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Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring Newsletter since 2003  
July 2016 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 Current FORUM Attachments**

[http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/~forum\\_attach.php](http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/~forum_attach.php)

**The FORUM Back Issues**

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

**This issue's attachments include:**

**Central**

**National  
and Other**

0717 31st Asia Pacific Regional Jamboree  
Sea Scouting Strategic Plan-SMART  
2015 Mentoring for Venturing Crews Facilitator Guide  
2015 Goal Setting Time Management for Venturing Crews  
2015 National Outdoor Awards Program  
2015 Registration Age Requirements  
2015 Venturing Board of Review Guide  
2015 Venturing Ethical Controversies  
2016 Sea Scout Advancement Requirements  
2013 Venturing Standard Operating Procedures Current  
2015 Venturing Awards and Recognitions  
Venturing Terms Lets get it Right

**Northeast**

0716-Insomniacs Revenge  
Sea Scouting Newsleter "the Telegraph"

**Southern**

**Western**

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# The Central Point



Newsletter of the Central Region | Boy Scouts of America

## CR-0616-Newsletter

The June 2016 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/>.

Articles this month include:  
New Area Presidents  
National Meeting Recap  
VenturingFest & VenturingBlast  
New Advisors  
Upcoming Activities  
Advisor's Minute  
President's Corner



**2016 BSA National Outdoor Ethics Conference**  
**October 6-8, 2016**  
**Camp Tracy, Salt Lake City, Utah**  
**2016 Theme: "Step Up"**  
<http://outdoorethics-bsa.org/OEconference/>



**The Conference topics include:**

**Delivering the Outdoor Ethics program in your Councils, working across the multiple levels of our councils (unit, district, council staff and volunteer leadership)**

**Information/updates on Outdoor Ethics advancement requirements, Awareness and Action awards, program implementation.**

**New science-based studies to support what is being promoted as "best practices".**

**Everyone is welcome, in particular anyone interested in Leave No Trace, Tread Lightly!, BSA Outdoor Ethics programs, and sharing this information within their council/district/units.**

**Most of the attendees are serving as an Outdoor Ethics Advocate in their Council, Area, or District, but this is not a requirement.**

**We have posted a lot more information about the BSA Outdoor Ethics programs on our task force web site: <http://outdoorethics-bsa.org/> Information and resources there include contacts in councils across the country and information about upcoming Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly! Courses.**

**David O'Leary**  
**BSA Outdoor Ethics Task Force**



## Sea Scout Eligibility for Venturing Awards and Information on Other Awards

Boy Scouts of America Policy



Statement Updated May 12, 2016

The BSA National Board, on February 10, 2016, adopted a resolution *"...to make Sea Scouts a separate program with the same status of other programs."*

What are the changes in Sea Scout eligibility for awards and recognitions as a result of the Sea Scout program status change?

As with past changes in BSA programs, changes to eligibility for awards and recognition are being phased in over time. In the past, Sea Scouts were considered to be a subset of Venturing and were eligible for a variety of Venturing awards including: Venturing, Discovery, Pathfinder, and Summit; Quest, TRUST, and Ranger; and the Venturing Leadership Award (VLA). With the change in the Sea Scout program status, this eligibility has been reviewed at the National Office and the following changes have been adopted.

Sea Scouts, who are working on any of the Venturing awards and recognitions, will be "grandfathered" to complete those awards and recognitions until December 31, 2016. After that date, eligibility for Venturing awards and recognitions will be limited to registered Venturers. Any Sea Scout may dual-register in a Venturing Crew to maintain eligibility for Venturing awards. Likewise, any Sea Scout Ship (unit) may dual register as a Venturing Crew.

Venturing Leadership Awards are generally presented in the spring to recognize leadership service that occurred in the prior calendar year. A new Sea Scout Leadership Award has been approved, for use beginning in 2017, to recognize leadership service in 2016. Until then, Sea Scouts and Sea Scout leaders will continue to be eligible for the Venturing Leadership Award. Insignia for the Sea Scout Leadership Award will include the existing VLA knot, with Sea Scout miniature device, and neck ribbons with a Sea Scout pendant, similar to the existing VLA.



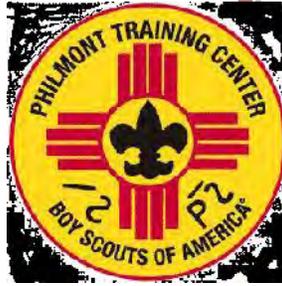
What about eligibility for other advancement, awards, and recognitions?

The Sea Scout Resolution didn't change the eligibility for other advancement, awards, and recognition programs. For example, the Eagle Scout rank will continue to be available to Sea Scouts who achieved First Class rank in a Boy Scout Troop. General BSA awards, such as Religious Emblems, Nova Awards, BSA Lifeguard, etc., will continue to be available to Sea Scouts.

Will there be a "Unit Leader Award of Merit" for Sea Scout Skippers?

Yes, the application form for the Unit Leader Award of Merit is being updated to specifically include Sea Scout Skippers. The existing Unit Leader Award of Merit knot, with Sea Scout miniature device, will be used to recognize these outstanding Skippers. A new Sea Scout Skipper of Merit badge-of-office is also being developed; it will be similar to the existing badges for Cubmaster of Merit, Scoutmaster of Merit, Team Coach of Merit, and Venturing Advisor of Merit.

# National Venturing Update



## Philmont

### Growing Venturing In Your Crew and Council

The Venturing A-L-P-S program model builds on success from the past and provides a framework for a dynamic program of adventure, leadership, personal growth, and service; grounded in a flexible program of continuous, youth-led adventure with the new recognition system providing Venturers with benchmarks of progress. Using this program model as a framework for supporting your crew's program and for establishing council support for crew program needs forms the heart of this conference. This conference is designed for crew advisors, crew committee members, crew officers, VOA officers, VOA advisors, council Venturing committee members, and Venturing Commissioners.

Availability

Week 8: July 24-30

Week 10: August 7-13

### Venturing Blast!

Inviting all key Area youth leaders and adult advisors to a new training experience! Participants will be able to join with other leaders from across their region to network, build friendships, discover more of the ALPS program model, and develop skills to help Areas support an explosive Venturing program that will recruit and retain youth in their Councils! But, this isn't your typical classroom course. Ditch the projector and immerse yourself in the beauty of PTC while enjoying some exciting adventures at Philmont.

Availability

Week 6: July 10-16

Week 7: July 17-23



## Summit

**DYNAMIC VENTURING PROGRAMMING - July 11 – July 15**

If you are involved in Venturing, come and learn firsthand how you can take on the challenge and fun of strengthening your Venturing program. Develop skills to help support an explosive Venturing program that will recruit and retain youth in local councils! This course is for all Venturing leaders at the unit, district, or council level.

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$475**

# VenturingFest July-August 2016



You've been patiently waiting and now we've got the details you've be clamoring for –VenturingFest 2016 (previously known as AdventureFest) is the first national gathering of Venturers at the Summit Bechtel Reserve and it's set for July 31 to August 5, 2016.

This six-day High-Adventure excursion invites participants to explore the best that the Summit has to offer. Activities include rock climbing, skateboarding, BMX biking, water sports, shooting sports, zip lines, challenge courses, and so much more.

## What You Need to Know to Start Planning Your Trip

VenturingFest is \$400 for youth participants and \$300 for adults. Fees include meals (Monday breakfast through Friday breakfast), campsite (with showers, dining flies & Wi-Fi), tents, cots, and all program equipment. Final payment is due no later than June 1 and all paid fees are nonrefundable. This special event is open to registered Venturers, Sea Scouts, Boy Scouts (14+) and adult leaders. Groups must be no smaller than seven participants and must include at least five youth and two adults. There is no maximum group size.

