



VENTURING FORUM

Cluster Councils. B.S.A.

December 2009

Northeast Region Venturing News

Patriot's Path Council Venturing Crew 17

January 15-17, 2010.

Open to any Venturer in the NE region to join our Patriot's Path Council Venturing Crew 17 sponsored Snowshoe Adventure in the Catskills, this coming January 15-17, 2010. Working out of Camp Tri-mount as a base camp, we will climb a Catskill 3500 foot peak. This trip is open to beginner snowshoers and more seasoned scouts. We select hikes and divide groups based on skill level. This trip also teaches winter camping skills, as all participants are encouraged to sleep outside -- using the warm cabin for dining and gear. We are inviting any Venturing Crew Advisors and Crew (male or female) Venturers to join the fun with a mid winter mountain snowshoe adventure. Cost is \$15 & \$5 for snowshoes. Food not included. Bring your own and cook it up in the cabin. For more information, contact BigK at rosencra@gmail.com



if you link to our crew website, <http://crew17dcc.vze.com/> you can see photos of past snowshoe trips in the Catskills, since we run this every year. 4 different times are posted 2003-2006

Karen (BigK) Rosencrans
Crew 17 Advisor
Council Venturing Committee Chair

Insomniac's Revenge makes successful return

Northeastern Pennsylvania Council's Insomniac's Revenge made a successful return to Goose Pond Scout Reservation after a three year hiatus. Starting at eleven pm Friday night the event was attended by Crews from four different councils, with thirty six participants choosing from over forty different program sessions. Twenty plus staff provided programs from climbing to shooting to kayaking to cooking to so many they can't all be named here. Under the leadership of Jeremy Kuhar and Melissa Blake some new programs were added. These were called Pyramid Programs where participants worked on one area of interest for the whole day such as climbing. Along with the usual night hikes, zip in the dark, etc. a great time was had by all. After going strong for almost twenty four hours straight there was still much enthusiasm as Saturday night's activities of Guitar Hero and the movie marathon attested too. All in all it was a great time for those who attended. Jeremy and Melissa are all ready working on next spring's Venturing Rendezvous to be held April 23 to 25, 2010 at Camp Acahela. This is a new camp for the event and will lead to many new events such as actual rock climbing on the cliffs at Wally World and Eagle Point. Visit www.venturing-nepa.org for more information and updates.



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The Monmouth
Council, Boy Scouts
of America,

VENTURING · BSA

Invites You To A
**“Venturing Open House &
Luncheon”**
Thursday, December 10, 2009
Noon to 1:30pm
Scout Service Center

705 Ginesi Drive, Morganville, NJ
(convenient and easy location, directions
available)

- ◆ Learn all about the Boy Scouts of America’s young-adult program for young men and women 14 to 20 years old
- ◆ Venturing offers high adventure, sports, arts and hobbies, youth ministry and religious emphasis, Sea Scouting, leadership development, ethics, service and much more!
- ◆ Featured guest is Keith Walton, from the Boy Scouts of America’s National Venturing Division
- ◆ Learn about the program resources available, including Monmouth Council and BSA camps and outdoor facilities, the Venturing advancement and recognition program, youth leadership training and awards, and much more!
- ◆ Please RSVP by December 7th by calling June Fine at the Scout Service Center at 732-536-2347, ext. 11, or via e-mail june.fine@scouting.org
- ◆ See how the Venturing program and many resources can help your organization or youth group!

Visit our Council website at
www.monmouthbsa.org

Powder Horn

Venturing Outdoor Skills Resources Class



Area 1: Katahdin, Pine Tree, Daniel Webster, Yankee Clipper, Boston-Minuteman, Nashua Valley, Knox Trail, Mohegan, Annawon, Old Colony, Cape Cod & the Islands,

Narragansett;

