



Venturing Voice Area 5 Venturing Newsletter

Area 5 Cosmic Conference

Area 5 is hosting our annual Leadership Conference on November 22nd at Park University in Parkville, MO.

Come explore new frontiers in venturing. This event will offer a large variety of course that not only benefit Venturers and Adult Leaders, but everyone! That's right, scouts and non-scouts are welcome to attend!

Some of the classes being offered will include:

- Backpacking Basics
- Rock Climbing Basics
- Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews (ILSC)
- Advisor Specific Training
- International Scouting
- Crew Committee Challenge
- Overview of First Aid in the Wilderness
- First Aid/CPR Certification
- How to Hold an Ethical Controversy Discussion
- And Many Many More!!

This year's conference will be unlike anything we have hosted in the past. It will be out of the world! I hope to see you all there!

Registration is available online at: <http://a5venturingleadership2014.kintera.org/> or by scanning this code:



For more information, visit: http://www.crventuring.org/cal_popup.php?ID=1147

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Would you like to have an Article featured in the Venturing Voice? Let Venturers know how you are leading the adventure. Please email article submissions and/or picture submissions to:

area5vp-communications@crventuring.org

Social Media



Click on these links to find the Area 5 Facebook page, website, You Tube channel, and pinterest. Make sure you are on all of our social media sites!

Is it Worth It?

<http://wishfulintrovert.wordpress.com/2014/08/19/team-work/>

by: Venture Crew 2021 member, Southern Region

Today is the first day of school. Professors adore the obligatory get to know you games and students are too nervous to supply answers more sufficient than their name/major. My first professor decided to shake it up by tossing a ball with a bunch of questions printed on the exterior around a circle of students. My question was lame, but the girl next to me got a pretty good one. "What is the hardest thing you have ever had to do?" The plastic ball inquired. While she was telling a story about moving to France for a year, I started to drift off on my own tangential thought process. What was the hardest thing I have ever done? And it hit me.

The day was June 20, 2014. I was at the Philmont Scout Ranch. I had been there for two weeks, the first week was a mountain trek through the back country and the second week I was going through National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE). This was my last full day at Philmont but it would also turn out to be the hardest day of my life. This was the day we had to summit the Tooth of Time.

The whole NAYLE course got up at way-to-early-in-the-morning and loaded busses to go to base camp. We arrived and had a brief meeting before we broke out into teams and staggered our departure for the summit. My team contained the oldest participants so we were to go last.

When it was finally our turn to begin, the sun had risen above the horizon quite a bit. Because of the difficulty and emotions of this day, time did not stick out in my memory. We began on a casual switch-back trail. It wasn't bad at all, so I set into

my inhale for 8 steps exhale for 8 steps breathing scheme for the comforting rhythm. As we ended the switch back portion and started on a regular trail I switched to 6 in-6 out breathing because of the elevation change. We stopped and took a water break best to what looked like a minor rock slide. "Where to next?" Someone asked. "Up" said our leader pointing up the 'rock slide'. We were told to use the caterpillar method because of the dramatic elevation change. (when the leader gets tired they step off to the side and then rejoin once the last person had passed.) This method worked well but as we ascended, the air got thin. After about 30 minutes my lungs were in fire. On our 5th rotation of the caterpillar method, I stepped aside and knew something was not good. My throat constricted and my lungs screamed. I couldn't breathe. I raised my arms above my head and concentrated on staying calm. After what seemed like an eternity but was probably only 15 seconds I could breathe again. Once I calmed my lungs down to a moderate panting, I realized that I was crying (these things happen when you think you are dying) I quickly grabbed my bandana out of my pocket and absorbed the tears. I turned around to face my team and put on my "tough" facade. Yes, I was fine. No, let's keep going. I was flushed with embarrassment for my episode. After a whopping 5 more minutes of inclination it happened again. I did the same, calmed myself, wiped my face but this time one of the Adult leaders came over and gave me one of the kindest, most consoling pep talks. The exact words have been lost by months of new experiences but I remember the rush of gratitude and feeling of relief as he calmed me down. The rest of the crew took a water break as I pulled myself together then we were on our way again. Throughout the rest of the hike up the "rock slide" my team said words of encouragement and high-fived me as I passed them. They gave me the strength I needed to get up this monstrosity.

