

The FORUM

Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring Newsletter since 2003
February 2017 Issue

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The Current FORUM Newsletter:

http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/current_forum.php

The FORUM Back Issues

http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/venturing_archive.htm

The FORUM Attachments Central Region

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/regions/CR-0217.zip>

Area 3 A Year in Review

The FORUM Attachments National

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/regions/NAT-0217.zip>

Exploring Info:

Exploring Guide Book

Law Enforcement Exploring Pistol Championships

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Sea Scouting Info:

Sea Scout -Advancement Requirements

Sea Scout - Eligibility for Venturing Awards and Information On other Awards

Sea Scout - Strategic Plan-SMART

Venturing Info:

Venturing - Awards and Recognitions

Venturing - Board of Review Guide

Venturing - Ethical Controversies

Venturing - Goal Setting Time Management for Venturing Crews

Venturing - Mentoring for Venturing Crews Facilitator Guide

Venturing - Standard Operating Procedures (Current_

Venturing - Terms Lets get it Right

Venturing—Venturing FAQ

The FORUM Attachments Northeast Region

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/regions/NER-0217.zip>

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

The FORUM Attachments Southern Region

No Attachments

The FORUM Attachments Western Region

No Attachments

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The January 2017 edition of the Central Point, the Central Region Venturing newsletter, written by the Central Region's Venturing Officers is now available on our website at <http://crventuring.org/Home/Newsletters/>.

What is in this issue

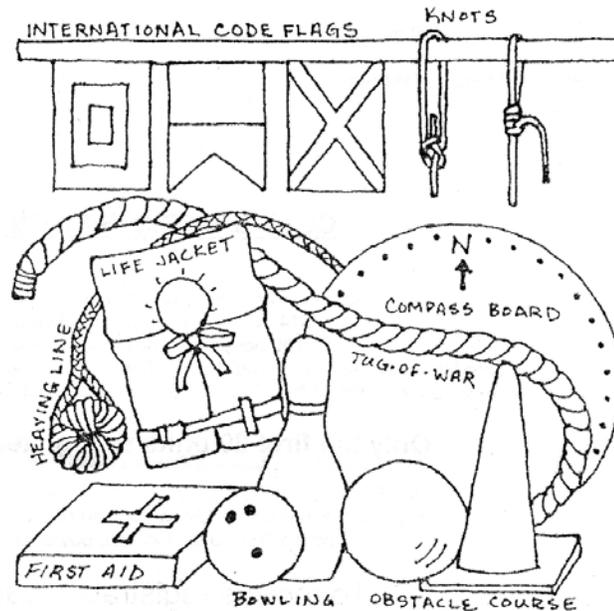
- January's featured camp
 - Area 2 event
 - Seabadge training
 - Venturing Blast
 - NAYLE
- Upcoming Activities
 - Advisor's Minute
 - President's Corner



43rd WINTER AMIDSHIPS (WAM)

Saturday, February 25th, 2017

- ✓ Register online
- ✓ Co-ed Event
- ✓ Dinner & Dance
- ✓ Indoor and Outdoor Events
- ✓ Team Building
- ✓ Ribbons, Trophies & Patches
- ✓ 43 Years of Experience



Dear Unit Leaders and Members,

Bay-Lakes Council of the Boy Scouts of America and alumni of Fond du Lac/Oshkosh Scout units are proud to invite you to Winter Amidships (WAM) co-ed Scout event to be held

Saturday, February 25th, 2017, at the National Guard Armory Fond du Lac, WI.

This 1-day event is open to units of Venture Crews, Sea Scouts, Career Explorers, Boy Scouts, Varsity Teams, Girl Scouts, and American Heritage Girls.

Events: Knots, Compass Board Relay, Life-Jacket Relay, First Aid, International Code Flags, Obstacle Course, & Scooter Race events all have 4 members each; Heaving Line & Bowling have 3 members each; Battleship Tournament-2 members. Tug-of-war teams have an 800 lb. weight limit.

The day also includes dinner, awards presentation, dance, and event patch. Pre-registration is required online on the Bay Lakes Council web site. We will accept up to 20 units OR 200 participants, whichever comes first. On-time registration AND payment is due Feb 10, 2017 (late fee applied after).

AGE REQUIREMENTS**: Venturers*, Varsity Team Members*, Sea Scouts, Girl Scouts/Mariners, Boy Scouts and American Heritage Girls must be at least 14 years of age **OR** 13 years **AND** have completed the 8th grade. Explorers must be at least 14 years of age **AND** have completed the 8th grade. All Venturers, Sea Scouts and Explorers may compete up to their 21st birthday. Girl Scouts/Mariners and American Heritage Girls may compete through their senior year of High School. Boy Scouts and Varsity Team Members may compete up to their 18th birthday. All units must be accompanied by 2 adult leaders (**one must be at least 21 years of age**). *Venturers and Varsity Team Members who are part of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints must be 14 **AND** have completed the 8th grade.

