



VENTURING FORUM

Cluster Councils. B.S.A.

June 2009

Northeast Region Venturing News

AREA 5

Venturing Committee and Cardboard Boat Regatta

Open to all Venturing Crews
August 14, 15, 16, 2009

We are closing in on “crunch time” for the Area 5 Venturing Committee and Cardboard Boat Regatta. Start your design phases and begin to think on how best to waterproof your cardboard, within the rules of course. Exciting times are guaranteed at the Regatta. This will be the first Area 5 event featuring an assembling of an Area 5 VOA (Venturing Officers Association), Area 5 Venturing Committee meeting and Forum. We hope all who wish to participate are able to assemble at Camp Minsi whether or not your Crew has a Boat.

Remember to let either Bob “The Bear” Monto at rmonto@aol.com or “Admiral” John Arno at llordbadenpowell@aol.com to save your Crew a spot. Already standing Summer Camp tents and cots will be assigned to the Crews signing up first. Let’s see who is the most sea worthy in the Area? The Region? Anywhere

The Area Venturing Committee will meet Saturday. To register for the Area Venturing meetings contact Bob for a Registration form.

IF YOU ARE ATTENDING email us NOW.

High Adventure Trip to Alaska

June 21 – 27, 2009

Hosted by Area 7, Northern NJ Council,
Venturing Crew 114 – West Milford, NJ.

Southeast Alaska High Adventure Base,
Eagle River Scout Camp - Juneau.

For additional information, contact Maryellen Gabay at venturecrew114@optonline.net
or 973-699-6088

“Trip is Full”.

V-Week

July 5-11, 2009

Chester County Council invites all Crews to V-Week @ Ware 2009

The second annual V-Week @ Ware (July 5-11) is shaping up to be a terrific week of adventure, exploration, and lots of fun.

Checkout what's coming this summer -- the schedule, program descriptions, and registration form are posted at www.hsr-bsa.org/vweek.

If interested, get your registration in early -- programs are filled on a first come, first served basis, and we are expecting many to fill quickly.

Attached is the flyer about V-Week. Print it out for your crew. Forward this to anyone who might be interest. Bring a crew; it's a great time for high school-aged youth.

Questions email me at carlalucas@comcast.net or call 610-274-0261. Carla Lucas Chester County Council Venturing Committee secretary and chief planner of V-Week

Kodiak, Powder Horn and Venturing pictures and articles welcome.

Send us your articles and pictures for upcoming Venturing events in your Crew, Council, Area and Region. Don't forget the follow up articles after the event with pictures of the event. Help us share Venturing with all our Venturing Crews.



**YES
A Cardboard
Boat can float!**

**Join the Fun at
Area 5 / Minsi
Trails Council
Regatta!**



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Boston Minuteman Venturing Challenge

WHEN: August 7-16, 2009

How about the Venturing Challenge '09?



The Venturing Challenge is the challenge of a lifetime, a 10 day adventure where you

and a small group of Scout friends are dropped off somewhere in New England, with only a map and a small amount of money. You will have a week to travel 100 km and find your way to a central Scout camp. You will find your way through small rural towns, completing projects that will teach you about the people, customs, and history of the area. You will need all of your Scout skills to figure out what to eat, where to camp, and how to go!

WHO: teams of 2-4 Venturers and/or Boy Scouts (all male or all female), ages 14-20 or 13 and going into 9th grade



WHAT: 100 km (62.5 miles) walk over 7 days through rural communities to a central Scout camp, doing

projects to learn about the culture, and figuring out where to camp each night. You will do a presentation of your adventures at the end, and have an awards banquet with family and Scout leaders.

HOW: Using only a small amount of money and all your Scout skills

WHERE: Undisclosed, that's the fun! (Somewhere in New England)

WHY: Like the Venturing Oath, "...to help others, and seek truth, fairness, and adventure in

our world." To learn about the world, demonstrate self-sufficiency and put to use all the Scout skills you have been learning.

