



VENTURING Report

Cluster Councils. B.S.A.

December 2007

Northeast Region Kodiak Courses

Southwestern PA

Jan 11-13 & 18-21 2008

Cape Code, MA

June 20-28, 2008

Patriots Path Council

July 8-15-2008

Visit the Kodiak website at:

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



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.

Powder Horn Course Information

The courses and host councils scheduled for 2008 are:

Northeastern PA Council

Aug 22-24; Sept 5-7

Goose Pond; Camp Acahela

Finger Lakes Council

Aug 22-24; Sept 12-14

Camp Gorton; Camp Babcock Hovey

Green Mountain Council

Aug 22-24; Sept 5-7

Mt. Norris Scout Reservation

Daniel Webster Council

July 11-13; July 18-20

Hidden Valley; Camp Bell

Pennsylvania Dutch Council

Aug. 15-17; Sept. 5-7

Camp Bashore

Connecticut Yankee Council

Aug. 22-24; Sept. 26-28

Deer Lake Scout Reservation; Sequassen Scout Reservation

Colonial VA Council

April 18-20, May 2-4, 2008

For course information and application to all Regional Approved Powder Horn 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

Kodiak Trek

Patriots' Path Council, BSA

Advanced Leadership Training

The White Mountains

New Hampshire

July 8 - 15, 2008



See Flyer attached

Burlington County Council

Venturing Bowling Lock-In



All Venturers, and Explorers as well as new interested young adults between the ages of 14 and 21.

An all night experience that you should not miss. Bowling, music, food and much, much more. More information will be distributed in the early fall.

Saturday, February 2nd – Sunday, February 3rd. Approximately 10:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. – Please RSVP by Friday, January 25th.

Approximately \$15.00 per registered Venturer, Sea Scout or Explorer – free to any new young adult that fills out an application with registration fees

See Flyer attached

2008 NE Region Area 4 Venturing Quest

The 2008 Area 4 Venturing Quest event will be held on April 11-13, 2008 at the Moraine Trails Council's beautiful Camp Bucoco

http://www.doubleknot.com/openrosters/view_homepage.asp?orgkey=887



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Camp Bucoco is located along the Slippery Rock Creek in Butler County, Pennsylvania -- about 2 miles from Slippery Rock University.

The camp offers an excellent site for the Quest and the volunteers and staff of Moraine Trails council are enthusiastic about this opportunity and are looking forward to hosting the Area 4 Venturers.

The AVOA is planning to offer a variety of activities that will appeal to Venturers.

Please stay tuned for details about the theme and program activities. You will want to register early as we only have room for 400 people!

This event is open to all Venturers and Sea Scouts. Come as a crew or organize a council VOA/TLC contingent!

Watch the Area 4 AVOA web site for updates and to view the fun experienced at the first two Quest events.
www.ne4avoa.org

For more information or to become part of the planning process email info@ne4avoa.org

Powder Horn- Colonial Virginia Council – Southern Region Area 7

Bayport Scout Reservation (VA) April 18-20 and May 2-4, 2008

For course information and application to all Regional Approved Powder Horn courses visit

www.powderhorn-bsa.org

New Zealand trip planned for Christmas 2008.

*Wonder Down Under
Orange County Council Expedition New Zealand 2008*

The Orange County Council of the Boy Scouts of America has put together an expedition to New Zealand for December 2008. This HIGH

ADVENTURE activity is designed to help our youth appreciate the glorious land down under, while at the same time experiencing unique opportunities for exciting and fun-filled activities available nowhere else in the world in one place.

New Zealand is the destination for this unique opportunity. The outstanding activities for this expedition that may be included are being planned and prepared by the Scout Association of New Zealand as they welcome us with open arms to their world.

Come to the land down under where we will take a raft 400 feet below the surface of the earth, in the immense caverns located in the Rotarua area of the North Island, there to participate in "blackwater" rafting - whitewater rafting in the black of a cavern. While there, we will take a foxtail (what we call zip line) through the huge caverns, surrounded by stalactites and stalagmites. We will abseil (what we call rappelling) hundreds of feet down into the bowels of the earth.

Our cavern adventure is just the beginning, as we crawl into a room sized plastic ball and are rolled down a hill as part of the exciting activity called "Zorbing," invented in New Zealand. Then, we will take to the track and land luge down a three quarter mile course, and take the seven G swing over infinity.