**[Effective May 1, 2010 by BSA's National Executive Board]

FOR A COMPLETE EVENT FLYER AND MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT US AT:

Winter Amidships
(WAM) Chairman:
Ann Gratton, Oshkosh WI
920-231-3015
wamgratton@gmail.com

Winter Amidships
(WAM) Staff Advisor:
Jon Martin
920-638-3432
Jon.Martin@scouting.org

Bay-Lakes Council, BSA
Appleton WI
800-372-6887
www.baylakesbsa.org

National Sea Scout Standardized Operating Procedures Released on the Web

With the establishment of Sea Scouts as a stand-alone program of the Boy Scouts of America, there is an opportunity and a necessity to establish minimum standardized organization and terminology.

This document contains the prescribed organizational schemes for the administration of the Sea Scout leadership structure for the National, Region, and Area1 tiers. It also provides recommended models for local Councils to adopt. This document provides a minimal set of practices; leadership at all tiers may expand upon this standard operating procedure by creating more specific guidelines.

Leadership for Sea Scouting at the national tier of the Boy Scouts of America consists of a National Boatswain, National Commodore, National Director, and National Sea Scout Support Committee. The National Sea Scout Support Committee is governed by a charter that is renewed each year. Leadership for Sea Scouting at the region and area tiers consists of a Sea Scout Committee composed of required and optional youth and adult positions described within this document.

At each organizational tier of the BSA, the Sea Scout Committee should report to the Vice President for Program, or similar position as defined in the local organizational structure; and should cooperate with but not report to the Venturing Committee. Likewise, there should be collaborative links between the Quarterdeck and the Venturing Officer's Association, Youth Leadership Council, or other similar body, as defined by the organizational structure.

This document contains:

- Methods to select Sea Scout youth officers and appoint adult volunteers
- A timetable for the selection and appointment of youth officers and adult volunteers
- Minimum Organization
- Position descriptions
- Duties of Area, Region, and National Establishments
- Organizational charts

Go to the web to get a full copy for your use. Go to www.seascout.org.



SEA SCOUTS BSA

Go Nomad! (This is not a cheer for your local sports team)

Go Nomad is the theme for the 2017 Asia/Pacific Region (APR) Jamboree being hosted by the Mongolian Scout Association in late July, early August 2017. Nomads wander and roam the countryside and this is still the habit for about one half of the population of Mongolia.

Mongolia is about one quarter the size of the USA but we have 100 times the population so that going around in Mongolia it seems very large and empty. About one half of their three million population live in the capital city of Ulaan Baatar (there are many acceptable spellings of this name in English).



The Jamboree is going to be held just outside the city limits of the capital city in the national children's center, a facility built by the Soviets in the late 1970s. The theme of Jamboree will celebrate Mongolian culture which includes horse riding, camel riding, archery and other cultural activities and exchanges including a visit to the dinosaur museum. Did you know that more dinosaur remains have been found in Mongolia than anywhere else?

It is expected that about 10,000 Scouts from APR Scouting organizations and other countries will be in attendance.

The weather in Mongolia has two extremes, very hot and very cold. July and August is the hot part and temperatures are usually in the high 90s and dry.

Although the Jamboree is short in duration, the BSA contingent will be gone roughly three weeks. Here's the plan: We will travel in a group, probably leaving from Salt Lake City to Beijing, China. A three day stop in Beijing to visit the Forbidden City, the Great Wall and other sites then board the train for an exciting overnight ride to Ulaan Baatar. Arrive in Mongolia and move directly to the Jamboree site.

Since Mongolia is so spread out the post Jamboree stay is planned for five days. This will offer the opportunity for home stay, sight seeing in UB (even the Mongolians shorten it) and side trips to various points of interest around the country. There will be an opportunity to develop a menu of options for visiting coming in future updates.

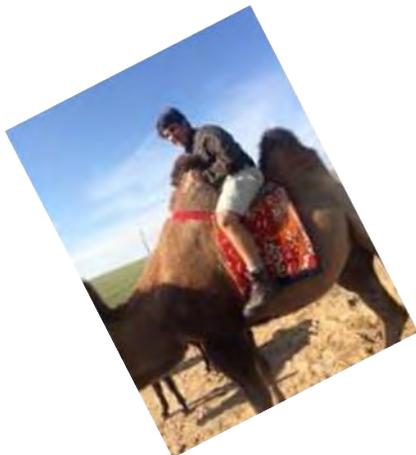
One must see is the giant (80 meter high) statue of Gengis Khan built on the site where he got his vision to spread conquer the world.

UB is a modern city in the midst of rapid growth. A special Scouting connection is that the lead architect for the design team on both the new international airport and the largest building in the country is a Scout and served as an International Camp Staff member in Camp Daniel Boone, NC in 2009.

After the Jamboree and visiting afterwards, we will fly directly from UB back through Beijing to Salt Lake City and then to your home towns. This travel will require both a valid US passport with at least six months remaining before the expiration date and a Chinese visa. Mongolia does not require a visa for short stays.

Head of contingent for this trip is Pete Armstrong, [28-654-9920](tel:28-654-9920), peteberet@aol.com. This event is a Daniel Boone Council event not a BSA national event.

Since this is the bottom line I will tell you what I believe will be the bottom line, \$3000 all inclusive. Unfortunately this is an estimate because it is still too early to make the travel plans.





Northern Tier

Meet Vijay



“Hi! I’m Vijay Narayanan and I LOVE TO BAKE!”