## How to Attend VenturingFest 2016

To register, simply fill out the **VenturingFest 2016 Reservation Form**. Once completed you'll receive an email advising you when it has been processed along with information on how to submit your unit's non-refundable deposit. For more information head to [www.summitbsa.org/venturingfest](http://www.summitbsa.org/venturingfest).

Have a question not covered here? Please reach out to [venturingfest@scouting.org](mailto:venturingfest@scouting.org) for additional information. What are you most looking forward to about this unique Venturing event at the Summit? Tell us in the comments below!

## 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.

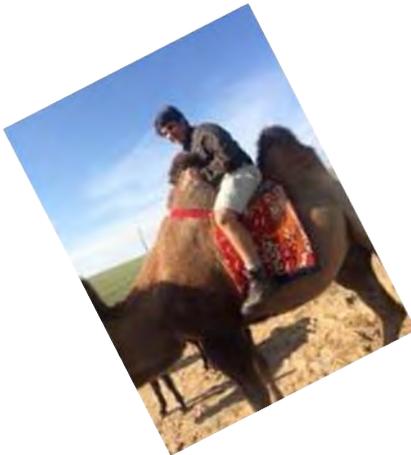
One must see is the giant (80 meter high) statue of Gengis Khan built on the site where he got his vision to spread conquer the world.

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](mailto: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.



# EXPLORING™

DISCOVER YOUR FUTURE

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## AN EXPLORING SUCCESS STORY...

Re-tweeted by the Ventura County Council\*

"I received top-notch, hands-on training from professional firefighters, which included the opportunity to respond to 9-1-1 calls during ride-alongs," said Barnes. "The explorer program was a pivotal reason for me achieving my ultimate goal of becoming a firefighter."

For former Explorer Eli Barnes, the race meant a sponsored opportunity to attend the Oxnard Youth Fire Explorers Program through 2013 to gain firsthand firefighting experience that has contributed to his professional success.

Today 23-year-old Barnes is a full-time firefighter for the City of Oxnard, and one of many former youth explorers who have gone on to become first responders serving communities across the state and country.



# EXPLORING™

DISCOVER YOUR FUTURE

## NEW EXPLORING ACTIVITY LIBRARY

You've heard about **Exploring.org's NEW LOOK** and since then, you've been clamoring to get your hands on some fun resources to fuel your Exploring experience. Now, we've launched what you've been looking for - the **Exploring Activity Library**, full of career-specific content to serve all of your Exploring needs!

Located on the new **Exploring.org**, the Exploring Activity Library is loaded with *54 new activity guides available to view and download*. Activity guides for a variety of specialties like health, business, fire & EMS, science, engineering & tech and many more are ready for you to share. There are also guides for building life-skills like leadership, customer service, and team building.

### More Activities Are Rolling Out Soon!

Didn't see guides for your career field? Not to worry! Activity guides for some careers aren't loaded yet, but they are on the way. In the mean time, those guides will be shaded gray with a yellow "coming soon" label, but you can click through to get a sneak peek of what to expect when they are ready. The library will be updated regularly so keep checking Exploring.org for the latest resources.

## EXPLORING AND LEARNING FOR LIFE PROGRAMS: BEST PRACTICES AND STRATEGIES

July 24-30, Philmont Training Center



Participants will learn how to identify and fill the needs of local schools and businesses by using the total package of in-school and Exploring programs. You'll learn how to fund and sustain these programs to achieve the maximum benefit to both the youth and the organizations who serve youth. District and Council Key 3's, commissioners at all levels and district and council committee members with Exploring and Learning for Life responsibilities are encouraged to attend. Faculty will include National Learning for Life volunteers and professionals who will share best practices and strategies.

## EXPLORERS AT THE SUMMIT: SUMMER 2016

THERE'S STILL TIME TO  
SIGN UP!

For the first time in Scouting history, Explorers from all career fields will gather at the Summit Bechtel Reserve for an event unlike any other: **SummerFest 2016**. The goal is to have over 1,000 Explorers experience The Summit, Wednesday- Saturday, July 27-30, 2016. Registration is \$275 per person. Exploring SummerFest 2016 is a fun-filled three days and three nights of action sports and outdoor games and challenges for Explorers from around the nation. Watch this video for more!

## Area 3 Event "The Venturing Revolution".

The venturing weekend at Tuscarora camp was amazing! Although all of my crew 3758 couldn't make it, my brother Thomas, I, and my father and crew advisor all enjoyed every minute of it. We also meet some older members of my crew, Mr. Shultis' two sons (who by the way are some of the best shooters I've ever seen) and Joey, our past Crew President.



The food was really good, and I recommend the sweets! Well, that's just because I have a sweet tooth for cookies. The camp its self was just stunning, the lake was beautiful and even just walking was great.

Thank goodness it didn't rain often, but that wasn't problem for me or any one because there were lean-tos - very nice lean-tos! The mess hall wasn't too bad a walk, but it's worth the walk to see the amazing view over looking the lake.

Now, this event had a lot of shooting activities. There were World War 2 guns to Soviet Union pistols and that's what I loved about this event. Although I'm not the best shooter, we had one-on-one sessions with an instructor while you get to load and shoot the gun of your choice. My favorite rifle was the M -1 Carbine! It scared the daylights out of me because I didn't know the gun would kick so hard when I shot it so be wary! My favorite pistol was totally the Soviet Union gun - a Tokarev - that baby had a kick too. I loved that pistol just because I'm very interested in Russia and its amazing that I got to hold and shoot that gun in my hands.

**BUT**, my favorite moment was for the first time ever shooting a shotgun and hitting a clay pigeon my first time shooting!

Besides the awesome time at the guns section there was a scavenger hunt and making a fire with flint and steel (I failed at that because it was raining) and knife throwing. My brother and I tried the knife throwing and we stuck two knives in the log (just saying again it was my first time!).



This trip was truly and experience and i highly recommend any crew to attend who loves shooting sports and or any crew looking for a good time!

-Anna, Venture Crew 3758, Hudson Valley Council



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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

## DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP SKILLS

By Pete Mapes, NCAC Crew 27 Associate Advisor

Leaders are not born. Plain and simple, there it is. There is nature (genetics) and there is nurture (experience) but no one is born to be a leader. It doesn't happen that way.

First of all, a leader has to want to lead. Humans do not usually follow people who have no desire to serve as leaders. That being said, there are two types of leaders: formal leaders occupy an office that places a mantle of leadership upon them – a Crew President is a good example of a 'formal' leader; informal leaders have no formal office – they have influence. People follow informal leaders because what they communicate makes sense to them. Many informal leaders go on to become formal leaders. A Venturer who takes initiative to rally the MiniCrew to start dinner when not assigned as the 'cook' or the leader of the MiniCrew is an informal leader – probably motivated by hunger. Informal leaders organize tasks they are not responsible for when the responsible people are not getting the job done or not getting it done to the liking of the informal leader(s). Alternatively, informal leaders influence formal leaders in a certain direction and get the formal leaders to change course or perform differently. This can be for better, or for worse, but it is usually different than if they had not become involved. Motivations of formal and informal leaders are usually different – Advisors need to understand this.

Venturing has a continuum of leadership training (See: <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/BSAYLTContinuum.pdf>) and it begins shortly after joining a Crew. You would not expect a brand new Venturer to be able to do the menu, scheduling and coordination to pull off a complicated outing without any guidance. The Venturer needs training, experience & practice. Let's start with training:



A good day at the Isaak Walton League Range for Crew 27

For most Venturers, their first leadership training is the 'Crew Officer Orientation.' This 40 minute CD goes over the roles of Crew Officers as they work together to plan a tier III outing for their Crew. By the end of the CD, Venturers should understand the roles of the Crew Officers. The CD is pretty well done. It is the first step on the Venturing Leadership Continuum. At about the same time that they watch the Crew Officer Orientation, Venturers should watch Personal Safety Training (PST). PST sets the bar for establishing a safe environment in the Crew, it shows where lines of acceptable and unacceptable behavior are drawn. This is essential information for future venturing Leaders. PST consists of four modules

covering Internet Safety, Harassment, and Date Rape & Suicide. Some Advisors are uncomfortable with the topics but they need to be covered in their entirety. Parents should be able to watch the videos too but probably not at the same time as the Venturers. The Venturers should discuss the ramifications of the behaviors portrayed. Our Crew shows PST annually.



