



VENTURING Report

Cluster Councils. B.S.A.

March 2008

Venture Crew 615 Goes Rock Climbing!



The neat thing about being a teenager in the Columbia County area is the great opportunities located nearby. Besides being close to Lake Thurman, the Savannah River, and Fort Gordon with all the outdoor recreational opportunities they provide, we are also close enough to Atlanta and its surrounding areas to take advantage of those activities we do not have locally.

One of those activities is rock climbing. None of our local high schools has a rock climbing, caving, kayaking or other high adventure group. There isn't any rock climbing gyms or formations in the local area either. However, this has not stopped 9 teenagers from Greenbrier, Lakeside, and Evans High Schools from participating in these fun activities. They have discovered there is a coed group for those teens that are looking for fun and adventure in the outdoors. They belong to a Venturing Crew!

Venturing is a youth development program for young men and women who are 14 (and have completed the eighth grade) through 20 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. The program is based on a unique and dynamic relationship between youth, adult leaders, and organizations in their communities.

Wesley United Methodist Church, as part of its outreach to local youth, established Venture Crew 615 by matching their people and program resources to the interests of young people in the community. The result is a program of exciting and meaningful activities that helps youth pursue their special interests, grow, develop leadership skills, and become good citizens. Venture Crew 615 focuses on those adventures the teens members want to do.

On January 5th and 6th, the Venture Crew traveled to Kennesaw, GA just Northwest of Atlanta for an exciting night of indoor rock climbing and bouldering at the Cascades Indoor Rock Gym.

Besides the athletic and mental challenges of safely climbing and rappelling 35-foot walls, free climbing inverted surfaces, and bouldering high above foot-thick crash mats, the crew members had to plan, organize, coordinate the event, and conduct fundraising to cover the costs before they faced and overcome their individual fear of heights.

They had to certify their knot tying and belaying skills before being allowed to climb or belay their friends. After certification was complete, the gym manager turned the whole rock climbing facility over to the crew for the night and the crew made the most of it!

Besides the rock climbing, this was also an opportunity for team building and making new friends as they participated in other events through out the night and into the early morning. By the time the crew departed at 9 AM the following morning, they were exhausted, but already planning and organizing their next event – sea kayaking!



Rock Climbers on this event included from Greenbrier High School, Heidi H, Ethan St M, Jenna P, Kirk L Ryan L, and Daniel G. Will C from Evans High School and Jonathon P from Lakeside High School also attended. Also attending were perspective Ventures, Emma H & Megan L from Greenbrier Middle School and three adult Crew Advisors.



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For more information on Venture Crew 615 and their activities, please contact Mr Dee Castillo at DEMARJA@aol.com or Bob Hoelscher at bobhoelscher@yahoo.com

Kodiak Courses



Occoneechee Council , TN

Camp Durant, NC and Nolichucky Gorge Camp, TN

The activities are climbing, rappelling, C.O.P.E., basic kayaking and swim test for weekend 1 and whitewater rafting, caving and a half day hike on the Appalachian Trail.

June 6-8 & June 13-15, 2008

Cost- \$200 by 4/30 \$250 after

Contact Doug Branson at ockodiak@windstream.net

Camp Napowan, WI

River canoeing with overnight camping; rock climbing and rappelling; geo-caching and horseback riding.

\$250 by 4/15 \$300 after

June 14-20, 2008

Contact George Zogaib at venturing4fun@hotmail.com

Flathead River, MT

Whitewater rafting

Cost \$400

July 5-12, 2008

Contact Joe Garrett or Craig Murphy at snojo@verizon.net

Patriots Path Council

This rugged 50 mile AT trek through the [AMC's celebrated hut system](#) in the presidential range of the White Mountains of New Hampshire is in its 6th year.

Cost \$800.

July 8-15-2008

Contact Scott Anderson at scottanderson@att.net

Blue Ridge Mountains Scout Reservation, VA

This course is a Northeast Region Kodiak course which will be conducted at a BSA facility in Southern Region. The course will be led by Crew 292 with trainers and participants from crews 292 and 1420 of the Baltimore Area Council. A course flyer is forthcoming.

