

# The FORUM

Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring Newsletter since 2003  
January 2018 Issue

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**The Current FORUM Newsletter:**

[http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/current\\_forum.php](http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/current_forum.php)

**The FORUM Back Issues**

[http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/venturing\\_archive.htm](http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/venturing_archive.htm)

**Large Crews**

[http://minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/documents/FORUM-Crew\\_27-Large\\_Crews\\_articles.pdf](http://minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/documents/FORUM-Crew_27-Large_Crews_articles.pdf)

Crew 27 Large Crew Series (Articles on Large Crew Operations)

**The FORUM Attachments Central Region**

**The FORUM Attachments National**

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/regions/NAT-0118.zip>

**Commissioner**

***Commissioner\_Tools\_Troubleshooting Guide***

**Commissioner-Service-to-Exploring-FAQs**

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**The FORUM Attachments Northeast Region**

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/regions/NER-0118.zip>

Autumn Telegraph Newsletter

**The FORUM Attachments Southern Region**

No Attachments

**The FORUM Attachments Western Region**

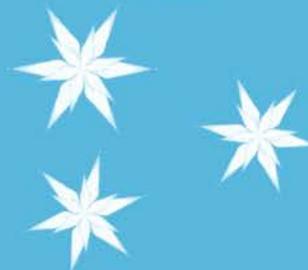
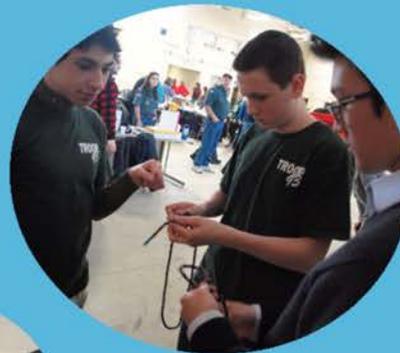
No Attachments

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# Winter Amidships

[baylakesbsa.org/WAM](http://baylakesbsa.org/WAM)

The 44th WAM!



Central  
Region

Saturday, February 24, 2018

8:30am - 10:30pm

National Guard Armory, 796 Sullivan Drive

Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

Registration: Youth \$20 / Adults \$15

WAM is a one day event for Scouts (14-20 years old) with activities ranging from obstacle courses, Scout skills, and nautical themed challenges. Lunch is on your own and the night is completed with a dinner and a dance!

**Visit [baylakesbsa.org/WAM](http://baylakesbsa.org/WAM) to register and for all the details**

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**Selection of**  
**National, Regional, and Area**  
**Sea Scout Boatswains**

The selection process for the National Boatswain, the Regional Boatswains and the Area/Flotilla Boatswains for the 2018-2019 year has been established. There is one application for all positions and is designed for a youth who qualifies and is interested in applying to check one or more of the titles for consideration. The application is available on the Sea Scout Website at: [www.seascout.org](http://www.seascout.org)

The deadline for submission of the application for National Boatswain is February 15, 2018; Regional Boatswain is March 1, 2018; and Area/Flotilla Boatswain is March 15, 2018. The complete package for the application can be emailed, or mailed to the Office of the National Director in Irving, Texas. The address is on the application. It is not necessary to email and mail the application package.

Please share this with youth in your council and area to let them know of this great leadership responsibility. If there are questions, they can reach out to Keith Christopher, National Director, Sea Scouts BSA at 972-580-7810 or [keith.christopher@scouting.org](mailto:keith.christopher@scouting.org).

## **Sea Scout Leadership Award Nominations Available on a Council, Area, Region, and National Level**

**The Sea Scout Leadership Award is presented by councils, areas, regions, and the National Council to Sea Scouts and Sea Scouters who have made exceptional contributions to Sea Scouting and who exemplify the Scout Oath and Scout Law.**



**The Qualifications for the award can be found at the following link along with the application, number of presentations allowed per level in the program and deadlines for submission: <https://seascout.org/leadership-award>. Please share this information with all Sea Scout ships and Sea Scouting leadership in your area.**



# November 2017- Uniforms, Insignia, etc.

by Sea Scouts, BSA  
Commodore's Corner- November 2017

I recently read that SG Trading Post is stocking Official Sea Scout Uniform items; what's the latest on that?

SG Trading Post has recently begun carrying Official Sea Scout Uniform items in addition to the "Class B" and logo items they have carried in the past. The uniform shirts come with the Flag, World Crest, and Sea Scouts BSA already on them. Check on this at: [seascouts.sgtradingpost.online](http://seascouts.sgtradingpost.online).



Why does the SG Trading Post website use the terminology "Official Sea Scout Uniform" to describe their uniform garments?

The dark navy Sea Scout uniform, introduced as the "New Century Universal Uniform" in 2012, our centennial year, is the Official Sea Scout uniform.

Does that mean the legacy traditional uniforms, converted from U.S. Navy garments, aren't authorized?

The legacy traditional uniforms are authorized Sea Scout uniforms and may be worn in accordance with the descriptions on pages 19-23 of the 2016 printing of the Sea Scout Manual, SKU 620543. BSA National Supply continues to stock insignia for the legacy traditional uniforms.

With the U.S. Navy introducing new "cracker jack" white uniform jumpers with cuffs and piping on the collar flap and cuffs, what should Sea Scout Ships that wear the legacy traditional dress white jumper do?

