



PREPARED BY
THE AREA 3
VENTURING OFFICERS'
ASSOCIATION

Central Region Area 3 Venturing Newsletter

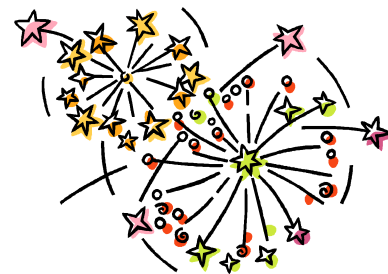
December 2014/January 2015

Happy New Year Area 3!

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Best wishes for it to be spectacular!

- Area 3 Venturing Committee



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What's New with the Awards Program?

As 2015 starts the old Venturing awards will no longer be available. The Ranger, Quest, and Trust awards will remain in place while the Outdoor Bronze awards, Venturing Gold, and Silver will be replaced with the Venturing, Discovery, Pathfinder, and summit awards. Any of the old awards can still be given to anyone who had completed the board of review for that award before the first of the year. The awards can still be worn on the uniform as well. The new awards are already able to be earned with the training for the Pathfinder Award coming out later this year. If you have any questions feel free to ask any of the area officers!

Submitted by: Chris Maussardt

New Venturing Materials Are Now Available!

As you may have heard, the new Venturing handbooks are available for purchase! These handbooks include the Venturing handbook, the Advisor Guidebook, and the Awards and Requirements Book. They are available for purchase via the links below:

Venturing Handbook: <http://www.scoutstuff.org/bsa/new-items/handbook-vt-youth.html#.VCnN9vldWmg>

Advisor Guidebook: http://www.scoutstuff.org/bsa/new-items/handbook-vt-adt.html#.VCnON_lidWmg

Awards and Requirements Book: <http://www.scoutstuff.org/bsa/new-items/handbook-vt-rgr-qst-trst.html#.VCnOUvldWmg>

http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00NU50NUE/ref=tsm_1_fb_lk

Along with the handbooks being released, the new award patches are also available for purchase! You can purchase them via the links below:

Venturing: <http://www.scoutstuff.org/bsa/new-items/emb-rank-vt.html#.VCnNhPlidWmg>

Discovery: <http://www.scoutstuff.org/bsa/new-items/emb-rank-vt-pathfinder.html#.VCnNhvldWmg>

Pathfinder: <http://www.scoutstuff.org/bsa/new-items/emb-rank-vt-discovery.html#.VCnNefldWmg>

Summit: http://www.scoutstuff.org/bsa/new-items/emb-rank-vt-sbr.html#.VCnNf_lidWmg

One of the significant changes in the Awards and Requirements Book has to do with the Venturing Leadership Award, which can now be presented to adults again. The Venturing Leadership Award is presented by BSA local councils, areas, regions, and the National Council to Venturers, Advisors, committee members, and other adult leaders who have made exceptional contributions to Venturing and who exemplify the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The VLA is a way to acknowledge exceptional dedication and service and dedication to Scouting. The selection process remains youth-led. You can read about the full explanation of the change in the Awards and Requirement Book.

Brian on Scouting also has an article explaining some of the changes:

<http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2014/09/30/venturing-updates-get-explained-october-2014-scoutcast/>.

Submitted by Katie Bruton

Upcoming Events for Area 3

“Make Sure To Mark Your Calendar! It’s an **Eventful** Year!”

Area 3 Program Conference, Normal, IL – November 15th, 2014

Area 3 Venturing Conference, Normal, IL – January 9th & 10th, 2015

2015-2016 Area 3 Applications Due – March 1st, 2015

Arctic Blast! Survival Challenge

This is a Venturing Officers Association winter camp-- all Ventures are welcome! This event will be hosted by the North East Iowa Venturing Crew 2189 and will include a plethora of activities including Arctic Survival Training, Arctic Camp Setup, and Advancement Workgroup.

Register and find more information at <http://www.winnebagoobsa.org/Event.aspx?id=1947>

Event Flyer (PDF) - http://storage.winnebagoobsa.org/event/docs/1947/artic_blast_2.pdf

Area 3 Venturing Conference

The Area 3 Venturing Conference will take place on January 10th featuring multiple sessions on the new program features along with a Kodiak CDC and a Powder Horn CDC on Saturday. Friday night (January 9th) will feature a Venturing Leader Specific Training, a Crew Committee Challenge, an Introduction to Leadership Skills Course for Crews and Ships, and a game night. Register and get more information at www.crea3venturing.org

Got An Event?

