



VENTURING Forum

Cluster Councils. B.S.A.

September 2008

Powder Horn Courses

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

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

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

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

Grand Canyon Council

Lake Pleasant

Cost \$TBD

Contact **Gary Smith** at
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

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

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

Blackhawk Area Council

Camp Lowder & Camp Algonquin

Cost \$TBD

Contact **Patricia Dalton** at
tdalton1114@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

April 24-19, 2009

Baltimore Area Council

Camp Spencer Whiteford MD

Cost \$225

Contact **Mark Mulligan** at 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

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



VENTURING Forum

Cluster Councils. B.S.A.

September 2008

August 7-9 and 21-23, 2009

West Tennessee Area Council

Camp Mack Morris

Cost \$TBD

Contact **Joe Craven** at
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

August 28-30 and September 11-13, 2009

Colonial Virginia Council

Bayport Scout Reservation

Cost \$TBD

Contact **William Monroe** at 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

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

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

Southern Region

www.srbsa.org

Southern Region-Venturing

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

USA Scouting Service-Venturing

<http://www.usscouts.org/usscouts/venturing/UnitformingFAQ.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. **CLUSTER0908-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 53rd 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



VENTURING Forum

Cluster Councils. B.S.A.

September 2008

Scouts, Girl Scouts and Venturers, who will be in the 6th through 12th 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 for more information or contact Deacon Kevin O'Boyle at kevinob@aol.com

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

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

September 19th –21st, 2008

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 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. See attached Flyer-**Cluster0908-Fall Fun Rally**.

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



VENTURING Forum

Cluster Councils. B.S.A.

September 2008

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 Uhwaharrie 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."

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 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





VENTURING Forum

Cluster Councils. B.S.A.

September 2008

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:

- 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 ½ 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



VENTURING Forum

Cluster Councils. B.S.A.

September 2008

Kodiak 2008



Kodiak 2009

July 7-14

BSA Florida High Adventure Sea Base

Cost \$1500

Contact "Out Island Adventure" itinerary. See

www.bsaseabase.org for details

[Dave Kugler](mailto:DaveKugler@aol.com) at 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@bsa.org) (570) 765-1495

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

September 19th –21st, 2008



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 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.

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.

"VENTURING 10TH 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 10th 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



VENTURING Forum

Cluster Councils. B.S.A.

September 2008

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.

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

Cape Cod & Islands Council Caribbean Weekend

September 5, 6, 7 2008



September 5, 6, 7 2008 will be the scene of the 4th annual Caribbean Weekend at Cape Greenough on Cape Cod

This year's theme will be Luau at Sunset on the Beaches of Camp Greenough....

For more event information and registration go to www.scoutscapecod.org 508-362-4322

Fee is \$35.00 covers all events, food and tent camping site..

This event is for all Venturing Crews, Ships and older scouts 14+

We still have plenty of space and if you have not been to Cape Cod in September we have had 3 great weekends in the past.

Jeff Stranger

Cape Cod & Islands Council 508-364-3172

Wilderness First Aid

September 13-14, 2008

November 8-9, 2008

The chartering organization of Crew 325 in State College, PA, Centre LifeLink EMS, has scheduled two wilderness first aid courses. They will be held on Saturday and Sunday from 8 to 5 on Sept. 13 & 14 and again on Nov. 8 & 9 (you only need to attend one of the two weekends to be certified). It is a 16 hour American Health & Safety Institute (ASHI) certification good for 3



years. ASHI meets the Philmont WFA requirement. The charge for the course is \$75 which includes a text book and certification card. For information and to register call

Tracy Reagan at 814-237-8163. The instructors are all Venturing Advisors with Crew 325 and are all W-EMT and instructor certified.

Contact me at mem9@psu.edu if you need any info on staying overnight. Camping can be arranged.

Pass this on to anyone interested.

Mark Milliron Crew 325 Advisor

Central Region Area 5 Venturing Update

Please review the attached newsletter from the Central Region

- ◆ Updates on the Fall Fun Rally on September 19-21, 2008. Cost \$12.00
- ◆ Central Region Powder Horn and Kodiak Course Director Conference. October 24-26, 2008

See Flyers attached **Cluster0908-Kodiak-CDC** and **Cluster0908-PowderHorn-CDC**

- ◆ Standards of Venturing Excellence. The Council Standard of Venturing Excellence Award is designed to give a council the roadmap to follow in



VENTURING Forum

Cluster Councils. B.S.A.

September 2008

developing an excellent Venturing program for our youth.

See attached **Cluster-Council-ExcellencyAward**

◆ The Area 5 Facebook Group has information about Venturing Summer Camps, Kodiak Courses, activities and events from Council across Area 5 and updates from Central Region Venturing. If you take a look at this Group you will see how the youth are communicating from Kansas to Nebraska to Illinois and beyond. Area 5 is spreading the word about Venturing. www.facebook.com.

◆ And much more

See attached **Cluster0908-CentralRegion-Area5**

Central Region – Newsletter-August



This newsletter covers the Area events in the Central Region, it's Area committees and their activities.

See attached

Cluster0908-CentralRegion-Newsletter

Leave No Trace BSA Master Educator Course Buffalo Trace Council

October 3 – 5 and October 17 – 20, 2008

This event will be held at the Old Ben Scout Reservation and Hoosier National Forest, Indian
See Application attached-**Cluster0908-LNT**

Quest Sports Day

This opportunity was created by the old National Venturing Division to celebrate Venturing's 10th Anniversary. It was created to promote fun, learning a new sport, competition, celebration and the Sports Bronze



and Quest awards. Any Crew, Ship, VOA or multi-council group can put on a Quest Sports Day. One must hold the event anytime in 2008. This one-day event must feature a “nontraditional” sport (not baseball, basketball, or football). This chosen sport must be taught, practiced, and then be the subject of a competition. Anyone who plans or participates in a Quest Sports Day in 2008 can notify Keith Walton at kw Walton@netbsa.org and automatically receive the commemorative patch for their participation.

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

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