Hosted by: **Yankee Clipper Council**

May 21-23 & June 4-6, 2010

Go to Powder Horn Website for application

Cradle of Liberty Council

The Cradle of Liberty Council in the Philadelphia area has expanded its Venturing efforts. It has launched a youth-led Venturing Officers Association, which holds its meetings the first Tuesday of every month at our Council’s Valley Forge office (7:00-8:30 pm). At the same time and place, the Council holds Venturing Roundtables (called Forums) for adults who support Venturing (first Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 pm). The Venturing Roundtables (Forums) provide continuing training for advisors, associate advisors, committee members, parents, and other adults interested in Venturing. The topics for the December Roundtable (Forum) will be (1) Recipes for Starting a New Crew, and (2) Personal Safety Awareness for Venturers. In addition, we have Venturing Leader Specific Training for adults scheduled for December 5th and January 16th. Our Council will also be running a VLSC – by youth, for youth – on December 29th. For more information, please contact John Bickel (jbickel@COLBSA.org) or send a message to our Venturing Roundtable (Forum) Commissioner at colventuring@gmail.com You can also watch for further announcements by signing up on our Venturing Facebook group (“COL VOA”).



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Northeast Region Area 7's Inaugural Venturing President Announced

I am extremely pleased to announce that **Taylor Anderson** of Crew 27 in Westfield, New Jersey (Patriots Path Council) has been selected as Northeast Region Area 7's Inaugural Venturing President.



Taylor, daughter of Ellen and Scott Anderson along with her brothers Kevin and Derek is part of a very active Scouting family.

Although the youngest in the family, Taylor's Scouting achievements are not overshadowed. Taylor has served as president and vice president of Venturing Crew 27 and has led them on

numerous high adventure activities including trips to Philmont and Florida Sea Base. She is serving her second term as a youth representative on Patriots' Path Council's Executive Board and is currently their council Venturing president.

Taylor has completed VLSC, Kodiak, and Kodiak X leadership development courses and has subsequently served as an instructor for the council's VLSC and Kodiak programs. She was one of only 6 Venturers from the Northeast Region to attend the 21st World Scout Jamboree in Hylands Park, Great Britain and will serve the upcoming National Scout Jamboree as a Leave No Trace staff member.

Taylor was honored to represent Area 7 at the Northeast Region Venturing Leadership Conference this past October where she developed skills to help serve the councils in the Area.

She has received the outdoor bronze award, and is working towards earning her Venturing

Gold and Silver Awards where she plans on completing them before the end of high school.

As an honors student and athlete at Westfield Senior High School, Taylor plays lacrosse, and is an active member of the United Nations Club and the French Club. She also enjoys ballet and contemporary dance at a local studio. Taylor is very excited about her upcoming Thanksgiving performance with her high school at Carnegie Hall.

I asked Taylor to identify a few initial goals as she assumes her new leadership role. They are:

I hope to share my enthusiasm in Venturing to increase interest and membership in the

Venturing program throughout the Area by meeting with each council Venturing president

I plan to lead in the organization of Area 7's first Venturing Quest in order to bring all

Venturers in the area together to form new friendships and great cohesive ideas between councils

I want to develop a strong VOA for Area 7 with dedicated Venturers looking to enhance the program by all of us working together

I hope to enjoy my term in office, while meeting new friends who are passionate about the Venturing program

With the appointment of Taylor as NER Area 7 President, this is the first step in building a youth led leadership corps that will assist in building a stronger Venturing program throughout each council within Area 7 and the Northeast Region. I ask that all Venturing officers and advisors, along with council leaders throughout our area to provide Taylor with the support that she will need in order to meet her goals. Congratulations Taylor!.



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Venturing News
Council Chairman:
Bob Koch, bobbsa@optonline.net
Professional Advisor:
Ryan Bieler 516/924-7000x29

Summer Kodiak Treks

After completing the Kodiak Course Directors Conference in April, advisors from Crew 777 (Bob Koch and Nick Georghiou), and Crew 762 (Bill Raab), worked with their crew leadership in developing Kodiak Treks during this past summer.

What is Kodiak?