This trek is inspired by the European Explorer Belt Program, and is sponsored by Crew 56, Cambridge MA Crew 304, Belmont MA, Boston Minuteman Council, BSA

Register now - spaces are limited

Do you want to know MORE?

See www.venturechallenge09.org

Northeast Region Area 7 News



Mark it on your 2009-2010 Calendars: NER Area 7 QUEST scheduled for 2010*

Mark it on your calendars – NER Area 7 Venturing QUEST will be held at Alpine Scout Reservation during the weekend of April 23-25, 2010. The event youth leadership (to be developed), will assisted by Tom Temple (Quest Event Advisor) and John Vesey (Quest Facilities Advisor).

**Venturing Crew 777. BSA
2009 Super Activity
Island Sailing Adventure in Florida
This event is booked.**

If any crew has interest in this event for their Crew, contact Bob Koch for details.

Information: For additional information, Call Mr. Bob Koch, Advisor at 981-1399



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Cruising Catamaran ASA 114

Nelson's 30' Gemini catamaran is your passport to fun and adventure, and the ASA Catamaran certification course is your ticket! Take that dream cruise in the Caribbean aboard a bareboat catamaran. The Cruising Catamaran course is a two day course intended for people with quite a bit of sailing experience and with some ASA courses under their belts. The course covers all aspects of sailing a larger cruising catamaran in the 30 to 50 foot range, including boat handling under power and sail. Emphasis is placed on the differences from monohull sailing. 3-4 students

Option 1

Date/Time May 30-31

9am-5pm

Option 2

Date/Time July 11-12

9am-5pm

Option 3

Date/Time Aug 1-2

Price: \$499/student or \$1295/2-person private course (any date upon request)

Jenny Nelson - Nelson Sailing Center



Editors Wanted



The FORUM is looking for Volunteers Venturing Leaders or Venturers to be reporters and editors for the FORUM newsletter. We are seeking to add editors from all 4 regions. If you are interested, please email Bob at rmonto@aol.com



Spring 2009 Sea Scout newsletter is attached. See NER-Sea Scout.

Articles include:

- ◆ SEAL COURSES FOR 2009
- ◆ 27th Annual Northeast Region BSA Bridge of Honor and Sea Scout Ball.
- ◆ Liberty Flotilla Sea Scout Training Event
- ◆ 3rd Annual Delaware Valley Flotilla
- ◆ Presidents Day Weekend Training –
- ◆ Sea Scout of the Year:
- ◆ THE NORTHEAST REGION'S SEA SCOUT TRAINING TRIFECTA 2009

And More

Sea Promise,

As a Sea Scout, I promise to do my best - -

- To guard against water accidents.
- To know the location and proper use of the life saving devices on every boat I board.
- To be prepared to render aid to those in need.
- To seek to preserve the Motto of the Sea: "Women and Children First."





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Western Region Venturing News



June 14 to 27

For the 2009 summer season the Great Alaska Council of the Boy Scouts of America is offering five weeks of High Adventure in Alaska. The early summer opportunity is a two week season sea kayaking with whales and sea lions in the Southeast Alaska High Adventure Program. This maritime high adventure is offered through the Eagle River Scout Camp in Juneau, Alaska and runs June 14 to 27. Or you can spend three weeks trekking through the Denali National Park and river rafting in the upper Matanuska Valley at the Denali High Adventure Scout Base which will be hosting trips July 13 to August 1.

The Denali High Adventure Scout Base is opening its programs to scouts for the first time in 2009. Scout units have a chance to make history with this landmark program near the tallest mountain in North America. Denali High Adventure Scout Base is where the wilderness of the Alaskan interior and Denali National Park awaits the hardy and adventuresome scout. Salmon, Char, Rainbow Trout and Grayling swarm in the icy waters, Grizzly bears larger than most domesticated livestock lurk in the forests and the continent's last homesteaders pushed into this wilderness in recent memory. Scouts spend six days among these wilds trekking and rafting through the Last Frontier.