The Navy intends to phase in the white jumpers with piping over the next few years; starting with Navy recruits in the Fall of 2017.

If your Ship (unit) wants to continue with the legacy traditional white jumpers (without piping) they are available from [ships-store.com](http://ships-store.com).

If the Navy's new white jumper with cuffs and piping is to be converted into a Sea Scout uniform, it must be altered by removing the center stripe of piping on the collar flap and cuffs, and by substituting the Sea Scout Collar Emblem (or "bug"), No. 4146 (white), for the star on the corners of the collar flap. The standards for Sea Scout insignia on legacy traditional uniforms may be found on pages 22-23 of the Sea Scout Manual. Or, take this opportunity to shift to the dark navy Official Sea Scout Uniform ("New Century Universal Uniform") available from SG Trading Post; or by ordering garments from [www.dickies.com](http://www.dickies.com). More information about the Official Sea Scout Uniform can be found on pages 18-20 of the Sea Scout Manual, or on the [Official Sea Scout Uniform Fact Sheet](#).

Why does the answer to the previous question include the words: "Ship (unit)"?

Scouts and Scouters who aren't already familiar with Sea Scout terminology will hopefully read the Commodore's Corner from time to time. In Scouting, Ship = unit = Troop, etc., so the parenthetical reference may aid their understanding. We can also spell Ship with a capital "S" to mean a Scout unit; and avoid confusion with the generic word ship with a lower case "s". As your national Sea Scout committee works to expand the Sea Scout program, you may notice other places where similar editorial devices are used to clarify information about the Sea Scout program.

# November 2017- Uniforms, Insignia, etc.

by Sea Scouts, BSA  
Commodore's Corner- November 2017

Are there any new badges available from BSA National Supply?

The following badges are now available through ScoutStuff.org or your local Scout Shop:  
No. 639091 – Emblem Sea Scout Chartered Organization Representative  
No. 639092 – Emblem Sea Scout Chaplain Aide  
No. 639675 – Emblem Sea Scout Trained Strip

A note about stock numbers.

BSA National Supply may occasionally change the stock number on some items, including Sea Scout insignia. For example, the number for the black “Sea Scouts, BSA” strip recently changed to No. 641602. The stock number for the white version is unchanged, No. 4126. You can order either through your Scout Shop or ScoutStuff.org

Where should I wear the new Sea Scout Trained Strip?

Wear the Trained Strip on the wearer's left sleeve, in uniform position 4, just below the badge-of-office. This placement is consistent with other BSA programs.

I have earned the Long Cruise badge and wear it in that position; and the left sleeve on my short-sleeved shirt is already full; now what?

The long cruise badge may be worn on the wearer's right pocket, with the long cruise arcs encircling the badge.

The National Sea Scout Committee needs your help with Marketing.

We're still looking for help to develop marketing materials to support our membership efforts. If you (or a volunteer you may know) have a knack for that sort of thing we can sure use your talents! Or, maybe your Ship has a successful flyer or video that could be used nationally. Either way, please contact us at: [commodorescorner@seascout.org](mailto:commodorescorner@seascout.org).

You can submit your question to the Commodore's Corner at [commodorescorner@seascout.org](mailto:commodorescorner@seascout.org); or [click here](#). We'll answer selected questions in a future edition of the Commodore's Corner.

Subscribe to the Commodore's Corner via the [National Sea Scout Distribution list here](#).

CC



# OFFICIAL SEA SCOUT UNIFORM

[NEW CENTURY UNIVERSAL UNIFORM]



## **Embroidered Cap @ \$15**

Includes embroidered logo on front

## **Dickies Shirt (M/W) @ \$36 or Wicking Red Kap shirt (M) @ \$37**

Includes Sea Scout B.S.A., Flag and  
World Scouting Patches attached.

## **Dickies Pant (M/W) @ \$29**

Includes removal of Dickies tag on pant back

\* Larger sizes at additional cost



SG Trading Post is an Official Licensee  
of the Boy Scouts of America

Order online  
[www.SeaScouts.SGTradingPost.Online](http://www.SeaScouts.SGTradingPost.Online)  
or call 800-338-2258





# THE TELEGRAPH

## THE TELEGRAPH

A Newsletter published  
by the Northeast  
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something related to  
Sea Scouts, we'd like to  
hear from you. Send us  
news of events or story  
ideas to the editor at  
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Hello,

We are pleased to announce that the Autumn 2017, Volume 21, Issue 3, edition of THE TELEGRAPH "The Voice of Sea Scouts in the Northeast Region" has been posted for your review, distribution, and reading pleasure on our Northeast Region Sea Scout Website at <http://www.nerseascout.org/>

Please share this information with your Flotilla's Sea Scouts.

This issue includes:

**Seabadge 34-NY-2017**

**SEAL Courses**

**Regional Sailing Championships**

**Sea Scouts at the 2017 National Jamboree**

**Marine Safety Alert from the US Coast Guard**

And lots of other great info submitted by our Ships!

Check out the issue!!

Would love your feedback.

Thank you.

