



VENTURING FORUM

Cluster Councils. B.S.A.

January 2010

Northeast Region Venturing News

Venturing Firearms Policy

The following guidelines relate to use of firearms within the Venturing program. Safety should ALWAYS be the primary concern when using firearms as part of the Venturing program.

Handguns

1. Handgun use is limited to the Venturing program.
2. All pistol shooting activities must be supervised by a currently NRA-certified Pistol Instructor and when on the range, must be supervised by a currently NRA-certified Range Safety Officer.
3. When on the range, there must be a ratio of no more than three shooters per adult coach or instructor. The adult coaches or instructors must be close to the shooters for close supervision. The adult coaches/instructors must be supervised by the Range Safety Officer.
4. All participants must complete an NRA basic pistol marksmanship course prior to range firing.
5. With the approval of the local council, handgun shooting may be conducted on BSA camp ranges, provided the shooting is done under the supervision of a currently NRA-certified Range Safety Officer.
6. Shooting safety glasses and ear protection must be worn on pistol ranges.
7. Care must be taken to comply with federal, state, and local laws.

Shotguns

1. For range shooting, shot size is determined by the range rules.
2. All shotgun shooting activities must be supervised by a currently NRA-certified Shotgun Instructor and when on the range, must be supervised by a currently NRA-certified Range Safety Officer.

3. Shooting safety glasses and ear protection must be worn on shotgun ranges.
4. Care must be taken to comply with federal, state, and local laws.

Muzzleloaders

1. Muzzle loading firearms must be of modern manufacture. Firearms made from kits must be certified safe by a licensed gunsmith.
2. All muzzleloader range shooting activities must be supervised by a currently NRA/NMLRA certified muzzle loader firearms instructor and when on the range, must be supervised by a currently NRA-certified Range Safety Officer.
3. For range firing, each participant must have one instructor or adult coach under the supervision of a currently NRA-certified Range Safety Officer.
4. Shooting safety glasses and ear protection must be worn on muzzleloader shooting ranges.
5. Care must be taken to comply with federal, state, and local laws.

Rifles

1. All rifle shooting activities must be supervised by a currently NRA-certified Rifle Instructor and when on the range, must be supervised by a currently NRA-certified Range Safety Officer.
2. Shooting safety glasses and ear protection must be worn on rifle ranges.
3. Care must be taken to comply with federal, state, and local laws.





The Price of Freedom

The Price of Freedom Conference is a four-day residential program that gives Scouts the chance to interact with experts on current issues of citizenship, leadership, and heroism. Participants will have the opportunity to make history come to life with a tour of Colonial Philadelphia and Valley Forge National Historical Park, and interact with historical interpreters such as Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton. Scouts will learn about the Bill of Rights and Supreme Court decisions that shaped today's understanding of those rights. They will then be challenged to apply this knowledge and debate a mock version of Congress in order to strike a balance between liberty and security. Saturday afternoon provides an opportunity for Scouts to perform service in the form of a flag retirement ceremony organized and executed by the Scouts. These events will be interspersed with leadership and team-building exercises, as well as opportunities for the students to relax and get to know fellow Scouts from around the country! Each Boy Scout council is invited to send a contingent, but reservations are received on a first-come, first-served basis. Participation in this program is limited to students in grades 10, 11, and 12 who are active in Scouting and have demonstrated leadership in their Boy Scout troop, Varsity Scout team, Venturing crew, or Sea Scout ship; and who meet a minimum of one of the following rank requirements:

- Boy Scouts and Varsity Scouts must have earned the rank of Eagle Scout.
- Venturers must have earned the Silver Award.
- Sea Scouts must have earned the Quartermaster Award.

The program will be held February 11–14, 2010,

at the Freedoms Foundation camps in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Scouts are responsible for covering \$100 of the \$450 tuition. The other

\$350 is covered by a grant from the Freedoms Foundation.

Individuals and contingents must cover their travel expenses to and from Philadelphia. Transportation will be provided to and from Philadelphia's 30th Street Amtrak Station or Philadelphia International Airport. Contingents traveling by motor vehicle will report directly to the Freedoms Foundation.

The Freedoms Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching Americans the principles upon which our nation was founded. It is their hope to convey the close link between the rights and the responsibilities of citizens in society.

The Freedoms Foundation was created in 1949 by prominent businessmen E.F. Hutton, Kenneth Wells, and Don Belding, and was led by former President General Dwight D. Eisenhower for nearly 20 years. For the last 60 years, the foundation has sought—through civics, history, and free enterprise educational programs—to teach youth about their country and responsibilities as American citizens.

