



# VENTURING Forum

Cluster Councils. B.S.A.

August 2008

## National Organizational Structure Study Update

Bob Mazzuca, Chief Scout Executive, announced on July 10<sup>th</sup> a creation of a totally new framework for the National Council, Boy Scouts of America. See **Cluster 0808-National Study**.

**Aug 22-24; Sept 5-7**

Northeastern PA Council  
Goose Pond; Camp Acahela  
Cost \$230

Contact Walt Godshall at  
[rosewalt68@msn.com](mailto:rosewalt68@msn.com)

## Powder Horn Courses

**August 7-9, & August 21-23, 2008**

Trapper Trails Council  
Camp Kiesel Huntsville, & Camp Hunt Garden  
City, UT  
Cost \$170

Contact Mike Perkins at  
[perkins@comcast.net](mailto:perkins@comcast.net)

**August 11-16, 2008**

Grand Teton Council  
Island Park Scout Camp, Island Park UT  
Cost \$225.00

Contact Clarence Gumnow at  
[ceg15@gobigwest.com](mailto:ceg15@gobigwest.com)

**August 15-17 & September 5-7, 2008**

Atlanta Area Council  
Robert W. Woodruff Scout Reservation  
Blaiarsville, GA  
Cost \$225

Contact Darren Gillett at [da.gillett@att.net](mailto:da.gillett@att.net)

**Aug 15-17 & Sept. 5-7.**

The Heart of America Council  
Theodore Naish Scout Reservation, Bonner  
Springs, KS.  
Cost \$225

Contact Judy Tuckness at  
[jktuckness@yahoo.com](mailto:jktuckness@yahoo.com)

**August 15-17 & September 12-14, 2008**

Greater Cleveland Council  
Beaumont Scout Reservation Rock Creek, OH  
Cost \$200

Contact Michael Courtright at  
[mcourtright@cle.boehringer-ingelheim.com](mailto:mcourtright@cle.boehringer-ingelheim.com)

**Aug 22-24; Sept 12-14**

Finger Lakes Council  
Camp Gorton; Camp Babcock Hovey  
Cost \$225

Contact Steve Wheeler at [bafamz1@linkny.com](mailto:bafamz1@linkny.com)

**August 22-24, and September 26-28, 2008**

Connecticut Yankee Council  
Deer Lake Scout Reservation Killingworth CT and  
Sequassen Scout Reservation New Hartford CT  
Cost \$ 255

Contact John Neary at [jneary42@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jneary42@sbcglobal.net)

**August 30-Sept 1, and Sept 5-7, 2008**

Denver Area Council  
Peaceful Valley Camp Tahosa  
Cost Not listed

Contact Bobbie Howell at  
[bobbiesuel@comcast.net](mailto:bobbiesuel@comcast.net)

**September 19-21, & October 3-5, 2008**

Alamo Area Council  
Bear Creek Scout Reservation Hunt, TX  
Cost \$225

Contact Nathan Williams at  
[nathan@alamopowderhorn.org](mailto:nathan@alamopowderhorn.org)

**September 19-21, 2008**

Northeast Region Course Directors Conference

**October 3-5, and October 17-19, 2008**

Istrouma Area Council & Southeast Louisiana  
Area Council  
Camp V-Bar & Camp Avondale  
Cost \$225

Contact Lynda Ingram at [lyndasi@bellsouth.net](mailto:lyndasi@bellsouth.net)



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## October 10-12, and October 24-26, 2008

Circle Ten Council

Clements Scout Ranch Athens, TX

Cost \$225

Contact **John McCollum** at  
[johnmccollum@netscape.com](mailto:johnmccollum@netscape.com)

## October 9-11, and October 23-25, 2008

Grand Canyon Council

Lake Pleasant

Cost \$TBD

Contact **Gary Smith** at  
[garvsmithmd@netscape.net](mailto:garvsmithmd@netscape.net)

## March 12-15, and 26-19, 2009

Mid America Council Council

Camp Cedars Cedar Bluff, NE & Thomas  
Ashford Scout Reservation Homer, NE

Cost \$200-250

Contact **Bill Pickle** at [wdpickle@hotmail.com](mailto:wdpickle@hotmail.com)