Deidre Buchner  
Editor, The Telegraph

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# **A Venturer Reports: The First NCAC/082 Venturing Camporee - SCOUT WARS 2017**

By Maggie

The Scout Wars 2017 Venturing Camporee began like any Venturing event does: at a meeting. Crew 27's Associate Advisor, Pete, offhandedly mentioned that due to our Crew's large size we could spearhead Council events such as Camporees. The idea turned itself over in my head.

About a week later after taking advice from my mom, dad, and a few friends I emailed Pete and told him that I would be willing to chair the event and suggested Camp William B. Snyder as a potential location. I asked for volunteers to serve on a Camporee committee at our Crew Holiday Party in December of 2016 and got a dozen Venturers signed up to help right away. Camp Snyder was only available the weekend of November 3-5, 2017 so we had our date.

The committee ended up consisting of me and 21 other Venturers from Crew 27. We all decided that Star Wars should be the theme of the event. Other contenders were Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings. Although the voting was a democratic process, Star Wars won the instant one committee member made the pun of 'Scout Wars.' Each committee member suggested two games or events. All of this information including a proposed schedule for the weekend was compiled into a proposal for the National Capital Area Council's (NCAC) Council Venturing Officer's Association (CVOA). We needed their approval to hold a Council-wide Camporee. Making the pitch of the proposal to the CVOA at one of their meetings was easily one of the scariest moments of my life.

The CVOA approved the Venturing Camporee and assigned me to head up the project. This created a lot of tasks that had to be completed. For instance, I had to estimate attendance, create a budget and submit it to Council so it could be established as a funded project. This was essential because we couldn't arrange to pay for the Camp without an account to bill charges against and collect money into. There was also the seemingly endless paperwork and emails. Patches needed to be designed, staff needed to be recruited, leader's guides needed to be published, the sign up website registration needed to go live, supplies needed to be gathered, menus needed to be created for the Cracker Barrels and my regular high school homework still needed to get done on top of all of it. Thankfully I had a great team. Nearly a third of our Crew volunteered to assist - by the time of the Camporee, I had a committee of 22 Venturers, including myself.

Pete and I had frequent meetings, phone calls and emails to figure out how to structure leadership and to establish a budget. Dawn provided pretty constant input from the CVOA because the officers of the CVOA who approved the project would be gone by the time we executed it. We divided the tasks by categories: registration, camp site assignment & checkout, fun events, competitive events, education, cracker barrels and entertainment. For each category of event, we appointed a leader to recruit workers and superintend their area. The leaders were responsible for recruiting people to their staff's events. Staffers had creative freedom to lead, structure, and score the events anyway they chose. When the new CVOA arrived, Laura (Our new CVOA President) volunteered the CVOA to handle on site registration. She is a trooper and ended up doing most of that work solo.

# A Venturer Reports: The First NCAC/082 Venturing Camporee - SCOUT WARS 2017

By Maggie

The patch was a journey. My brother John designed this really nice Star Wars themed patch and we sent it to Disney for copyright approval. Eight weeks later, Disney replied - 'no go.' I'm not going to Disney theme parks again! Fortunately Dawn is our CVOA Advisor and one of her coworkers designed the patch we modified and distributed at the event. It stayed clear of any copyright issues and was just gorgeous. We even had the Moritz Company of Pennsylvania make it with glow-in-the-dark thread. It is a real work of art.



Scout Wars 2017:  
The final Patch Design - totally Awesome!

I was curious if there had been any other Council level Venturing Camporees since Venturing was created out of Exploring. An internet search turned up no record of any. All of the events like this seem to be at the Area and Regional VOA level or at the National level like VentureFest. Could this be the first Council level Venturing Camporee in the history of Venturing? Time and more research will tell.

Courtney volunteered to lead the Cracker Barrels. I asked her to compile a menu to offer at the Cracker Barrels on Friday and Saturday nights. The menu was much lighter for the second night because one of the many activities of the weekend was a Dutch Oven Baking Competition. Mel, our Crew 27 VP-Program, volunteered to provide program at the Cracker Barrels.



Mel and Julie Lead Songs at the Saturday night Scout Wars 2017 Cracker Barrel backed up by Jessica, Courtney, Keegan, Zoe, Ty and Braden.

# A Venturer Reports: The First NCAC/082 Venturing Camporee - SCOUT WARS 2017

By Maggie

I had to field all sorts of questions from adults. One advisor wanted to know why we were not providing all the meals for the participants. I shot right back that "the 'Road to RANGER' leads right by the Dutch Oven." Providing that insight pretty much ended any further discussion of catering food. There were lots of reasons not to provide food but the biggest is that it would rob Venturers of the opportunity to gain advancement credit for RANGER. You cannot earn RANGER unless you can plan a menu for six people over three days and cook in the outdoors. A secondary reason was that renting the kitchen and purchasing food for everyone would have really driven costs up and we had to keep the cost at or below \$25/person for the weekend.