Each year, some 3,000 students from across the nation visit the foundation's 85-acre campus adjacent to Valley Forge National Historical Park.

Come join us for this exciting adventure in citizenship where the past meets the present and the future comes to life!

• **Motivate participants to think about themselves and their goals and values, and stimulate and commit them to serious participation in American society.**

• **Develop leadership skills and build self-reliance and self-esteem.**

• **Challenge participants to develop an understanding of what good citizenship means and what it takes to achieve it.**

• **Explore the concept of an American hero and define heroism.**

• **Develop a deeper appreciation and understanding of the sacrifices made by individuals in defense of liberty and the democratic way of life.**



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Forums

We are left to ponder many things on earth; one of them is how to hold a successful Venturing Forum. One of the other great mysteries of the universe may be why they are called Venturing Forums when the other two traditional programs have similar meetings called the Cub Scout Roundtable and Boy Scout Roundtable but I digress.

The goal of a successful Forum is measured by the number of times people grab a pen/pencil and start writing down things in their calendars or notebooks or on the agenda. You may be able to distribute a boatload of paper to people and they may accept it, but you know you have given them what they want/need when they start writing on those papers. That's the Golden Fleece we should be seeking when planning Forums. Will the topics presented cause the attendees to write something down about it?

Of course the above is much easier to opine and write about than actually do. If all that was needed was to have me say to you all, "hey just be sure you have interesting Forums with news they can use," it would be snap. But that isn't the case, now is it? Just with a new Crew, a New Forum will flounder for awhile; I think that's the Storming part.

Venturing Forums need to have a feel for the experience level of the attendees, those in the midst of organizing a Crew will have different questions and needs than those who have been around awhile and those who have youth attuned to recognitions and awards will have different issues than those who do not. The Activity Interest Surveys that Crews use to help plan their Annual Program is a great aid to measure what the group is interested in and gives the attendees experience with the form. Some may have not seen it if they haven't done training yet or may have forgotten about it. Keep the Program Capability Inventory form in mind as well. There is nothing better than having Crews present information on topics that interest them. Make sure new Crews know

about your Forum. Minsi Trails Council just started a Facebook page for Venturing. We send out a notice for the Forum at least a week in advance and then a few days before it. I don't think this is something you can over communicate on

Keep the information fresh and be sure to have introductions at the beginning of every Forum, it's easy to assume we all know one another, but that is not the case. Just as a Crew will expand and contract over time, a Forum's attendance rises and falls but with attention to detail a following can be built.

John "Pierre BEAR" Arno
Area 5 Forum Commissioner

Questions / Answers:

1. A CO-Ed Venturing Crew does not require both Male and Female registered Adult leaders (advisors/associates) True or False?

Answer-True

National Membership: A co-ed Venturing crew that is new or rechartering is not required they have a male and female leader in order for the crew to be registered. That requirement is for outings of any sort. The required adult positions for the crew are: Charter Representative, Committee, 2 Members of the committee and an Advisor. No gender is mentioned in the Venturing Crew adult requirement. Other positions are optional and/or suggested.

Where is the Reference? Registrar's Procedure Manual. The manual used by council registrars on registration procedures and policy

2. Crew outings for coed crews require both 2 deep leadership if coed youth are present of which at least one male and one female adult.

True or False. Answer-True..

Where is the Reference? Guide to Safe Scouting

2A if only one female youth is going on the outing and no female adults are going the father of the female can substitute.

True or False. Answer -False

Reference: Guide to Safe Scouting



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National Membership: Regarding your question about the Venturing outing where the leader attending is the father of the only female member of the Crew; a female adult is still required to attend along with the male adult. The rule is the same and there is no sibling replacement to the rule.

Remember- unless the Venturing program is changed by National and called something other than Venturing – the Term is “Venturing Crew not Venture Crew”



Southern Region Venturing News

2010 Area 2 & 3 Venturing & Sea Scout Events (partial list):

Jan 16-18, 2010 - Sea Scout Academy on Martin Luther King day weekend Camp Mohawk \$50

Feb 7-10, 2010 - Winterfest in Gatlinburg, TN

Feb 26-28, 2010 Crew Bash '10 - Bay Area Council - Camp Karankawa Get ready as we head out to Camp Karankawa for a weekend activity smorgasbord.

March 6, 2010 - Venturing Summit - Worth Ranch. Longhorn Council's Summit.