July 20-26, 2008

Cost \$300

Contact Bob Gallo at snojo@verizon.net

Katy Trail Kodiak Being Offered

Kodiak is a fun leadership-training program for Venturers. Come join other Venturers from Area 5 for a 2-weekend trek down the Katy Trail in Missouri. A flyer is attached with the details or contact Debbie Smith at mosunflower@msn.com for information.

See **Cluster0308-CentralRegionKodiakFlyerKatyTrail** for application

Visit the Kodiak website at:

<http://www.kodiak-bsa.org/>

Powder Horn Course Information



The courses and host councils scheduled for 2008 are:

Daniel Webster Council

July 11-13; July 18-20

Hidden Valley; Camp Bell

Cost \$225

Contact Gary Dolan at daddolan@comcast.net

Pennsylvania Dutch Council



Aug. 15-17; Sept. 5-7

Camp Bashore

Cost \$225

Contact Bob Ander at

bighomeybob1@juno.com

Website

http://www.cccbsa.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=542&Itemid=66



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Green Mountain Council

Aug 22-24; Sept 5-7
Mt. Norris Scout Reservation
Cost \$TVD
No Contact info

The **Heart of America Council** is hosting a Powder Horn course. The course is being held at the Theodore Naish Scout Reservation in Bonner Springs, KS over 2 weekends. (Aug 15-17 & Sept. 5-7).

See **Cluster0308-PowderHornFlyer-HOAC** for application

Northeastern PA Council

Aug 22-24; Sept 5-7
Goose Pond; Camp Acahela
Cost \$230
Contact Walt Godshall at rosewalt68@msn.com

Finger Lakes Council

Aug 22-24; Sept 12-14
Camp Gorton; Camp Babcock Hovey
Cost \$225
Contact Steve Wheeler at bafamz1@linkny.com

Connecticut Yankee Council

Aug. 22-24; Sept. 26-28
Deer Lake Scout Reservation; Sequassen Scout Reservation
Cost TBD
No Contact Information

Colonial VA Council

April 18-20, May 2-4, 2008
Cost \$240
Contact Bill Monroe at wcmunroe@cox.net

For course information and application to all Regional Approved Powder Horn courses or the Regional Powder Horn Course Directors Courses visit

www.powderhorn-bsa.org

Participant qualification:

- Must be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America.
 - Have completed Venturing Leader Basic Training (for Venturing adults) or Scoutmaster Fundamentals (for Boy Scouting adults) prior to attending Powder Horn course or New Leader Essentials plus position specific training.
 - Be able to meet physical requirements of BSA Class III physical in a backcountry environment.
 - Must have their Scout Executive's approval.
- For more information about the 2008 courses, please contact the host council or visit the Powder Horn website www.powderhorn-bsa.org.

Website Links:

- National Venturing Youth Cabinet**
<http://www.nationalventuringyouthcabinet.org/>
- NER Venturing**
<http://nerventuring-bsa.org/>
- NER-Area 4**
<http://www.ne4avao.org/>
- Kodiak**
<http://www.kodiak-bsa.org/>
- Powder Horn**
www.powderhorn-bsa.org
- Southern Region**
www.srbsa.org
- Southern Region-Venturing**
<http://srventuring-bsa.org/newsite/>

Baltimore Area Council Kodiak



The Baltimore Area Council is conducting its first Kodiak Course July 20-26, 2008 at the Blue Ridge Mountain Scout Reservation (BRMSR) near Hiwassee, VA. Bob Gallo (Advisor, Crew 292) is the course director. The BRMSR's New River Adventure (whitewater rafting, whitewater canoeing, climbing & rappelling, caving and high and low COPE) will serve as the Kodiak Trek. Although



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this course is using a high adventure program conducted at a Southern Region Scout reservation, it is a Northeast Region-affiliated Kodiak Course. This course is currently listed on the Kodiak web page. The Kodiak course staff and all participants will be from the Baltimore Area Council.