## March 20-22, and April 3-5, and May 2-3, 2009

Sam Houston Area Council

Camp Strake Conroe, TX

Cost \$225

Contact **Bill Berry Jr.** at  
[scoutmaster@SR637.org](mailto:scoutmaster@SR637.org)

## April 17-19, and May 1-3, 2009

Blackhawk Area Council

Camp Lowder & Camp Algonquin

Cost \$TBD

Contact **Patricia Dalton** at  
[tdalton114@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tdalton114@sbcglobal.net)

## April 24-26, and May 15-17, 2009

Caddo Area Council

Camp Preston Hunt

Cost TBD

Contact **Pam Carter** at  
[pamcarter@bwicompanies.com](mailto:pamcarter@bwicompanies.com)

## April 24-19, 2009

Baltimore Area Council

Camp Spencer Whiteford MD

Cost \$225

Contact **Mark Mulligan** at [crew396@aol.com](mailto:crew396@aol.com)

## May 15-17, and May 29-31, 2009

Northern New Jersey Council

Drukker Scout Reservation-Camp Turrell  
Cuddebackville NY

Cost \$235

Contact **Dan Stryker** at [dan@gainsllc.com](mailto:dan@gainsllc.com)

## May 29-31 and June 12-14, 2009

Old Colony Council

Camp Resolute Bolton, MA & Camp Squanto  
Plymouth, MA

Cost \$235

Contact **Bonnie Showstack** at  
[eagle042@comcast.net](mailto:eagle042@comcast.net)

## August 7-9 and 21-23, 2009

West Tennessee Area Council

Camp Mack Morris

Cost \$TBD

Contact **Joe Craven** at [Joe.craven@chemetall.com](mailto:Joe.craven@chemetall.com)

## August 9-15, 2009

Ventura County Council

Three Falls, Frazier Park CA

Cost \$240.00

Contact **Mel Krone** at [majorharheads@aol.com](mailto:majorharheads@aol.com)

## August 28-30 and September 11-13, 2009

Colonial Virginia Council

Bayport Scout Reservation

Cost \$TBD

Contact **William Monroe** at [wcmunroe@cox.net](mailto:wcmunroe@cox.net)

## October 10-12 & 24-26, 2009

Jayhawk Area Council, Quivira Council, Coronado  
Council and Cornhusker Council

Falley Scout Reservation Oskaloosa, KS

Cost \$TBD

Contact **Julie Dalton** at [buffalogal1@cox.net](mailto:buffalogal1@cox.net)



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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](http://www.powderhorn-bsa.org)

## Website Links:

### National Venturing Site

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

### National Venturing Youth Cabinet

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

### Central Region Venturing

<http://www.crventuring.org>

### Northeast Region Venturing

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

### Northeast Region Venturing-Area 4

<http://www.ne4avoa.org/>

### Kodiak

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

### Powder Horn

[www.powderhorn-bsa.org](http://www.powderhorn-bsa.org)

### Southern Region

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

### Southern Region-Venturing

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

### USA Scouting Service-Venturing

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

:

## Susquehanna Council VOA

**September 26-28**

In case you have not yet heard, Susquehanna Council will be hosting a large adventure racing themed weekend at Camp Karoondinha September 26-28. Activities include Climbing/rappelling, mountain biking, kayaking, SCUBA, Black Powder, navigation, and much more! Some activities will also be offered at night. The weekend even ends with an adventure race that venturers can compete in.

All food, lodging and activities are included for the low cost of \$35!

If planning on attending a registration form is attached. **CLUSTER0808-VOA**



If you have any questions or would like more information please feel free to contact me!

Doing my daily good turn,

Steve Sassaman

Susquehanna Council Venturing President

(570)-765-1495

## Crew 500 Annual Retreat

**September 19-21, 2008**

The Diocese of Trenton Catholic Committee on Scouting will hold its 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Retreat September 19-21, 2008 at CITTA Scout Reservation in Brookville, NJ. This year's theme is "Jesus Goes to Camp". As always, our retreat is youth planned and youth produced by members of CNJC Venture Crew 500. This year's theme is SCOUT oriented - things like a prayer HIKE (not too far), low COPE activities (they say anyone can do them), and much more are tentatively in the works, and we have changed our format a bit. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Venturers, who will be in the 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades in September, 2008 may attend as units or as parish groups. Individual Scouts may attend if they pre-register by September 3, 2008.



