

The FORUM

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

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Central Point newsletter 1017

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New Sea Scout Uniform

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The Current FORUM Newsletter:

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

The FORUM Back Issues

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

Large Crews

http://minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/documents/FORUM-Crew_27-Large_Crews_articles.pdf

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

The FORUM Attachments Central Region

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/regions/CR-1117.zip>

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The FORUM Attachments National

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/regions/NAT-1117.zip>

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Commissioner_Tools_Troubleshooting Guide

Commissioner-Service-to-Exploring-FAQs

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Sea Scout Boatswain Nomination Form

Sea Scout Eligibility for Venturing Awards and Information On other Awards

Sea Scout Liability Insurance for Watercraft

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Sea Scout Strategic Plan-SMART

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The Central Point



Newsletter of the Central Region | Boy Scouts of America

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

Also included in FORUM attachments

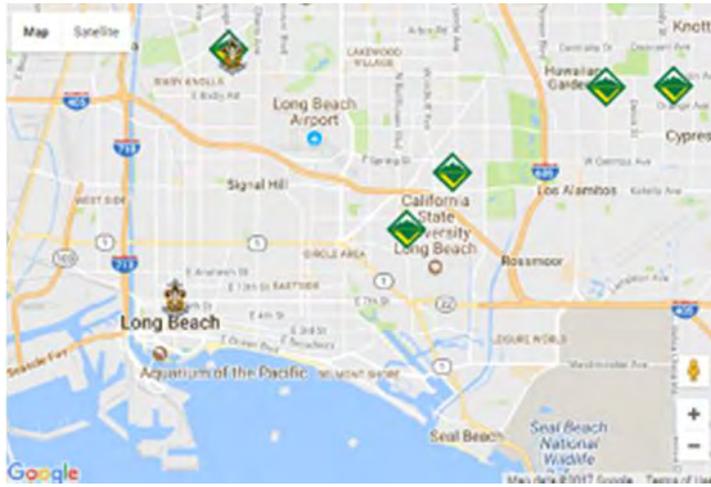
Articles this month include:

Fun Fall Activities
Area 7 Extravaganza
Fall Fun Rally Recap
Area 1 Spotlight
CSVE Forms
Speaking Venturing
CR Area Highlights
Upcoming Activities
Advisor's Minute
President's Corner



Update your Unit's BeAScout Pin

By Sea Scouts, BSA



BeAScout.org is the application that puts your unit on the map! Prospective Scouts and their families can visit **BeAScout.org** to find a Scouting program in their neighborhood. If your unit's pin is up to date they'll find you!

- Raise your unit's profile in the community. Recruit more youth and volunteers and help grow Scouting. Customize your 'pin' with contact information, name of your ship, a photo, special message, and your unit's website. *It's important to make sure your unit's pin is updated, especially before fall recruitment is in full swing.*

Its live here- <https://seascout.org/news/update-units-beascout-pin/>



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[NEW CENTURY UNIVERSAL UNIFORM]



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Northeast Region Venturing President



Amy Clark
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Fall Quarterly Report

1. To continue my course through the Nature of Leadership series by completing Kodiak.
2. To assist councils and areas in the formation of Venturing Officers Associations, or other Venturer (youth) led leadership structures appropriate to each area or council.
3. Meet with the youth officers and advisors of each of the Northeast Region's seven areas.
4. Plan and conduct area officers training for the region.
5. Provide ongoing support to the Area Venturing Presidents, and to Council Venturing Presidents as requested.
6. Serve as a central point of contact for Venturing, providing resources and information to council, area, and regional Venturers, Advisors, Scouters, and BSA Professionals.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Completed Kodiak during my crew's summer trip to the Grand Canyon.
2. Planned and conducted the first annual area officers training in the Northeast Region.
3. Spoke about Venturing programs and opportunities available to youth at Baltimore Area Council's 2009 Powder Horn course.
4. Two more Northeast Region areas formed a Venturing Officers Association.

EVENTS ATTENDED

- May 15 Attended Baltimore Area Council's Powder Horn course
- May 20-23 Attended the National BSA Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida
- June 26 - July 5 Traveled to the Grand Canyon where I completed Kodiak
- July 8-12 Attended the National Venturing Cabinet Orientation in Dallas, Texas
- August 15 Attended Minsi Trails Council Cardboard Boat Regatta in Pocono Summit, Pennsylvania
- October 10 Conducted the first annual Northeast Region Venturing Leadership Conference in Jamesburg, New Jersey
- October 15-17 Attended Bridge Day and the 2013 National Jamboree site in Fayetteville, West Virginia

2 Venturer's Report: Whitewater rafting with Crew 27 on the Potomac

By Mel & Zoe

On September 30, 2017, Venturing Crew 27 went to eastern West Virginia for a white water rafting day trip. The trip had been planned since our Annual planning session in March and the Activity chairs leading were Mya and Johana. Johana couldn't make it but Mya handled things with aplomb!

The trip started at 11 AM when we met at Twinbrook Baptist Church to drive to the outfitter. While gathered around the cars we did jumping jacks to keep warm because it was FREEZING!!! OK, not freezing, but the last few days were in the 80s – and our trip day was forecast to stay in the 60s as a cold front had been through the area the night before. One sleepy hour later we arrived at our destination with three hours to spare. Upon arriving we discovered that the outfitters only provide lunch between Memorial Day and Labor day. They directed us across the street to a café capable of meeting our lunch needs. The café it turned out to be more of a 7/11 type deal. Everybody who hadn't brought food got a snack and we ate in the parking lot of the café. Once we were done eating, we drove back over to the outfitter's where we relaxed in the parking lot or the on the porch.