NAYLE

Vijay’s job is to ensure the success of Northern Tier’s NAYLE training

NAYLE participants and staff are Venture and Boy Scout leaders who choose to take this advanced training. Vijay likes the balance of conference and trail knowledge that separates this course from a normal voyage at Northern Tier.

Interested in NAYLE at Northern Tier?

www.ntier.org/NTNAYLE



STAFF

Vijay is an Eagle Scout and Triple Crown Award recipient from the Atlanta Area Council.



In his free time, Vijay enjoys playing the mellophone and baking delicious desserts!

Vijay is a second year Aerospace Engineering student at Georgia Tech University.

“I can’t believe I get paid for this experience!”



If you want to be a staff member like Vijay, download an application at www.ntier.org/jobs or email jobs@ntier.org.



SEAL 2017

Sea Scout Experience Advanced Leadership (SEAL) training teaches leadership skills while underway. It is designed to “jump start” the junior leaders of new Ships and to “fine tune” leaders of experienced Ships. It is a physically and mentally demanding and a remarkably rewarding hands-on leadership experience.

Qualifications to Attend

This course is open to any Sea Scout or Scout or Venturer at least 14 years of age on the first day of the course and not yet 21 on the last day of the course. To attend a participant must be at least Ordinary for Sea Scouts, Pathfinder for Venturers and 1st Class for Boy Scouts by June 1st prior to this course.

Skills Taught

Evaluation	Managing, Supervising & Commanding
Team Building	Motivating
Leadership	Counseling
Training	Problem Solving
Communicating	Planning & Preparing
Goal Setting	Implementing & Re-Implementing

2017 Course Locations and Dates

Additional course locations and dates might be added if required.

- Chesapeake Bay, MD June 23 – July 2, 2017
- Galveston Bay, TX June 30 – July 9, 2017
- Newport Beach, CA July 6 – 16, 2017
- Seattle, WA July 6 – 15, 2017
- Long Island Sound, NY August 5 – 13, 2017

Cost

Costs are from \$250 to \$290 not including transportation to and from the course.

Additional Information and Application

<http://seascout.org/youth-training-and-education/seal/>

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National Sea Scout
Support Committee
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane
P.O. Box 152079
Irving, TX 75015-2079
972-580-7810
972-580-2430 fax
www.seascout.org

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Large Crews

A series of articles

By Pete Mapes, NCAC Crew 27 Associate Advisor



Northeast Region Crew 8 World Scout Jamboree 2015
Crew Advisor Dr Pete Mapes and a group from Crew 27

Program is the most important element of a strong Senior Division Unit (Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring). Without program that is interesting and fun for the Venturers, Explorers and Sea Scouts, any Unit will flounder and fail. For this reason, Dr. Pete Mapes leads off a series of articles this month on Large Crews with a discussion of Program. Over the next several months he will follow up with articles on Large Unit Operations, Recruiting and Youth Leadership. Stay tuned for a peek at what turned into the largest Venturing Crew in the fourth largest Council in BSA!



Large Crews

Advising Large Crews

By Pete Mapes

INTRODUCTION: The relationship of the Advisor and Associate Advisor staff to the Venturing Crew is complex and highly relationship dependent. Unlike Cub Packs and, unfortunately, most Boy Scout Troops, the Advisor is not the Unit Leader. That honor falls to the Crew President. This article will dissect some of the many duties, methods and tasks of Advisors and is focused on the role of the Advisor in the large Crew but is just as applicable to Advisors of small and medium size Crews.

CRITICAL ROLES OF THE ADVISOR:

There are a number of critical roles fulfilled by the Advisor. First of these is to be a sounding board for the Crew leadership. To be effective in this role, the Advisor must be well schooled in Venturing Policy found in *The Guide To Safe Scouting*. The Advisor must also be fully cognizant of the contents of the *Venturing Handbook*, the leadership training syllabuses (Crew Officer Orientation, Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews & National Youth Leadership Training), Venturing Safety Training materials (From the DVD), youth protection standards (from the Y-02 Venturing YPT Course) and the Venturing courseware used to meet advancement requirements (Goal Setting/Time Management, Project Management & Mentoring). The Advisor also needs to know skills applicable to the specialties of the Crew and the goals of the Chartering Organization.

The second critical role of the Advisor is to serve as an example. Whatever the Crew Uniform - the Advisors wear it flawlessly; the Advisors eschew foul language and make corrections on the spot; The Advisors treat all people with respect and insist that the Venturers do likewise; The Advisor knows the program better than anyone else in the Crew and lives the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives.

Show me a poorly uniformed Troop and I'll show you a poorly uniformed leader.
Robert Stevenson Smyth Baden-Powell, Lord of Gilwell & Chief Scout of the World



Plaque in memory of a visionary - To Clara Barton 'Angel of the Battlefield' - Antietam What will your legacy be?

Large Crews

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The third task of the Advisor is to demonstrate vision and planning. The Advisor does this by acting like an alarm clock. Venturers, particularly those aged 14 to 16, are notorious procrastinators and tend to engage in 'line of sight scheduling.' They generally do not understand how to delegate and when they do delegate, they have trouble checking up and are honestly surprised when people fail to do what was promised. A good Advisor gently reminds the Crew Officers of upcoming responsibilities and, by asking questions, gets them to think two years ahead in program planning.