In Juneau, Alaska, the Southeast Alaska High Adventure program offers a very different approach to high adventure. With much of the six day adventure experienced from sea level looking over the deck of a kayak and hearing

whales spout in the distance, few can escape the call of the wild lands. Jack London, Robert Service and thousands of gold crazed Klondikers passed through Southeast Alaska for the Canadian Yukon Territories.

An overnight hike to a glacier and Sockeye Salmon fishery followed by a chance to pursue deep sea fishing, a mountain tramway or a rainforest Zipline tour will round out your week.

The Great Alaska Council of the Boy Scouts of America is based in Anchorage, Alaska and serves a majority of the state. For more information or to schedule a high adventure trip, please contact Cal Hiebsch Camping Director at chiebsch@bsamail.org or 907-337-9547 or visit www.scoutingalaska.org



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DENALI: BOY SCOUT ACCESS APPROVED BY MAT-SU BOROUGH

(Great Alaska Council, Boy Scouts of America, Anchorage, AK) – An April 7 decision by the Mat-Su Borough Assembly cleared the way for the Boy Scouts to build a world-class high adventure base camp near Denali State and National Parks, scout leaders said today. The approval allows entrance to their new camp and high adventure facility providing wilderness, high adventure, and camping experiences to youth.

The program, described as “a tremendous opportunity with our imagination being the only limiting factor,” by Dr. Sage, Chair of the Denali High Adventure Scout Base Program, will serve as the pre-eminent destination for youth seeking an exotic high adventure. Youth will have the opportunity to experience all the grandeur of Alaska’s wilderness in a safe, memorable, and affordable environment, as they trek through the 2,200 acres of Blair Lake and surrounding properties.



Once established, the base will provide a unique, once in a lifetime opportunity for scouts and other youth

organizations. The first official season of the program is slated for this summer and will feature three weeks of trekking activities including whitewater rafting, alpine backpacking, and service projects in the Curry Ridge of both Denali Parks. The Denali High Adventure Base,

A \$21.4 million dollar long term project, projects to bring 8,000 scouts from Alaska and outside to experience Alaska’s wilderness each year. For many scouts around the world, the experience will be the trip of a lifetime, on par

with other high adventure camps, like the Philmont Scout Reservation in New Mexico, which serves over 20,000 scouts a year, and has a waitlist



equally as large. “We funded the first phase of the project, \$6 million, with strong commitments from friends of scouting in Alaska, the

Rasmuson Foundation, and some government support,” said Mead Treadwell, an Anchorage business owner who chairs the capital campaign. “We’ll be back out in the community to raise an additional \$15.4 million in several steps. Many Alaskans will have the chance to be ‘founders’ of this high adventure, which will have an amazing and enduring reputation around the United States and the world,” Treadwell said. “We’re very glad the Borough’s decision allows us to power forward on this project.” The high adventure base is intended to provide a wall-less classroom of the outdoors where the important life skills of character development, citizenship training and personal fitness will be passed on. The base has a greater purpose - to help ensure a better future for the youth of our state and country.

The Denali High Adventure Scout Base will offer youth the opportunity



to experience the great wilderness adventure we call Alaska. Plans to break ground on the road are currently underway.

The Great Alaska Council is working on a full schedule for the new camp’s funding and development. The local representative for the Boy Scouts of America is Audun Mikkelsen, and he can be reached at (907) 337-9547.



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Southern Region Venturing News

2009 Area 2/3 Venturing & Sea Scout Events

July 5-11, 2009

Venturing Road to Ranger Camp -

Venturers will earn the Outdoor Bronze Award and complete most of the core requirements for the Ranger Award. Featuring wind surfing, horsemanship, rifle and shotgun shooting, wilderness survival, first aid, archery, COPE. Swimming, snorkeling, SCUBA, US Cavalry 1870's living history, Covert Ops, Area 51 (paintball vs. aliens), orienteering, GPS navigation, KODIAK teambuilding, and much more! Staffed by Longhorn Council Venturing volunteers and the Texas High Adventure Base staff.