Leadership and service to others are two key tenants of Venturing, the Boy Scouts of America's fast growing teenage program. Combine these two elements and you get the concept of "the servant leader." Servant leadership as a philosophy teaches that the leader works with and through a team to accomplish the mission. Rather than just talking about leadership, Venturing, through the new Kodiak course, teaches useable, relevant leadership skills that every teen can use. Methods for applying the Kodiak include challenging outdoor trek to use nature as a classroom (Not indoors). May be offered by a council, a district, or even a crew. Requires council approval.



- ◆ Team taught by two instructors per crew of 5-8.

- ◆ Only 5 leadership skills taught called Commissions. (Bear Claws are presented for each commission completed)
- ◆ Can be offered as weeklong or two weekends.
- ◆ Uses hands-on learning approach with very short presentations.
- ◆ Constant reinforcement.
- ◆ Creates a leadership fraternity.

Crew 777's Kodiak Trek

Nine members of Crew 777 completed their Kodiak trek while on a sailing trek in Florida. They flew down to Ft. Lauderdale early Saturday AM July 11th and embarked on two sailboats within an hour of landing. A week trip took them sailing down the coast of Florida, spending their first night on the sailboat in Key Biscayne. The remaining trek took them sailing through the Florida Keys, with usually two daily snorkeling stops. While docked in Marathon, the crew and its advisors took a day trip to Key West. After a week of sailing, fishing and snorkeling, they returned to the mainland for a full weekend in Ft. Lauderdale and Miami. Side trips included seeing the Florida Marlins play the Philadelphia Phillies, a tour of the Deering Estate in Miami; a swim in the spring-fed pool in Coral Gables and an airboat ride in the Everglades. In all, 14 members completed the trek and 9 Venturers completed their Kodiak training.



Members from Crew 762, Troop 207 and Troop 95 Kodiak Trek

Eight youth from from Crew 762 Brightwaters, Troop 207 Islip, and Troop 95 West Islip went to Philmont Scout Ranch on a Kodiak Cavalcade Trek. Cavalcade is a horseback trip, with all your



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gear in a stuff sack and half a saddlebag. The journey started with a flight to Denver, and after finding out that one youths bag went to Jacksonville, the real fun began in Colorado Springs, where the errant bag caught up with us. We went to Pikes Peak, then to Garden of the Gods, where the course opened in a truly breathtaking location. We then experienced the twisting route from Cimarron to Taos. There was some sightseeing in Taos, with dinner at the Taos Inn. The next day we saw the Rio Grande Gorge and bridge, and went on to Philmont. After getting checked in and a day at base camp, we were off to Ponil to pick up the horses and the rest of the gear. The next week was spent carrying our gear with us on horseback, and stopping at our next site to set up camp. The horses required our attention, all before we could set up our own stuff. The scenery was breathtaking, and there were different activities at each camp we visited, such as spar pole climbing, black powder shooting, tomahawk throwing, and a great challenge course. Sooner than we thought our Trek was coming to an end. Our closing ceremony was held at the campsite



at Head of Dean, and the final session was a great end to the course. Our last full day at Philmont was spent riding back to Ponil, then a terrific Gymkhana event where we got to let the horses run full tilt during barrel racing, flag relays, and many other events. We said goodbye to our horses and rode the bus back to base

camp. Dinner at the historic St James Hotel was great, and we left the next morning. On our way back we stopped for a tour of Coors Field, then off to a movie and then the airport for a sleepy flight back home. The youth are looking forward to Kodiak X, and I can't say I blame them.

What Next? ...Kodiak X

Kodiak X is a weekend leadership challenge course that builds on the leadership commissions learned in Kodiak. The exercises in this program are also designed for 5-8 participants. During the weekend, participants will review what they learned at Kodiak, and learn two additional commissions. These commissions are: Evaluating Performance and Mentoring. They will also have an opportunity to practice their leadership skills while serving as a leader of their team as they face challenging scenarios.

The course setting usually works best at a camp whether BSA or other or even an outdoor conference center. Most of the leadership challenges for day two can be done either indoors or outdoors. If the weather is good, it is recommended that all challenges be offered outdoors in the spirit of Nature of Leadership.

There will be a Kodiak X held in late winter, early spring 2010. Those who completed Kodiak training this past summer are eligible to take Kodiak X.