I decided that the Camporee would draw more Venturers if the program offered some advancement opportunities. I was able to recruit four Venturers from Crew 27 to serve as 'Yodas.' Each one would lead a course. We would run Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews (ILS(C)) and the ALPS Award advancement courses (Time Management/Goal Setting, Project Management, and Mentoring). Everyone in Crew 27 is trained in the ALPS courses and ILS(C) within their first year so finding people to teach was easy. Registration went live over the summer and I emailed the link and a promotional flyer to all of the Crew advisors in NCAC. Pete sent the leader's guide throughout northeast region's Areas Five & Six and southern region's Area Seven. Despite all the advertising, no one turned up from out of Council. As it turned out, eleven Venturers registered for ILS(C) and thirty-three registered for the ALPS courses. That accounted for 40% of our youth attendance. A few Venturers from Crews that could not convince advisors to come camp with them only showed up during the day to take the courses. My take away is that any large Venturing event **MUST** offer training and advancement opportunities for participants.



Courtney and Johana teach Goal Setting/Time Management at the 2017 NCAC Scout Wars Venturing Camporee

# A Venturer Reports: The First NCAC/082 Venturing Camporee - SCOUT WARS 2017

By Maggie

With three weeks until the Camporee, I gathered all the staff in my basement using pizza and snacks as a bribe. We went through their events and they told me what supplies they would require. Later that weekend I went on a Wal-Mart spree with my Dad. In addition to gathering all of the supplies that my staff had requested such as: string, brace late clasps, and lighters; I also grabbed the supplies for the cracker barrels such as tablecloths and streamers to make the dining hall look festive.

Over the preceding 20 years of Venturing, our Council had tried to have a major Venturing event five or six times. Each time one was planned it was canceled about a month before it was supposed to happen because people were not signing up. This had become almost a self-fulfilling prophecy. Three weeks before our Camporee, only 37 people were signed up to attend. Since I had scoped the event for 150 participants, this left our budget a little short. Our District Executive for Venturing sent an email to me, Pete and Dawn suggesting that we either scale back the activities or cancel for lack of interest. Pete replied that he would donate \$1,000 to Council if we came up short but that we really needed to have the event. Personally, I think the rest of the potential participants were waiting to see what would happen before they committed. From that point on, another 123 people registered bringing the total up to 160. That put us clearly in the black. Canceling would have been a big mistake! Pete was off the hook for his donation offer!

Two weeks out, as the registration numbers started to grow, the Council Training Committee saw an opportunity to offer training to Venturing Leaders and asked if they could be added to the Camporee. I was happy to make room for them and we ended up training over a dozen adult leaders in addition to all of the Venturers. The in-person Advisor and Committee Training lasted most of the day.



Advisors and Crew Committee members get trained at Scout Wars 2017

# A Venturer Reports: The First NCAC/082 Venturing Camporee - SCOUT WARS 2017

By Maggie

Friday the 3rd of November our 'advance team' consisting of me, my mom, and three other Venturers drove to Camp Snyder right after lunch. When we arrived we set to work setting up the dining hall for the first Cracker Barrel. A few hours after us, most of the rest of the Crew arrived and the Camporee got started. We opened with a Songfest Cracker Barrel. Saturday was filled with games and the approaching rain did not appear to hinder any fun times. We simultaneously ran ILS(C) and the ALPS courses on Saturday. Venturers had the option of either participating in the games, taking ILS(C), or taking the ALPS courses. We also ran a scavenger hunt based on Scouting History. Everyone thought that was a lot of fun!



Lola (Crew 27 Advisor) braids Sofie's hair as Mel manages program at Scout Wars 2017



Crews face off in 'Tug-of-war' at Scout Wars 2017

# A Venturer Reports: The First NCAC/082 Venturing Camporee - SCOUT WARS 2017

By Maggie

Saturday night we had another superb Cracker Barrel, held the competition for the Dutch Oven dishes, watched Star Wars: *Revenge of the Sith* (Episode 3) and had a costume contest. The products of the Dutch Oven Baking Competition were amazing.



Katie, Maggie and John served as the judges for the Dutch Oven Contest



Venturers play board games at Scout Wars 2017 late into Friday & Saturday nights

# A Venturer Reports: The First NCAC/082 Venturing Camporee - SCOUT WARS 2017

By Maggie

At the end of the evening, we had to clean the dining hall. The hall is really large - it rents for \$750/day without the kitchen - so we cleaned 3/4 of it and left 1/4 for the religious services the following morning. After they were complete, we cleaned the rest!



Maggie leads her clean up crew in Camp Snyder's dining hall late Saturday night

The next morning Monsignor Brady, a very senior Catholic Priest and a famous Scouter in the National Capital Area Council (Eagle Scout Class of 1939), provided mass for the Catholics. We also had a non-denominational religious service. The winners of the various contests were announced (Congrats to Staff!) and patches were distributed. Everyone expressed what an awesome time they had and how they wanted to get together to do it again soon. At the next CVOA meeting we considered another event in the Spring. Now that we have the bugs worked out, getting this done should be much easier.

# A Venturer Reports: The First NCAC/082 Venturing Camporee - SCOUT WARS 2017

By Maggie

It was an awesome event and the process of leading it taught me more about project management and perseverance than any training has to date. The lesson that I learned again and again was that two-way communication is a must and that minor miscommunications need to be corrected immediately because they lead to severe issues. I also learned that following up with people who say they will do something is very important as sometimes they can forget. One of Scouting's purposes is to train young people to take on the ever-evolving challenges of leadership at any level: from president of a school club to president of a country. While I don't feel completely ready to lead a country, I didn't feel completely ready to plan a 150-person event either and look how well that turned out. One of the adults from another Crew at Scout Wars 2017 told Pete that they saw the Venturing mountain on the Venturing insignia as Olympus and remarked that Crew 27 resided on the summit. While I'm not a polytheist, I did appreciate the comparison between the Venturers of Crew 27 and the Greek gods. The Crew did an amazing job!