Mel (Author), Ty, Courtney & Amy (Crew President) in the outfitter's parking lot



Sophie, Zoe (Author), Keegan, Mya & Amalia on the outfitter's porch

Eventually the river guides got us fitted in our life jackets, helmets and paddles. Then we headed to the bus for a 15 min ride to the dock. We were on the bus with two other groups who also decided to raft that brisk day. One of our fellow guests began walking up and down the aisle pretending to be a river guide. He started repeating things the other guides had gone over like helmet straps being two fingers away from our neck and our vests being tight enough to only be able to breath for "half a second." His friends started laughing while the rest of us thought he was a tad odd. Eventually we all got into the spirit and the actual leading river guide started telling unending jokes and puns for the remainder of our ride - most of them concerning West Virginians. One of the jokes, when we drove past a cemetery: she gestured towards it and said, "There are some of our more satisfied customers."

2 Venturer's Report: Whitewater rafting with Crew 27 on the Potomac

By Mel & Zoe

After we arrived at the release point on the Potomac River, we had a safety discussion. All three groups were divided among 7 rafts. Crew 27 ended up split between two boats and we splashed into the water! Once all the boats got in the water, the guides gave us a basic tutorial of paddling including forward stroke, backwards stroke and how to turn the raft. The view of the river was full of boats turning in circles for a solid 10 minutes as everyone got loaded. Once that finished, we began our hydro-trek down the Potomac River.



**Back row left to right:
Sophie, Ty, (paddlers from another group), Keegan, and Amalia
Front Row left to right
: Pam, Mel(author), Amy, Zoe(author), Mya, Courtney, and Tom**

Given the shallow conditions of the Potomac River, the rafts got stuck on rocks often causing our river guides to climb in the water to shove us free. At one point about halfway through, while on a class III rapid, two of our Venturers tumbled out and became "swimmers". Soon after that as we went under a bridge, we were able to see Virginia mountains, Maryland mountains, and West Virginia mountains all in one place! Closer to the end of the hydro-trek, we could also see Harpers Ferry, WV, a landmark and tourist attraction in WV known for being picturesque. We finished off the trip with two class III rapids - white horse and mad dog which we renamed sad dog due to the tameness of the water. Once we finished our icy water-trip, we got to walk past a waterfall on our way back to the bus. Too bad we couldn't take any pictures because we did not bring our cell phones with us on the river. So we don't tax your imagination too much, we've inserted a photo of the rafting from a group who actually brought a waterproof camera!

2 Venturer's Report: Whitewater rafting with Crew 27 on the Potomac By Mel & Zoe

After getting back and changing, we headed to a Dunkin Donuts to do our thorns, buds, and roses which Crew 27 does after each activity in order to look back on the trip and learn from it for the future. A main thorn was that we were all cold because we lacked the proper clothing due to not reviewing the weather. For a bud, we are looking forward to expanding this trip during a nicer time of year, adding a hike, and a trip to Harpers Ferry. Of course, for a rose, we all had an amazing time! We each had a wonderful donut (some more than others) and finally drove to the church to get back to our warm homes. Another very successful Crew 27 outing!



Harpers Ferry, WV where the Potomac River meets the Shenandoah River surrounded by three states, site of the largest Union defeat (1862) in the Civil War - just before Antietam



not Crew 27 taking a class 3 rapid on the mighty Potomac River

About The Authors

Zoe is a Junior at Stone Ridge School in Bethesda, MD. She is a fencer who competes nationally. She loves her Venturing and has her Discovery Award. She and Mel had a great time at the 2017 National Jamboree in Crew 5107. They are both on the staff of the up coming 2017 NCAC/082 Council Venturing Camporee from 3 to 5 Nov. Mel is a Junior at Walter Johnson HS and is Crew 27's VP for Program. Mel holds both Discovery and Outdoor Bronze, she is a graduate of NYLT and Summit NAYLE. She served as Crew 27's President for 2 weeks at the Goshen Venturing Summer Camp this year and attended the 2015 World Scout Jamboree in Japan. Crew 27 is the largest Crew in the NCAC/082, NE-6 and maybe in the NE Region with 73 members.

A Venturer Reports: American Legion Auxiliary-Maryland Girls State

By: Elisabeth, Venturing Crew 27 – Kensington, MD



Girls State is a summer program run by the American Legion Auxiliary that teaches rising high school seniors about government on a county, city and state level. “ALA Girls State is a unique and exciting government-in-action learning program in which American Legion Auxiliary members guide young women to become knowledgeable stewards of freedom, democracy and patriotic citizens” (American Legion Auxiliary). The ALA Girls State program was first presented in 1937, and has since then spread to every state in the nation. In order to take part in this program, girls are generally nominated by their high school (in my case, my Venturing crew) during their junior year. Once nominated, they are selected by an American Legion Auxiliary Unit working their area. This unit then becomes said girl’s sponsor throughout her time at Girls State. About 16,000 young women take part in this opportunity every year.

This past summer, I had the opportunity to attend Maryland Girls State, located at Salisbury University. I was sponsored by my Venturing Crew through American Legion Post 268. Upon my arrival, I met girls from all over the state of Maryland, and I’m ashamed to say, I had never heard of half of the counties. First, we were separated into cities. Within the cities were the people that we would be on the same dorm floor and spending the most time with. There was Mountain City, Ocean City, River City, Charm City, and the best of all, Shore City. Each of the cities represented various types of economies within the state. Once within our cities, we were separated into our political parties, the Nationalist and the Federalists. These political parties didn’t determine what our political views had to be for the week, however, in order to simulate what government can be like, it limited who we could vote for.



Pictured: Members of Shore City



With each day that followed, we learned about government on various levels by debating on topics that effected our city/county and by running for a government office. Upon entering Girls State, I hadn’t planned on running for any form of government position due to my school exams taking place during the month prior to Girls State, however, I really wish that I had. I saw people become more and more confident as each day went by. Girls who had been timid about standing in front of others and didn’t want to voice their opinions transformed into people who spoke stood up for what they believed in. Since I’ve been in countless leadership positions in Venturing, I felt as though it would be best to allow others to experience what it was like to be a leader for the first time. I really grew to respect several of my fellow attendees by the time the week was done.