Upcoming SCC Venturing Meetings/Activities

- ◆ December 7th Council Venturing Meeting (St. Joseph Ronkonkoma 7:30pm)
- ◆ December 29th VOA Holiday Party/Climbing at Island Rock
- ◆ January 4th, 2010
- ◆ January 21st VOA – Rifle Shoot (Details TBD)
- ◆ February 1st Council Venturing Meeting (St. Joseph Ronkonkoma 7:30pm)
- ◆ February 26th-27th Venturing Leadership Skills Course – (St. Joseph Ronkonkoma)



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Upcoming Northeast Region Area 7 Venturing Meetings/Activities

April 23-25 2010 NER Area 7 QUEST at
Alpine Scout Reservation

October 1-3, 2010 Fall Venturing Activity –
sponsored by NNJC at Camp Terrell NY
Theme: “Boats, Bullets and Boots”

Venturing Powder Horn in 2010

Long time and experienced scouter Ralph C. Ascoli Sr. has been selected as the course director for the 2010 Powder Horn Course scheduled for weekends, May 14-16 and June 11-13 2010.

Powder Horn is an exciting new opportunity that exposes Venturing, Varsity, and Boy Scout adult leaders, to a wide range of outdoor, high adventure activities, by providing them with the knowledge, resources, and contacts that they can use in their programs.

The course is based on the requirements for Venturing’s prestigious RANGER Award, which requires demonstrated proficiency in a challenging set of core and elective topics. The presentations on these subjects are made by knowledgeable consultants, oftentimes involving hands-on experiences.

The eight (8) RANGER Core topics are; Land Navigation, Leave No Trace, Communications, Conservation Project Development, Emergency Preparedness, Cooking, First Aid, Wilderness Survival. The Elective topics (at least ten are required), which can be selected include; Mountaineering, Outdoor Living History, Shooting Sports, Watercraft, Expedition Planning, Cave Exploring, Overnight, Physical Fitness, Plants and Wildlife, Working with Teens, Backpacking, SCUBA, COPE, Winter Sports, Life Saver, Fishing, Cycling, Ecology, Hunting, Equestrian.

For more information, download the brochure from www.sccbsa.org or call or email Ralph at 631-922-5825 (Cell) 631-587-5633 (Home), E-mail: rascoli@optonline.net

2009 Venturing Sleepless Hollow – Take 2

For the second year, Baiting Hollow Scout Camp hosted over 100 Venturers for a fun-filled weekend of numerous activities. Over ten crews participated in activities that included (but not limited to) Kayaking, rifle shooting, black powder, scrapbooking, ballroom dancing, dance dance revolution, guitar hero, Venturing Idol, Venturing Advancement Jeopardy, Website design, Leave No trace, Anime, various venturing trainings, finger printing, kite building, SCUBA, dutch-oven cooking, caving, advanced land navigation (GPS), Firearm Safety, astronomy, webpage design...and topped off with a campwide scavenger hunt and a campfire and dance party on Saturday night. While some kept their eyes open for the entire weekend, other got at least 40 winks.

Thanks to the VSH Committee which included:

VSH Chairperson: Nancy Grimaldi,
Bob Koch (Adv)

Program/Activities: Dean Nicolai and
Ralph Ascoli (Adv)

Logistics: Tim Burke (Adv)

Communications: Nicole Grimaldi,
Dan White and Mike Keller (Adv)

If you attended, please complete the survey that was emailed to you. If you didn’t receive a request for the survey, please email John Koch at jkdawg@optonline.net



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AHOY Member Ships and Friends of the Liberty Flotilla



REMINDER: It's time to register for the CPR Training being offered by the Liberty Flotilla on Saturday, December 12, 2009, at Osceola Presbyterian Church, 1689

Raritan Road, Clark, NJ 07066. SEE Flyer on website.

http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/cluster_attach/forum1209.zip

If you have already successfully passed the C-PRO Course offered last year, you are eligible to take the Recert Challenge. We will test your knowledge by both a practical demonstration of your CPR and AED skills on a Resusci-Annie manikin as well as via a brief paper quiz. The fee for this American Red Cross recertification is \$30 per person. (Please bring your current ARC card.) We will begin promptly at 9am and should be done before lunchtime.