# Large Crews

## DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP SKILLS

By Pete Mapes, NCAC Crew 27 Associate Advisor

Crew 27 really tries to have everyone take ILS(C) in their first year of Venturing so they can attend National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) the first year they are in the Crew. ILS(C) is a prerequisite for NYLT. We get about 85 to 90% of our new Venturers to NYLT in the first year. NYLT is taught by most Councils and it only opened to Venturers in our Council in 2005. Venturing attendees are in the minority since most of the spots in each course are taken by Boy Scouts. That being said, the course has much to offer Venturers. NYLT condenses a month or more of the Scouting Program into a very intense week and mixes it with formal leadership skill training in communication, scheduling, conflict resolution, teamwork, and a host of other worthwhile subjects. It teaches leaders what they need to be, what they need to know, and what they need to do. This is one of those courses that the Boy Scouts has to offer that is really unparalleled in any other organization accessible to youth. It is Wood Badge for teens and very valuable to the Crew as a whole. Not everyone who attends NYLT seems to 'get it' right away – sometimes it takes a year or two to sink in. The most painful thing to watch is a youth leader in Venturing trying to perform without having taken it. You can look over the syllabus by going to: [http://www.people.vcu.edu/~albest/woodbadge/NYLT\\_syllabus.pdf](http://www.people.vcu.edu/~albest/woodbadge/NYLT_syllabus.pdf) One helpful hint, since the majority of NYLT participants are male Boy Scouts, please talk to your Council to ensure that any NYLT Patrol with a female participant in it has at least one other female participant in it. If the number of female participants at NYLT is odd, this may require three young women in a NYLT Patrol. NYLT uses the buddy system and it is just wrong to have a young man accompany a young woman to the latrine as her 'buddy.' Trust me, this will be an issue with your young women if you don't act to ensure they have female buddies!



Crew 27 heads to Ohio for a summer adventure

At the conclusion of NYLT, Crew 27 allows the graduates to wear either the 'Trained' strip or the new 'NYLT' strip on their left sleeve below their badge of office. At this point we consider them to have met the bar as trained leaders. This is not the end of their leadership training. We encourage Venturers to sign up to attend the National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE). Taught at Philmont, Northern Tier and The Summit in the summer and at Sea Base in the spring, NAYLE is derived from the syllabus used to train rangers at Philmont (employees, not awardees – we always capitalize the RANGER Rank). While the syllabus is

not available on line, each of our Venturers who has attended has loved it and felt that it was very valuable. The course is taught outside and involves all kinds of advanced, skill based problem solving exercises.

# Large Crews

## DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP SKILLS

By Pete Mapes, NCAC Crew 27 Associate Advisor

One exercise, for instance, is a mass casualty response. To get specific information about the availability of NAYLE for your Venturers, Sea Scouts or Explorers, go to: <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/Resources/NAYLE.aspx>



Crew 27 helps teach Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills

Our Crew has one additional core leadership training that we offer in conjunction with the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary – Boy's State & Girl's State. This opportunity is only available to Venturers who are completing their Junior Year in High School. The application cycle begins in the late fall of each year and is complete by March of the junior year. Mandatory orientation training is imposed on Girl's State candidates in April of each year and if they miss it, they don't get to go. That training is usually four hours on a weekend

and is offered a dozen times around the State. Applicants DO NOT pay for the Girl's/Boy's State experience. Your Crew needs to raise the money to support them and donate it to the American Legion or the American Legion Auxiliary through a local Post. Cost is roughly \$300/attendee and the program is a week long. Boy's/Girl's State is always early in the summer, usually late June, before camp, because each of the forty-nine participating States send the top two participants, elected by their peers to Boy's/Girl's Nation in Washington D.C. in July. That is also done at no cost to the attendees but if your Venturers are selected to attend, the Legion picks up the cost and they will get to meet the President in the White House – it is a huge deal! All of our Venturers who have attended Boy's/Girl's State have considered it fun and very valuable!



Crew 27 Honors the Flag at Goshen Scout Reservation

Now for the optional leadership training opportunities! Let's start with Kodiak. The Kodiak course is a national course taught at a local level. It must be carefully planned, about three months in advance and materials must be gathered. The course requires national approval so there are some hoops to jump through before you teach it. In addition, whoever teaches it must be a trained facilitator for Kodiak so getting the facilitator trained is the first step. Once the hoops are jumped, the Kodiak course is an excellent addition to a Crew Tier 3 adventure and is designed to be taught on the trail. Go to this site to look over the facilitators guide and syllabus: <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/Kodiak%20Challenge%20FINAL%202011%20-%20Item%20Number%20511-014.pdf>

[www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/Kodiak%20Challenge%20FINAL%202011%20-%20Item%20Number%20511-014.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/Kodiak%20Challenge%20FINAL%202011%20-%20Item%20Number%20511-014.pdf)

# Large Crews

## DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP SKILLS

By Pete Mapes, NCAC Crew 27 Associate Advisor

The next optional course in the leadership continuum is the Powder-Horn Course. Powder Horn is a resource management course for high adventure activities. It is usually taught in Council over one or two weekends. The facilitators guide is available at: [http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/Powderhorn\\_syllabus.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/Powderhorn_syllabus.pdf). Everyone who takes it comes back enthused with a new awareness of high adventure options and equipment sources as well as resources for training and implementation of high adventure programs. Our Venturers who have taken it have really enjoyed it and come back full of ideas. Powderhorn is very applicable to earning the RANGER Rank as it specifically addresses resources needed to accomplish RANGER core and elective requirements!

There are other courses as well; Sea Scouts offers the SEAL course. Exploring has national and regional meetings usually divided by career interest area. Some Councils have some excellent leadership courses that are not recognized nationally. Many of these are taught by individuals who specialize in staff development and executive leadership training. They are offered to Venturers at a fraction of the cost charged in the professional marketplace. One more course, usually taken by adults, but open to Venturers in most Councils is Back Country Outdoor Leader Skills (BCOLS). This is a 'how to' course that is really outstanding for leaders and Venturers about to get off the beaten track. It surveys equipment, reviews skills and provides some practical experience, usually over two weekends.

The foregoing has explained how you get trained leaders, now we are going to switch subjects and move to how your youth leaders gain experience & practice in leadership.



Presenting the Colors at our Sponsors Board Meeting



Popcorn Delivery to La Jolla SSN-701 at Norfolk Naval Base, VA

Baden-Powell knew that leadership is best developed through training and practice! In Scouting, his cardinal rule was: "Never do anything a child can do, for in so doing you rob them of the opportunity." As an adult in Venturing, the Boy Scouts has placed great trust in your leadership ability and in your judgement – your great task then is to use your superior judgement to know when not to exercise your superior leadership! How is that for a conundrum?

# Large Crews

## DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP SKILLS

By Pete Mapes, NCAC Crew 27 Associate Advisor

Venturing is a representative democracy of the executive. We don't have a legislature, it would be too cumbersome. We shouldn't need a judiciary, but when we do, the senior youth leaders can usually manage to orchestrate it under the auspices of the Scout Oath and Law. Instead, we elect our executives and allow them to construct a team that will provide effective leadership to execute the mission:

Venturing is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are 14 years of age OR 13 years of age and have completed the eighth grade and under 21 years of age. Venturing's purpose is to provide positive experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults, with an emphasis in adventure, leadership, personal growth, and service.