Battle of the Mexia: Venturing Living History Weekend Venturing Living History Weekend: Battle of Mexia, Mexia, TX. Wear the uniform, learn the drill, eat the food, and live the life of a trooper in the 1860's. Open to: Boy Scouts, Varsity Teams, and Venturing; must be 14 to participate. Venturing Crew Members can work on their Outdoor Living History Elective for the Ranger Award. NOTE: 2009 dates may be changed by the parks that sponsor these events – check the web for updates!

http://208.101.27.2/camp/sid_richardson/index.htm

Aug 14-16, 2009

Venturing Summit - Bovay Scout Ranch/Waterpark. Council: Sam Houston Area (Houston) Camp location: just south of Navasota, TX on the internet

Sept 18-20, 2009

Venturing is happening - Lost Pines Scout Ranch. Council: Capitol Area Council (Austin, TX) Camp location: just east of Bastrop, TX. On the internet: <http://www.bsacac.org/CampingEvents/Camps/LCRA.php>

Sea Scout Specific Events:

September 5-7, 2009

MINTO RENDEZVOUS

Labor Day weekend is a time for Sea Scouts in the Southern Region to gather for the annual William M. Minto Rendezvous - sponsored this year by the Capitol Area Council Squadron and hosted at Lost Pines Scout Reservation on the shores of Lake Bastrop. The William M. Minto Invitational Rendezvous was started in 1991 as a venue for Sea Scout ships across the Southern Region to compete. The competition includes more than 20 events that test the ship's teamwork, training and preparation in a variety of nautical related events. The Minto Rendezvous follows a traditional format – most competitive events reflect skills youth must know for sailing and advancement; however, other events require more laughter, luck and perseverance than ability. True fun begins after the day's competition is over with fun evening events and fellowship with new and old friends. Lost Pines offers ample shady camping spaces, an air-conditioned dining hall, and a waterfront with a wide variety of watercraft to enjoy. Ships traveling from far away are welcome to arrive early and camp on Friday night. A boarding manual with registration details will be forthcoming as the event approaches. We hope that the Minto Rendezvous is an experience your youth will enjoy and want to repeat every year.

LOCATION: Lost Pines Scout Reservation on Lake Bastrop



What: Jimmie Dyess Days 2009
Who: Troops, Crews, Posts, and Packs*

When: October 2-4, 2009

Where: Barton Field @ Ft. Gordon

Why: Wait for it....last slide!

<http://www.jdd.gacacouncil.org/>



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Central Region Venturing News

2009 Great Missouri Valley Challenge Regatta



July 11-12, 2009
**Great Missouri Valley
Challenge Regatta**
Ahoy - Skippers
Valley Challenge Regatta
to be held on July 11-12, 2009
at Lake Manawa in Council
Bluffs, IA.

2008 was our inaugural event. The participants had a great time and some really competitive racing. We had a wide range of skill levels competing from novices to active racers. In the 10 qualifying races on Saturday, we had 7 different sailor's take a first place.

To make this a true challenge event, the scores of the top 5 racers from each Ship were combined to determine a team score. Ship 542 won the Challenge Cup. Like the America's Cup, this notice opens the door for the 2009 challenge.

This is the only inter-Ship sailing event in CR Area 5.

Rod Phipps, Skipper, Ship 542
7523 North 54 Plaza, Omaha, NE 68152
402/350-1970

Frequently Asked Questions about VOA's

By: Amanda Vogt Central Region Area 5
Venturing **President**

What is a VOA?

VOA stands for Venturing Officer's Association. This is a group of youth officers at District, Council, Regional, or National level. This group also can be known as the Teen Leaders Council (TLC).