We'll give you a hand promoting it!

You can email event information to zigscouter@gmail.com to have it promoted in the next newsletter!

You can also submit information to the central region event calendar at http://www.crventuring.org/event_submission.php

Event Spotlight!

Area 3 Venturing Conference

**Centennial Christian Church, Bloomington Illinois
January 9th-10th, 2015**

The Area 3 Venturing Conference is designed for officers and Advisors at the unit, district, and council level to learn more about what opportunities the Venturing program offers. It is a one day conference, with optional classes on Friday, which allows the youth and adults to explore resources and bring them back for their program. This year we are also featuring a session designed for Scouting Professionals to ask questions of the Area Director.

This year's sessions include:

Friday: Advisor Training, Committee Training, Goal Setting & Time Management Training, and the Introduction to Leadership Skills Course.

Saturday: Kodiak Course Director's Conference, Powder Horn Course Director's Conference, and a Smorgasbord of Sessions. The Smorgasbord includes- new program information, Sea Scouting, Team Building Games, information on Venturing Officers' Associations, and more.

We highly encourage you to wear your crew uniform or the BSA Venturing Uniform for the day. This year we are also doing a table centerpiece contest for each council (the winning council gets to eat lunch first).

More information and registration forms: www.crarea3venturing.org

Area 3 Venturing President's Corner



If your New Year's Resolution is to learn more about Scouting, one place to do so is at the Area 3 Venturing Conference. At this conference, you can learn all about the new changes to Venturing, Sea Scouting, and so much more including the new Time Management Training. The conference will be held on January 9-10, 2015 at Centennial Christian Church (1219 East Grove St.) in Bloomington, IL. Make sure to register NOW! For more information, visit: www.crarea3venturing.org.



Another great thing to add to your resolution is to work to become a better leader. If you are looking for a way to build your leadership skills, we have just the thing for you! After you have taken ILSC/ILSS and NYLT, you can attend National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE). NAYLE is an experience where you build on and apply the leadership knowledge that you acquired during ILSC/ILSS and NYLT while having an awesome time! This year, NAYLE will be offered at all of the BSA High Adventure Bases! To find more information about the courses and the links to register, visit: <http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2014/09/25/nayle/> and check out NAYLE's Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/BSANAYLE>. The dates of the courses area as follows:

At the Florida Sea Base, the two courses will be Feb. 28-Mar. 6 and Apr. 11-17 with the fee of \$995.

At Philmont Scout Ranch, the seven courses will be June 14-20, June 21-27, July 4-10, July 12-18, July 19-25, July 26-Aug. 1, and Aug. 2-8 with the fee of \$395.

At Northern Tier, the two courses will be June 21-27 and July 5-11 with the fee of \$385.

At the Summit Bechtel Reserve, the two courses will be July 12-18 and July 19-25 with the fee of \$395.

Besides attending the Area 3 Conference and NAYLE, there are so many other opportunities to become a great leader this year. Also, if you want to give back to Scouting and serve in a leadership position, the Venturing applications are due soon. The National VOA Application is due February 1st, the Region VOA Application is due February 15th, and the Area VOA Application is due March 1st!

Katie Bruton

2014-2015 Central Region Area 3 Venturing President

Personal Highlights

Want to be featured in the next edition? Send us an article about an amazing Scouting experience with pictures!

Please email articles to zigscouter@gmail.com

Staffing Jamboree 2013

Staffing the National Jamboree in 2013 was by far one of my favorite scouting experiences. To be behind the scenes seeing the tent cities come to life and the Jamboree spring up from the dirt. Lots of work goes into the massive opportunity that is Jamboree and it's done in a huge part by volunteers that staff to give back to the program that has given so much. When I first thought about staffing it did not really appeal to me, but I am thrilled that I did. I was able to share two weeks of memories with fellow scouters from my area; as well as meet hundreds of others wonderful people from across our great nation. I would recommend that anyone interested in trying to staff for the National Jamboree in 2017 start thinking about it now.

The directors over the staff areas are qualified in their fields and their jobs at the Jamboree. There were quite a few people from my area that were over areas at the Jamboree, however, I decided to go and work in retail service at Jamboree. I had the pleasure of working in the Gateway Trading Post in the Summit Center, at the Bechtel Summit property. My assignment was sort of to be a doorman and ensure that everyone took a bucket to comply with fire codes. However, you do a lot more on staff than your assignments on paper. In my two weeks I did everything from computer support, display assembly, and crowd control to restocking, public relations and filling out credit process reports. There is never a dull day on staff because your working with amazing people and you work for good people. I had amazing bosses from National Supply that ran our trading post, the largest on site at ten thousand square feet. Being on staff is not all work and no play, you get time off to go and enjoy the activities of the Jamboree as well.