We accomplish our mission by training young people in leadership and organizational skills, then let them practice those by planning, organizing and carrying out activities in a variety of fields requiring various degrees of planning and also by making opportunities available to them at a regional, national and international level. For access to a wealth of Venturing information, look at: <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Venturing.aspx>



Nobody stacks chairs like Crew 27 at Fort McHenry



Crew 27 lines up at NYLT

In short, we train them to carry out a fun program and then let them practice by doing it. In the process they will encounter lots of the 'rocks and shoals' identified by Robert Baden-Powell in many of his writings and they will use the fundamental ideals of Scouting, the Oath and the Law to overcome them. In the process they will develop into capable, compassionate people who care about others and the world around them – Wow!

Elections are essential. Everyone needs to know they are happening and everyone needs to be given an opportunity to participate, both by running and voting. One issue unique to a large Crew is that the position of Crew President seems to be a dauntingly large responsibility – so

much so that it scares many potentially good people away. A key role of the adults in Venturing is to bend over backwards to publicly and privately support the Crew President so that others will not be afraid to ascend to the position.

# **Large Crews**

## **DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP SKILLS**

By Pete Mapes, NCAC Crew 27 Associate Advisor

The opportunity to be Crew President of an active Venturing Crew with over fifty members is a tremendous executive exposure for a high school student. I've watched seven of them grow and develop in the role and the role changed six of them for the better and made them more capable than they were when they started serving in it. The same can be said of nearly all of our officers. The only ones who don't benefit are the ones who don't make an effort. I watched a newly elected Crew President get simultaneously elected to be Senior Patrol Leader of his Troop. He neglected his Crew duties until the rest of the Crew felt it necessary to ask him to step down. His one contribution to the Crew was appointing a very capable Vice President for Admin who continued to run things effectively and gave the Crew a great year as he took over the Presidency. The most important skill for a Crew President in a large Crew is the ability to delegate and then follow up to ensure that what was delegated is actually being done.

Each of the Crew Officers, whether elected or appointed, has essential functions to carry out and they must accomplish those in a timely manner to support the Crew. The accomplishment of their functions is also important because they grow through doing them. They have to show up, communicate, cooperate and perform to get their jobs done. When they do well, hardly anyone notices; but when they don't do, everyone notices! Advisors need to praise steadfast performance in public so the youth know their efforts are recognized and appreciated. The mother of an active duty Army general I am acquainted with



Crew 27 sights in at the Isaak Walton League Range



Lilly with Venturing and Girl Scout Gold Awards

always told him to never miss an opportunity to say "thank you." That advice is very important in Venturing too; both to reward the person who accomplished something and to incentivize the people who watched them accomplish something.

# Large Crews

## DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP SKILLS

By Pete Mapes, NCAC Crew 27 Associate Advisor

It is really important for Advisors to avoid being directive. Save being directive for intervening on the behalf of safety and back it up with 'The Guide To Safe Scouting.' Advisors should allow Venturers to disagree with them and Venturers should feel safe in doing so. Venturers have to learn to make a call and have enough faith in themselves that they 'stick to their guns.' Most of the time, different ways of doing things are 'happy to glad' and have zero long range effect – let the Venturers experiment, even to the point of getting it wrong, remember 'controlled failure' is important. Just keep it fun and be able to laugh at what happens – not at the Venturers who led to the situation.

The more active your Crew's program is, the more experience your Venturers get at leading. The concept of an 'Activity Chair' is a great opportunity for any Venturer to take on a leadership challenge from organizing a simple day event to cooperating with several other Venturers to create a week-long adventure. The challenges are variable to suit the abilities of the



Crew 27 at the 2013 National Scout Jamboree  
The first NSJ with Venturing Participants

people taking them on and a wise Crew President will encourage the VP-Program to keep in close contact with the Activity Chairs to ensure that the planning and execution of the program stays on track. A key point – on the activity itself, the Activity Chair is in charge, not the Crew President, not the VP-Program, not the Advisor. There have been times when this concept has not been clearly understood by a Crew President and that has led to some 'storming' on activities. Fully trained Crew Presidents who have at least been through NYLT will probably not make this error. Note that participating in activities is a requirement for achieving each Venturing Award level, getting educated about how to set up

an activity is a requirement for Discovery, planning activities is a requirement for Pathfinder and mentoring someone who is planning an activity is a requirement for Summit.

Outside of the Crew, leadership opportunities abound for Venturers who are interested. Scouting Councils frequently have Venturing Officer Associations (VOA) than need interested Venturers to lead and organize them. Each Boy Scout Region is divided into Areas and each Area has a VOA made up of Venturers from the Area's Councils. The four Boy Scout Regions also have VOA's led by youth who serve as Regional Presidents and Regional Staff. Finally, BSA Headquarters hosts the National VOA made up of the four Regional Presidents, a National President and a National Staff.

# Large Crews

## DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP SKILLS

By Pete Mapes, NCAC Crew 27 Associate Advisor



Crew 27 at John Henry's death location in WV during the 2013 National Scout Jamboree

There are different suspenses for different positions but Venturers may apply for positions in VOAs at different levels in the late winter and early spring of each year. Those selected are inducted into their leadership roles in May of each year. The only caveat is that they must remain under the age of 21 for their entire term. These jobs are great opportunities to serve and to grow Venturing. To learn about how to apply for various offices, go to: <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Venturing.aspx> . At this site you can download an application for an upper level Venturing position or to learn about standard operating practices above the Crew level. Make sure you meet all suspenses. National positions

are chosen first, followed by the Region, then the Area, then the Council. Some Councils have Service Area or District VOAs as well and they may run independently of the standard operating procedures published on line.

So, there you have it, an outline of the Venturing Leadership continuum and some thoughts on the leadership experiences that Venturers can gain. I'm sure there are lots of other effective ideas out there among those of you reading this article – please don't be bashful! Write an article for the Forum and share you views and experience. It will make all of our programs stronger.



Crew 27 at the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village in Detroit, MI



Water Hazards at the 2013 National Scout Jamboree

# **The Northeast Region Venturing Leadership Conference 2016**

**By Bilal**

When we're caught up in our day to day local Crew activities, it's easy to forget we're part of a worldwide network that knows no boundaries. I was reminded of that fact during this weekend's Northeast Region Venturing Leadership Conference (NERVE LC). The main reason I ended up attending the Conference was that I was interested in what was happening at higher levels in Venturing. It was also an important milestone on my trail to Summit! The NERVE LC is an annual meeting for Venturing Crew officers, from Virginia up to Maine, during which goals are set for the upcoming year, new regional officers are chosen, and connections are made.

After the taxing 5-and-a-half-hour drive, I arrived at Camp Turrell in Cuddlebackville, New York. I signed in, then attended a brief introductory meeting. At the intro I heard from National Venturing President: Pratik Vaidya, National Venturing VP: Michelle Merrit, and NER Order of the Arrow Chief: Chris Boyle. I wondered what the OA Chief was doing at the NERVE LC. We don't have OA in Venturing. Why? Venturing is Coed, OA isn't. After the meeting, we drove to the cabins to retire for the night. I tried not to freeze to death. It was a close call.

On Saturday morning, I woke up, walked to the shower house, ran into a black vulture, took a shower, and walked back to the cabin. After breakfast, we began our journey of endless PowerPoints™. We opened up with Pratik, who spoke about ways to sell Venturing to those don't know about our program, as well as possible Council members. The main goals of the NERVE LC for the upcoming year are: 1) to address our national problem of declining Venturing membership and funding from the Council and 2) to improve communication throughout the 6 Areas of the Northeast region.



We then broke into adult and youth groups, during which we were briefed on officer positions and duties. We also took pictures for each Area, then a full youth group photo. Unfortunately, there were only two of us present from NER Area 6: myself and Ripley, a Venturer from Baltimore Area Council. For the majority of the high school Venturers facing finals during the upcoming week, this was not the best weekend for the conference if attendance was a key consideration. One Massachusetts Venturer was sweating her chemistry exam!