BOB GALLO
Kodiak Course Director
Baltimore Area Council, BSA
Phone: 410-569-8059

Kathy Sinack,
Rendezvous Coordinator
at: nysrendevous@yahoo.com
OR For program related questions and information, please contact:
Friday July 25, 2008 Until Sunday July 27, 2008
Lauren L. Brandt Venturing/Exploring Staff
Advisor at (315)789-1166
lbrandt@fingerlakescouncil
See Flyer Cluster0208-NER-Area1

Northwest Suburban Council

Proudly offers the new Kodiak Leadership Training Course

June 14, 2008 – June 20, 2008 at Camp Napowan- Wild Rose, Wisconsin
Leadership and service to others are two key tenets of Venturing, the Boy Scouts of America’s fast-growing teen 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 and relevant leadership skills that every teen can use.
VLSC is highly recommended for the Kodiak course. THIS course is open to Venturers and Boy Scouts ONLY.

Northeast Region Area 1 Rendezvous



Come help us **celebrate the 10 year anniversary of Venturing.** We, the Finger Lakes Council of the Boy Scouts of America, will be hosting this event at **Camp Babcock- Hovey, in Ovid, New York.** Any **Crew, Ship, or Post** is welcome to join us the weekend of **July 25th through July 27th, 2008** for this celebration. There will be a cost of **\$20 per person** for this event. Look for registration packets in January!
Rendezvous 2008

Northeast Region Area 4 Quest

The Northeast Region, Area 4, Area Venturing Officers Association invites Venturers, Sea Scouts, and their guests to attend the 3rd annual Area 4 **Venturing Quest.** The 2008 Quest weekend will be held on Friday, April 11, through Sunday, April 13, 2008, at Camp Bucoco (near Slippery Rock, Pa).

The purpose of the Quest weekend is to bring Venturers together to share ideas and information, and to encourage relationships that will promote communications and the growth of Venturing. The Area 4 Quest has been designed by the AVOA to emphasize FUN, FRIENDSHIP, and ADVENTURE, not award requirements or advancement. Our goal is that your only regret is that the weekend ended too soon!



The Quest weekend begins with a big party on Friday night (that includes lots of great food, music, and cool ice breakers) and culminates on Sunday morning with the annual Area 4 meeting and election of officers. The theme for this year is **“Viva Venturing”!** Be prepared for Las Vegas-style bright lights and games, at the theme party, on Saturday night! The party will offer plenty of choices - awesome food, a variety of games, dancing and even a movie marathon featuring (of course) Las Vegas themed movies!

Saturday activities include: LAN Party, Climbing and Repelling, handgun shooting, 3-D



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Archery, Ballroom Dancing, Bottle Rockets, Black Powder Rifle shooting, Geocaching, text messaging competition, Shotgun Shooting, Ultimate Frisbee, Tomahawk Throwing, canoeing, and much, much more. In addition adults (and youth) may choose from: an advisors coffee lounge, Consultant Fair, training sessions, and discussion forums. An Ethical Controversy forum will be held to reflect on Las Vegas-style “entertainment” and related topics.

The fee for the 2008 Quest is **\$40 per person** (for tent camping) or **\$50 per person** (for cabin camping). The fee covers all food, program (except as noted), event patch, event T-shirt, facilities, and program materials. **On-time registrations must be postmarked by Thursday, March 20, 2008.**

Participants must bring tents and personal camping gear, or register (in advance) for a bunk in a cabin. Meals will be served in the dining hall and include Friday night snack, Saturday meals (3) and snacks, and Sunday breakfast.

If you plan to attend, or are just thinking about it, please send us an email at quest@ne4avoa.org

We will notify you of program updates, requirements for off-site activities, and important information to assist your preparation. If you have questions or any special needs please contact us so we can assist.

Please visit our web site for the **REGISTRATION PACKET** and to see pictures from our past events - <http://ne4avoa.org>

See Attached flyer – Cluster0308-NER-Area4-Quest

Crew Bylaws and Schedules

We have been collecting Crew Bylaws and yearly schedules to help newly formed Crews. If you can share you Bylaws and schedules for Crews, Council TLC, or Areas please email to Bob Monto at rmonto@aol.com

We have just a few at present if you need one.