While I was on sight my friend Joseph and I got a day off to go and enjoy the programs; there was so much to do that we couldn't have possibly done everything. We were able to view the displays, we saw the Boy Scout NASCAR and Monster Truck. Then we went shooting at the new state of the art ranges on the Summit; there are all kinds of shooting ranges: skeet, shotgun, rifle and pistol are the main ranges. There is also a large Archery complex near the Shooting complex, toward the outer parts of the property. The crowning jewel of the day was getting to go down the Big Zip, it is the largest zip line at the Summit at a third of a mile long; it was a truly amazing and scary experience all at the same time. The consideration to give the staff time off to enjoy the experiences the property had to offer made my staffing experience better than I ever imagined. Even when the weeks end and you head home though you're not done with Jamboree.

Technically my staffing experience has been over for almost two years now, as of this summer. However, it is not over in the relationships that I made with my over one hundred co-workers at the greatest trading post on site. I am proud to have staffed at Gateway, the home of Uncle Bubba; because it broadened my sight in the world of scouting and lead me to meet so many people that I never would have had the opportunity to meet otherwise. I recommend that anyone staff Jamboree if you're willing to leave behind your comfort zone and be introduced to an amazing world of Scouting that shows how major events happen, as well as the major bonds that Scouting forges within the lives of its members.

Chance Ziegler

2013 Gateway Trading Post Staffer, National Jamboree



How Did We Get “New Year’s”?

Credit to History.com and A&E Networks for this article

<http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/new-years>

EARLY NEW YEAR’S CELEBRATIONS

The earliest recorded festivities in honor of a new year’s arrival date back some 4,000 years to ancient Babylon. For the Babylonians, the first new moon following the vernal equinox—the day in late March with an equal amount of sunlight and darkness—heralded the start of a new year. They marked the occasion with a massive religious festival called Akitu (derived from the Sumerian word for barley, which was cut in the spring) that involved a different ritual on each of its 11 days. In addition to the new year, Akitu celebrated the mythical victory of the Babylonian sky god Marduk over the evil sea goddess Tiamat and served an important political purpose: It was during this time that a new king was crowned or that the current ruler’s divine mandate was symbolically renewed.

Throughout antiquity, civilizations around the world developed increasingly sophisticated calendars, typically pinning the first day of the year to an agricultural or astronomical event. In Egypt, for instance, the year began with the annual flooding of the Nile, which coincided with the rising of the star Sirius. The first day of the Chinese new year, meanwhile, occurred with the second new moon after the winter solstice.

JANUARY 1 BECOMES NEW YEAR’S DAY

The early Roman calendar consisted of 10 months and 304 days, with each new year beginning at the vernal equinox; according to tradition, it was created by Romulus, the founder of Rome, in the eighth century B.C. A later king, Numa Pompilius, is credited with adding the months of Januarius and Februarius. Over the centuries, the calendar fell out of sync with the sun, and in 46 B.C. the emperor Julius Caesar decided to solve the problem by consulting with the most prominent astronomers and mathematicians of his time. He introduced the Julian calendar, which closely resembles the more modern Gregorian calendar that most countries around the world use today.

As part of his reform, Caesar instituted January 1 as the first day of the year, partly to honor the month’s namesake: Janus, the Roman god of beginnings, whose two faces allowed him to look back into the past and forward into the future. Romans celebrated by offering sacrifices to Janus, exchanging gifts with one another, decorating their homes with laurel branches and attending raucous parties. In medieval Europe, Christian leaders temporarily replaced January 1 as the first of the year with days carrying more religious significance, such as December 25 (the anniversary of Jesus’ birth) and March 25 (the Feast of the Annunciation); Pope Gregory XIII reestablished January 1 as New Year’s Day in 1582.