A Venturer Reports: American Legion Auxiliary-Maryland Girls State

By: Elisabeth, Venturing Crew 27 – Kensington, MD

After we had learned the ropes of city and county government, we learned about State Government, and more specifically, how to pass a bill through the House and the Senate. I found this section of the program to be the most interesting. Each city was given several bills that had had been seen by either the House or the Senate in the past year. Government Lobbyists then came to each of the cities and tried to advise us on whether we should vote for or against the bill, or whether we should try to rewrite it. Once we reconvened, all participants were broken into two groups with a mixture of both Federalist and Nationalist. One group became the House and the other became the Senate. I was placed into the Senate. Before we could begin voting on the bills that had previously been discussed, we had to elect our party leaders. Although I had previously felt as though I didn't want to take part in any leadership role, I felt myself being drawn to the opportunity. I ran against 5 others for Majority Whip and, thankfully, won the election. I felt that I had what it took to convince everyone in the Senate, even the minority party, that my views were best. For example, one bill came across our desks that was being requested to be modified. After over an hour of debate, I approached the microphone and convinced everyone that we were going about the bill the wrong way. I was able to convince everyone that the best thing to do was to, unfortunately, kill the bill and have it reentered the following year after having been rewritten during a summer session. I was very happy that I had taken part in this aspect of the program. I felt as though I truly understood the process much better than I had previously.



**Pictured: Members of Maryland Girls State
being sworn in to office**

One of the opportunities that each participant had was the ability to write their own bill and present it to all of Maryland Girls State. Each bill that was presented was incredibly unique and brought issues that wouldn't necessarily be seen by everyone, to life. Once each bill was presented, the entirety of Maryland Girls State voted on which bill would be sent to be voted on at Girls Nation, the next step up from Girls State. At Girls Nation, there would be two representatives from each state that would present an original bill drafted by one of said Girls State's members. These two representatives were called Senators. In order to become a Senator, one had to address why they would be the best possible representative for our state. Each candidate given a little over a minute to do so. One of the participants, Robyn, captivated everyone's attention as

soon as she took the stand. Each word that she spoke seemed to contain a deep passion and understanding for all issues that were brought forth. Every member agreed that she was going to grow up to become an incredibly influential person within our country. She went on to become one of ALA Maryland Girls State's Senators. At Girls Nation, she became the Presidential Candidate for the Federalist party.

A Venturer Reports: American Legion Auxiliary-Maryland Girls State

By: Elisabeth, Venturing Crew 27 – Kensington, MD

Girls State gave me a far better understanding about how our government works. By being able to participate in legislative action, I became acutely aware of how personalities, parties and passions influence our American Democracy. Being able to take part in legislative action and being as close to the “real thing” as one could get definitely beat learning about government in AP Government class. I would highly recommend this experience to everyone. Although each state’s Girls State program varies, the opportunity they provide is immense!. If I could go back to Girls State, I most definitely would. I met some of the most amazing young women there, who I hope to keep in contact with for the rest of my life.



Elisabeth

Elisabeth has been a Venturer for just over three years. She has served Crew 27 as a MiniCrew Leader (Guide), Secretary and Crew President. She was the MiniCrew Guide for the Blue Heron MiniCrew in Northeast Region Crew 8 at the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Kirarahama, Japan and the Crew President for Crew 5107 A-D at the 19th National Scout Jamboree at The Summit in 2017. Elisabeth holds RANGER Rank and has earned the Pathfinder Award. She just had her Gold Award Project approved by the Girl Scouts. The National Capital Area Council recognized her last year with one of six Venturing Leadership Awards given to youth. During her tenure as Crew 27 President, membership expanded by 50% to over 50 Venturers. Elisabeth wants to work in environmental ecology and leave the planet a better place for her having been here.



High Adventure on Horseback

By Emily Brothman, Crew 276



Members of Venturing Crew 276 explored the rugged wilderness on horseback this summer at the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico; a premier high adventure base owned by Boy Scouts of America. This year they were selected through a lottery system to be one of a few crews to participate in the Cavalcade program which is a trek that took them 80 plus miles through the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of the Rocky Mountains in Northern New Mexico. Philmont is a large scout base that covers about 214 square miles of rugged mountain range and is attended by over 20,000 scouts a year. The Crew prepared for this trek for months learn-

ing horsemanship and streamlining the amount of gear they could take on the trail. To acclimate to the altitude, they spent 2 days in the Denver, Colorado area where they did activities like Class 5 whitewater rafting on the Arkansas River, taking a Cog railway to the top of Pikes Peak, exploring the United States Air Force Academy, and visiting Red Rock Amphitheater.



High Adventure on Horseback

By Emily Brothman, Crew 276

Upon arrival at Philmont they would spend two days at base camp preparing for their Cavalcade. Unlike many crews that hike the trails at Philmont, this group of scouts decided to take on a different, but equally daunting task. This journey would require them to take care of their own individual horses and pack horses used for crew gear each and every morning and night. As they started their 7-day trek the crew had no idea what each day would have in store for them. The trail led them through the backcountry where they experienced once in a lifetime views such as mountain ranges and wide open fields with herds of elk. “People always say the views are incredible at Philmont, but to see it in person was life changing.” crew member Emily Brothman said, “You really get a sense of what it must have been like for those people who first explored the West”. Teamwork and safety was always the focus as they scaled narrow mountain trails on horseback, protecting their food supply



from animals and keeping an eye out for unexpected dangers. Long days on the trail began before sunrise, sometimes in rain, were at times exhausting. This unique experience provided these scouts with the opportunity and skills to help them bond together. Along the way they volunteered for a conservation project to remove dead limbs and debris from a forested area to protect that area as a precaution against potential forest fires. The Crew also got to do fun activities at staff camps along the way like burro racing, mine tours, fly-fishing, and leather branding. They even got to eat from a chuck wagon. At base camp ranch they competed against other crews in a Gymkhana where events consisted of timed pattern racing

and barrel skills. The Crew came out victorious in the Gymkhana placing as the number one team with crew member Stephen Rozek coming in first in two individual events.

“Gymkhana was a lot of fun because our crew really works well together”, crew member Sam Brothman said. After their fun filled trip the Crew attended a final campfire where they reflected on their experience, and while this trek was full of daily challenges, they all wouldn’t trade a minute of their time together at Philmont.