If you have not previously taken the Adult CPR Lay Responder training, or certified more than 18 months ago, you should take the full course, which will also give you basic Community First Aid instruction. We will have demonstration manikins for every participant pair. At the conclusion of the class, there will be a paper quiz of your knowledge as well as a practical test. The fee for this American Red Cross recertification is \$45 per person. We will begin promptly at 9am and should be done around 4pm, with a break for lunch.

If you are interested in attending this training event, please contact Deidre at #908-245-1288 to register. We need to have a headcount with paid fees quickly to allow us sufficient time to secure the tests and administrative forms.

The Flotilla will provide coffee in the morning and lemonade at noon. You will need to brownbag your own lunch. Wear comfortable clothes as you will be moving around during the

day and kneeling on the floor during the skills portion.

We hope you can join us. Having current CPR certification is required for BSA Tour Permits, rank advancement, as well as demonstrating that we will "be prepared" "to render aid to those in need". Looking forward to hearing from you.

Deidre Buchner

Commodore, Liberty Flotilla

Crew 63- Refreshing pause for Thanksgiving



Patrick, 16, and Courtney, 14, wait on Mike, left, of Norristown, Pa., in a tent set up for travelers on the Interstate 78 rest stop near Bloomsbury.

BETHLEHEM TWP, PA. East of a rest stop where a Venturing crew served coffee and made a fire, Gloria drove painstakingly through holiday travelers and rain. Gloria a New Hempstead, N.Y., woman on her way Wednesday to visit family in Bethlehem, endured the congestion with her young son and daughter in the car. With about half an hour still to drive, she was already an hour late. But she was tired and pulled into a rest stop off of Interstate 78 for a break.

"It was a cesspool, bumper-to-bumper," Gloria said as she juggled a hot dog, a cup of coffee and a donation for the Venturing crew, part of the Boy Scouts of America Minsi Trails Council of Stewartsville. She said she was glad she stopped.

Denis Boyle, Crew 63 Adviser

Express

Times

Video

http://videos.lehighvalleylive.com/express-times/2009/11/rest_stop_respite.html



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Southern Region Venturing News

Longhorn Councils Venturing Summit has been rescheduled for March 6, 2010 at Worth Ranch.

Dec 26-31, 2009

US Cavalry Living History Winter Camp - Sid Richardson Scout Ranch - Longhorn Council

Nov 14, 2009

Highland Games - at Camp Tahuaya

Dec 26-31, 2009

US Cavalry Living History Winter Camp - SR2

Jan 16-18, 2010

Sea Scout Academy on Martin Luther King day weekend NASA - Houston.

Feb 26-28, 2010

Crew Bash '10 - Bay Area Council - Camp Karankawa Get ready as we head out for a weekend activity smorgasbord.

April 9-11, 2010

Venturing Rendezvous - Camp Wisdom Council: Circle Ten Dallas

April 24, 2010

Spring Canoe Race - Worth Ranch.

Feb 19-21, 2010

Capitol Area Council trip to Monterrey, Mexico to celebrate Lord Baden Powell's birthday with Scouts from Latin America. Male and female Sea Scouts are explicitly invited and in fact since Scouting in Mexico is fully co-ed, the council is reserving some slots for female Scouts and leaders. Details are on the web site at bsacac.org/CampingEvents/2010Monterrey.php Submitted by David Hibbard Phone 469-939-4875

Western Region – No Events reported



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Central Region Venturing News

**Shoquoquon Venturing Crew Snow Skiing at
Snowstar
Saturday, January 9, 2010
Andalusia, IL from 4:00 to Close (10:00 PM)**



Costs:

Lift Ticket - \$17

Ski or Board Rental - \$14

Helmet - \$5

Lessons – Ski - \$5 Board - \$10

How to sign up –

On or before December 28th, the President or Advisor will let the Burlington Scout Office know if your crew would be interested in joining in on the fun of snow skiing. At that time, the office will need to know unit number, number of ventures and number of advisors are planning on attending. Also by that day, a Local Tour permit for your group would be submitted to the scout office by that day.