March 12-14 & 26-28 2010 Powderhorn; Camp Wisdom and Clements Scout Ranch; Circle 10 Council

April 9-11, 2010 Venturing Rendezvous - Camp Wisdom Council: Circle Ten ; Dallas Camp Wisdom, Redbird Lane, Dallas,

April 24, 2010 - Spring Canoe Race - Worth Ranch. Longhorn Council

April 24, 2010 - Capital Area Council's Venturing Shooting Sports Day . Lost Pines Scout Reservation. Guns and archery, instruction and all the ammo.

June 19-26 Kodiak- A Peak Experience-Guadalupe Mtn NP/Hiking and Backpacking; Eric Holman ventureman410@juno.com Alamo Area Council

July 5-10 Kodiak @ Horseshoe Bend, El Rancho Cima; Sam Houston Area Council (SHAC)

July 11-17 Road to Ranger Venturing Camp Sid Richardson Scout Ranch - Longhorn Council.

July 23-25 Kodiak X 2010 McGimsey Scout Park \$40; Contact Eric Holman/Ventureman410@juno.com; Alamo Area Council

August 13-15 - SHAC Venturing Summit - Sam Houston Area Council. Bovay Scout Camp.

Aug 27-29 & Sept 24-26 SHAC Powderhorn @ El Rancho Cima and Camp Strake.

Sept 4-6 Labor Day weekend - Minto Rendezvous Lost Pines. Capital Area Council

Sept TBD- Venturing is Happening- Lost Pines Scout Camp - Capital Area Council.

Dec 3-5 & 10-12 Fall Kodiak Contact Eric Holman/ Ventureman410@juno.com Alamo Area Council.

Western Region Venturing News

Pikes Peak Council, Kodiak Course

June 25-27, 2010

Golden Bell Camp and Conference Center, Divide, Colorado

See flyer on the FORUM website.



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Central Region Venturing News

Reserve your Spot NOW for the Area 3 Venturing Conference January 30, 2010 in Normal, IL

The Area 3 Venturing Conference will be one of the first Area level Venturing conferences held in the nation. It is designed to provide your council the building blocks for the success of your Council's Venturing Program. This one-day conference is designed to help you get Venturing "Out of the Box, and Over the Top" in your council. Whether you are just starting to build a Council Venturing structure, you are already on the path to success, or you just want to learn more information about how other councils have succeeded, then this conference is for you.

This conference is for the 12 councils in Area 3 of the Central Region. It will be held on January 30, 2010. Just in time for the 100th Anniversary of Scouting. Let's make the anniversary year all the more memorable for the youth in your council's Venturing Program by giving them the opportunity to grow in leadership skills, and have a great time doing it.

The conference will be starting with the basics of Venturing, and moving through the steps councils in our Area and across the country have taken to reach success. Here are just some of the things the conference will be covering:

- ◆ Recruitment (how to find the right youth to lead your council's Venturing Officer Association)
- ◆ Venturing Officer Association Job Descriptions and Bylaws
- ◆ How to hold successful multi-crew events
- ◆ VOA elections
- ◆ VLSC/Kodiak/Kodiak X – It is all about developing leaders!
- ◆ National Youth Leadership Society
- ◆ Powder Horn – Why it will grow Venturing
- ◆ Venturing Awards and Recognition

- ◆ How to make Venturing communications in your council work

- ◆ A mock Venturing roundtable and much more

The cost for all of this knowledge is just \$15 if you reserve your seat by January 15th, 2010. The conference will be held at Calvary United Methodist Church in Normal, Illinois. The church is located right off I-55 and is within 3.5 hours or less of each of our council's offices. Check-in starts at 7:45am and we expect to be finished by 4:30pm. This is one day you don't want to miss. Our Area 3 Venturing President, Sarah Ward, and the 2008-09 National Venturing President, Amanda Vogt will be spearheading the conference's staff. Ben Hayes, the current Central Region Venturing President, will be in attendance along with your Area 3 Venturing Committee to help lead the conference. A conference flyer is attached to this Area 3 Venturing Update along with the registration form. **Register now to reserve your spot.**

If you have any questions feel free to contact Bob Vogt, the Central Region Area 3 Venturing Chair at (636) 394-6809 or revogt1@gmail.com

Powder Horn

May 14-16, 2010

Glacier's Edge Council- Camp Indian Trails
June 4-6, 2010

Bay Lakes Council- Gardner Dam Scout Camp
(Both weekends required. Course starts on Friday morning and runs through Sunday afternoon each weekend.)