A Venturer Reports: Leading a Large Crew at Venturing Summer Camp

By Mel, VP-Program, NCAC Crew 27

At the end of January 2017, my crew held its annual elections. By the end of the night, I was lucky enough to get appointed the position of Vice President of Program. I say lucky because this is the first big leadership position I have held in my crew. I had been an active member for two years and had big dreams of becoming President someday. As VP Program, I've come to know our President, Amy, very well and some time after successfully leading our Shooting Sports trip in February, Amy confronted me with a question; "Would I like to lead the Crew at Goshen Scout Reservation's Camp Bowman Venturing Base Camp this <last> summer?" At this point I'm pretty sure I was jumping out of my skin with excitement but I am also pretty sure I kept my cool. She explained to me that she would not be able to make it both weeks, or at all, due to another commitment. Furthermore, our VP-Admin, Johana, was also going for only one week. Amy knew I had gone to Goshen for two weeks the summer of 2016 and for a week (World Scout Jamboree Crew 8 Shakedown) in 2015 so I knew the territory. I agreed with her and told her that of course I'd love to lead Goshen.

After a few conversations on the topic with our Advisor, we all agreed that I would lead the Crew at Goshen for both weeks during the summer of 2017. Our Crew always goes for 2 weeks because many of us are working on RANGER and one week is just not enough time to complete complicated requirements. I had a pretty good idea what this position entailed given my tendency to lurk in leader's shadows watching their every move as I did to the President at Goshen last year. Elisabeth - I remembered the casual and friendly way she acted in the car ride getting to Goshen and her transformation into a leader when an Advisor or a Goshen staff member needed to talk to her and used that as my guide. Now I know this wasn't a transformation though - it was just part of her being a great leader.

To begin preparation for camp, I made a list of everyone going to Goshen. We had just over 20 campers each week, thus marking my first big decision: Who would be in which MiniCrew and how many MiniCrews would we have? I figured three MiniCrews would be best. Next I began the puzzle of balancing genders to minimize tent use and balancing leadership to ensure success in all of our MiniCrews. I had to consider the social relationships between our Venturers. Crew 27 tries to pair experienced Venturers with newer Venturers so they can mentor them and quite literally 'show the new Venturers the ropes.' That is a reference to the RANGER Wilderness Survival requirements for the uninitiated. My work publishing the official Crew camp roster wasn't completed until two weeks before we left for camp. The changes were constant!

Before the list became final, I decided to hold a meeting for everyone who was going to Goshen in 2017 to make sure everyone was oriented when we arrived. I made this decision knowing many Venturers have never been to Goshen. If they want to maximize their time at camp, they should know about all the opportunities as well as knowing who they'd be spending their time with this summer. I made handouts outlining the first year program, opportunities in the camp, and the MiniCrew assignments. I named the MiniCrews after colors Red, Blue, and Yellow in order to help organize them. At last I held the meeting. About 7 people showed. Oh well! The meeting must go on, as they always say, and it did. By the end of the night those 7 people had all their questions answered.

A Venturer Reports: Leading a Large Crew at Venturing Summer Camp

By Mel, VP-Program, NCAC Crew 27



Timeskip 2 weeks! School was over for me a day early because I had to catch a train to attend National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE) at the Summit Bechtel Reserve. Little did I know how perfect this timing would end up being. Fresh off of NAYLE, my parents drove me to Goshen Scout Reservation where I magically arrived at about the same time as my crew. The timing, for once, worked perfectly. I excitedly greeted everyone, still coming off the cheerfulness that NAYLE had filled me with. Soon enough our Crew found ourselves at our camp site, led by our site guide, Stephen. I assigned the Mini-Crews their sites and let the MiniCrew leaders work out which pairs of Venturers got which tents. Even though we had extra tents we tried to keep people together for safety purposes. That afternoon got a little crazy. Stephen had to take my Crew all around camp to orient everyone - this had to happen before 5:00 PM. Once we returned from the tour, I unpacked as quickly as I could and was off to the first Leader's meeting of the two weeks. When I got back, I let all the MiniCrews know about the camp wide dinner, the campfire that night, the shower situation, and that we were going to have a Crew meeting after campfire. I saw some eyes roll at this but I knew that having this meeting after the campfire was important because the next morning we were going to be cooking for ourselves as well as getting up in time to get to our swim checks. I had to make sure everyone knew about the early wake-up and about preparing for the lake.

Over the next two weeks, I held Crew meetings every so often and checked in with each MiniCrew at least once a day, especially before camp inspection. Every day we had to have our camp in tip-top shape in order to get as many points as possible in a competition between units. I took it upon myself to make sure every MiniCrew knew what the inspectors were looking for, briefed them on crawling under picnic tables to pick up lettuce that fell on the ground and held a meeting about latrine cleaning. After all the MiniCrew's "cleaned up" I would walk through the whole site and picked up any trash I saw. For the first few days I found a lot of candy wrappers. A lot. All of the same candy. Evidently, the unit in the site before us did not care about inspection quite as much as we do. However, all this extra care was not wasted. We were rewarded with recognition as 'Unit of the Day' both weeks and 'Unit of the Week' in our second week.

A Venturer Reports: Leading a Large Crew at Venturing Summer Camp

By Mel, VP-Program, NCAC Crew 27

Camp Bowman has this cool tradition for recognizing the 'Unit of the Day.' It is called the "Honor Oar." At evening flags, camp staff makes a big deal about the inspection results. The Commissioner gets in front of the Camp and says, "I took a stroll through Camp today." The Camp echoes, "A stroll." The Commissioner says, "I saw some good things." Camp echoes, "Good things." The Commissioner says, "And some not so good things." Camp echoes, "And some not so good things." The Commissioner says, "But mainly good things." Camp Echoes, "Mainly good things." The commissioner then says, "May I have the Honor Oar please?" The Camp starts humming the song from 'The Wizard of Oz', that goes: "Yo Ho, Yo Hee Ho, Yo Ho, Yo Hee Ho" - and the Honor Oar is brought forth on the first day by staff and on subsequent days by the Unit that won it the night before. Winning the Honor Oar entitles the Unit to engrave its own art on it. At the end of each summer the Honor Oar is hung up in the Trading Post for all to see. Our Crew has been to camp for 18 weeks over 9 years and we have won the Honor Oar 17 times. During each week of camp, there are usually 18 units in camp but only 4 get the Honor Oar each week. Once a Unit has earned the Honor Oar once in a week, they cannot earn it again until the following week.