See the attached Brochure **Cluster0708-Crew500** and our website, [www.dotccs.org](http://www.dotccs.org) for more information or contact Deacon Kevin O'Boyle at [kevinob@aol.com](mailto:kevinob@aol.com)

A Scout is Reverent. We hope to see you there.



### Crew 295 Finger Lakes Council Kodiak

Crew 295 of East Bloomfield, Finger Lakes Council, NY participated in the Kodiak training course in April 2008. There were five youth participants and one youth instructor for this course. The activity took place at the Pine Creek gorge in PA and consisted of two parts. The crew first did a 36-mile white-water rafting trip down the Pine Creek gorge and then backpacked back to their starting location along the West Rim trail. Even though it was raining and cool during the rafting trip the youth enjoyed the activity. The rapids were not very demanding but we had the opportunity to see a couple Bald Eagles along the way. The hike up to the rim after rafting was strenuous but everyone made it just fine. One of the other neat things was that the crew observed a beaver dam and lodge on one of the days of the hike. There were also some great views of the gorge (see pictures) and enjoyable little streams to rest along during the trip.

Some of the comments from crew members regarding the Kodiak course included:

- They enjoyed that the training was stretched over a period of time so they could think about the information.
- They learned a lot of valuable skills in the context of the outdoor activity, which made it easy to apply to what they were doing.
- They definitely enjoyed doing the training in the outdoor setting rather than sitting at a training session in a building.
- They felt the course was engaging and helped them analyze what strong leadership skills are.

The crew hopes to participate in the Kodiak X training in the near future and looks forward to conducting the Kodiak training at another activity next spring.

Submitted by Eric Falkman, Crew Advisor



Group picture at lookout.

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

September 19th –21st, 2008

The Central Region's Venturing 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will be held here in Area 5 at The Greater St. Louis Area Council's Fall Fun Rally the weekend of 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](http://www.fallfunrally.org). The event's details will be available in the spring 2008.



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## Occoneechee Council -Kodiak

Over the weekends of June 6-8, and June 13-15, youth from Venture Crews and Boy Scout Troops from all over the Council attended Occoneechee's pilot Kodiak course. Kodiak was a chance for them to learn and build leadership skills, in a high adventure trek setting, that they can take back with them and use in their units and for rest of their lives. During the course, staff and participants participated in rock climbing, rappelling, the C.O.P.E course (high and low ropes) at Camp Durant, hiking the Appalachian Trail, white water rafting on the Nolichucky River in Tennessee, and caving at Worley's Cave. Amid all the fun, youth participated in short, interactive leadership sessions known as commissions. They are continually reinforced throughout the course so that they are 'internalized' by the participants.



During the 6 days they were together, the participants built and developed effective teams and encouraged each other to face their fears and overcome them. They attempted things they never thought possible and excelled at all of them. They learned and practiced effective communication skills, which were required throughout the course for all tasks, ranging from leading a Crew on the Appalachian Trail to something as simple as acquiring dinner without being able to use oral communication.

The overall feeling of the staff is that this was a tremendous success! The participants learned the leadership skills that they needed and had an incredible time while doing it. The

Council has its first 15 Kodiak graduates back in the units, sharing what they learned and excited as ever. I have already had more requests for staffing the next course than we could possibly take. The next course will be December 20-22 and 27-29. The first weekend will consist of an orientation flight and some mountain biking in the Uwharrie National Forest; and the second weekend will be snow skiing in West Virginia. Of course there will be plenty of other games and activities as well. The flyer, cost and registration forms should be posted by the end of July. There will also be a weekend Kodiak X course in March, which will only be open to Kodiak graduates. Keep an eye on the Training calendar. Kodiak is the future of leadership in Venturing!