National Shooting Sports

Shooting sports programs are popular activities for Scouts of all ages. For many young people, the Boy Scouts of America provides the best access to safe, instructional shooting sports programs. Learning proper skills and safety techniques at an early age often results in a lifetime interest in shooting sports and the outdoors.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation is sponsoring a special grant program for BSA local councils. Grants are available for a variety of purposes, but innovative programs that will attract new members and entice current members to continue on the Scouting trail are most desirable. Projects to improve camp shooting ranges and upgrade equipment also meet the criteria for consideration. The minimum award is \$2,500, and the maximum award is \$10,000.

Check with your Council for current applications when they are available from National.

Bill Evans reports “it is available again this year with a new hundred thousand dollars. Councils need to think beyond just requesting new equipment. They need to think creatively- what will make our request stand out from the others. Last year’s winner talked about using shooting as a recruiting tool, or to teach life skills, or to strengthen their programs, etc. The purpose of the gift (\$) by the NSSF was to expand shooting-think in those terms.”

The 2008 applications are not available yet, if a council wished to submit early, Bill Evans suggested using the 2007 form and change the dates,



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Chester County Council



V-Week @ Ware

What's V-Week @ Ware? The first ever week of summer camp at Camp Ware (Horseshoe Boy Scout Reservation, Peach Bottom, Pa.) specifically designed to meet the needs and interests of our high school youth. V-Week at Ware runs from July 6-12 with 3, 4, and 7-day programs. Expanding opportunities for high school youth to explore all Venturing has to offer is at the core of V-Week. A detailed flier about the camp is attached.

A week where the days are filled with opportunities to explore the following

- SCUBA Certification
- Caving
- Shooting Sports: Rifle, Shotgun, Black Powder, and Pistol
- Archery
- Plants and Wildlife
- Ecology
- Mountain Biking
- Mountaineering/Rock Climbing
- COPE (Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience)—high and low ropes
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Equestrian
- Land Navigation
- Kayaking
- Volleyball
- Fishing
- Outdoor Cooking
- Living History
- Photography and

Graphic Design

- Pottery
- Basic First Aid and CPR
- Wilderness First Aid
- Physical Training
- Conservation
- Outdoor Cooking
- Wilderness Survival

Click on the V-Week link from the Horseshoe Reservation website to learn more:

Editor Bob Monto at rmonto@aol.com

www.hsr-bsa.org. The Master Schedule and program descriptions will be posted around February 1 with registration opening on February 15.

Mid-America Venturing Resident Camp 2008

Finally, Venturers can get together and hang out with other Venturers! The 1st Annual Venturing Resident Camp hosted by the Mid-America Council; will be held at Camp Cedars from July 20-26th. All Councils are welcome and invited to attend!

Cost: \$235.00; \$275.00 after June 27, 2008.

This camp is for Registered Venturers only and registration as a Crew is preferred. For more information log onto www.mac-bsa.org or email campdirector@mac-bsa.org. See

FlyerCluster0308-MACVenturingCamp attached.

Spotlight on Venturing Crew 310

This is the second year that Advent Moravian Church and the Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council have assisted in sponsoring a Venturing Crew.

2007 did not encompass as much flying as we would have liked due to the budget cuts from the Air Force, another sponsor of this joint



Civil Air Patrol/Venture Crew. Crew activities did include security at McGuire Air Force Base for the Memorial Day Air Show in which over 1300 Civil Air Patrol Cadets, Junior ROTC Cadets and Scouts participated. The crew also



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participated with security at the Reading Air Show in June.

Training is always ongoing in Scout Skills and Search and Rescue. First Aid classes were held several times during the year to update all personnel for Search and Rescue Operations. The members of Crew 310 also attended winter, summer and fall encampments, Ranger School and several conferences. The scouts participated as color guard for various patriotic and military events throughout the year.

Since the crew members are also members of the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, the Civil Air Patrol, two of our members received awards for outstanding leadership. Cadet Lt. Col Keith Hontz was chosen for the international air cadet exchange program and spent time in Holland with the Dutch Air Force and their auxiliary. Cadet Bryan Hrysko was promoted to Cadet Colonel and received the General Ira C. Eaker Award for Outstanding Leadership.