Crew 27 at the Antietam National Battlefield

The fourth task of the Advisor is to watch out for financially or ability challenged Venturers to make sure they are included. If the Advisor doesn't have personal means to bring the least funded Venturer along, he/she works closely with the Committee to garner resources to give everyone a complete Venturing Program. This could take the shape of product sales starting two or more years before a Jamboree or National High Adventure Program. Maybe it means being aware of Council scholarships for Camp or a Jamboree and ensuring deadlines are complied with. It could mean reaching out to Crew or community resources to look for matching dollars. There are a million

ways to skin this cat, but the Advisor needs to figure out who needs the help and works to make the impossible a reality.

None of this happens without the Crew Advisor being there. In order to find the disadvantaged Venturers, you have to see how the Ventures act and also how they interact. You can't be the alarm clock unless you attend all events. You can't be a visionary unless you can communicate your vision to the Crew - and this doesn't happen at a distance. You can't set the example or enforce National/Council and Chartering Organization standards and policy if you aren't there. Bottom line - if you can't be there, step down and let someone else do it!



Venturer from NER Crew 8 at a Japanese School during the 23rd World Scout Jamboree

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COMMUNICATION: The Advisor communicates at a variety of levels. Most important is the communication with the Venturers. In general, you need to stay in the background - if you are in the foreground, you rob the Venturers of the opportunity to lead. When you have something to say, it should generally be a nudge delivered surgically to a single Venturer. A brief comment, a passing word. "How's Susan doing on getting the Philmont information completed on the web site?" "Did Joe get the food planned for next weekend?" Why didn't Libby sign up for the caving trip, was it too much money?" Every interaction is carefully orchestrated to gather essential information, stimulate action or get Venturers thinking about the business at hand. It should never be directive, and here is a secret - it should never demand compliance unless safety or national policy is at stake. Venturers need to be allowed to bear the consequences of failure and **YOU HAVE TO LET THEM FAIL**. Don't get me wrong, failure should not be the norm, but if you are always saving the bacon, they aren't learning to plan and carry out their plans.

So your communications need to be sparse, carefully thought out, respectful and timely. Sometimes I think the most important skill is knowing when **NOT** to communicate!

One important message that needs to be sent regularly and repeated, communication is two way. Venturers need to learn that a printed schedule has no value without personal reminders. If they want participation, they need an ongoing and vibrant conversation among the membership that is effective at moving information. All communications need to be acknowledged.



Venturers taking ILS(C) at the 2016 NCAC/082 University of Scouting

Large Crews

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By Pete Mapes

TRAINING: You cannot expect your Venturers to be able to carry out the program if they have not been trained. In a new Crew, the Advisor may need to get training started and certainly needs to mentor the Venturers as they conduct the necessary courses. In an experienced Crew with enough mass to sustain its own program (22 or more active Venturers and five years in existence), the Venturers do ALL of the training. What training do they need? Within a month of joining they should receive Personal Safety Training and Crew Officer Orientation. Obviously Venturing Participants (age 18 to 20) need Y-02 Venturing Youth Protection Training before they are registered. Before the end of the first year, a Venturer should also complete Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews {ILS(C)} and National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT). It is only when these four courses are completed that a Venturer should be regarded as fully trained from a leadership perspective. As the Advisor, you gently ask the question "Who needs what?" so that the Crew leadership will echo your thought and figure it out for themselves. The question is rhetorical - you don't expect an answer but you do expect the Crew leadership to KNOW the answer.

As for the required Award coursework - Crews should make it available twice a year. This can be done inside or outside of the Crew. Each year our Council convenes a University of Scouting and Venturers from our Crew teach the award courses at this event. This is a huge help to small Crews without the mass or interest to sustain their own courses of instruction. The Council offers ILS(C) at University of Scouting as well. Each year the 50 available places are sold out a month in advance!

PHYSICAL LOCATION: On a Crew hike, you are at the back of the pack with any other adults. You encourage any Venturers who fall out to keep up and remind the Crew leadership that the slowest Venturer leads the pace so that no one is left behind. You catch any stragglers and offer encouragement. If something happens that ends up being beyond the Venturers experience, you quietly talk the Crew leadership through the response possibilities. You are off to the side, at the back of the pack, sometimes out of sight and NEVER in the lead.

In camp you are in the adult tenting area, you stay away from the central Crew areas because your mere presence will upset the balance of leadership and you make sure other adults are just as thoughtful. Youth led Crew operations are a process that can be interfered with and an adult in the mix disturbs the precious equilibrium you are striving to maintain. If an adult enters the Crew's immediate operational turf, the youth will be distracted and if the adult starts to accomplish duties, the youth will become confused. Watch the process from a distance, avoid placing your physical presence in the midst of it.