# **The Northeast Region Venturing Leadership Conference 2016**

**By Bilal**

In the afternoon, we listened to a presentation from West Point physics professor Dr. Led Klosky on “Leadership, Luck, and Liberty”. Dr. Klosky recounted his experiences from college onwards, his indecision in choosing the right career path, and the impact strong leaders had on his life and career. According to Dr. Klosky, leadership isn’t a talent anyone is born with, rather it is a skill that can be improved on with motivation, mentoring, guidance and dedication.

After the presentation, we divided into groups by Area and discussed Venturing events held by each Area. Ripley spoke about the success of NER Area-6 ‘Phenomenon 2016’, which I’m still kicking myself for missing.



Later that evening, we had a scavenger hunt. We were tasked with collecting everything from shampoo to words of wisdom from a guy named Bob. Our head cook, Jim Bob, was only too happy to grace us with his words: “people eat with their eyes” (interpret that how you will). Amazingly, the last thing we needed to complete our hunt was a cloth Explorer uniform, which just so happened to be worn by Yours Truly! Yup, I was the only Venturer there uniformed in a 1960s Explorer Shirt! (Our Crew wears the old uniforms because the BSA went Coed for

Explorers – who subsequently became Venturers, in about 1969 – so we wear the old uniforms to commemorate the event! After skipping a few rocks at the camp pond (and showing some of my fellow Venturers who missed the technique during their childhood how to do it) I played a game of BS and then retired for the second night, which was, thankfully, much warmer than the previous evening. (After I got home and raised the issue of being cold in my sleeping bag the first night, one of my Advisors inquired if I had socks on – when I said I did, he explained that this is why I was cold, because the socks hold the sweat close to the feet instead of allowing it to get vented from the bag. I won’t be wearing socks in my sleeping bag again!)

For the duration of the conference, I was constantly learning new things, seeing new sights, and most importantly, making new friends, from my roommate Nick from the New York countryside to National VP Michelle Merrit from western Massachusetts.

# The Northeast Region Venturing Leadership Conference 2016

By Bilal

On the Sunday morning, the 12<sup>th</sup> of June, we gathered in the dining hall for breakfast. There was an interfaith service beforehand, but since I was the last guy in the shower and had to get to the dining hall on foot, I missed it. We were dismissed with a message from NER chair Brenna Leary to strive to accomplish our goal set for the upcoming year. It occurred to me that the thrust of the conference was a tad wrong-headed. They spent all our time on how to communicate about Venturing – that isn't the problem. My Crew has 57 members. It is the largest Crew in the 4<sup>th</sup> largest Council in the BSA. Why? It isn't based on our ability to communicate about Venturing! The answer is simple – we have superb program and lots of it. That is why people flock to us in droves. Other Crews have a little program, we have tons and it is diverse so there is something for everyone. If they want to fix Venturing membership, they need to teach Crews to focus on program. Once you have program, then you have something to market, up until then, all you have is presentation skills and that does not get you members.



## Bilal

Bilal is in his second year as a Venturer and serves as VP-Admin, the #2 Venturer, in NCAC/082 Crew 27. A graduate of NYLT, Bilal oversees all of the Crew Officers except the President, VP-Program, Quartermaster and Activity Chairs. A rising senior at the Landon School in Bethesda, MD – Bilal is a top student. Bilal plans to study as a Pre-Med in college and would like to be a physician. Bilal holds the Discovery Award and is on track for Pathfinder by the end of this summer. Bilal plans to achieve Summit early in 2017.

## A Venturer Reports: Scout Day at Medical School

By Angelo

A day for Scouts at Medical School. The thought was intriguing. To my knowledge, and that of the other Venturers in our Crew, this had never happened before. Our local Medical School - The Uniformed Services University (USU) of the Health Sciences, F. Eduard Heber School of Medicine had invited members of the Senior Divisions to an afternoon on campus, the day was Sunday the 1st of Mat 2016!

Coming directly from the Northeast Region Phenomenon 2016 campout, I honestly was not mentally prepared for medical day at the Uniformed Services University, we had spent the morning packing camp in the rain and driving to Pete's home to freshen up. When we got to the Medical School at Noon, members of Crew 27 and some friends helped organize scouts and parents into the event. So many different kinds of Senior Division Scouts. From the Girl Scouts we had Seniors (9th and 10th graders) and Ambassadors (11th and 12th graders). From the Boy Scouts we had Venturers and Explorers. Sea Scouts were invited but none came. As it was we had about 85 participants, plus parents. Once everyone was inside we were given snacks and souvenirs and sat in a theater style classroom.



6 Medical Student Officers enpanelled tell Scouts about Medical School at USU

are students at USU are on active military duty and draw full pay and allowances while in medical school. They do not pay tuition to attend. Their salary as students is just under \$60,000/year. That is an amazing deal! Graduates must serve for seven years on active duty after graduation and postgraduate medical education (internship and residency) does not count against fulfilling the commitment. By the time these officers can depart military service, they will have served at least twelve years on active duty and most likely fifteen. Following their brief introduction, we had an open forum where scouts asked and students answered. We learned about every thing from the hardest parts of basic military training for officers to the challenges in the classroom. Each student indicated that attending USU was definitely worthwhile.

The program got started with a briefing and introduction to what the USU was all about. We learned about the admission process and how students with no prior military backgrounds were admitted. After the opening talk, the audience was introduced to six different students at USU, they told us their age, and how they got into USU, their scouting background and any other details. Students at USU are all commissioned officers in the military forces of the United States of America. They are either Second Lieutenants in the Army or the Air Force, or Ensigns in the Navy. There are a few United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Officers. The Public Health Service purchases two to six medical school positions each year from the Department of Defense to educate their physicians. Officers who



Senior Scouts and Parents in the lecture hall at USU

## **A Venturer Reports: Scout Day at Medical School**

**By Angelo**

After the questions, we had a short break in which the medical students corralled us in the lobby and we took tours of the USU. We were able to visit the student lounge, the library (which had cool double-decker desks for maximum floor space efficiency and aesthetics), and we visited the lab floor where our medical student showed us the jars of human brains that they were studying and dissecting in neuroanatomy. All in all, the tour was pretty impressive as the campus was well kept and very well organized.

When the tour finished, we returned to the forum and participated in a forum led by the admission's committee representatives. We learned what made a good application to medical school and what sorts of courses and experiences medical school applicants should engage in to be credible applicants. One of our Associate Advisors is applying to USU for next year and he indicated that the information being passed along was very high quality not available to most people!

After the Admissions Committee finished (Mrs. Joan Stearman and LtCol' Aaron Saguil), we had a superb lecture on the history of military medicine in the United States from Lieutenant General Eric Schoomaker, USA (Ret). General Schoomaker is a physician who served as the 42nd Surgeon General of the United States Army until he retired in 2012. He currently serves as the Professor and Vice Chairman for Leadership, Centers and Programs at the USU. The lecture was exciting and dynamic! General Schoomaker talked about the first effective use of a vaccination against Smallpox in the Revolutionary War among Continental Soldiers. He covered the story of US Army Surgeon William Beaumont caring for Alexis St. Martin in Michigan at Fort Michelimackinac. Mr. St. Martin had suffered a shotgun wound to the stomach and through the open fistula, Dr. Beaumont was able to observe the process of digestion in the human stomach and write the first text on gastroenterology. General Schoomaker went on to cover the Army's use of Air Evacuation of the wounded during Korea and Vietnam and how that set a standard for trauma care in the United States. Apparently many of the medical miracles we take for granted today originated among our military forces. He intrigued the audience with the details behind Walter Reed and other pioneers of medicine. The day really inspired me to look into the field of medicine. After he finished his speech, we had another short open forum for questions. General Schoomaker is a gifted lecturer! He was really good at making us laugh while we learned.



LtCol Aaron Saguil, US Army - talks tot he Senior Division Scouts at the USU Scout Day

Overall, medical day was a huge success, with over 80 attendees and excellent volunteers, it was a great opportunity for anyone considering a medical degree.