What is the purpose and importance of a VOA?
VOA's help council Venturing advisors and professionals to get the prospective of the youth in the council. It allows the youth to develop leadership skills, and gives council professionals a resource to build the council's Venturing program.

What are some examples for VOA activities?

Examples of activities put on by VOA's range from [Winterfest](#) and [Fall Fun Rally](#), several of the largest Venturing Events put on each year, to bowling or a river boat cruise. Look at what resources your council has available to you. If you live by a mountain go hiking or skiing, if you live by a river go canoeing or white water rafting. VOA activities are what you put into them.

Who make up the VOA Key Three?

The key three consist of the professional in charge of Venturing in your council, the volunteer advisor for your council's Venturing program, and the council VOA President.

Who has voting rights at VOA meetings?

This depends on what you set up in your council bylaws. However, since the VOA is youth-run, typically only the youth will have a vote. Generally the president can only vote to break a tie. The adults however can have the right to subject an item to review if they voted on item is against policy or not realistic.

Where can I find examples for VOA bylaws?

Through the internet there are examples of bylaws, also different councils have examples on their council websites. Bylaws can be simple, describing only the necessities, or they can be complex, describing every person's responsibility within the VOA. Several good examples are the new [Greater St. Louis Area Council's VOA Bylaws](#), which were created by a committee of youth and adults during the summer of 2006, and the [Santa Clara](#)



County Council VOA Bylaws, which were last amended on November 3rd 2006.

What are the different officer positions in a VOA?

VOA's generally consist of four or five office positions depending on how Venturing is set up in your council. The typical four positions are President, Vice President of Administration, Vice President of Program, and Vice President of Communication (Secretary). The optional office depends on if the VOA has control of a budget to work with, if so then you could have a Vice President of Finance (Treasurer).

What is the typical description of a VOA President?

The VOA President generally presides at all meetings of the VOA. Appoints and if necessary, remove all chairpersons from youth VOA committees. The President with the advice of the Council Advisors will create agendas for all VOA meetings. They will also work as a mentor and resource to all District VOA Presidents to ensure the smooth operation of the VOA within the districts of your council.

What is the typical description of a VOA Vice President of Administration?

The Council VOA Vice President of Administration normally serves as the Council VOA Officer responsible for the administrative duties of the VOA. They preside at all meetings of the VOA if the Council VOA President cannot be present. They serve as chair of the Council VOA Recognition committee and the VOA Training committee. If your council has districts they work as a resource and give leadership to District VOA Vice Presidents of Administration to ensure the District VOA's fulfill the administrative responsibilities of the VOA. They are also typically responsible for performing any other duties as assigned by the Council VOA President.

What is the typical description of a VOA Vice President of Program?

The Council VOA Vice President of Program normally serves as the Council VOA Officer responsible for the program of the VOA. They preside at all meetings of the VOA if the Council VOA President and Council VOA Vice President of Administration cannot be present. They typically serve as chair of the Council VOA Service Committee and serve as the chair or member of every activity and event committee of the Council VOA. If your council has districts they also work as a resource and give leadership to District VOA Vice Presidents of Program to ensure the District VOAs fulfill the program responsibilities of the VOA. They are also typically responsible for performing other duties as assigned by the Council VOA President.

What is the typical description of a VOA Vice President of Communication?

The Council VOA Vice President of Program normally serves as the Council VOA Officer responsible for VOA communication, both internal and external. They preside at all meetings of the VOA if the other Council VOA Officers cannot be present. They should maintain a contact list of all council and district officers and advisors. This list should include name, office, phone number, address, email address, and other information deemed pertinent. They should also coordinate with District Officers to create and maintain a list of unit officers and advisors within the council. They should ensure that a VOA website, publicizing VOA events, activities, initiatives, and other VOA information is created and maintained with up to date information. They also take minutes of VOA meetings. If your council has districts they also work as a resource and give leadership to District VOA Vice President of Communication to ensure the District VOA's fulfill the communication responsibilities of the VOA. They are also typically responsible for performing other duties as assigned by the Council VOA President.



