



# AREA 2 VENTURING

Your source of all Venturing news!

## Area 2 Conference was a Major Success!

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Area 2 hosted its annual Venturing conference and went phenomenally! With over 35 members present, it received guests from all across the nation. The National Venturing President Edward Abraham showed up as well as the Central Region Adviser, the Central Region Boatswain, and more!

Presentations varied from how to plan the perfect crew meeting to content about the new awards program. It was hosted at the University of Michigan on behalf of the local Scouting Alumni Association club.

If you missed the event don't worry because next year is going to be even bigger! If you want to help plan and staff this event you should look over Page 3 of the newspaper and consider applying to join the VOA.



- In this Issue:
- Area 2 Conference – Page 1
- Future Events – Page 2
- Join a VOA! – Page 3
- President's Report – Page 4
- Advisor's Minute – Page 5
- Stay Connected and Meet the Editor – Page 6



# Future Events!



After wrapping up a successful Area 2 Venturing Kickback weekend at Gerber Scout Camp, Venturing has more adventures in store. This summer, [VENTUREINGFEST 2016](#) will be the first ever national gathering of Venturers at the Summit Bechtel Reserve. The Summit Bechtel Reserve is a new state of the art high adventure base that is uniquely suited to large scale scout events like VENTURINGFEST. Located in the mountains of West Virginia, the distinct natural features have been intergraded into the scouting experience. The event, which will take place between July 31<sup>st</sup> and August 5<sup>th</sup> is open to registered Venturers, Scouts (14+) and their adult leaders. Drawing from crews across the country, VENTUREINGFEST 2016 offers participants a Venturing-specific high adventure experience featuring climbing, skateboards, BMX biking, shooting, zip lines and other activities. Of course, the six-day event promises less demanding activities too and will also feature concerts and low key opportunities to hang out with Venturing friends new and old. More details are coming soon but VENTURINGFEST will not be an event you want to miss!

If West Virginia seems like too long to wait to get together with crews, there will be an [Area Wide Canoe/Kayak Race](#) on the Rifle River at Cole Canoe Base June 3-5. Hosted by the Great Lakes Field Service Council and open to both Venturers and Sea Scouts from Area 2 and beyond. The weekend will feature a number of competitions between individuals and pairs in addition to mystery races. So bring your friends and get out on the water to prove your paddling prowess.

Even after the summer ends, opportunities in Venturing abound. Crews from across Area 2 are invited to attend the Great Lakes Rendezvous Ultimate Challenge which will be at Willow Metro Park in Michigan September 23-25. The festivities will include a 5k run, a Tough-Mudder style race, an obstacle course, shooting sports, performances and a Scouting party on Saturday night. Be sure to add this awesome event to your calendar and join the Great Lakes Field Service Council for an amazing event before the weather gets cold!

Best,  
Erin Dunne  
Vice-President of Program



# Join the VOA!

Why should you join the Area Venturing Officers Association? Because you make a difference.

Joining the VOA is a great opportunity for developing your leadership skills. Being active in your Area Venturing Officers Association gives you a chance to make a difference and it's a great opportunity to get more involved in Venturing. Joining the Area VOA is a way of advancement, it gives you the ability to help out the councils and districts in your area to help make Venturing a better program. It also helps you build a network of friends and mentors across the area, region and nation. During this past year I have met the past and current Venturing National and Central Region Presidents as well as the Western Region Venturing President. Beyond that it's helpful at keeping you involved in Venturing while at college, gives you plenty of public speaking opportunities, and a great way to beef up your resume.

Hanging out with Venturing youth leadership at all levels is a great opportunity, they all share a love of Venturing as well as a desire to make Venturing better. I know that I have people I can rely on to help me make a difference in Venturing and the world, don't you want to be part of that?

Best.

Jessica Paling

Area 2 Vice-President of Administration

**Interested in applying? You can fill out the application below!**

<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/venturing/pdf/VTPresidentNominationForm.pdf>