Mel Proudly Brings the Honor Oar at Goshen's Camp Bowman

One important aspect of leadership is delegation and trusting those you delegate to. One person I put a lot of responsibility into the hands of was Dominic; Camp Improvement Inventor/Second Week VP/Mini Crew Leader/Quartermaster extraordinaire. I figured this would be fine given that his duty as Quartermaster was mainly important while packing/unpacking for camp. VP doesn't have much to do at Goshen except lead while I'm not there and no one else was possibly better fit to be our Camp Improvement Inventor. Dominic's nickname is 'MacGyver.' Who else would have built us a watchtower for a task as simple as "camp improvement?"

A Venturer Reports: Leading a Large Crew at Venturing Summer Camp

By Mel, VP-Program, NCAC Crew 27



Dominic's Camp Gadget
The Tower of Minas Ventura

As a unit staying two weeks at Goshen, we are not formally supervised the Saturday in between so it was up to me to develop a program for this day. To accomplish this, I consulted my Advisor, Pete, my crew member's opinions, and my own experience. The year before, I knew Pete took the crew on a kayak-caravan around Lake Merriweather, Goshen's beautiful body of water, and had gotten our crew out to Lexington, Virginia for a Walmart run, movie, and ice cream. This is all definitely something I wanted to repeat. A new idea Pete had for this year was to visit the Virginia Military Institute Museum which included a small tour. We had that scheduled for before our movie and after the circumnavigation of the Lake.

The tour worked out really well. We did kid Pete about inserting a 'college visit' in our summer plans!

Last summer we went paddleboarding with Lenhok'sin (The Philmontesque Trail Camp at Goshen). I contacted Lenhok'sin to see if one of my favorite high adventure activities was available; Caving. I had done Caving two years ago during my one week stint at Goshen getting ready to go to the 23rd World Scout Jamboree and was psyched to do it again. Caving was a high priority since our aforementioned former president Elisabeth was helping run the Caving outpost. We were able to fit this activity in Friday afternoon. Some folks who wanted to stayed back but we still had a huge herd heading into the cave, and not everyone coming well prepared. Unfortunately we somewhat maxed out the number that was safe to have in the cave and our lack of attention span and respect for what the guides were telling us did not help. Due to our behavior, Elisabeth became worried for our safety.



Crew 27 Tours The Virginia Military Institute
in Lexington, VA

A Venturer Reports: Leading a Large Crew at Venturing Summer Camp

By Mel, VP-Program, NCAC Crew 27

Leading is not all fun and games as caving exemplified. As President it was my job to hound people about proper uniform, hold Boards of Review for advancement, conduct Courts of Honor to deal with rule infractions and wake up extra early to make sure everyone else was getting up on time. However leading flags second week at Goshen definitely was all fun and games.

Our crew is lucky enough to have a lot of musical talent. One musical talent was our man, Kurt. Kurt can play most songs if you gave him time to learn the music and have someone hold the sheet music out for him so we decided to use his skill to execute a memorable entrance to the flag ceremony Thursday evening of our second week at camp.

Our plan was to have everyone in the Crew line up in the woods adjacent to field where Camp forms up to do evening flags. Kurt and his music stand (a Venturer named Kaili) waited by the tree line out of sight. Once everyone was lined up in 'E formation', by MiniCrews in the woods and the rest of Camp was pretty much formed up, I figured our audience was ready for our astounding performance. I gave Kurt the signal and Crew 27 marched onto the field to the tune of the *Imperial March* from Star Wars (TM) being trumpeted by Kurt. I thought it would be epic to be able to march in looking straight forward with a straight face but I could not manage this and walked on with a face probably resembling a strawberry and a smile resembling the Cheshire Cat. The Staff formation went wild with applause!

In case the *Imperial March* didn't bring us enough notoriety, Crew 27 also was the only Unit to participate in the camp-wide campfire at the end of our first week. Crew 27 is very diverse and has Venturers fluent in many different languages. At least seven languages were represented in our first week Crew alone. Given all these different languages, Nona (a Crew 27 Committee Member who was teaching IOLS at Camp to adult leaders at camp that week) came up with a unique skit Crew 27 could do. The plot was basically that one Venturer tells another Venturer that they are not saying the Scout Law correctly and that the correct way is how they recite it in their own language. More Venturers come on stage as everyone argues for their own language to be the correct one. Languages included were French, Chinese, Spanish, English, Burmese, German, and Semaphore. Yes, Semaphore. The flag language.



Crew 27 Venturers Come Back To Civilization At Domino's Pizza In Lexington, VA

A Venturer Reports: Leading a Large Crew at Venturing Summer Camp

By Mel, VP-Program, NCAC Crew 27



Campfire At Goshen Scout Reservation's Camp Bowman

Aside from this memorable moment, Crew 27 had a lot of other fun activities at camp. One I had a lot of fun with was Pirate's Breakfast where we woke up at the crack of dawn to go down to the docks carrying our breakfasts on our backs and paddling across Lake Merriweather. Once across, folks relaxed on the shore and got to eat breakfast. This was particularly fun because my best friend and my Advisor were in my boat with me. Thanks to our Advisor's skillful rowing, my best friend and I made it across before a lot of other boats and got to watch as everyone else paddled or rowed across, all having varying levels of experience in rowboats, canoes and kayaks.