Large Crews

Advising Large Crews

By Pete Mapes

At meeting of the Crew leadership, you are not at the table. You are outside of the circle, watching, listening, taking notes to use during reflection. Your concerns are the nature of interactions, the maintenance of Venturing standards, ensuring safety and youth protection. If a Venturer is ineffective in the group, let the group tell them. If a Venturer dominates the group, let the group stop them. You hold your feedback and observations for the end of the gathering and then offer your thoughts surgically to the Venturers who would benefit from hearing them. You are quiet, unobtrusive, reflective. You complement effective behavior and question ineffective efforts. "You did a great job getting the meeting back on track by sticking to your agenda." "Do you think that rehashing the food on last month's camping trip contributed anything of value today or could you have left it alone and gotten the same result in less time?"

At Crew meetings, you get a minute at the end for the Advisor's minute. OK, maybe you get five minutes but it had better be worth listening to. Please do your homework! For the rest of the meeting you are in the background supporting the youth leadership.



Crew 27 at Philmont Scout Ranch - 2016

BUFFERING: Helicopter parents are out there. They can show up at summer camp unannounced and waltz right into the middle of the youth area. They have no clue how disruptive they are. See them coming, take them aside, explain that the Venturers can do it by themselves and that they do not need adult assistance. Offer to train them, give them a chair in the leader's area, take them on a nature hike, do anything to keep them busy and out of the hair of the youth.

Better yet, if you have a senior Venturer you can trust to play along: get the senior Venturer to pleasantly escort the impinging adult out of the operational area while explaining how important it is to allow the Venturers to lead themselves without adult intervention.

Large Crews

Advising Large Crews

By Pete Mapes

CREW DISCIPLINE: You empower the Crew leadership to enforce discipline and if a Venturer is having a rough day, you back up leadership in getting the unruly Venturer to participate and follow the Scout Oath and Law. Worst case, you back up your Crew President who decides to send an unruly Venturer home. If there is any question about consequences, Crew leadership can convene a 'Court of Honor.' The original CoH at the dawn of the Scouting program in England was not an award ceremony. Rather, it was a review of behavior in the light of the Scout Oath and Law. The CoH is conducted by senior youth and the Advisor needs to back up the decision of the leaders while ensuring that YPT boundaries remain in effect and that a respectful attitude is retained by all involved. Options include confirming that the behavior of the accused Scout was Scout-like and not meriting punishment; to confirming malicious intent and meting out exclusion of the offender from the Crew on either a temporary or permanent basis. Lots of in between options exist as well. For instance, when a Venturer at the 2015 World Scout Jamboree found an opposite gender 'buddy' from another country (and got caught by yours truly) he became the expert briefer on the buddy system - and he still is! Crew leadership came up with that one! In general, verbal correction of adverse behavior is all that is required. Remember to run the 'teenager checklist of adverse behavior.'

- 1) Fed?
- 2) Rested?
- 3) Right Temperature (no fever or hypothermia)?
- 4) Ill?
- 5) In Pain (migraine, sore throat, etc)?
- 6) Mental stress (death in family, family stress, relationship stress, etc)?
- 7) Hydrated (this is the most common compromise in teens on outings in my experience)?
- 8) Meds taken?

If one of these is broke, please fix it before seriously pursuing consequences for misbehavior as the misbehavior was most likely a product of the stress.

CONFERENCES: The Venturing Program asks you to meet with Venturers as they progress through the Venturing Awards. You are neither approving or disapproving, that is the youth's job at the Board of Review. You are focused on getting the Venturer to look ahead to future challenges and reflect on the past to both learn from and savor it. Your role is essential and Venturers should look forward to sitting down with you for a chat. You know you are doing well when they seek out your counsel. Try to be Socratic, help them reflect and plan by asking questions rather than giving your opinion or being directive.

COACHING: Practice makes perfect and Venturers take on lots of new roles in the Venturing Program. In your role as Advisor, you are the Coach. Getting a Venturer to practice can be tough if they are a top student who never has to study - they don't practice in school so why should they practice in Venturing? As Venturers mature, they see the value in preparing and your job becomes easier. Remember that maturity is not measured by age. Different Venturers will be at vastly different points in their development and you need to clue in to where each actually is so you can be useful to them.