By January 6th, a final count of how many are able to attend and all fees into the office, permission forms for Snowstar.

On January 9th, show up to Snowstar and meet right outside the group entrance of the Welcome center. When all the groups are there, we will go in and get the lift tickets and equipment (if needed) and off to the slopes.

If you have any questions, you can contact Jerry Dusek at 563-288-1670 or dusekj@machlink.com.

Link to Snowstar : www.skisnowstar.com

Guide to safe scouting for winter sports:
www.scouting.org/scoutsources/HealthandSafety/GSS/gss13.aspx

**Reserve your Spot NOW for the Area 3
Venturing Conference
January 30, 2010 in Normal, IL**

The Area 3 Venturing Conference will be one of the first Area level Venturing conferences held in the nation. It is designed to provide your council the building blocks for the success of your Council's Venturing Program. This one-day conference is designed to help you get Venturing "Out of the Box, and Over the Top" in your council. Whether you are just starting to build a Council Venturing structure, you are already on the path to success, or you just want to learn more information about how other councils have succeeded, then this conference is for you.

This conference is for the 12 councils in Area 3 of the Central Region. It will be held on January 30, 2010. Just in time for the 100th Anniversary of Scouting. Let's make the anniversary year all the more memorable for the youth in your council's Venturing Program by giving them the opportunity to grow in leadership skills, and have a great time doing it.

The conference will be starting with the basics of Venturing, and moving through the steps councils in our Area and across the country have taken to reach success. Here are just some of the things the conference will be covering:

- ◆ Recruitment (how to find the right youth to lead your council's Venturing Officer Association)
- ◆ Venturing Officer Association Job Descriptions and Bylaws
- ◆ How to hold successful multi-crew events
- ◆ VOA elections
- ◆ VLSC/Kodiak/Kodiak X – It is all about developing leaders!



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- ◆ National Youth Leadership Society
- ◆ Powder Horn – Why it will grow Venturing
- ◆ Venturing Awards and Recognition
- ◆ How to make Venturing communications in your council work
- ◆ A mock Venturing roundtable and much more

The cost for all of this knowledge is just \$15 if you reserve your seat by January 15th, 2010. The conference will be held at Calvary United Methodist Church in Normal, Illinois. The church is located right off I-55 and is within 3.5 hours or less of each of our council's offices. Check-in starts at 7:45am and we expect to be finished by 4:30pm. This is one day you don't want to miss. Our Area 3 Venturing President, Sarah Ward, and the 2008-09 National Venturing President, Amanda Vogt will be spearheading the conference's staff. Ben Hayes, the current Central Region Venturing President, will be in attendance along with your Area 3 Venturing Committee to help lead the conference. A conference flyer is attached to this Area 3 Venturing Update along with the registration form. **Register now to reserve your spot.**

If you have any questions feel free to contact Bob Vogt, the Central Region Area 3 Venturing Chair at (636) 394-6809 or revogt1@gmail.com

Venturing Website Links:

National Venturing Site

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

National Venturing Youth Cabinet

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

Central Region Venturing

<http://www.crventuring.org>

Northeast Region Venturing

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

Southern Region

www.srbsa.org

Southern Region-Venturing

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

Southern Region Sea Scout

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

Western Region

www.wrventuring-bsa.org

USA Scouting Service-Venturing

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

Venturing Magazine

<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/>

December FORUM Attachments

http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/cluster_attach/forum1209.zip



Venturing News

Fayette to become permanent home of Scout Jamboree and National High Adventure base

November 18, 2009

GLEN JEAN -- A 10,600-acre site beside the New River Gorge National River will become the permanent home of the Boy Scouts of America's National Jamboree, an event that attracts up to 40,000 Scouts and 200,000 visitors a year.

The Fayette County property also will house a summer camp and high-adventure base, the Scouts announced today.