Community Service projects included the previously mentioned color guard commitments, placing the flags on veteran's graves, working with the Egypt and Whitehall Fire Companies Fall Haunted Woods Program, assisting at the Lehigh Valley Job Fair in September and being involved with several area Search and Rescue missions for downed aircraft and missing personnel.

Winterfest 2008



This year's Winterfest, held in Gatlinburg by the Northeast Georgia Council, was a big hit. The event was the weekend of February 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. Every year, Winterfest is the biggest event held in the United States for exploring and venturing, and this year we had a record number of participants. We had 2,317 participants from all over the United States. It was run very smoothly thanks to the many volunteers and the many hours they put into the event. With their

Editor Bob Monto at rmonto@aol.com

help, we were able to hold 43 events. All of which were a lot of fun for the participants and the spectators. There were six new events. They were geocache, orienteering, save your skin fire competition, advisor adult rapid dress, a swat demo, and improved caving. I would like to say congratulations to all the winners of the competitions. Everyone did really well. Also, there were the dances on Friday and Saturday night. Both were a blast. We plan on next year's event being bigger and better. If you would like more information about Winterfest 2009 please visit the Northeast Georgia website (www.nega-bsa.org) around August.

Submitted by Catherine DeRoth, Winterfest Venturing Youth Chair. Catherine is also the Venturing Representative to the Executive Board of the Northeast Georgia Council and a past President of Crew 573.

Lincoln Bicentennial Encampment



A special opportunity for Venturers to camp with other Central Region Venturers at the 200th anniversary celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birth. You are invited by the Buffalo Trace Council to the Lincoln Bicentennial Encampment on May 9 - 11, 2008 at the Lincoln Boyhood Memorial and Lincoln State Park.

This is going to be a really big deal with over 3000 Scouts and leaders in attendance (probably double that including daytime attendance on Saturday).

Rumor is that a number of VIPs are planning to pay a visit.

For more info about the event, click on the links below.

<http://www.buffalotracecouncil.org/documents/LincolnBook.pdf>

http://www.legendaryplaces.org/thinklincoln/mothers_day_celebration.cfm

<http://www.lincolnbicentennial.gov/>



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Swift Base – 4 Venturing Weeks in 2008 - Greater St. Louis Area Council

Swift Base first opened the summer of 1966 at S bar F Scout Ranch. From the beginning, it was designed to be a totally different experience for high school and college-age members. It is one of only two bases of its type in our country. And we are lucky to have it here in Area 5!

S bar F Scout Ranch is 5,200 acres of woods, trails, streams, Nims Lake and fun. Our 270-acre Nims Lake serves as the focal point for water skiing, sailing, fishing, canoeing, swimming, water tubing, sun bathing, kayaking and water sliding. The Base's herd of horses will allow you to saddle-up and explore the wilderness trails. If heights and challenges are your thing, the Base offers rock climbing, rappelling and a high and low ropes course. Mountain bikes are available every day for rides that see no pavement. You may want to try your hand at firing a .22 rifle or bow and arrow. At Swift, you choose what you want to do.

Evening programs include campfires and dances, volleyball and crazy competitions. An outdoor movie night (drive-in style), a game night or bonfire may be in the offing. If your crew wants to take an overnight canoe float down the lake, that can be arranged.

Some crews like to hike to Castle Rock to check out the stars. All meals are served in Swift Lodge --dining-hall style.

You camp on a campsite with your crew and your leaders. Tents are set up for you on wooden frames. Each of our five campsites are scattered in the woods, so that you have shade and some privacy.

If you have questions, please contact Director of Camping Patrick Martchink at pmartchink@stlbsa.org.

Venturers and Explorers should start making plans for the 2008 summer camp program at Swift Base.

After Jan. 1, 2008, high-school-age Scouts from the Greater St. Louis Area Council and

out-of-council crews may begin signing up to attend Swift Base.

Reservation fees are \$25 per youth member.