Here are a few quotes from participants and instructors;

Monica (Youth Staff Instructor and Crew 713 President) "As a staff member I noticed more than just when they picked up on lessons; I also noticed remarkable changes made by almost everyone. Watching their self confidence build, and them glow with pride upon accomplishing something they had never thought to try was the highlight of my experiences," stated youth staff instructor and Crew 713 President

Katie (a participant) "The C.O.P.E course was awesome and the caving was out of the world fun."

Courtney (another participant) says "seeing myself go from not wanting to do something to living by the moment was my biggest change and the highlight of the whole thing. It really changed me."



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Doug (Course Director) "This is, without a doubt, the most rewarding thing I have ever done for the youth in Scouting. In 6 short days you could see the transformation where some of these young people faced their fears, helped and relied on their team members, and became much more responsible young adults. I could not be more proud of them."

Dana (Assistant Trek Director for Logistics) "It was a lot of hard work. At times, I felt I had bit off more than I could chew, but it was all worth it as I watched the participants change and grow into stronger individuals with each commission and challenge."

Any questions you have about this course or the winter course can be directed to Doug Branson [ockodiak@windstream.net](mailto:ockodiak@windstream.net) or 910-824-0071.

Doug Branson  
Kodiak Director  
Advisor Crew 713

## Pioneering a new Venturing experience: V-Week@Ware

A week at camp specifically designed to meet the needs of older youth and Venturers was at the heart of V-Week. Held at Chester County Horseshoe Reservation's Camp Ware from July 6 to 12, 20+ youth pioneered this new program. There were many differences between V-Week and a traditional camp experience.

These included:

- To accommodate the busy lives of Venturers, participants could come for the full week, or choose one of two half week sessions.
- Each participant filled his or her day with in-depth programs. Many were based on meeting the requirements of Bronze and Ranger awards.

Most programs were divided into two-day morning or afternoon sessions, giving participants the opportunity to explore four programs over the week. For some programs, such as NRA Pistol Certification, participants committed to two, all day sessions.



- Experienced, knowledgeable consultants volunteered their time to work with participants in the program areas.



- Activities were not limited to what could be done on-site. Groups ventured out of camp for some programs, such as Equestrian, which was done at Fair Hill Stables.
- On Friday everyone went off-site for a more in depth outdoor experience. Among the highlights that individuals accomplished during the week were:
  - Earned the National Rifle Association Pistol Certification
  - Rocked the COPE course at Horseshoe
  - Learned whitewater kayaking skills then used them on the Octorara



- Rigged and ascended a rescue line
- Mountain biked all the trails at Fair Hill Natural Resource Area
- Completed the

Letterbox Course at Ware

- Prepared for a wild cave trip
- Learned about horses, mucked stalls, and rode horses at Fair Hill Stables
- Worked with clay on a potter's wheel
- Cooked a tee-pee chicken over charcoal and baked a box oven cake
- Climbed the rocks at Rock State Park
- Completed four trail rides on horseback at Fair Hill
- Built a shelter and "survived in the wild" if only for a short time
- Recorded and shared their experiences through digital photography
- Cleared a trail to the Indian gravesites at Ware

**The result: V-Week was a blast.** Comments from Venturers attending camp included:



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- Liked that we were the “guinea pigs” for the first year.
- Liked being around kids my own age.



- It was a good week, had good food, and was pretty well planned out.
- Like the chilled environment.
- Got to do different things that we don't

usually do at camp.

- Had a good time with everybody.
- I liked using my bike at camp. It was great to chill for the week.
- We could do a lot more because we didn't have to wait as long for our turn.
- We got more individual attention.
- COPE was a blast. We learned to trust people more and we had a good time with everyone.
- Was able to come out for 1/2 the week.
- Really learned a lot in the pistol course. Liked the small group size and all the various firearms that we tried.
- Liked the relaxed atmosphere and made new friends.
- Small group size was cool.
- Program selections were good.
- No uniform was appreciated.



By Carla Lucas  
Secretary, Venturing  
Committee  
Chester County  
Council, BSA

## Kodiak 2008



### August 10-15

San Juan Islands, WA

Cost \$350

Five days of sea kayaking in the San Juan Islands.

