she has worked on this term, including the regional Venturing newsletter and updating and developing more resources on [www.crventuring.org](http://www.crventuring.org). She also wants to finish the plans for, and successfully hold, the 3rd Central Region Venturing Fun Event.

# UPCOMING VENTURING EVENTS



## April 11-13, Orgeon, IL

Powder Horn

<http://www.crventuring.org/document.php?ID=955&NUM=1>

## April 25-27, St. Cloud, WI

Potawatomi Area Council Venturing Shooting Sports and Zipline Weekend

<http://www.pacbsa.org/event/1485394>

<http://www.pacbsa.org/document/venturing-shooting-zipline-weekend-flyer-42814/133956>

## May 2-4, Dundee, WI

Glacial Trails Backpacking

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

## May 16-18, Baraboo, WI

Circus Heritage Weekend

<http://www.glaciersedge.org/2014/02/baraboo-circus-heritage-2014/>

## June 21, Loves Park, IL

Blackhawk Area Regatta

[http://www.crventuring.org/cal\\_popup.php?ID=1052](http://www.crventuring.org/cal_popup.php?ID=1052)

## June 29-July 5, Pearson, WI

Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation

Ranger Week

<http://www.neic.org/Event.aspx?Id=924>

## July 18-20, Marinette, WI

Bay Jammer

<http://www.bayjammer.htmlplanet.com/>

## August 8-10, Romeoville, IL

Scout Airfest

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

## December 6, Chicago, IL

Christmas Tree Ship

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

## April 12, Loves Park, IL

Rock River Regatta

<http://www.crventuring.org/document.php?ID=1051&NUM=1>

## April 19, McCook, IL

Des Plaines Valley Council Venturing Expo

For more information, Email Mike Hornung: [mihornun@bsamail.org](mailto:mihornun@bsamail.org)

## May 16-18, Springfield, IL

Central Region Rendezvous

<http://area3rendezvous.wordpress.com/>

## June 13-15, Monticello, WI

Tour de Blackhawk

[http://www.crventuring.org/cal\\_popup.php?ID=1043](http://www.crventuring.org/cal_popup.php?ID=1043)

## June 29-July 3, Laona, WI

Choose Your Adventure

<http://www.threeharborscamps.org/#!venturing-adventure-camp/c1w1f>

## July 13-19, Pearson, WI

Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation

Youth Certified Angling Instructor Course

[http://www.crventuring.org/cal\\_popup.php?ID=1050](http://www.crventuring.org/cal_popup.php?ID=1050)

## July 27-August 2, Pearson, WI

Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation

Powder Horn

<http://www.neic.org/Event.aspx?Id=1087>

## October 4, Morris, IL

Rainbow Scout Reservation

Central Region Area 7 Venturing Extravaganza

## March 6-8, 2015

Central Region Area 7 Venturing Conference



# UPCOMING WOOD BADGE COURSES



## August 22-24 & September 19-21

NEIC

Camp Sol R Crown in Wilmot, WI

<http://www.neic-woodbadge.org/>

## September 12-14 & October 18-20

Rainbow Council

Rainbow Scout Reservation in Morris, IL

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

## August 22-24 & September 12-14

Three Fires Council

Camp Big Timber in Elgin, IL

<http://www.threefirescouncil.org/index.php/training-mainmenu-35/wood-badge-info>

## September 12-14 & October 10-12

Glacier's Edge Council

Camp Indian Trails in Janesville, WI

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



# VENTURER SPOTLIGHT

**Madeline Menconi**  
**Three Fires Council**  
**Crew 875**  
**Naperville, Illinois**



Meet Madeline Menconi, in this issue's Venturer Spotlight! Madeline is 17 years old and attends Waubonsie Valley High School. After high school, she plans to attend the College of DuPage and then transfer to Illinois State University, pursuing a degree in technology and engineering education. Her dream job is to become a high school teacher, and maybe a permanent staff member at Philmont or the Summit!

Madeline is the founding President of her Crew, only active since April 2013! In under a year, she had lead her Crew to complete bylaws, started fundraising, completed volunteer events, and have a full calendar of activities through August of 2014.

Although she hasn't completed any of Venturing's current awards, she hopes to have at least one Bronze Award completed by December, as well as a Nova Award.

Madeline credits her interest in Venturing to her Brother, who always enjoyed his Scouting experiences, and she loved to hear the stories! She appreciated how the organization teaches respect for all individuals and jumped at the chance to get involved so she could begin creating her own memories!