Course Director: Luann Rece

orchidscout@gmail.com (608) 873-1821



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2010 Powder Horn
April 16-18
April 30-May 2
ONLY 48 slots
available-sign up
NOW!
(Both weekends
required, Course
begins Friday

morning)

Sea Scouts Officers Specialized Training

Area 3 of the Central regions and the Greater St. Louis area Council members are hosting the Sea Scouts Officers Specialized Training, beginning with registration and check-in at 8:30 AM on Saturday, February 6th, 2010 at the **MacArthur Service Center** (<http://www.stlbsa.org/Common/Join+Us/Facilities/MacArthur+Service+Center/>).



The Center is located at 4568 West Pine Blvd. St. Louis, Mo. 63108-2179. The event will continue through the day, until 16:00. All Sea Scout Ships, and Venturing Crew leaders are invited to join us for a day of learning and fellowship. The cost is **\$5.00** per

participant which will cover your registration and materials. Lunch is not included. Registrations may be mailed to ???????. For more information e-mail Bill Hamilton at whami9@aol.com.

When you arrive, BE PREPARED; bring your Sea Scout manual, Wear your uniforms. We will be having a Land Ship Ceremony so you are encouraged to wear your ships appropriate uniforms.

Venturing Website Links:

National Venturing Site

<http://www.scouting.org/venturing.aspx>

National Venturing Youth Cabinet

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

Central Region Venturing

<http://www.crventuring.org>

Northeast Region Venturing

<http://nerventuring-bsa.org/>

Southern Region

www.srbsa.org

Southern Region-Venturing

<http://srventuring-bsa.org/newsite/>

Southern Region Sea Scout

<http://sregion.seascout.org/>

Western Region

www.wrventuring-bsa.org

USA Scouting Service-Venturing

<http://www.usscouts.org/usscouts/venturing/UniformingFAQ.asp>

Venturing Magazine

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

Yahoo Groups

Central Region

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

Northeast Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nerventuring/>

Southern Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/srventuring/>

Western Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wrventuring/>

National

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/venturinglist/>

January FORUM Attachments

[http://www.minsi-](http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/cluster_attach/forum0110.zip)

[southmountain.com/newsletters/cluster_attach/forum0110.zip](http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/cluster_attach/forum0110.zip)

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Venturing News

NEW Unit Leader Award of Merit

A quality Scouting experience will help keep Scouts in the program, and the Boy Scouts of America created the Unit Leader Award of Merit to recognize the quality unit leaders who make that happen.

The Unit Leader Award of Merit replaces the Scoutmaster, Varsity Team Coach, and Venturing Crew Advisor award of merit programs. This new recognition has revised requirements and may be earned by Cubmasters as well.

Requirements

The nominee must

1. Be a currently registered Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Coach, or Advisor who has served in that position at least 18 continuous months.
2. Meet the training requirements for the registered position.
3. Distribute a printed or electronic annual unit program plan and calendar to each family in the unit.
4. Have a leader succession plan in place.
5. Effectively use the advancement method so that at least 60 percent of the unit's youth have advanced at least once during the last 12 months.
6. Cultivate a positive relationship with the chartered organization.
7. Project a positive image of Scouting in the community.

Nomination Procedure

1. The unit committee chair completes the Unit Leader Award of Merit Nomination Form on behalf of the unit committee. For Boy Scout troops, Varsity Scout teams, and Venturing crews, the nomination must include endorsement by the senior patrol leader, team captain, or crew president, respectively.
2. The unit or district commissioner certifies that the form is complete.

3. The unit submits the nomination form to the council for approval by the Scout executive and council commissioner or president.

The Award

Upon receipt of the approved nomination form, the council may present the Unit Leader Award of Merit, which includes a certificate, square knot with the appropriate device, and a special unit leader emblem. Recognition of this achievement may be presented at appropriate district or council events, such as district or council leader recognition dinners, training events, and board meetings.

The award may be presented for each program, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity, and Venturing, if the individual meets the requirements in each program. Only one knot is worn with the devices of each program that the award was earned in.

Unit Leader Award of Merit certificate, No. 30767 Scoutmaster emblem, No. 610093

Unit Leader Award of Merit square knot, No. 610091 Cubmaster emblem, No. 610094

Varsity coach emblem, No. 610092 Venturing Advisor emblem, No. 610095

Venturing FORUM

The Venturing FORUM is a cluster concept and a friendly way to help Venturing and Scouting Leaders exchange ideas and programs among our troops, crews, areas, councils, and regions.

The Cluster newsletter "**Venturing FORUM**" is not an official publication of any Council, Area, Region or National. It is the Venturing Leaders newsletter. Venturing has been growing thanks to your efforts.

As always, Venturing articles, questions and comments are welcome. We are seeking support from anyone interested in working on the newsletter or future website.

Thanks for all you do!

Bob "the BEAR" Monto