Large Crews

Advising Large Crews

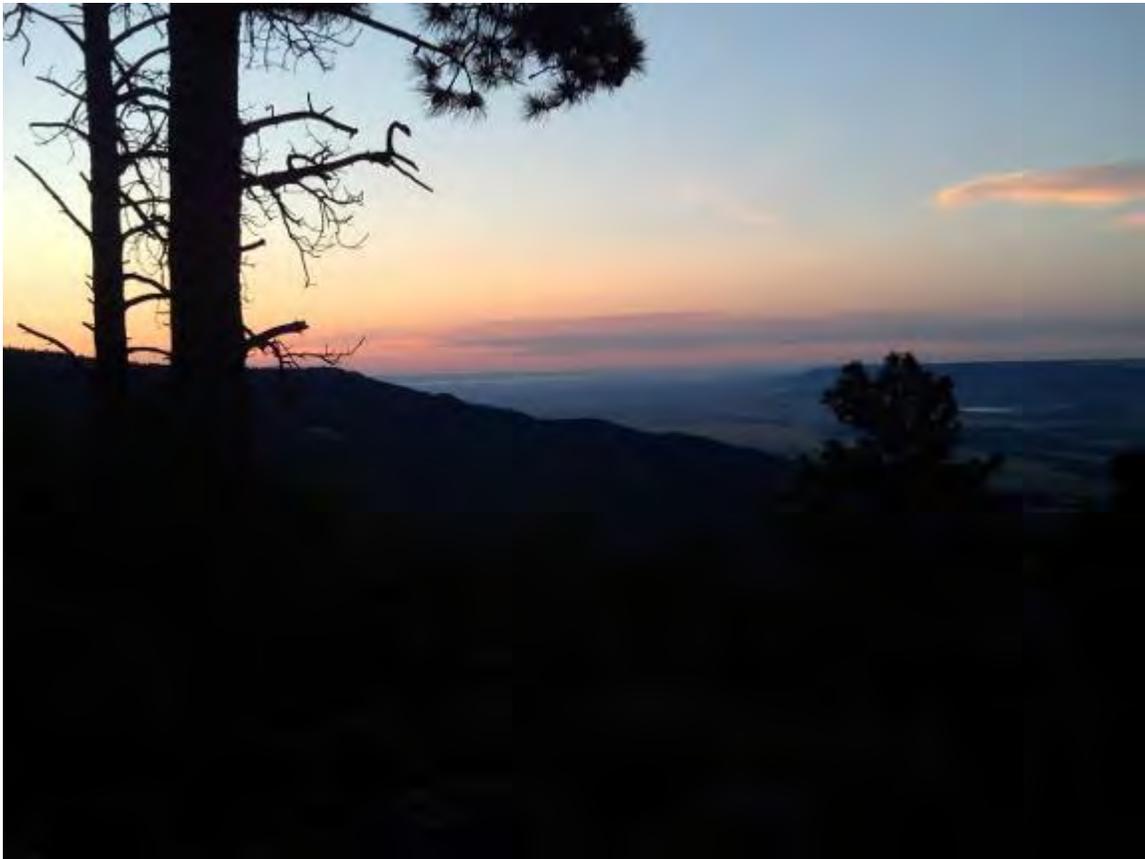
By Pete Mapes

The first time a Venturer teaches something, they need some practice 'run throughs' to develop smooth transitions and get their timing down. First time running a meeting? - did they prepare an agenda, did they review the agenda with anyone to ensure they included all the pertinent topics. Venturing is all about practice and being prepared! As the coach, you get to remind the Venturers of the import of this.

SUMMARY: I hope you appreciate the delicacy of advising a Crew. Your Venturers are perched on the precipice of adulthood and they are about to become wholly accountable for their decisions and actions. The beauty of the Venturing program is that they get to dry run adulthood with essentially no risk attributed to failure. If you let them fail, they will learn how to succeed. If you do it for them they will learn that you will do it for them and they needn't bother to do it for themselves. If you encourage them to plan, they are more likely to get it right the first time. If you can get them to practice they will amaze you with their performance and they will learn that practice breeds success. You have the best job in the world - make sure you enjoy it!

Never do anything a child can do, for in so doing, you rob them of the experience.

Robert Stevenson Smyth Baden-Powell, Lord of Gilwell & Chief Scout of the World





CONQUER the country's most intimidating wilderness—the Louisiana swamps! Swamp Base is a high adventure base offering Scouting's premier high adventure canoe treks. At 1.4 million acres the Atchafalaya is the nation's largest swamp. This vast and ever-changing environment offers challenges to face and wonders to behold. Its size and diversity make it the most dynamic paddling environment in the country. Swamp Base works to educate the next generation about the importance of the Atchafalaya as a natural resource and fascinating culture through high adventure and environmental stewardship.

Swamp Base has staked its claim to being one of the coolest high adventure bases in the country. Since 2013 they have operated a 5-day, 61.6-mile paddling trail that has been completed by over 2,500 Scout participants. This trail, called Trek 1, is known for its cultural influences, engaging program, and infinite uniqueness. During the trek Scouts ride airboats, fish, compete on stand-up paddle boards, witness the wildlife, learn about Louisiana's culture, and even get to sleep on houseboats. Swamp Base's Trek 1 has been proven an incredible experience for young and old Scouters alike. It balances the challenges necessary to brag about high adventure as well as affording time and energy to participate in an exciting, engaging program.



In the summer of 2016 Swamp Base prepared to enter a new realm in high adventure. They opened the highly anticipated Trek. Trek 2 offers Scouts the opportunity to test themselves in an environment unlike any other. This trail totals 75-miles over 5-days, twisting and turning into the deepest, un-touched corners of the swamp. No houseboats, airboats, or paddleboards to be found. This trail caters to those who are knowledgeable, capable, and confident in their Scout skills. Every trek day offers a new swamp terrain as Trek 2 showcases the sheer diversity of the area. Complete with Hennessey jungle hammocks and Sawyer water filters participants truly get the full swamp experience on this primitive high adventure trek.



Only a few spots remain for 2017! Swamp Base has also opened registration for the summer of 2018 for Treks 1 and 2. If you are interested, you must reserve your trek as soon as possible. Please call or refer to the Swamp Base website for any questions about registration or to learn more about the treks!