The organization plans to spend up to \$300 million on the project. At least 80 full-time jobs would be created and another 1,200 seasonal workers hired.

The site -- called "The Summit: Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve" -- would host the Scout's National Jamboree in 2013 and subsequent Jamborees every four years.



The high-adventure base and summer camp would open in 2014. "This will be the heartbeat of the Boy Scouts of America," said Jack Furst, the project's chairman. "It's a piece of property we can utilize 24-7, 365 days a year."

The Boy Scouts chose the Garden Ground Mountain site -- a former strip mine -- after an 18-month search that included 80 properties in 28 states.

The S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation donated \$50 million to start the project. "Scouting made a tremendous impact on my life," said Stephen D. Bechtel Jr. "It's the source of my fondest memories. I'm proud to be a founder on this project, and I'm thrilled to know that it will be part of the Scouting legacy future generations will enjoy." Construction is expected start this spring.

The Scouting center will offer a host of outdoor activities, including whitewater rafting, technical rock climbing, mountain biking, camping and hiking. "We think our constituency is absolutely going to love this venue," Furst said. "It is a wonderful piece of the great outdoors."

At a press conference today, the Scouts unveiled a model replica of the site, which featured three lakes, regional camps, a mountain bike course and a Center for Leadership Excellence.

The Scouts also led a helicopter tour over the property.

"There are so many possibilities here," Furst said. "We're only limited by our creativity." Furst said the West Virginia site was selected because of its natural beauty, world-class high adventure Activities and excellent roads and public services.

The 10,600-acre property borders the New River Gorge National River Park. The Scouts will have access to the New River at two locations.

Furst promised that the Boy Scouts would be good stewards of the land. The project will be based on the organization's long-standing commitment to "leave no trace," he said.

The Jamboree, held for 10 days every four years, will likely provide the biggest economic payoff to Fayette County and the surrounding region.

Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia has hosted the Jamboree since 1981, but the Scouts decided to find a new permanent home for the event 18 months ago.

The Fayette County scouting center also would become eligible to host the Boy Scouts' World Jamboree.



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"This could be a competitive offering to world Scouting," Furst said. "This is a site that would be very attractive for the World Jamboree."

The high-adventure base, which would be tucked into the southeast corner of the Fayette County property, would join three existing Boy Scouts of America adventure camps -- in New Mexico, Minnesota and Florida.

The adventure bases have a waiting list of about 20,000 Scouts a year.

Scouting officials predict that the Fayette County adventure center would host about 50,000 Scouts annually. Scouts ages 14 to 18 would use the adventure base, while younger Scouts would stay at a summer camp on the site.

The Boy Scouts of America is celebrating its 100th anniversary next year. "As we prepare to enter another century of service, this announcement demonstrates that Scouting is as relevant and vital today as it was when our journey began," said Bob Mazzuca, chief Scout executive. "Today is a great day for Scouting."

Are You Tougher than A Boy Scout?

The creator of hit shows "Deadliest Catch" and "Ice Road Truckers" announced his support for Scouting with a new reality show....*Are You Tougher than a Boy Scout?* The premise of the reality show will be to test participants' skills against experienced Scouts in camping, survival, and leadership. It's another great way to showcase our Scouts and our program. I'm pretty sure that our Scouts will come out on top. We are currently working on relationships with several networks.....stay tuned for more.

Venturing FORUM

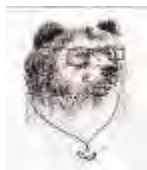
The Venturing FORUM is a cluster concept and a friendly way to help Venturing and Scouting Leaders exchange ideas and programs among our troops, crews, areas, councils, and regions.

The Cluster newsletter "Venturing FORUM" is not an official publication of any Council, Area, Region or National. It is the Venturing Leaders newsletter. Venturing has been growing thanks to your efforts.

As always, Venturing articles, questions and comments are welcome. We are seeking support from anyone interested in working on the newsletter or future website.

Thanks for all you do!

Bob "the BEAR" Monto



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



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



**Venturing Crew
NOT
Venture Crew
Venture is a Boy Scout Patrol**