Start promoting Swift to your crew or post now.

Don't let the time slip by! For Info: www.stlbsa.org

2008 INFORMATION:

- Swift Base Dates for Venturers and Older Boy Scouts

June 15-21, June 22-28, June 29-July 5 and July 6-12

Venturing 10th Anniversary Event for Central Region to be Held Here in Area 5!

The Central Region's Venturing 10th Anniversary Celebration will be held here in Area 5 at The Greater St. Louis Area Council's Fall Fun Rally the weekend of September 19th –21st, 2008 has been chosen as the 10th Anniversary event for Central Region Venturing. The Fall Fun Rally is the largest Venturing event in the Central Region. Last year over 600 Venturers and leaders attended the event. Mark your calendars now to join Venturers from around the Central Region at the 10th Anniversary Celebration.

A promotional video of the event can be found at www.fallfunrally.org. The event's details will be available in the spring 2008.

Dive To Adventure

Venturing Leadership Program 2008



Note: Must arrange, pay for, and successfully complete PADI Open Water Diver, Advanced Open Water Diver, Rescue Diver, Divemaster, and Instructor Development courses on your own.

National Council Deadline: December 31, 2008

See Cluster0308-PADI information and Application attached



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Celebrate Venturing's 10th Anniversary



The Venturing Program of the Boy Scouts of America will be 10 years old in 2008. To help celebrate and grow the Venturing program, here is a list of 10 actions, activities or events your council can do during 2008.

1. Organize 10 new Venturing Crews (Sea Scout Ships) by 12/31/08.
2. Have a growth in Venturing Membership on 12/31/08.
3. Develop a Scout to Venturer transition plan. Submit plan to region.
4. Have an active Teen Leaders Council or equivalent, including a Venturing President, volunteer Chair and council staff adviser.
5. Plan and conduct at least one Venturing activity during 2008.
6. The council is represented at the Area Venturing event.
7. Hold at least one Venturing Forum (formally called Roundtable).
8. Conduct a Kodiak or Powder Horn course **or** have a council representative attended a course director conference for Kodiak or Powder Horn.
9. The Venturing President and Chair report on the status of Venturing in the Council at an Executive Board meeting.
10. Conduct a service project using Venturers to plan and execute the project.

Central Region Venturing Area 5 Venturing Committee Report

Regional President

To: Scout Executives and Key Venturing Advisors
 FROM: Bob Vogt, Area 5 Venturing Advisor/Chair, Central Region Venturing Committee
 SUBJECT: **Nomination Form for 2008-2009 Area 5 Venturing President**

NOTE: The references to Area 5 includes *all* of the BSA Councils headquartered in Southern Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska.

Application Attached as **Cluster0308-CentralRegion President**

Area 5 President

The application for the Area 5 Venturing President for 2008-2009 is attached to this newsletter and is available on the www.crventuring.org website.

Applications are due by April 1st. We are seeking a youth member that wants to help grow For full details see Cluster0308-CentralRegionArea5VenturingUpdate

First 10th Venturing Anniversary Henry Rifle

Dr. Richards Miller of Waynesboro, Virginia, is



presented the first 10th Venturing Anniversary Henry Rifle by Bill Evans, National Associate Director, Venturing. This special edition rifle has a serial number of

01VEN10 for rifle number one, Venturing 10th anniversary. It is a Henry Big Boy, 44 mag. engraved with the designation, *Founder*. Dr. Miller is truly one of Venturing's founders according to Evans. Evans had been Scout Executive in Dr. Miller's council and was able to keep up the great relationship by recruiting Dr. Miller to serve as chairman of the national Outdoor Exploring committee. While serving as chairman, Dr. Miller along with Bill Evans, Larry and Donna Cunningham, Bob Soldivera, and Gary Van Roekel saw the need for a more scout-like teen program. While developing the Bronze, Gold, Silver, and Ranger advancement award programs in 1997, the BSA national executive board gave the green light to create what is now Venturing.