### Angelo

Our author is a new Venturer in Crew 27 of the NCAC. He likes Venturing so much that he recruited his sister! Angelo is looking forward to Maryland Boy's State, 2 weeks of summer camp at Goshen Scout Reservation's Camp Bowman, NYLT and the Crew 27 summer adventure trip for 2016!

# Northeastern Pennsylvania Council Venturing Officers Association Presents Insomniacs Revenge 2016!

Coming this fall to camp near you is this year's Insomniacs Revenge! It is hosted by the NEPA Council Venturing Officers Association. This event is open to Ventures and Boy Scouts ages 14 and up.

The theme for this year's event is Scout Wars. It will be held at Goose Pond Scout Reservation on September 16<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>.

The activities and program start on Friday night, and does not stop until Sunday morning, so that means there are over 72 hours of nonstop program for everyone to enjoy. Here are just SOME of the activities throughout the night:



Make Boba Fett's Helmet  
Make a storm Trooper Helmet  
Scout Wars Concert  
Make your own Light Saber  
Robotics  
Crew based POD Races  
Make the Dessert Star  
And MUCH MUCH More

It would be a shame to miss out! We also have some awesome big events:

## Other Important Information

Sleep is optional at the Venturing Insomniacs Revenge as this event is famous for its unique all night programming. Scouts arrive at camp on Friday evening and jump headfirst into an intense, high- adventure program spanning 72 hours straight to Sunday morning. With all that said, we just have one question: are you ready?

The Insomniacs Revenge is open to both Crews AND Troops. Provisional participants are welcome as well. Some basic information about the event and event registration can be found below. Be sure to download our registration forms, fill them out, and send them in to our council office with payment at 72 Montage Mountain Road, Moosic, PA 18507. You can also download our event save the date flyer and leaders' guide for more information:

**What:** 2016 Insomniacs Revenge  
Scout Wars Insomniacs Revenge of the Crew  
**Who:** Any registered Venturer or Boy Scout over age 14  
**When:** September 16- 18, 2016  
**Where:** Goose Pond Scout Reservation  
1047 Goose Pond Road  
Lake Ariel, PA

Directions to camp can be found in our leaders' guide  
How much does it cost?

Registration is \$40 per person  
After September 3rd —\$45.  
After September 10th —\$50.

**SIGN UP TODAY!**

You can contact us at [venturing@nepabsa.org](mailto:venturing@nepabsa.org).

Thanks and we hope to see you and your crew at the 2016 Venturing Insomniacs Revenge!

# **LAUREL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL POWDERHORN JULY 29-31 2016 HERITAGE RESERVATION**

**Powder Horn is a course designed to introduce Venturing and Boy Scout leaders and Venturing youth to exciting program activities and resources necessary to operate a successful outdoor adventure program.**

**This course is designed for any youth 14 years old (or 13 and completed the eighth grade) if registered in a Venturing Crew or Boy Scout Troop or any adult registered in the Boy Scouts of America.**

## **Learning Objectives**

**After completing this course participants should have sufficient introductory information, which will provide the following:**

- 1. Knowledge of how to identify local resources and consultants for high adventure activities.**
- 2. Knowledge of the health and safety requirements, and rules and regulations of the Boy Scouts of America as they apply to outdoor programs**
- 3. Introduction to the skills necessary to operate an outdoor program, the certifications necessary and how to obtain those certifications.**

## **Course Size**

**The course is limited to 48 participants. Once the course is filled, participants will be given the option of being placed on a waiting list, in case of cancellations**

**Cost for this course is \$200 for more information or to register click the link below.**

**<http://tinyurl.com/LHCPowderhorn>**



# THE TELEGRAPH

## THE TELEGRAPH

A Newsletter published by  
the Northeast Region Sea  
Scout Committee.  
Boy Scouts of America.

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Sea Scouts, we'd like to hear  
from you. Send us news of  
events or story ideas to the  
editor at [deidre57@verizon.net](mailto:deidre57@verizon.net)



Hello,

We are pleased to announce that the Spring 2016 Volume 20, Issue 2, edition of THE TELEGRAPH "The Voice of Sea Scouts in the Northeast Region" has been posted on our Northeast Region Sea Scout Website at <http://www.nerseascout.org/> for your review, distribution, and reading pleasure.

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

This issue includes:

**The 2016 Regional Bridge of Honor and Sea Scout Ball – Better Prepared** by Deidre Buchner, RBOH Committee Chair

**Legendary Skipper Doug Yeckley Retires** by Regional Commodore Noel E. Guzman

**Breaking Advancement News** by David Tarantino, Regional Boatswain's Mate

**Ship 100 "SSS Viking" Honored as 2016 National Flagship**

**Mark Your Calendar – Seabadge 28 CT 2016** to be held at Mystic Seaport

**On the Horizon – 2016 Koch Cup** in Long Beach, CA

Check out the issue!

Would love your feedback.

Thank you.

Deidre Buchner  
Editor, The Telegraph



# SEABADGE (SB-28-CT-2016)



Dates: November 18<sup>th</sup> , 2016 thru November 20<sup>th</sup> 2016

Cost: \$175.00 / Participants

Course Director: Marshall Parsons, [twinpars@earthlink.net](mailto:twinpars@earthlink.net) C860.938.7681

Application and Information: <http://nerseascout.org>

- ★ Meet with other Sea Scouts around the Nation
- ★ This course is the newest and revised for 2016
- ★ Learn from over 100+ Years of Sea Scouting Knowledge from our Instructors
- ★ Participate in activities that will build on your seamanship skills
- ★ Team Building Activities
- ★ Explore the Seaport and learn about "living" maritime history
- ★ Right in Picturesque Mystic CT
- ★ Make new Scouting Friends

### Easy Location for Travel

- ★ Nearby Groton Airport GON Served by Regional Airlines
- ★ TF Green Airport in Providence about 40 Min Away
- ★ Amtrak in Mystic CT
- ★ Bus Service and Train Service to nearby New London CT





## September 16–18, 2016 LEGACY 4.0

### What did you do last weekend?

Did it involve a kayaking, canoeing, or paddle boarding down a river? How about hitting a perfect target with a rifle or bow? Did you enjoy a scavenger hunt around camp? Or maybe you got to relax in a hammock in the outdoors? Did you do all this last weekend while hanging out with 1000 of your closest friends?

If you didn't do all that (or even if you did!), you should check out Legacy 4.0. Legacy 4.0 is the perfect place for you to get all you can out of the outdoors while being around those with the same interests as you. You can be the one who kayaked, canoed, or paddle boarded. The one who got the perfect score in the range and made a ton of new friends around camp. All that and so much more available to you at Legacy 4.0, at Camp Grimes, September 16-18, 2016. Oh, and you're gonna need a sharpie.

Make plans to join us at Legacy 4.0! All Venturers, Explorers and Sea Scouts are invited. For more, visit [sr5venturing.org](http://sr5venturing.org). Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/sr5venturing](https://www.facebook.com/sr5venturing)



# Bugles Across America and Venturing Crew 561

Larry Ballenger of Bugles Across America and Venturing Crew 561 Bugling MB Counselor playing ECHO TAPS with Julianne Rose of Venturing Crew 561(not shown) for the dedication of the Vietnam Memorial May 28, 2016 at the Arcadia County Park in Arcadia CA.



Bugles Across America is a volunteer group of musicians (buglers) who give their time providing TAPS mostly for military funerals. The BAA was started in 2004 by Marine Tom Day and is a national organization of buglers all across the United States To show respect for those Veterans with a LIVE Bugler for those who died. Larry Ballenger and I are part of a Southern California group that helps out.

I don't play as much for the funerals as Larry Ballenger does ,but try to help at Flag disposals if time allows since I am now mostly in AZ. Larry Ballenger is a retired Presbyterian Pastor who has volunteered for many funerals, sometimes 2-3 a day at different locations in and around Los Angeles, participates in several local police bands and is helping me as my Bugling MB counselor for Venturing Crew 561 Bugling is Alive!