Contact [Suzanne Hahn](mailto:hahnse@comcast.net) at [hahnse@comcast.net](mailto:hahnse@comcast.net)

(360) 333-1568 cell (360) 428-0159 home

### August 18-23

Teton High Adventure Base, UT

Cost \$350

Backpacking, white water rafting, mountain biking, COPE course, and perhaps horseback riding/

Contact: Guy Carpenter (801) 298-9253

## Kodiak 2009

### July 7-14

BSA Florida High Adventure Sea Base

Cost \$1500

Contact “Out Island Adventure” itinerary. See [www.bsaseabase.org](http://www.bsaseabase.org) for details

[Dave Kugler](mailto:DaveKug@aol.com) at [DaveKug@aol.com](mailto:DaveKug@aol.com)

### August 2-13

Susquehanna Council

Peru

Backpacking, mountain biking, whitewater rafting, canoeing into the Amazon jungle, and a rare cultural experience

Cost \$3000

Contact [Steve Sassaman](mailto:SteveSassaman) (570) 765-1495



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September 19th –21st, 2008



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A promotional video of the event can be found at [www.fallfunrally.org](http://www.fallfunrally.org). The event's details will be available in the spring 2008.

## Celebrate Venturing's 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

## “VENTURING 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY” PHOTO CONTEST

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 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary” photo contest.

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

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.

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

**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](http://www.explorers.org).

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



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## Leave No Trace Master Educator course at Maine High Adventure

August 18-23, 2008

Maine High Adventure & Katahdin Area Council will host a Leave No Trace Master Educator course on August 18-23, 2008, based at their facility on Grand Matagamon Lake on the edge of Baxter State Park. The course will include canoe camping on the lake and hiking in Baxter. Please forward this to other Scouters who might be interested. Let David O'Leary know if you have questions about the course, and please contact Dianne Swanson at Katahdin Area Council, (207)866-2241 or [dswanson@bsaemail.org](mailto:dswanson@bsaemail.org), to confirm availability and registration.

Thanks, David O'Leary [daveol@earthlink.net](mailto:daveol@earthlink.net)

Leave No Trace Master Educator Course Coordinator National Capital Area Council, BSA

Attached is the registration flyer which includes additional information about the course. **Cluster0808-LNT**

## Central Region Area 5 Update

Attached to this email is the July 2008 Area 5 Venturing Update. It features the announcements of the new Program Areas in the Central Region and the Council Standard of Venturing Excellency Award. Plus upcoming Venturing events and activities in Area 5. Also you will find information on how to register for the largest Venturing event in the nation (the Fall Fun Rally). More exciting details are attached!

Please take the time to review this material about Venturing. Then pass it on to the Venturers, Venturing Leaders, and Scouting Professionals in your council.. The more we all communicate about the great Venturing Program, the more it will continue to grow!

Items you will find attached are:

- ◆ July 2008 Area 5 Venturing Update
- ◆ July 2008 Central Region Venturing Newsletter

- ◆ Fall Fun Rally
- ◆ Quest Sports Day

Yours in Venturing,

Bob Vogt

Area 5 Venturing Chair

Sarah

Area 5 Venturing President

Ward

## Venturing Cluster

The cluster concept is a friendly way to help Venturing and exchange ideas and programs among the Crews, councils, areas, and regions. Our Cluster includes many councils and Crews in the Northeast, Central, Southern and Western regions that support venturing, exchange of ideas, Best Practices and activities for the Venturing Program.. The Cluster newsletter "**Venturing Forum**" is not an official publication of any Region or National. It is the Venturing Leaders newsletter. Venturing has been growing thanks to your efforts.

Thank your for your contributions and articles in this effort to better support the Venturing program. If you would like to add others to the email list, let Bob "the BEAR" Monto know at [rmonto@aol.com](mailto:rmonto@aol.com)

Special thanks to Central Area 5 Bob Vogt for his support of the Venturing Program.

As always, Venturing articles, questions and comments are welcome/  
Thanks for all you do!

**Bob "the BEAR" Monto**