## Maggie

Maggie was the author of this article and the Venturer who took on leading the first ever Venturing Camporee in the National Capital Area Council (NCAC). Over the last 20 years, the Council had planned and canceled several Council Level Venturing events. This event was the first one to actually be carried out! NCAC has just over 1,100 registered Venturers and Maggie's home Crew 27 sports 75 of those! Maggie is a junior at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bethesda, Maryland. When not participating in Venturing related activities she enjoys running and is a triple varsity athlete in Cross Country, Winter Track, and Track. She also immensely enjoys reading and writing. Someday she hopes to write her own books and become a published author.

# Small Boat Handler Award and National Boating Standards

By Sea Scouts, BSA



Two organizations set national standards for boating education in the United States. The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) sets standards for classroom-based education. In many states, boat operators are required to take a NASBLA-approved course to operate a power boat. There is strong data that demonstrates completing a NASBLA-approved boating course improves boating safety. The second organization, the National On-Water Standards panel, was formed about 8 years ago. Operating under a US Coast Guard

grant, the NOWS team established a set of standards for skills-based on-water boating education. Two long-time scouting volunteers (Wayne Stacey, recently retired from the Coast Guard's Office of Boating Safety, and Robin Pope, Sea Scouting's national paddlesport specialist) were directly involved in the formation of these on-water standards. Pope also serves on NASBLA's Education Standards Panel.

Both the NASBLA knowledge standards and the NOWS skills standards went through a rigorous development and review process that included public comment and evaluation by subject matter experts. NOWS standards developers further included on-water trials of the standards by both skilled and novice boaters, to further ensure the validity of the standards. As a result of this rigorous process, both sets of standards were recently approved as American National Standards.

How does that affect Sea Scouting?

Sea Scout's Small-Boat Handler award requires coverage of all the material required for a NASBLA approved course, as well as coverage of additional material. In fact, as noted on the Small-Boat Handler outline, completion of a NASBLA-approved course is a terrific way to meet many of the award's requirements while also meeting the legal requirements to operate a boat in most states. Scouts who earn the Small-Boat Handler award can be confident that this material represents not just what Scouting's leaders think they should know, but also represent what some of the world's leading boating programs think they should know.

That knowledge, however, doesn't mean the boater can actually operate a boat, and that's where the NOWS program fits in. The National On-Water Standards describe expert consensus as to what a beginning boater should actually be able to do on the water. When the Small-Boat Handler on-water skills are compared with the National On-Water Standards, it's not surprising that the two are a close match. The take-home message for Sea Scouts is that earning the Small-Boat Handler award provides proof that they have both the knowledge and skill needed to operate a boat in entry level conditions. The Small Boat Handler bar on your uniform may not look like much, but it clearly says that a Sea Scout is more than someone who's just interested in boats – it says that they are a boater. It's an award every Sea Scout should pursue.

## Sea Scout Academy 2018 Galveston



**Registration is now open for Sea Scout Academy 2018 to be held at Sea Star Base Galveston on January 13-15 (Martin Luther King Day Weekend)**

**Seven training tracks are available for Sea Scout youth ranging from recruit (1st year) to Been There Done That (5th year). Tracks are designed based upon a typical advancement path as outlined in the Sea Scout Manual.**

**Registration and the Boarding Manual can be found**

# CREW 210 Experiences Council Jamboree

By Caitlyn and Alicia

Crew 210 of Winter Garden, FL sent two scouts and one committee member to the first Central Florida Council Jamboree December 1, 2, 3 at Osceola Heritage Park. The three day event had over 1,400 participants from all around, and included demonstrations from the US Military, battlebots, NASCAR, a Lumberjack show and so much more. Rock walls, ziplines, airsoft contests, concerts, and fireworks made it tons of fun for everyone



Alicia H. and Caitlyn C. enjoying breakfast at Central Florida Council Scouting Jamboree Dec 1-3, 2017

Alicia H., Crew Historian, shares:

“The Jamboree was a great, fun experience for me. I really enjoyed all the activities and meeting other troops and crews. The concerts were amazing. It was cool to see the bands and the magician, and I even got to go on stage and saw what my favorite part of the Jamboree was. It was a great experience and I will definitely go again the next time we have it.”

Crew 210 got to attend with their fellow Troop 210 as well, where both Alicia and Caitlyn have siblings in the troop.