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What is the typical description of a VOA Advisor?

The VOA Advisor typically works with the elected Council VOA Officers to ensure the responsibilities of the VOA are fulfilled. They appoint all Associate Advisors for Council VOA operating committees. If your council has districts they also work as a resource and give leadership to District VOA Advisors to ensure smooth operation of a District VOA in each district.

Are there any recognition available for VOA officers?

While there is no official VOA Officer recognition, many VOAs will create a custom designed patch or a special council strip available to VOA officers.

Greater St. Louis Area Council Venturing Officers' Association Constitution and Bylaws

Attached find the Council Bylaws as **CR-Greater St Louis-Bylaws**

May 2009
Volume 2, Issue 12
Central Region Venturing
Monthly Newsletter

Attached find the Central region May newsletter as **CR-May-News**

May 2009
Central Region Venturing
Area 3 Monthly Newsletter

Attached find the Central region Area 4 May newsletter as **CR-Area3-News**

Upcoming Events within Central Region Areas

Area 1

July 17-19: Bay-Lakes Council Bay Jammer

Area 2

June 20-23: Area 2 Venturing White Water Rafting

Area 3

June 26-27: Potawatami Council Badger Bash
July 5-11: Greater St. Louis Swift Base Kodiak

Area 5

June 28-July 4: Mid-America Council Venturing Resident Camp

July 17-19: Mid-Iowa Council LNT Master Educator Course wknd 1

July 24-27: Mid-Iowa Council LNT Master Educator Course wknd 2

Area 6

July 26-Aug 1: Crossroads of America Council Kodiak

Area 7

June 12-23: Three Fires Council TFC Alhambra Picnic



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For all the Current approved Powder Horn Courses and Course Director Courses visit the Official Powder Horn site at www.powderhorn-bsa.org



For the Latest information on all approved Kodiak and Kodiak X courses visit the Kodiak website at <http://www.kodiak-bsa.org/>

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/>

Northeast Region Venturing-Area 4

<http://www.ne4avoa.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>

Where to go Venturing

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

Venturing Magazine

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

National Youth Leadership Society

National is about to release a new program called "National Youth Leadership Society." It will be open for all youth once the requirements are finalized.

This is an unofficial description of the new National Youth Leadership Society. The purpose of the National Youth Leadership Society (NYLS) is to 'legitimize' the leadership training our youth receive in scouting such that they can add it to college applications, job applications, etc.

At present, there are a set of requirements for Venturers. National plans on putting together separate sets of requirements for Boy Scouts and Sea Scouts by next year.

For Venturers, they must take the following courses:

- ◆ VLSC
- ◆ Kodiak
- ◆ Kodiak-X
- ◆ Trainers EDGE
- ◆ Mentoring

Mentoring is a new course that will be rolled out in August. Trainers EDGE is the new version of "Trainers Development Conference" and will be used to prepare both youth and adult trainers.

Once the youth have completed these courses, there is a 'nomination form' that is filled out and certificated by the council. A \$100 fee is submitted to National, and in return there will be send a certificate, pocket card, and recognition item (either lapel pin or the emblem on a chain). It is intended that the certificate, along with a formal and informal photos be framed and presented. A 'wall of honor' or and equivalent established in the council office to list all these youth. The youth should have this presented to them at an appropriate venue.



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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. Our Cluster includes many councils and Crews in the Northeast, Central, Southern and Western regions that support venturing, exchange of ideas, Best Practices and activities for the Venturing Program. 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.

We are in our 6th year of publications. Thank you for your input and articles in this effort to better support the Venturing program. If you would like to add others to the email list or have articles for the FORUM, let Bob “the BEAR” Monto know at rmonto@aol.com. We need the Scouter or Venturing leader to email us with their name, Council, Area and Region so we can group the emails by sub groups.

Likewise if you wish to be removed from this email newsletter just email Bob.

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



Venturing Crew NOT Venture Crew