Mark G. Riebs  
Venturing Crew 561

Larry Ballenger  
(Bugles Across America  
and Venturing Crew 561  
Bugling MB Counselor with  
Julianne Rose, Venturing  
Crew 561 Honor Corps,  
Rose Bowl District,  
Greater Los Angeles Area  
Council) May 28, 2016  
Vietnam Memorial  
dedication Arcadia County  
Park Arcadia,CA



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# Meet the 2016-2017 WR Boatswain

We are pleased to announce that Joey Kasper has been selected as the 2016-2017 Western Region Boatswain. Joey is a member of the Sea Scout Ship *Heatwave* in Lake Havasu City, Arizona. Joey is an Able Sea Scout and striving to complete her Quartermaster. Her goals as the new WR Boatswain includes expanding Sea Scouts, BSA, by increasing membership and creating more Sea Scout Ships. Joey will also serve as a Western Region Executive Board member during her term of office.

Joey's life outside of Scouting includes membership in the National Honor Society, Key Club, and Future Business Leaders of America. Joey enjoys golfing, and even played on her high school Varsity gold team for two years. She enjoys playing violin, helping others, and getting on the water any chance she can get.

The Sea Scouts of the *Heatwave* elected Joey their Boatswain in 2015. The *Heatwave* went on to be named part of the National Flagship Fleet for their accomplishments while Joey was the ship boatswain. Joey was also a member of the *Heatwave* when they were first named to the Flagship Fleet in 2014.

Joey also served as the *Heatwave's* Boatswain's Mate of Program and was recognized by the Las Vegas Area Council with the Venturing Leadership Award for her accomplishments in this role. She completed S.E.A.L. in Newport Beach, plus National Safe Boating Council Basic Close Quarter Boat Handling; Trainer's EDGE; NASBLA Boating Safety; Sea Scout Marksmanship Training; and National Youth Leadership Training. Joey also has been trained in First Aid, CPR, Wilderness First Aid trained, and became a certified scuba diver. Joey also finished NSBC Open Water Boat Handling in January.

Joey aspires to attend the United States Coast Guard Academy. She credits this goal to having sailed on the USCGC *Eagle* last summer and attending Safety at Sea San Diego in 2014 (she also participated in 2016).

Our goal is for Joey to visit one Sea Scout Ship a quarter for a cruise or sail. If you would like to host Joey onboard your Ship this summer, fall, winter, or spring, please contact me. We also are looking for air miles to help cover travel.

Please join us in saying "Welcome Aboard," to Joey. You can follow her adventures on Instagram at [@WRBoatswain](https://www.instagram.com/WRBoatswain).



Joey in New York City on her sail onboard *Eagle* in the summer of 2015.

# Meet the 2016-2017 Boatswain's Mates and Yeoman

## Ethan, WR Boatswain's Mate (WR Area 2)

Ethan is an Ordinary Sea Scout from Ship 30 in Western Colorado Council. He been involved in Scouting for almost my entire life. Ethan reached the rank of Eagle Scout when he was 16 and earned 5 palms after that. He have also earned the Ranger Award in Venturing, the National Medal for Outdoor Achievement, and is on his way to summit award as well. Ethan was awarded the Venturing Leadership Award for starting Ship 30 while staffing at summer camp. He have been through NYLT twice, attended 2013 Jamboree at the Summit, and was at the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary NOAC for Order of the Arrow.



Outside of Scouts Ethan is a member of the track and field team for his university. Ethan enjoys doing all the activities beautiful Colorado has to offer like mountain biking, rock climbing, hiking, and snowboarding. He also love vacationing on Lake Powell in Utah.

Ethan is trained in First Aid/CPR/AED, and was an instructor for Wilderness and Remote First Aid as well as Emergency Medical

Response.

Ethan is very excited for the opportunity to serve as a WR Boatswain's Mate and hopes to see the Western Region grow and excel in all areas.

## Tessa, WR Boatswain's Mate (WR Area 6)

Tessa is a member of the *Sea Scout Ship Decisive* on the island of Kauai in Hawaii. She is an Able Sea Scout working toward Quartermaster.

Tessa views Sea Scouts, BSA, as one great big adventure. As the 2016-2017 Western Region Boatswain's Mate for Area 6, she plans to promote Sea Scouts by writing blogs, newspaper articles, posting photos, and creating videos sharing the adventures, good times, and learning experiences that she has in Sea Scouts with the rest of the world.

Tessa is on her high School Cross Country, Swim, and Track teams. In Tessa's spare time she may be found kayaking one of Kauai's navigable river's or the Napali Coast, hiking, diving, running 5K & 10K races with her family, bee keeping, or volunteering at the Animal Shelter.

Tessa served as *Sea Scout Ship Decisive's* Boatswain's Mate for Program in 2013, the Ship's Administrative Boatswain's Mate in 2014, the Boatswain for the *Sea Scout Ship Decisive* 2014-2015, and is currently the Aloha Council Boatswain 2015-2016. As the Aloha Council Boatswain, Tessa played an active role as one of the organizers and founders of the first Regatta on Kauai: Hawaii Youth Maritime Regatta 4/9-10/2016.

# Meet the 2016-2017 Boatswain's Mates and Yeoman

Tessa received the BSA Medal of Merit in 2015 for her meritorious action in rescuing 3 boaters off the coast of Molokai on Summer Cruise 2014. She is an ILSS graduate as well as a CG Auxiliary "Boating Safety" and "Weekend Navigator" course graduate. She is a BSA Lifeguard, SCUBA Certified, and has completed the BSA Mile Swim. Tessa has her Small Boat Handler Bar and Long Cruise Badge with 3 red arcs.

Tessa has been selected to sail on the USCGC Eagle this August and she is very excited for this adventure. Tessa feels a great deal of gratitude for all that being a Sea Scout has given her and as the Western Region Boatswain's Mate, she aims to give something back to Sea Scouts and to make it to grow.



Garrett, Yeoman

Garrett is an Apprentice from the *Sea Scout Ship Intrepid*, Ship 51, part of the Pacific Skyline Council. It's hard for him to remember a time before scouts. Since joining Sea Scouts, he has shown leadership through taking on new recruits on board his ship. Not only that, but he has also shown skills outside of scouts in areas such as astrophysics for which he won an academic award at Henry M. Gunn High School. In the previous year, Garrett showed that he was exceptional with social media when he took up the position of the Western Region Yeoman for the first time. Garrett decided to run again to build upon what he learned during his first term.



Garrett is a very artistic person and had created an assortment of projects of different genres, ranging from music, to writing stories, to digital concept art. His most recent project he completed was a composition of musical themes for piano for the story. Being an adventurous person, he tends to enjoy long hikes and traveling from place to place, which has heavily influences his stories as he takes from his experience as a Sea Scout and place those experiences into the story and characters.

With a new year comes new opportunities. Garrett is excited to help grow Sea Scouts, BSA in as many ways as he can, and expects that this is going to be a great year.

# The Value of Training Weekends

So often we stumble upon what later turns out to be a pretty good idea. Thus was the case with the “Training Weekend” concept.

Some years back our boat needed engine work and we couldn’t take it cruising, but we still needed to do some sort of activity.

Our crew decided they would spend the weekend aboard our boat, but not leave the dock. Instead, they would take the Coast Guard Auxiliary Safe Boating Class, and when that was done they would practice driving our small boats in the harbor.

It was Saturday in class and Sunday on the water. “Small Boat Handler Weekend” was born.



Small Boat Handling

Right away we noticed some real benefits:

- It was still fun to stay aboard the boat, even if we didn’t go anywhere
- No one was late because we were already there!
- Rank advancement requirements were a lot easier when we did them as a group
- We were able to get many sign offs at once, making rank advancement much easier
- Spending the entire weekend ensured that we truly learned the material presented
- There is no better place to learn about boating than on a boat, surrounded by boats.