Dr. Miller is also the recipient of the Silver Beaver, the Silver Antelope, Silver Buffalo, National Venturing Leadership Award, and Distinguished Eagle. Dr. Miller continues to serve as the Chairman of the Venturing Outdoor committee

The winners and their photographs will also be shown on the Venturing web site.

For complete rules see Cluster0308-Photo Context attached

**ENTER OUR "VENTURING 10TH
ANNIVERSARY"
PHOTO CONTEST**

**Policy on Scout Participation in Political
Events from the Marketing &
Communications Division Director**

 What images do you think best reflect the essence of Venturing? Capture them with your camera and then enter your favorite photographs in the "Venturing 10th Anniversary" photo contest.

Since we are in a presidential election year, it is a good time to restate the BSA's long-standing policy regarding the participation of Scouts in political rallies and other political events.

The contest is open to all registered youth members of the Venturing program. Photos will be judged in four categories:

Uniformed unit members and leaders may participate in flag ceremonies at political events and may lead the Pledge of Allegiance; however, they should retire after the ceremony and not remain on the speakers' platform or in a conspicuous location where television viewers could construe their presence as an endorsement or symbol of support. In addition, photos of candidates or Scouts in uniform or BSA marks and logos are not allowed in political campaign materials of any kind.

1. Wildlife
2. People
3. The Spirit of Venturing
4. Spirit of Patriotism

Our judges will be looking for the photographs that best exhibit **creativity, originality, and visual beauty**. A winning photograph will be selected for each of the four categories. From the four winners, one photograph will be selected as the Grand Prize Winner.

Volunteers and professionals must be alert to situations that would imply that the BSA favors one candidate over another. Strict observance of our long-standing policy against the active participation of uniformed Scouts and leaders in political events is mandatory.

One winner from each of the four categories will receive a \$200 BSA Supply gift card.

Please notify your chartered organizations and unit leaders of this policy. Questions on the interpretation of this policy may be referred to David K. Park, national legal counsel, or the Marketing & Communications Division at 972-580-2263.

The Grand Prize Winner will receive a \$400 BSA Supply gift certificate, and a three-day, all expenses paid trip with his/her parents to New York City to attend the annual Explorers Club meeting as the guest of Richard Wiese, the youngest ever president of the Explorers Club. Members of the Explorers Club include: Neil Armstrong (space), Robert Ballard (ocean exploration), Scott Carpenter (space), Jim Fowler (zoology), William Koch (sailing), Steven Squyres (space, Mars), Charles "Chuck" Yeager (test pilot). For more information on the Explorers Club, go to www.explorers.org.



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Florida Sea Base - Tall Ship Sailing Adventure August 10-18, 2008

Venturing Crew 27 from Westfield, NJ is looking for a Venturing Crew to join us as we set sail from the Florida Keys for an eight day sailing adventure. We will sail an 83 foot topsail schooner, snorkeling, fishing, and exploring the many Key reefs. You may join our Crew for travel and pre-sail tour or travel on your own. We plan to fly from Newark Liberty Airport to Miami International Airport on Saturday August 9 and return on Monday August 18th, 2008



- 10-12 spots are available (2 may be Advisors)
- Cost= \$650.00 per participant (Adventure Only, no travel)
- Total Participation limited to 20
- \$325.00 Deposit required to reserve your spot. (\$325.00 due 5/1/08)

For more information contact:
scottanderson@att.net

You may wish to explore the Florida Sea Base website at:

<http://bsaseabase.org>
<http://www.bsaseabase.org/adventure/seaex.htm>

Venturing Cluster

The cluster council concept is a friendly way to help our Venturing program and exchange ideas and programs among the Crews and councils. Our cluster includes councils and Crews from across the Country that support venturing, exchange ideas, Best Practices and activities for the Venturing Program. Our Cluster councils include many councils and Crews in the Northeast, Central, Southern and Western regions. The Cluster newsletter "Venturing Report" is not an official publication of any Region or National. It is the Venturers newsletter. We have been growing thanks to your efforts.

Thank your for your contributions and support in this effort to better support you. If you would like to be added to the list let Bob Monto know at rmonto@aol.com



Yours in Scouting
Bob "the BEAR" Monto