LOUISIANA SWAMP BASE
2266 South College Rd. Ext., Suite E
Lafayette, LA 70508
info@bsaswampbase.org
bsaswampbase.org
337-235-8552

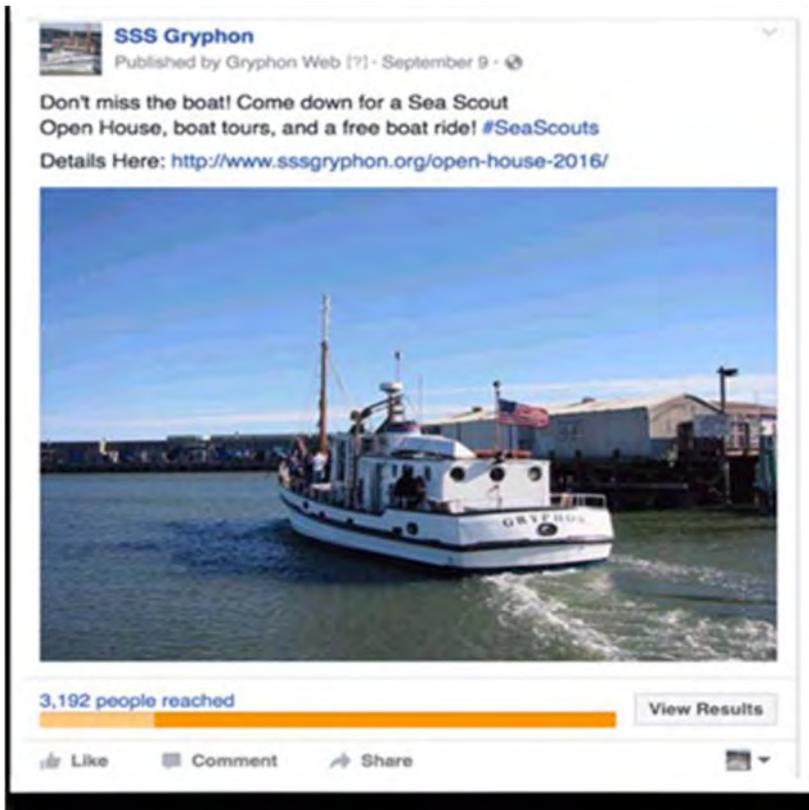
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Preparing for 2017 Spring Recruiting

All Sea Scout Ships should plan a springtime open house for new members. One strategy for an open house is “Collaborative Recruiting,” which is when multiple Sea Scout Ships work together. This can be for a council open house for multiple Ships, or help an existing Ship increase its members, or help launch a new Sea Scout Ship. Prospective Sea Scouts seeing a larger number of Sea Scouts creates an atmosphere of excitement. Collaborative recruiting is especially helpful for a new Sea Scout Ship in recruiting its first five members to charter.

Every Sea Scout Ship should set a date for a spring open house for new members. Here are two recent case studies from September and December highlighting successful collaborative recruiting:



The Pacific Skyline Council Open House

A boosted Facebook ad that was targeted to the Ship's geographic area.

The Sea Scouts of Pacific Skyline Council held a “back to school” open house in September.

The individual Ships promoted the open house in their respective communities, from printed material, to

boosted social media campaigns, to paying to appear at the top of Google searches for youth boating in their area. The council also promoted the event in the weekly newsletter.

The Ships worked together the day of the open house with hands-on activities, from knots, to heavy line, to demonstrating regattas events. These activities were followed by a barbecue and short cruise on the different boats.

Preparing for 2017 Spring Recruiting

Launching a New Ship in the Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council

The South Bay Yacht Club in Alviso, which is part of San Jose, California, started a new kayaking focused Sea Scout Ship in late 2016. The new volunteers organized a substantial email campaign to invite prospective members down on December 10, 2016. Other promotional efforts included emails at the district level. Limited printed flyers were posted on community boards at Starbucks close to the charter partner.



Sea Scout Ships from San Francisco, Alameda, and Napa, attended the open house to help the new Sea Scout Ship. The Ships had the following Plans of the Day, for good weather and rain:

Plan A: Good Weather Options

Sea Scout Videos playing in SBYC

Kayaks: Four kayaks to be used. At least two Sea Scouts to assist with visitors to get on kayaks at launch ramp and head towards

South Bay Yacht Club.

Knot Boards: Ask visiting Ships to bring knot boards. At least two Sea Scouts to help show how to tie knots.

Ring Buoy and/or Heaving Line: Ideally three ring buoys. Two Sea Scouts assist with mentoring visitors on how to throw a ring buoy.

Boat Rides in Motorwhale Boat: Yacht Club member to take prospective Sea Scouts out for a short cruise.

Plan B: Rainy Weather

Sea Scout Videos playing in SBYC

Knot Boards: At least two Sea Scouts to help show how to tie knots.

Radio: Sea Scouts show visitors how to properly send radio messages.

Preparing for 2017 Spring Recruiting

Navigation: Charts and piloting equipment on tables. Sea Scout mentors to show how to plot courses. Use observation deck to show how to take visual fixes with hand bearing compass.

Lifejackets and Survival Suits: Sea Scouts show guests how to put on Life-jackets and Survival Suits.