Troop 210 and Crew 210 stopped for a quick photo before heading out for a fun day at

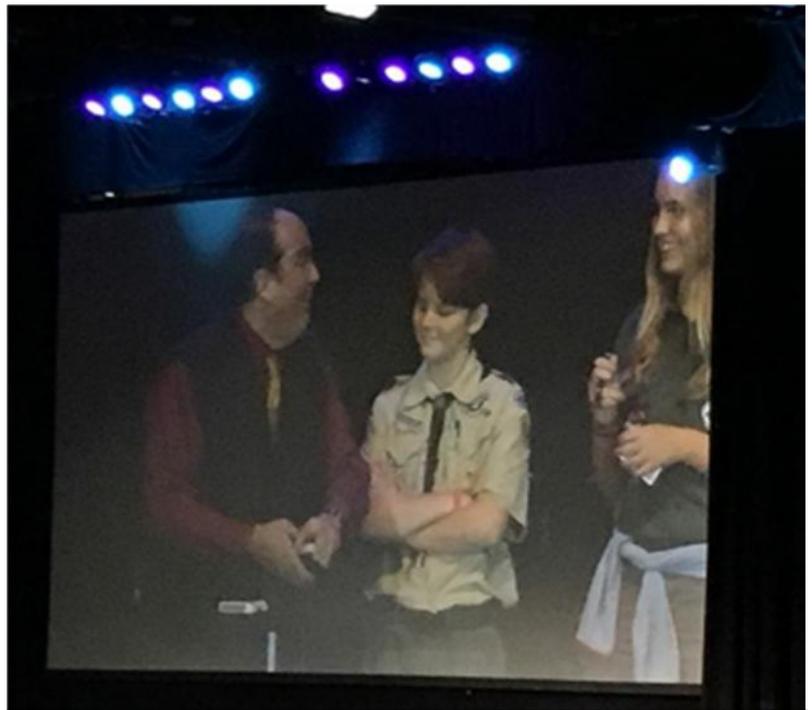
# CREW 210 Experiences Council Jamboree

By Caitlyn and Alicia

“When we first got there I got picked to go on stage to assist with a magic trick. I stood right there and watched him make a card appear on a sheet of paper and I still have no idea how he did it. It was so cool. I had so much fun!” Caitlyn C., Quartermaster. “Its fun to do some things with Clifford (brother), but its really neat to do so many things on our own as well. I ran into some of my 2018 Philmont Horseback Cavalcade with Crew 225 as well, which was fun, and others from Crews I met at Camp Rainey Mountain last summer or PowderHorn and NYLT.”



Caitlyn ran into Angela P. from Crew 277 of Leesburg FL. and celebrated their love for all things Batman



Caitlyn C. watches as the magician sets up his card trick.

The Central Florida Council Jamboree is a semi annual event, currently slated to return in 2019.

## Alicia and Caitlyn

Alicia H. has been involved in Girl Scouts since 5 years old, and now this is her second year in Crew 210 where she presents serves as Historian. She enjoys the many opportunities Venturing is giving her including camping, hiking, ziplining, and anything adventurous. She hopes to make a difference in the world while continuing in scouts through high school and beyond.

Caitlyn C. is the Quartermaster for Crew 210 in Winter Garden, Fl. At 15, Caitlyn has been a part of scouting since a young age. While she has always been a part of Girl Scouts since Daisy (Kindergarten), she has always "tagged along" with Dad and younger brother Clifford since he became a Cub Scout. Her love of camping has grown from those early Tiger treks, and now she is going on trips herself. From building rafts for council Raft Regattas, or kayaking and ziplines, to preparing for an upcoming Horseback Philmont Cavalcade in 2018, Caitlyn is experiencing high adventure wherever she can!

# Sail Aboard the USCG Eagle

by Sea Scouts, BSA

Every summer for nearly a decade, the Coast Guard has partnered with Sea Scouting to offer a weeklong sailing adventure aboard Eagle to a select group of Sea Scouts from around the nation.

What exactly is it like to sail aboard the Eagle? Katie Bruton, a Quartermaster Sea Scout, provided a firsthand account of her 2015 life-changing adventure.

We began our voyage in Boston, Massachusetts where we boarded, had a safety briefing, and were assigned to our sleeping areas. During our safety briefing we were reminded that we would get as much out of the opportunity as we put in and that we were expected to do everything with the first year cadets. Some of our duties included preparing meals in the swaying messdeck for the 200 people on board, scrubbing the teak deck with Simple Green and water, polishing the brass for public tours, trimming sails for maximum speed and changing direction, and trying to stay awake in the scorching engine room at 1am. The multitude of lines we heaved and hoed during the week in order to trim the sails left us with dirty and callused hands. During our shifts, we also climbed aloft in some of the 6 miles of standing and running rigging to prepare the twenty-three sails to be set and stowed, used celestial navigation to pinpoint our location, and attended interactive trainings. These trainings included preparing for fire emergencies, man overboard, abandon ship, and weather safety.



The week of exhausting hard work did have its perks. At the beginning of the week, I, along with many of the cadets, stared at the whale-speckled horizon. We watched dolphins dance through the waves off the bow, did sunrise workouts, laughed at a 2-hour long talent show, and gazed at the glorious sunrises while standing in the rigging above the ship's deck.

I did not fully realize how amazing the opportunity was until I was 40 feet in the air watching the sunrise come over the surprisingly calm horizon of the Atlantic Ocean between Boston and New York. I knew how uniquely I was seeing the world and I was awestruck by the beauty of it.

Among an endless laundry list of things the experience taught me, is how so many people can come together to accomplish a common goal. Sailing on Eagle gave me a new view on life and I would not trade the experience for the world.