Another special Crew 27 tradition is to recite the Scout Oath and Law for Pete while at the Goshen-wide fireworks are being displayed at the 4th of July celebration at camp. Venturers who recite correctly receive a crisp two-dollar bill for our own use, mostly leading to ice cream purchases. This year, since everyone tended to gather around Pete to help people learn the oath and law, I was also able to hold a



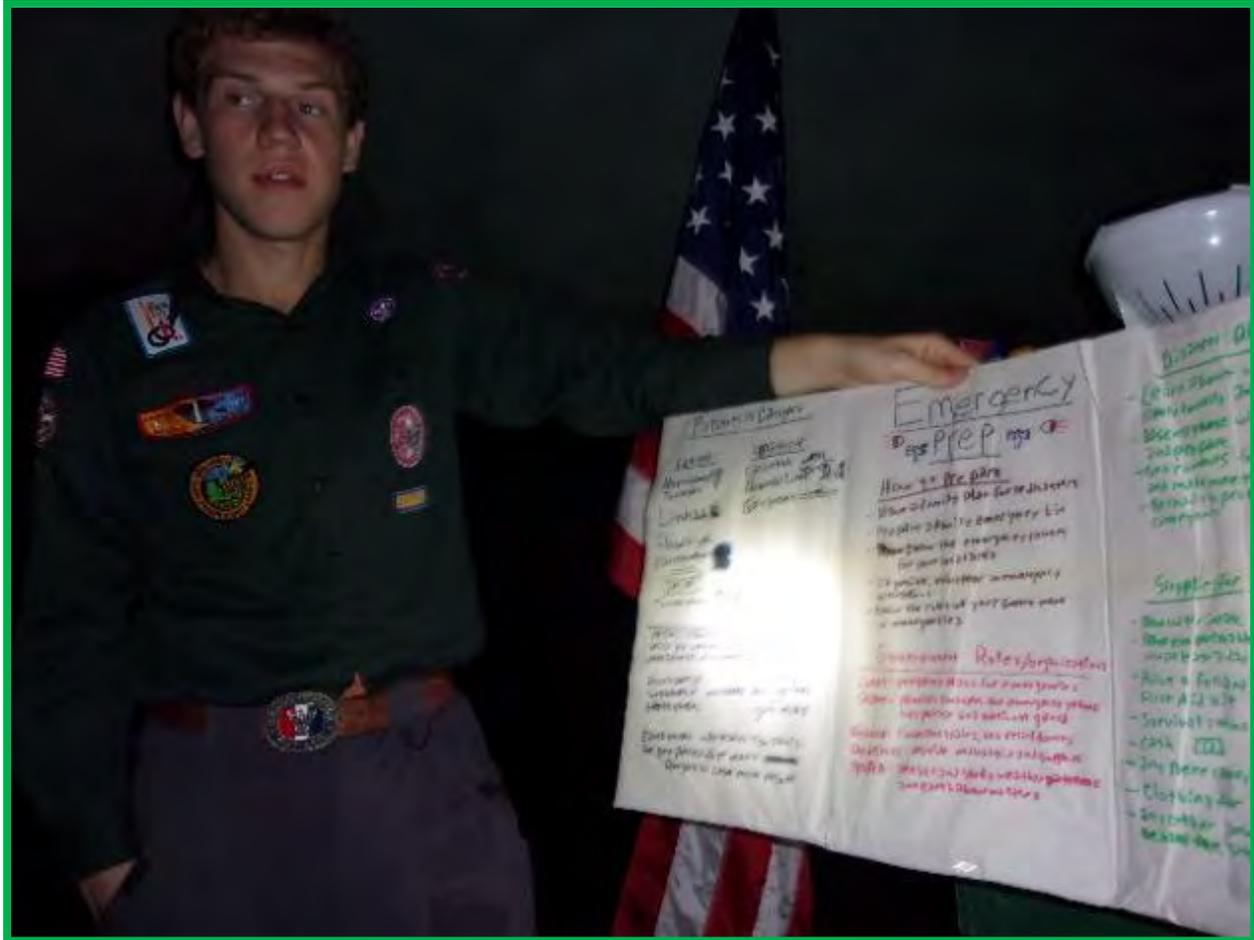
Lake Merriweather Waterfront, Goshen Scout Reserva-



RANGER Board of Review for Josh. This was quite an honor since RANGER is one of the highest ranks in the Boy Scouts of America advancement system.

A Venturer Reports: Leading a Large Crew at Venturing Summer Camp

By Mel, VP-Program, NCAC Crew 27



Josh Finishes RANGER by completing his Emergency Prep Core Table Top at Camp

Besides the RANGER Board of Review, I also held three reviews for Outdoor Bronze, which is halfway to Ranger. Outdoor Bronze is not a National Rank anymore but our Crew has kept it and our Council also awards it to Venturers attending Summer Camp who complete half their RANGER core and elective requirements. It would be a long way to RANGER without Outdoor Bronze as a recognition point halfway there. I was pleased to be able to oversee multitudes of new Venturers finish tons of requirements towards advancements. This progress was especially successful thanks to Lola (our Advisor week 1 as well as overall) making us yellow cards. Yellow cards are similar to blue cards except they are made for Venturers to use to record their Ranger and ALPS Award progress. Since they are working on things in multiple program areas and only have one book, the yellow cards serve as a record until the end of each week when they are collected and transferred into the Venturer or RANGER Handbooks. One huge ordeal that we accomplish at Goshen towards RANGER are service projects. Service projects are awesome because they help us give back to our beloved Camp Bowman while checking off requirements. Some days during the second week at camp saw three service projects in one morning. It stretched our Venturers a little thin between all the service projects but we managed to get them all done. Thanks to Lola and the hard work of everyone working on requirements, this summer saw the most advancement Crew 27 has ever seen in two weeks at camp.

A Venturer Reports: Leading a Large Crew at Venturing Summer Camp

By Mel, VP-Program, NCAC Crew 27

I loved my opportunity to lead at Goshen Scout Reservation's Camp Bowman in 2017. I got to use everything I learned at NYLT and NAYLE. I'm really looking forward to the summer of 2018!