NEW YEAR'S TRADITIONS

In many countries, New Year's celebrations begin on the evening of December 31—New Year's Eve—and continue into the early hours of January 1. Revelers often enjoy meals and snacks thought to bestow good luck for the coming year. In Spain and several other Spanish-speaking countries, people bolt down a dozen grapes—symbolizing their hopes for the months ahead—right before midnight. In many parts of the world, traditional New Year's dishes feature legumes, which are thought to resemble coins and herald future financial success; examples include lentils in Italy and black-eyed peas in the southern United States. Because pigs represent progress and prosperity in some cultures, pork appears on the New Year's Eve table in Cuba, Austria, Hungary, Portugal and other countries. Ring-shaped cakes and pastries, a sign that the year has come full circle, round out the feast in the Netherlands, Mexico, Greece and elsewhere. In Sweden and Norway, meanwhile, rice pudding with an almond hidden inside is served on New Year's Eve; it is said that whoever finds the nut can expect 12 months of good fortune.

Other customs that are common worldwide include watching fireworks and singing songs to welcome the new year, including the ever-popular “Auld Lang Syne” in many English-speaking countries. The practice of making resolutions for the new year is thought to have first caught on among the ancient Babylonians, who made promises in order to earn the favor of the gods and start the year off on the right foot. (They would reportedly vow to pay off debts and return borrowed farm equipment.)

In the United States, the most iconic New Year's tradition is the dropping of a giant ball in New York City's Times Square at the stroke of midnight. Millions of people around the world watch the event, which has taken place almost every year since 1907. Over time, the ball itself has ballooned from a 700-pound iron-and-wood orb to a brightly patterned sphere 12 feet in diameter and weighing in at nearly 12,000 pounds. Various towns and cities across America have developed their own versions of the Times Square ritual, organizing public drops of items ranging from pickles (Dillsburg, Pennsylvania) to possums (Tallapoosa, Georgia) at midnight on New Year's Eve.



Task Force Area 3 Sea Scout Boatswain's Corner

SEA SCOUTS AND VENTURERS

Are you looking for something different to do this year? Well we have just the events for you. Want to learn about Sea Scouts? What to learn how to sail a sail boat? You can contact us at:

Central Region Task Force Area 3 Boatswain - John Schmidt smitykid5@yahoo.com

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Central Region Flotilla Boatswain - Katie Bruton ktsail11@earthlink.net

Central Region Flotilla Boatswain Mate - Peter Schmidt smitykid4@yahoo.com

Central Region Flotilla Boatswain Mate - Lucas Shapland l.shapland774@gmail.com

A Note From The National Boatswain!

Central Region,

The National Sea Scout Boatswain is looking for your input, along with the input from all your shipmates! We need your voice in order to set a course for the future of Sea Scouting. In order for your voice to be heard, you need to fill out the "Voice of the Sea Scout" Survey and encourage your entire ship to do the same. From programs, to technology, advancement and more, we want to know what you think! The survey should take you less than 30 minutes to complete but could bring a lasting impact to our program.

Take the Survey Here! <http://goo.gl/S6oRJK>

Fairwinds,

Peter Schmidt

National Boatswain

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Venturing Recruitment Tool-Kit

The National Venturing Cabinet has put together a customizable recruitment kit for units and councils to use when recruiting new youth members. Check out the fliers and recruitment materials on the national website.

Peer to Peer Link: <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Marketing/Recruiting2/>



WHERE TO GO VENTURING

Your Crew or Ship has some great activity ideas but they just don't know where they can do them? Check out "Where to Go Venturing" on the Central Region website! Enter your location and what you want to do into the database and it will give you a list of various places in your area where you can fulfill your activity dreams.

To try it out, go to

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

Other/Where_To_Go_Venturing

Make this Fall the most exciting one yet for your Crew or Ship!

Area 3 Venturing Facebook Groups

Did you know that your council has a Venturing Facebook Group? Many of our councils have developed their own Facebook Groups. Those that did not have one had one established by the Central Region Venturing Communication Committee. They will be serving as the group administrator until a local youth or adult steps forwards to administer the group. The following are the links to each of our council's Venturing Facebook Groups:

Area 3 Venturing Facebook Group:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=17279505847>

Abraham Lincoln Venturing Facebook Group:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=44059028761>

Greater St. Louis Area Venturing Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=48964223809>

Hawkeye Area Venturing Facebook Group:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2246395863>

Illowa Venturing Facebook Group:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=51644697397>

Lewis & Clark Venturing Facebook Group:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=129355675712>

Lincoln Trails Venturing Facebook Group:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/55168864010/>

Mississippi Valley Venturing Facebook Group:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=119055695511>

Northeast Iowa Venturing Facebook Group:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=60552383208>

Prairielands Venturing Facebook Group:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/55303044593/>

W. D. Boyce Venturing Facebook Group:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=8316386849>

Winnebago Venturing Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/61890416839/>