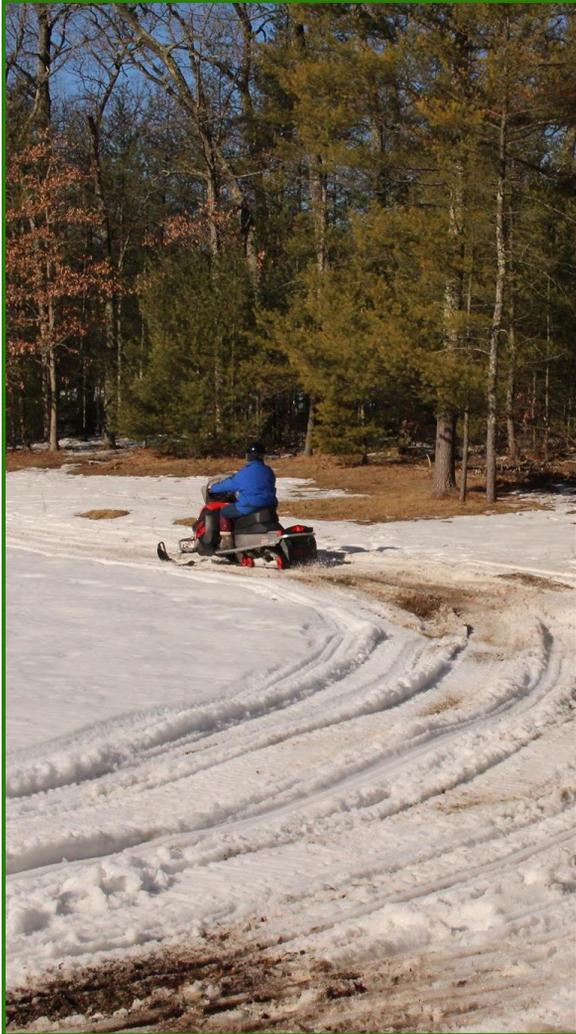


**Venturing Leadership Awards (VLA's) nominations are also now available. These are awards for those Venturers who demonstrate leadership at the council, area, regional, or national level. You can nominate someone at the link below:**

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Venturing/Awards/leadership.aspx>



# President's Report



If I had to sum up Kickback in one word, that word would be Amazing! It was fantastic! Venturing Kickback Weekend is Area 2's annual fun event hosted by President Gerald R Ford Field Service Council and the whole weekend is dedicated to the one thing that everyone enjoys: kicking back. Held at Gerber Scout Reservation the only thing you had to do that day was have fun. There was zip lining, pistol and shotgun shooting, climbing, snow-mobile riding, cross-country skiing, Ice fishing, square dancing, and lots and lots of board games.

There was something for everyone and the snow was deep enough that you could even build (and smash down) your very own snowman! Kickback was a ton of fun. Outside of all the excitement of the program it was very successful too. This year's kickback had over 150 people in attendance, coming in with the second best attendance ever! For that and all the fun we had I think President Gerald R. Ford Area Council's VOA and everyone in attendance deserve a very special shout for all the amazing work that they did. You guys were great! Hope to see you next year!

Yours in Venturing,  
P. Jacob Hardy  
Area 2 Venturing President

Want to get active in your council but don't know how? You can email me, Nick Meier the Area 2 VP of Communications, at [nmeier21@gmail.com](mailto:nmeier21@gmail.com) and I'll help you find the right contacts.



# Advisor's Minute

The first half of our term has been exciting!

One of the highlights was our Area Conference at the University of Michigan. We enjoyed having guests from the National and Central Region Venturing VOAs and our Central Region Sea Scouting Boatswain. The big celebration of the event was the presentation of the National Venturing Leadership Award to Lizzie Wisman from the President Gerald R. Ford FSC. The Area Conference had a great turnout of Venturers and their advisors from all of our Field Service Councils. We are looking forward to seeing their great events, trainings and programs in the future.

Many thanks to the host staff at Gerber Scout Reservation for an outstanding Kickback Weekend. It was another memorable event for more than 120 participants. Bravo!

I want to give a big "shout out" to the new Great Lakes FSC VOA - congratulations on your good start! And many thanks to the officers, advisors and Scouting professionals in the President Gerald R. Ford and Water & Woods VOAs - y'all rock! And not to be missed, are those who have expressed an interest in starting up the Southern Shores FSC VOA this year.

Be sure to check out all of the outstanding events coming up this year as found in this Newsletter and at [www.crventuring.org/area2](http://www.crventuring.org/area2). The Area 2 fall fun event planning is underway and it will be a lot of fun. Venturing Fest at the Summit is also scheduled for this year. Look for more info in this Newsletter.

In closing, even though the year has just passed the half way point, we are looking for officer applicants for the 2016-17 term. Please feel welcome to contact any of the current officers for more details.

Best Regards,  
Jeff Gerald  
Area 2 Adviser

**Post your Venturing stories to your council FB group at:**

**Great Lakes – <https://goo.gl/hCCOR9> Water and Woods – <https://goo.gl/4YhP9O>**

**Southern Shores – <https://goo.gl/05KIs3> President Gerald R. Ford – <https://goo.gl/Tg7pIj>**

**Area 2 – <https://goo.gl/611yKM>**

**Share your stories with #ThankfulForVenturing**





# AREA 2 NEWSLETTER

Your source of all venturing news!  
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## Meet the Editor

Hello!,

My name is Nick Meier and I'm the Area 2 Vice-President of Communications. It's been a fun year so far with the Area 2 Venturing Conference and the Winter Kickback, but it's not over yet. I have big plans for this year, but they'll go nowhere without your help. This summer we launched the Area 2 Twitter page that has an astonishing 35 followers. Our goal by the end of the year is to have 200 followers, more than any other Central Region Area Twitter! So even if you don't have a Twitter, follow our page to stay up to date on all things Venturing.

A few other things the area will be doing this year are a promo-video, a brochure, and more. If you have any photos or videos, please feel free to share them with me at [nmeier21@gmail.com](mailto:nmeier21@gmail.com). I'd love to hear your stories, and maybe, they might get featured in this newsletter. Our newsletters will come out quarterly on the last Sunday. Make sure you tell all your friends about us! And don't forget to follow our twitter!

Yours in Venturing,  
Nick Meier  
Area 2 VP of Communications

## Stay Connected:

**Facebook Group –  
Central Region Venturing Area 2**

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@CRVArea2**

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CRVArea2**

**Pinterest –  
[Pinterest.com/ventingarea2](https://www.pinterest.com/ventingarea2)**