Crew 27 Atop Viewing Rock, a thousand feet above Goshen Scout Camps

About The Author - MEL

Mel is in her third year of Venturing and is a Junior at Walter Johnson High School in Bethesda, MD. Mel holds Outdoor Bronze Rank as well as the Discovery Award and currently serves as the VP-Program for Crew 27. Mel is a graduate of ILS(C), NYLT & NAYLE (at Summit). Her first major activity in Venturing was the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Kirarahama, Japan and last summer she attended the 19th National Scout Jamboree at The Summit. Mel is interested in the sciences and is still figuring out what she would like to do in college. She is a top student and loves her Venturing.



Keith Christopher



Capt. Kathy Weydig

WE ARE PRESENTING

Join Keith Christopher and Capt. Kathy Weydig as they discuss the next generation of divers.

AT DEMA

The Next Generation of SCUBA Divers using Sea Scouts to bring in Youth Divers

What: Seminar Presentation

Date: Wednesday 11/1/17

Time: 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Where: S320A

**Orange County Convention Center,
Orlando, Florida**

Who: Keith Christopher Capt. Kathy Weydig

Presentation Description: coming soon

Sea Scout College in North Carolina

By Southern Region Commodore



Occoneetchee Council will host their 2017 University of Scouting & Sea Scout College on Saturday November 4, 2017 from 0700 to 1700 in Raleigh, NC.

The second annual Sea Scout College has 14 courses, most cover requirements training from the Sea Scout Manual. Open to youth and adults. Dress Uniforms, bring your Sea Scout Manuals, Sea Scout Leader Training. On Line Registration is now open at <https://occoneetchee.tentaroo.com>

For more information, contact Michael McConnell, Council Commodore & Dean Sea Scout College at mike.mcconnell@jacobs.com.

Ready to Wear New Century Uniform Now Available

SG Trading Post, in cooperation with Sea Scouts, BSA, has made the New Century Uniform easier than ever to obtain. Sea Scouts can now order uniform shirts, with the US flag on the right shoulder, the World Crest on the left chest, and Sea Scouts B.S.A embroidered over right pocket. Uniform shirts are available in men's, women's, and wicking designs. Uniform pants and a cap are also available. Visit SG Trading at seascouts.sgtradingpost.online to order. Share this ad to get the word out!



Cats Point Regatta

By Southern Region Commodore



Registration is now open for the upcoming Sea Scout Regatta Cats Point – to be held in Gulfport Florida on November 3, 4, and 5, 2017. Regatta information can be found [here](#) and you can register using this [link](#).

This 10th Year event has since its beginning been designed for participation by both Venture Scouts and Sea Scouts, so do NOT think you need to be experienced or a seasoned sailor to participate. There is much to go around and be learned by all, including those of us that have been around the bay a few times. ssr Cats Point is the longest running council activity open to both scouting programs. Older scouting youth from these two programs throughout the southeastern U.S.

are known to attend. Step aboard and get your billet!

The regatta takes its name from a historical navigational point of land that extended into Boca Ciega Bay about half way between the ports for these two Sea Scout Ships. Now, a lost referenced point of land formerly used by local mariners to navigate Boca Ciega Bay, you might recognize Cats Point as the eastern most Bayway toll booth and the bridge onto Isla Del Sol. Cats Point was a hermit community of mullet fishermen and their cats. The fishermen, cats, mullet, and point of land are all lost but to historical charts and those of us old enough to remember the Bay before dredging and development. As the use of Cats Point in our name restores our imagination with previous times of life on the Bay, we trust the events of the regatta will rekindle the spirit of your waterborne past. Pinellas County and our Scout Council are privileged to have one of the longest waterfronts in the state. Take the time to learn and experience what this marvelous resource has to offer our Scouting programs.

Skipper Bruce Rodgers

Sailor U at Sea Star Base Galveston

By Southern Region Commodore



Sea Star Base Galveston, in partnership with the United States Power Squadron, would like to invite your Scouts to a new version of winter camp:

Sailor U

We will be offering the Power Squadron's Piloting program and a few of their seminars on December 26th-December 31st. The Scouts will have the classroom portions in the morning and then spend the afternoon on the water on power and sail boats practicing the lessons they just learned. The Power Squadron offers these classes

on Monday evenings over 7 weeks, but only in a classroom. Here at the Sea Star Base your Scouts will get the training with the bonus on-the-water time to visually and physically comprehend the lessons. The Scouts will also be working on other Sea Scout requirements as they become available during the week.

We also are looking for 3-4 qualified Able Scouts to help at camp that are recommended by their Skippers. They will be teaching alongside the Power Squadron instructors and completing their Quartermaster requirements (10) – Piloting and Navigation. One will be chosen to be Course Boatswain.

The fees for campers are \$475 through midnight November 26th, and \$575 November 27th through December 15th. Their fees will cover boarding at Sea Star Base Galveston, meals, classroom books and supplies, piloting tools, boating (power boats and sail boats) and an activity shirt

Able Scouts assisting will be \$50.

Register here: <https://www.ssbgalveston.org/sailor-university>

The online registration is for campers. Able Scouts should contact me directly as it's a separate registration process.

Prerequisites include having passed an algebra course in school already, as well as having attended a boater's education course.

Please pass this along to your Scouting families and have them sign up soon, as space is limited for this unique opportunity!

Sailor U? YES I am!

Tony Scharp

Sea Star Base Galveston

Program Director

O: 409-572-2560, x1014

C: 832-459-6073

7509 Broadway

Galveston, Texas 77554

National Paddlecraft Education Standard Approved

By Southern Region Commodore



The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) has received approval from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) of its third American National Standard. ANSI/NASBLA 101-2017 Basic Boating Knowledge – Human-Propelled is recognized as a American National Standard as of September 28, 2017. All three American National Standards are available for free download on the National Education Standards webpage.

The Basic Boating Knowledge – Human-Propelled Standard is the minimum standard that applies to all human-propelled boating courses in the U.S. states and territories and District of Columbia. The purpose of this Standard is to establish the national standard for use by course providers to meet the needs of recreational boaters for human-propelled boating knowledge in order to identify and reduce primary risk factors and mitigate their effects on recreational boating.

This standard applies to all human-propelled craft, such as canoes, kayaks, rafts, stand-up paddleboards (SUPs), dragon boats, etc.