Approximately 100 people attended the open house on a rainy December day, ranging from interested youth, to parents, to youth who will be proper Sea Scout age by the end of the school year. Other local boating organizations were present to help support the open house. The District Executive was present at the open house to help with processing the paperwork of interested youth. The new Ship 300 had six member applications by the end of the open house, allowing them to officially charter.



Planning an Open House

The Sea Scouts of the Pacific Skyline Council prepared a [white paper](#) on how to organize an open house step by step available on SeaScout.org. Here are tips from the white paper that are explained for a successful open house:

Planning an Open House

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Select a Date;

Communicate the date to the Council for promotion in the Council Newsletter and at the District meetings from the District Commissioners;

Preparing for 2017 Spring Recruiting

One of the print flyers posted on community boards at nearby Starbucks.



SEA SCOUT OPEN HOUSE!

South Bay Yacht Club
10am to 1pm

Join us for our new Sea Scout Ship for kayaking and sailing! Now accepting new members for young men and women ages 14 and up. Visit us on December 10 for kayaking and lunch.

WWW.SS300.ORG

SS300MA@GMAIL.COM



Promote the event on online community groups, such as Nextdoor and the Patch;

Strategically placed printed marketing material on community boards, such as Starbucks, Teen Center of Library, Grocery Stores, and similar locations; and

Parental support in getting the schools to include the event in the school newsletter.

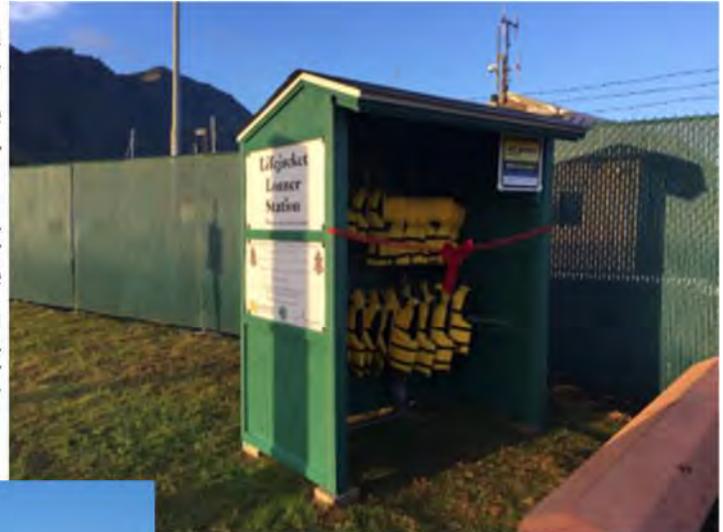
We're All on the Same Boat

Sea Scout recruiting requires planning and a positive attitude. Sea Scout Ships collaborating in recruiting allows prospective Sea Scouts to see our program in action. At the end of the day, we are all in the same boat as Sea Scouts. Working together empowers our Ships to increase in membership, especially new Ships and those who need help. All Ships are encouraged to plan an open house and work with other Ships that need assistance, so our program can continue to grow in 2017.

Life Jacket Loaner Station Service Project

Life jackets are designed to help you float in the water, they give you more time while waiting for help to come, they prevent drowning accidents, they save your life. It has been proven that it only takes 60 seconds for an adult to drown and 20 seconds for a child to drown. You should always wear your life jacket during any boating activity because it's in only a matter of seconds your life's direction could take a dramatic turn. *70% of all boating fatality accidents are from drowning. Almost 84% of those who drown are not wearing a life jacket. "Having life jackets aboard does not save lives, wearing them does!" (Dr. Randolph).

I am working on achieving the Sea Scout rank of Quartermaster and for my "Quartermaster Project" I built a life Jacket loaner station. This is a place for people to borrow and return life jackets. It is required by law to have a life jacket for everyone on board a vessel. I owe many thanks to the Sea Tow foundation for helping to make the Life Jacket Loaner Station become part of my community.



Thanks to a grant from the Sea Tow Foundation, I was able to really get started because they donated all of the the life jackets toward this project. So thanks to them we have all different sizes: Adult (Small, Medium, Large, & Extra Large) also Child and Infant sizes. Statistics show that many deaths occur when children or infants are not wearing the appropriate size life jacket. Often when small sized life jackets are not readily available children will wear an adult size, the jacket may actually slip off in an emergency situation. Therefore it is extremely important to find the right fit.

Life Jacket Loaner Station Service Project



I also needed to meet with the Hawaii Department of land and natural resources to explain and show them my plans, to obtain a permit for building it. They were very helpful and also donated the building supplies toward the station.



Hawaii Youth Maritime Program donated the painting supplies and the Crew of Sea Scout Ship Decisive, my family members and I built this life jacket loaner station together. It's right next to the Coast Guard Station and the boat ramp at Nawiliwili Harbor.

Life Jacket Loaner Station Service Project



Now anyone who doesn't have enough life jackets for their boat can borrow them from this station. Our life jacket loaner station protects the life jackets from weather damage so they will last as long as possible. I would encourage everyone to build a life jacket loaner station in their community if you live near the ocean, rivers, lakes, or bays. This way you can promote safe boating and potentially save lives. *Remember: "It only works if you wear it!"

The Sea Tow Foundation may have grants available for others to acquire life jackets and also grants for life jacket loaner stations.



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

Venturing Magazine

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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