After the "rock slide" ended, there was a little outlet of flat land before large escalating rocks that would take us to the

top of the Tooth. We took a longer break here because the rocks were going to be very taxing. And they were. The way I describe this leg of the journey is that it was like bouldering, not quite hiking but not quite rock climbing. This took a lot of concentration because if you fall through the rocks and into the slender cave like crevasses you can get very hurt. However, my team was not one to give up on encouragement. During the course we learned about how geese honk at their leader to encourage them, so that is exactly what we did. We honked. The honking kept me motivated because the air was rapidly getting even thinner. My lungs had not fully recuperated and so they were feeling like verifiable death but I kept pushing. It finally got to the point where I just couldn't take it anymore. The ragged, heavy breathing returned and I was beside myself with anger.

I jumped to the next rock and my team mate John took my wrist. "Rachel" he said with a kind smile. "Turn around." And I will never forget that moment. I slowly turned, coughing and panting, wiping tears out of my eyes just in time for my eyes to fill with tears anew. Because the view was so breathtakingly beautiful. We were 9,003 feet above sea level and we could see for miles. The Sangre de Cristo Mountains rolled on one side and the Plains expanded on the other. We could see the lake and base camp. Everything was softly reflecting the sun. I sobbed then. Just one. And then smiled because I knew then, and am certain now, that I would have never made it to the top without the amazing teammates/ friends encouraging me and refusing to let me quit.

And that is why the hardest day of my life is also one of the best, most life changing days I have ever lived.



St. John's



Sedgwick's new Venturing Crew had an amazing adventure last August in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Crew took part in the inaugural year of the Sea Base St. Thomas Adventure, coming all the way from Kansas.

This high adventure trip had the crew of 6 Venturers and two adult Advisors living on a 40-foot sailing vessel for 6 days. Crew members were: Trevor, Heidi, Nate, Shae, Kade, and Matt. Crew Advisors Kelley and Tony accompanied the youngsters and they guided throughout the week by Captain Steve.

Crew 487 arrived in St. Thomas after a long day of air travel on the evening of August 9, boarded their vessel, the "Loose Change" and set sail immediately. That first night the crew moored in Christmas Cove.

The next morning the Crew took off for the island of St. John. They spent the next week sailing around the island mooring at a different bay each night. Two thirds of St. John is National Park and the scenery is amazing. The water truly is as blue as it looks in pictures. Snorkeling was a daily activity and there were also several hikes into the National Park to visit historic sites including the Annaberg Sugar Plantation, Petroglyphs created between 900-1500 A.D. and the Reef Bay Mill. Each time the Crew left the boat they swam to shore, often over 200 yards from the boat to the beach.

Some highlights of the trip included; Kade reeling in a 4-foot barracuda, Nate naming every sea turtle the crew encountered, Heidi Asher claiming she never gets sunburnt (only to be proven

wrong), Trevor getting completely buried in sand and stung by a jelly fish, Shae captaining the ship through some very rough seas and Matt dominating the rodeo challenge. The rodeo challenge consisted of jumping overboard while straddling one of the boat's bumpers and trying to stay upright as long as possible.

While snorkeling, Crew members encountered fish species too numerous to count, nurse sharks, sea turtles, sea urchins, star fish and coral of every shape and size and color.

The Crew returned on August 15th exhausted and full of stories for their families.



Save the Date

Date	City	State	Host	Event
November 22, 2014	Parkville	MO	Area 5 (Central Region)	Area 5 Venturing Leadership Conference
January 9, 2015	Snow Creek Ski Resort Iatan MO	MO	Pony Express Council	Winter Quest 2015
April 10-12, 2015	Omaha	NE	Area 5 (Central Region)	Area 5 Fun Event
September 25-27, 2015	Cedar Bluffs	NE	Mid-America Council	Powder Horn 2015 - MAC

Submit your events at: http://www.crventuring.org/event_submission.php