The result of Small Boat Handler Weekend was that we all earned our “Small Boat Handler” bar and we all completed the Coast Guard Auxiliary Safe Boating Class. (Ordinary requirement #14) With just a little bit of additional training during the weekend we were able to meet the requirements for Ordinary #7, “Boat Handling” and #8, “Anchoring”. Those were some big steps towards earning Ordinary!

This was such a success, we’ve made it an annual event and have since staged many different training weekends. Some of our training weekends have been:

Rank Advancement Weekend (RAW)

- We split into groups and work on those tough to get rank sign offs

Navigation Weekend

- We take the “Weekend Navigator” course through our local Coast Guard Auxiliary and even learned some celestial navigation. We also got sign-offs for rank advancement!



Introduction to Leadership Skills for Ships (ILSS)  
“Helium Stick”

# The Value of Training Weekends

## Petty Officer Academy

- Quarterdeck training using the “Introduction to Leadership Skills for Ships” course and other leadership and position specific training

## First Aid Training Weekend

- We learned the Red Cross First Aid and CPR course, got certified, and met the requirements for advancement to Able. (#5, “Safety” F, G, and H)

## Rank Advancement Weekend (RAW)

So, there are really no limits to what you can do with a weekend that you’ve dedicated to training. You can have your own training weekend and focus on whatever your ship needs to work on.

Here are a few tips:

- Plan ahead on who needs what rank sign-offs and tailor your content and instruction to meet those requirements.
- Remember to mix classroom with practical, hands-on stuff.
- Partner with local organizations that can help you provide the training. They will often do it at a discount for Scouts.



Navigation Weekend chart work



First Aid Training Weekend

We do our training weekends on our boat, but you can do them anywhere that works for your ship: a sea base, Coast Guard station, yacht club, even a campout.

And that’s it! Training Weekends are fun, educational, and help you meet your training goals. Try a Training Weekend for your ship’s program. You’ll be glad you did.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Larry Richardson  
Skipper, SSS Decisive  
Western Region Programming Task Force

# Washing Cars to Travel Far

Aloha from the Sea Scouts of Hawaii!

Spring is here and that means regatta season. Sea Scouts everywhere are hard at work practicing their regatta skills and preparing to compete. It all culminates over Memorial Day Weekend at the Ancient Mariner Regatta in the San Francisco Bay Area.



SSS Decisive crew at the Ancient Mariner Regatta, 2015

Sea Scouts in Hawaii have an added challenge: We have to travel a long way to get there.

Airfare to and from Hawaii can be a bit pricey, so we have to do some serious fundraising. Over the years, we've figured out how washing cars can make travel affordable for all of our Scouts.

Here is some of what we've learned:

- Know and abide by your Council (and Charter Organization) policy for fundraising.

- Check this link: <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34427.pdf>

- Plan a few different dates/places for your car wash

We try to schedule 3 car washes on different dates at different places throughout our community.

- Pre sell tickets

We print tickets with the dates and locations on them. This way we can

sell the tickets before the car wash even starts! The different dates/places make them more appealing to buyers because there are several opportunities to redeem them. Best of all, pre-sales are lucrative. We sell them for \$10 each with Scouts keeping 100% of the money from their own ticket sales. If a Scout sells just 20 tickets, that's \$200 toward airfare!

- Drive ups

People will see you waving signs and pull in to get their car washed. These "drive-ups" are in addition to the tickets you've already sold, and they add up! In a 6 hour day we can expect to bring in anywhere from \$500 to \$700. We divide these funds evenly. they add up! In a 6 hour day we can expect to bring in anywhere from \$500 to \$700. We divide these funds evenly.



Car Wash

# Washing Cars to Travel Far



The cars keep coming

Remember, this is not “free money”. Washing cars is fast paced and labor intensive. (If you’re lucky) you’ll be washing lots of them.

Here are some operational tips to make your car wash go smoother:

- Assign each person a supply to bring, Buckets, hoses, soap, wash rags, towels. Have each person bring one or two items so that everyone can do their share and you’ll have everything you need.
- Assign everyone to bring a food/drink item.

Car washing is hard work. You’ll want to stay hydrated and keep your energy up. An ice cold water and a slice of pizza can be a lifesaver during a busy day!

- Pop-up tent, table, folding chairs.
- You’ll need a base of operations to get out of the sun, sit down and rest for a minute. (And a minute might be all you have!) Consider this equipment to be mission critical.
- Car Washing 101

Scouts can benefit from a quick “how to” before things get started. (A savvy Skipper will use his/her own vehicle so the scouts can practice their technique!) Seriously, some Scouts might have never washed a car, so take a minute and train them.

And there you have it.

That’s how the Hawaii Sea Scouts are able to travel to California each year for the Ancient Mariner Regatta, and if it works for us, it can work for you too.

Some quick math:

20 Pre car wash ticket sales= \$200,  
+Scouts share of “drive-ups” from 3 car washes= \$180

Total funds raised= \$380

Round trip airfare= \$500

\$500 airfare – \$380 funds raised = \$120 out of pocket expense.

This is just an example, but as you can see, washing cars can make traveling affordable! In our experience this fundraiser is truly effective and it really only has one down side: You’re going to be washing cars. Lots of cars!



Shade, water, and a moment to rest

## 2016 Regional Explorer Conference

Date: July 10 - 15, 2016

Location: Western State Colorado University

2016 Conference Registration will be **OPEN SOON!**

2016 Conference Guide: **COMING SOON!**

2016 Conference Schedule: **COMING SOON!**

LEEPAAC has begun planning the 2016 Regional Law Enforcement Explorer Conference and planning will continue through the Spring of 2016.

LEEPAAC member agencies have agreed to take over the following committees:

- Ceremonies Coordinator - Denver PD
- Competitions/Dispatch - Lakewood PD
- Cop Shop -
- Entertainment Coordinator - Adams County SO
- Individual Competition Coordinator -
- Registration - Arapahoe County SO
- Safety Coordinator - Larimer County SO
- Medical Staff -
- Conference Video -

LEEPAAC is currently seeking agencies or groups of qualified individuals to organize and oversee several team and individual competition events.

Please attend regular monthly LEEPAAC meetings to participate in the planning, or to volunteer for a committee position or a competition event. If you are unable to attend a meeting but would like to help, please contact any LEEPAAC board member.

### What is new in 2016:

#### **Required Documents from Learning For Life:**

- [Learning For Life Medical Release](#) (everyone)
- [Learning For Life Tour & Activity Permit](#) (one per post)

We are bringing back the In-Service Training again - Hosted By: Colorado Springs PD

#### **Individual Competitions Sign-Up:**

- Will be held on Monday July 11, 2016 from 1300-2300, with an hour break (1800-1900) for dinner.
- You will NOT be dispatched to them this year.
- You will register for the events you want to participate in, EXCEPT Obstacle Course, which is a walk-up event.
- Sign-Up will be held SUNDAY evening, right after the opening ceremonies have concluded.
- You will select a time and will need to arrive 20-mins prior to your scheduled time.
- Your choices this year are:
  - \* Crisis Intervention - Hosted By: El Paso County SO
  - \* Pedestrian Stop - Hosted By: Douglas County SO
  - \* Obstacle Course - Hosted By: Jefferson County SO



# Websites

## National Exploring

<http://www.learningforlife.org/news-events/news-exploring/>

## 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 Venturing

<http://wrventuring.org/>

## USA Scouting Service-Venturing

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

## UniformingFAQ.asp

## Venturing Magazine

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

## Yahoo Groups

### Central Region

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

### Northeast Region

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

### Southern Region

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

### Western Region

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

### National

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



# 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**

## TO SUBSCRIBE to the FORUM:

Email Bob the BEAR at

[rmonto47@gmail.com](mailto:rmonto47@gmail.com)

Use the email account you want to receive the FORUM and give Full name and Council to place you in the right email list.