# **Area Boatswain of the Month: Ryan Trefny**

by Southern Region Commodore



**The Southern Region Quarterdeck has selected Ryan Trefny as Area Boatswain of the Month for December.**

**Ryan is the Boatswain for Southern Region Area 3, covering the southern half of Texas, and is doing an outstanding job! Ryan has worked to gather contact information for all Boatswains in Area 3 then uses that list to coordinate Area activities. He is currently working on plans for three major recruiting events in multiple Councils to increase Sea Scouting membership. Ryan played a key role as a youth instructor in Seabadge in Dallas this fall, teaching Customs and Courtesies. He will serve as event boatswain and master of ceremonies for Sea Scout Academy in Galveston in January.**

**Ryan is a senior at Meridian World School in Round Rock Texas, where he actively participates in swimming, Model United Nation, and Debate Club. Ryan is a SEAL graduate who is on track to complete the requirements for Quartermaster by the end of 2017.**



## Scouts from the lower 48 experience Interior Alaska's winter!



Motivated by the quest for new and interesting adventure, a crew of scouts and scouters from Northern California's Troop 104 spent a week in the Alaska Interior as guests of the Midnight Sun Council in Fairbanks. The week-long itinerary was developed through consultation with the Scout Executive, Stephen Smith. Among the many activities planned were instruction on cold weather hazards and camping, and history of native Alaskan culture. Other activities included ice climbing, ice fishing, snowshoeing, sledding, cross country skiing, dog mushing, a swim in a hot spring, visits to the University of Alaska Natural History and Art museum, and a stop at North Pole, AK, to view ice carving displays. Several crew members witnessed the Aurora Borealis during a clear, very cold -25° F and moonless night!

The cold weather training session was conducted at Lost Lake Lodge by three members of the US Army's Northern



Warfare Training Center located in Black Rapids, AK. The presenters were congenial, extremely professional and engaging. They provided detailed information on the hazards of very cold weather and means to avoid injurious effects of exposure. They discussed the physical qualities of different types of snow and ways to construct winter camping shelters. The soldiers also provided instruction on the proper use of snowshoes and then led the crew on a snowshoe tour to frozen Chisholm Lake. Many crew members spent the night in their snow shelters or tents, during which the temperature reached -29° degrees!

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The very enjoyable and informative visit with the Denakkanaaga elders at the Morris Thompson Cultural Center in Fairbanks included instruction on native Alaskan foods, construction of hunting weapons and on the art of beading. Crew members were served a lunch that included a traditional moose soup, blueberry jam, a salmon spread and other native foods, all prepared locally. Dorothy, a very spry 84-year old native elder, told stories of the joys and challenges of her childhood growing up in rural central Alaska, and then sang a poignant song in her native tongue about the death of a loved one.

The University of Alaska at Fairbanks (UAF) was the venue for three of the crew's activities. The Museum of the North, located on the UAF campus, is a modern art and



anthropological museum that houses Alaskan artifacts and specimens, and is a leader in northern natural and cultural history research. The scouts especially enjoyed seeing the very large gold nuggets on display.



The UAF also operates a 30'-high, ice-climbing wall, much to the enjoyment of our crew. Full gear was provided, as were knowledgeable, amiable and patient instructors. The wall provided a variety of routes of differing difficulties from which to choose. Adjacent to the ice-climbing wall was a large snow-covered hill, which many of our crew used for sledding. The 3'-deep powdery snow produced plumes of the white stuff that enveloped the sledders as they raced down the hill.



Our visit to North Pole, Alaska was highlighted with a short trip on an ice train and a view of ice fairy story-inspired ice carvings.



During one of our visits to Fairbanks, we met a strange group of giant gulls who also had come to visit the museum. Although they were a bit standoffish at first, when they warmed up they had many stories to tell.



One of the highlights for the trip for many members of the crew was catching fish through the ice of Chisholm Lake. After a short lesson on the difficulty of chopping a fishing hole in the 3'-foot thick ice, crew members used a power auger to quickly do the job. Using fishing rods and shrimp bait, crew members positioned themselves over holes in the ice in one of the available ice houses or on the open lake. Before long, fish started to take the bait and several crew members reeled in fish. The crew caught four 10" silver salmon, and the youngest member of the crew caught the largest fish, a 14" rainbow trout. These fish, along with two large red Alaskan salmon provided by our hosts, were heartily enjoyed for dinner that night.



On an overcast afternoon, the crew met with scouter Daniel Pon (Eagle Scout and retired military) and four of his sled dogs on the shores of the Chena River. After warming up the crew with a series of robust and often humorous physical exercises, Daniel introduced his dogs, pointing out both physical and behavioral differences that made the dogs suitable for the lead, swing, team or wheel positions to pull a sled. After instructing the crew on the construction of his dog sled and methods to control the always very excited dog team, some members of the crew were given rides on the sled out onto the frozen river. Several other scouts drove the team (with Daniel's help).