Read more at NASBLA's site.

Read more about incorporating Paddlecraft into you ship's program at our Paddlesports Program Page.

Harvest Moon Regatta

By Southern Region Commodore

When I was invited to sail in the Harvest Moon Regatta, I was extremely excited and immediately made it my first priority that weekend. Having never sailed offshore or overnight, I had no idea what to expect, only that I needed to be prepared. So I packed everything our skipper recommended and headed down to the Galveston area.

After an afternoon of final preparation on board the sloop-rigged Kalik 40, I met the rest of our crew and we all prepared for the race the next day. We got up early the next day and started our four-hours-by-boat trip to the start line. When we got there, we sailed around in close proximity under mainsail only until our start. The first leg was a downwind run, so we hoisted the symmetrical spinnaker immediately and ran with that for the entirety of the first leg during which we prepared and ate dinner. As the sun went down, we rounded the first mark and headed into an upwind beat which we would maintain for the rest of the night. This was a wild experience for me. I have mostly sailed on lakes, and only during the day, so to be sailing along, heeling at a 40 degree angle, going over two to four foot swells, watching the sun go down and the moon come up and for us still to be racing was a feeling to be compared to none other. I could feel the boat almost jumping from wave to wave, surfing down one side, running up the other, striding through the water with the joy of one who knows exactly what they're doing. I was rather sea sick, so I wouldn't go below to sleep so I tried to get some rest on the deck, which was easier said than done. However, I did get some rest and was ready to stand my watch from midnight to four with some of my other crewmates. After I got off watch, I napped some more and was up in time to see the gorgeous sunrise. At around 0900 we rounded the upwind mark and hoisted the asymmetrical spinnaker and ran under that for the final leg of the race. We had lunch during the final leg, and finished approximately 24 hours after we started.

We placed third in our class, PHRF Spinnaker. The last thing we had to do was head back to our home port. When we made it back, we cleaned the boat and ourselves and went for dinner at a local restaurant. After that we went to bed on the boat and slept for as long as we needed. The next morning we had a brunch at a local café and hung around the Lakewood Yacht Club until the awards party which started at 1630. We had a barbecue dinner, and listened to live music and generally had a good time. After our team received our award, I headed home. I was so grateful for the opportunity to race, and still overwhelmed by how amazing the whole sail had been.

More on the boat, team, and event at <https://www.facebook.com/txsskeelboat/>



SHAC Fall Regatta

By Southern Region Commodore



This past weekend I had the wonderful opportunity to race in the fall regatta. In this race my partner and I took home a deco place win for our ship. The day started out long waking up at 5 o'clock to get to the house we stored our boats at. After a hard working hour we were set out to fall regatta with all four boats and all seven sea scout. After getting boats set up and the briefing race one started it was a regular triangular style race were my partner and I took a head start but slowly got past as we missed the wind and took a hard 3rd place. After lunch we had a great head start taking a first place and second place which pushes us to second place overall. As the day ended and our first place third place and other first place had put us in the number one spot for the day. It was a great day of sailing and a great day with friends. I'm glad I had the opportunity to learn new skills and get a win over all.



Twin Rivers Council Host a VOA Event

On October 13-15 Twin Rivers Council held their fall Mystical Hideout camporee. This was the first camp outing in 5 years as the VOS is getting back up and running. Activities included rock climbing,, rappelling,, rifle shooting,, and backyard games. RPI College sent some of their groups to do a stem project. 51 people were in attendance. At supper time, we assembled in the dining hall of Camp Rotary for the Venture Feast (aka pot luck) followed by an election of VOA officers/



EAGLE COURT OF HONOR FOR BAILEY SHEN, TROOP 125, LUCKY BALDWIN DISTRICT



Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Bailey Shen from Troop 125 and Venturing Crew 561 Honor Corps, Rose Bowl District, held on September 16, 2017 at Arcadia High School, Arcadia, CA.



Fellow Arcadia High School Band members From left to right: Alex from Troop 379, Eran, and Matthew of Troop 104, Greater Los Angeles Area Council performing the opening ceremony playing “Assembly”, “To the Colors” and National Anthem.



Bailey with Mark Riebs, Venturing Crew 561 Honor Corps Advisor, Rose Bowl District, Greater Los Angeles Area.

Coastal Cleanup Day with Ship 711 Del Mar



According to Eben Schwartz, the Marine Debris Program Manager for the California Coastal Commission, over 54,000 volunteers in California picked up 510,000 of trash from California's waterways during Coastal Cleanup Day on September 16th, 2017.

Sea Scout Ship 711 Del Mar participated in Coastal Cleanup Day by pulling anything out of the Newport Back Bay from car tires to reclining chairs. This year, Ship 711 had 5 youth and 3 adults help with Coastal Cleanup and helped transport canoes, paddles, and PFDs so that other boy scouts

and volunteers could get out on the water and access hard to reach places. Trevor Richardson, a sea scout on Ship 711 stated that, "Coastal cleanup day is a great event that I definitely enjoyed. Not only did we better the environment while we were there, but we spent time with friends and had an amazing time!" This event not only offers some service hours for the scouts, but allows them to see the real impact that trash has on the environment, getting a little muddy while cleaning up the waterways we use, and overall just having a grand time. The scouts look forward to it every year and they can not wait to do it again!



Websites

National Venturing

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

National Sea Scout

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

Central Region Venturing

<http://www.crventuring.org>

Northeast Region Venturing

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

Northeast Region Sea Scouting

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

Southern Region-Venturing

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

Southern Region Sea Scout

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

Western Region Sea Scouts

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

Western Region Venturing

<http://wrventuring.org/>

USA Scouting Service-Venturing

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

UniformingFAQ.asp

www.venturingmag.org

Venturing Magazine

www.venturingmag.org

National Exploring

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

Yahoo Groups

Central Region

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

Northeast Region

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

Southern Region

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

Western Region

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

National

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



the FORUM

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

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

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

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

Thanks for all you do!

Bob the BEAR Monto—Editor in Chief

Pete Mapes—Associate Editor

Bernie Suess - Webmaster

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