Her greatest memory in Venturing so far would be the 2013 Area 7 Extravaganza, her Crew's first official overnight event! She was absolutely afraid of the high ropes/COPE course, but with the assistance of the staff, was able to participate and conquer her fears!



Outside of Venturing, Madeline enjoys participating in beauty pageants, modeling, engineering and architecture competitions, acting, outdoor activities, gardening, and staying active in her Church. While she calls herself equal parts "girly-girl" and "tom boy", she is extremely proud to state that she is the reigning Miss Teen Illinois Elite USA!

Another activity that Madeline loves to participate in is snorkeling. Fun fact: She has been stung by jelly fish 6 times near a shipwreck in Bermuda!

Madeline is extremely grateful for the opportunities she has experienced so far in Scouting, and can't wait for all those in the future!

## CONTACT INFORMATION

- Want to contact your Area Venturing Youth Officers and Adult Advisors?
- Want to request information?
- Want us to feature your Council, Venturer, or event in our next issue?
- Want to submit a recipe to be featured in the next issue?

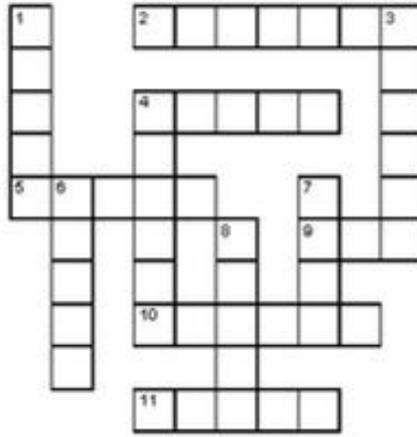
For all these questions and more, contact Area 7 Venturing at:  
[http://www.crventuring.org/Area\\_Pages/Area\\_7/](http://www.crventuring.org/Area_Pages/Area_7/)

or  
Email: [Area7Venturing@gmail.com](mailto:Area7Venturing@gmail.com)



# THINK SPRING!

Spring



## Across

2. April showers bring May \_\_\_\_\_
4. In spring, farmers \_\_\_\_\_ crops.
5. The first month of spring.
9. Easter \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_ blossom trees.
11. Spring \_\_\_\_\_; vacation



## Down

1. Flowers \_\_\_\_\_ in spring.
3. The season after winter.
4. Let's go on a \_\_\_\_\_
6. A month in spring.
7. An animal that wakes up in spring.
8. Birds that fly north in spring.



## FUN FACTS ABOUT SPRING:

- The first day of spring is called the vernal equinox. What does that stand for you ask? 'Vernal' is Latin for spring while 'equinox' is Latin for 'equal night'.
- The idea that the first day of spring is exactly 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness rarely works. There is always a time when it is exact, but experts say it usually occurs before the vernal equinox.
- Can you really stand a raw egg on its end today? Well, yes. But, most experts say if you are patient enough, you can stand an egg on its end any day.
- The reason there is more daylight during the spring is the earth's axis tilts toward the sun at this time of year.
- Another reason for more daylight? Daylight Saving Time. The United States begins saving daylight on the second Sunday in March. The practice started in 2005.
- Benjamin Franklin first proposed Daylight Saving Time in 1784.
- The first spring flowers are typically daffodils, dandelions, lilies, tulips, iris and lilacs to name a few.
- Spring fever is not just a saying. Experts say the body's makeup changes due to different diets, hormone production and temperature.

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

If you have a recipe you would like to have featured in the newsletter, please contact us and let us know! It doesn't have to be for a dutch oven, it can be for anything!

Also, if you try the recipe, give us some feedback and let us know how it turned out! Any feedback received will be put in the next newsletter.

Happy cooking!

Recipe:

### IRISH SODA BREAD

**Serves: 2-3**

**INGREDIENTS:**

|                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 1/2 Cups of Milk          | 2 Tbsp of White Vinegar |
| 4 Cups of Whole Wheat Flour | 1 Cup of White Flour    |
| 1/2 Cup of Rolled Oats      | 1 Tsp of Baking Soda    |
| 2 tsp of Salt               |                         |

**DIRECTIONS:**

- Preheat Dutch Oven to 375 degrees with 13 coals on top & 7 underneath.
- Pour milk into a small bowl and mix in vinegar, and then set aside.
- In large bowl, mix all remaining ingredients.
- Add milk mixture to large bowl and stir until thoroughly moistened.
- Turn dough onto a floured board and knead for 10 minutes, till smooth.
- Form into a 9-inch round loaf and place in Dutch Oven.
- Score a large X across the top, cutting in about 1/4 inch.
- Bake for 1 hour or until bread is brown & hollow sounding when the crust is tapped.