Late one clear night, multiple crew members hiked down to Chisholm Lake on the chance to see the northern lights. Arriving at the lake, they saw the lights nearly straight overhead appearing first as a self-illuminated gray streak running east-west across the lake. Soon, faint green color movements and a clear curtain-like formation could be seen. A bit later in the night, the lights included distinct areas of red and green over the light gray background. From the warmth of her sleeping bag in the adult cabin, one of the adults stayed up most of the night watching the array, which occasionally included streaks of yellow and orange. In addition to learning to have fun in a new and challenging environment, the crew was very pleased to learn that the leaders of the Midnight Sun Council determined that the crew's training and related activities during the week satisfied the requirements for the BSA-sponsored Cold Weather Leadership Training course known as Okpik. One troop motto is to "thrive, not survive." This trip offered an amazing array of cold weather activities. Alaska can be an unforgiving place, but with the right training, equipment and attitude, Alaska can be enjoyed in any season. Many of the crew gained a new respect for what challenges and beauty this great land offers with several expressing a desire to return. Everyone gained knowledge and experiences that will last a lifetime.

### Troop 104 Alaska Trip – February 18-25, 2017

#### Scouts

Tim B.  
Dylan C.  
Will F.  
Chris H.  
Brandon H.  
Alex K.

Rota M.  
Emerson O.  
Evan P.  
Ian R.

#### Adults

Len B.  
Susan C.  
Brian H.  
Patricia H.  
Jason K.

#### Host

Stephen Smith  
Scout Executive  
Northern Lights High Adventure Base  
Midnight Sun Council, BSA  
1400 Gillam Way  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701



With help from Don Fraser, Richard Baumfalk, Daniel Pon and Paul Hoff.

To book a winter or summer trek visit our website at: <http://www.midnightsunbsa.org/>

-or-

visit our face book page: Northern Lights High Adventure Base

don't forget to like and follow for updates on treks going on and possibly new gear offerings!

-or-

By calling the Midnight Sun Council at (907)452-1976

-or-

Email C.J at Clinton. Stewart@scouting.org

Submitted by  
CJ STEWART  
Director of Camping Services & Northern Lights High Adventure Base  
Midnight Sun Council, BSA  
Fairbanks AK 99701



## The Benefit of Joint Practices



Learning new skills, friendships for years, and memories forever! That's exactly what happened on October 22nd when Sea Scout Ship 711, Del Mar coordinated with MSS 481, Mystic Yankee and MSS 1351, Morning Star to form a productive Southwestern Rendezvous Practice at the Newport Aquatics Center and the Newport Sea Base, a first for most scouts from these ships

The joint Rendezvous practice hosted by Ship 711 was both eventful and educational for everyone. The day started off with teaching events such as rope climb, bosun's chair, and breeches buoy. Many scouts climbed the entire length of the 20' rope for the first time and bosun's chair times improved to say the least. Scouts learned the history of breeches buoy and simulated transferring scouts from a ship to safety. In the afternoon, each ship split their scouts into two groups. One group practice small boat sailing and the other practiced ground tackle and motorboating. Some scouts who had no experience in such events walked away ready for competition at the end of the day! As a scout from MSS 1351 stated, "It was very good...just the fact that we got to practice things we don't usually practice...it was really helpful!"



## The Benefit of Joint Practices

Since 1935, Southwestern Rendezvous has been a three day competition testing maritime skills and knowledge, all while putting leadership skills to the test. The 25 various events challenge crews both mentally and physically. Events vary from a 20' rope climb that some scouts climb in under 5 seconds to Rules of the Road, where questions on International Rules, Inland Rules, and aids to navigation are use to determine who's top of the class. There are special events such as drill off, scuttle off, and hell drill where the most proficient crews get to show what they're made of.



The 1940 Southwestern Rendezvous had over 1,000 Sea Scouts attend from five different states.

Sadly, 2017 Southwestern Rendezvous has been cancelled due to planning complications and a few other time related issues. However, the scouts will look forward to 2018 Southwestern Rendezvous with even drive and passion than ever. Although there are mixed feelings about the cancellation of 2017 Southwestern Rendezvous by those who were planning to attend, most feel that their work is greatly appreciated on putting together this impressive competition every year and we are look forward to what they have in store in 2018!

# Websites

## National Venturing

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

## National Sea Scout

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

## Central Region Venturing

<http://www.crventuring.org>

## Northeast Region Venturing

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

## Northeast Region Sea Scouting

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

## Southern Region-Venturing

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

## Southern Region Sea Scout

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

## Western Region Sea Scouts

<https://wrseascouts.wordpress.com/>

## Western Region Venturing

<http://wrventuring.org/>

## USA Scouting Service-Venturing

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

## UniformingFAQ.asp

[www.venturingmag.org](http://www.venturingmag.org)

## Venturing Magazine

[www.venturingmag.org](http://www.venturingmag.org)

## National Exploring

<http://www.exploring.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/>



# the FORUM

The FORUM is a National cluster concept and a friendly way to help Scouting Leaders exchange ideas and programs among our Troops, Crews, Ships, Posts, Councils, Areas, Regions and National.

The FORUM is shared by Volunteers and Professionals across the country.

“The **FORUM**” has been published monthly since 2003 and is not an official publication of any Council, Area, Region or National. It is the Leaders and Professionals newsletter. Help support our teenage program by sending the FORUM your stories, Newsletters. Council articles, By-Laws, Questions and Best Practices to share with others.

As always, articles, questions and comments are welcome. Promote Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring by promoting your Unit and Council. We are seeking support from anyone interested in working on the newsletter .

Thanks for all you do!

**Bob the BEAR Monto—Editor in Chief**

**Pete Mapes—Associate Editor**

**Bernie Suess - Webmaster**

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