If that was not enough excitement, we will visit Hobbiton, the village built for the Lord of The Ring movies as well as the location for Helm's Deep. Later, we will visit an active volcano, where we will see the furious forces of the earth at work.

Additional activities include skipjack tuna fishing, tractor racing (for those of appropriate age), a New Zealand style Christmas party on the beach, sheep shearing, cow milking, a chance to stay on a New Zealand cattle ranch, visits with New Zealand scouts and the top officials of the New Zealand Scout Association and much, much more!

This exciting adventure will take place December 18-30, 2008. The projected cost (subject to fluctuations in exchange and airline



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prices) is only \$2200. Youth, both male and female, ages 13-20 are eligible to participate and must be registered as Scouts or Venturers.

This exciting adventure is being led by highly qualified leaders with extensive experience leading youth on international expeditions.

Tour Organizer is Donald Roberts, who has led Scouts and Venturers to Switzerland and England, as well as planned a trek to Tanzania to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro, as well as leading major high adventure outings to New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, California and Arizona.

Co-Leader is Chuck Williams, who has led Scouts and Venturers to England and Mexico and other domestic High Adventure outings.

To participate in this unique, exciting and life-changing adventure, fill out and return the attached application with the deposit. This is a limited opportunity, and once all the spots are filled, you will be placed on a waiting list. Applications are being accepted on a first come, first served basis from youth, and based on international leadership qualifications from adults.

Contact Chaz3rd6@netscape.net for additional information.

There are a few are a few spots open and anyone interested has to put their down payment in as soon as possible; I am taking a few Venturers from my Crew on this great trip.

Craig Murphy

Presidents Day Sea Scout Training Weekend

The Delaware Valley Flotilla, in conjunction with the Burlington County Council, BSA is sponsoring its 2nd Annual Presidents Day, Sea Scout Training Event.



When: Boarding: from 1600 – Friday - 15 February 2008. Departing: approximately 1400 - Sunday - 18 February 2008.

Location: Burlington County Council's - Pine Tree Education & Environmental Center, Tabernacle, New Jersey.

A \$10 per person, non-refundable deposit is requested to reserve your spot by Jan. 15th, 2008. The balance can be paid on arrival. This event is expected to fill up. Failure to send a timely deposit may result in your placement on a waiting list.

See Flyer attached

SEABASE TRIP

August 2, 2008

There are openings to participate in the Seabase Bahamas Tall Ship program in August 2008.

Information on the program is available on the Seabase Web site at bseabase.org.

Contact Tom Little, ASM troop 31 at T.Little@RCN.com or call 610-252-3779



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Crew 561 Western Region

Congratulations to Crew 561 members who have participated in the Veteran's Track Relay.



Crew 561 is a community service minded unit providing LIVE BUGLING for occasions wanting a Live Bugler. They promote this fading art locally, across the USA and eventually the Boy Scout units International community in providing Boy Scout Buglers at all types of ceremonies stated in the website. This is a "**Bugle Wake Up Call**" to those units with Buglers or Bugle Corps to learn Flag Etiquette, all the necessary Bugle Calls for Flag Ceremonies, Eagle Courts, Flag Disposals, National Holidays (Memorial and Veterans Day) and even Military or private funerals needing TAPS to be played. Many may already be providing this service like an EAGLE Scout here in California who has contributed his Bugle playing for over 300 Military funerals and recognized by the American Legion here in California this past June. For information on Crew 561 visit their site at www.crew561.org,

Venturing Crew 561 is ready to answer any questions concerning our routine, music played etc. **Bugles Across America** is an organization always looking for Live Buglers to help out at Military funerals when requested.

"We are small in number, but mighty in sound"

Bugling is Alive!!!

Mark G. Riebs ADVISOR

Venturing Crew 561 Rose Bowl District, San Gabriel Valley Council, Pasadena, CA

Charter Organization---American Legion Post 280, East Pasadena, CA

Email mgriebs@yahoo.com

Venturing Bronze Awards



There has been some confusion as to who can earn the Bronze Awards. Every Venturer who has met the requirements can earn the Bronze Awards.

One of the strengths of the Venturing program is its ability to meet the interest of all Venturers. Sometimes Venturers like to investigate new, different areas. Variety in a crew always seems to make it more fun to go to meetings and outings. Also, Venturers probably have many interests or would like to have more. Because of that desire, and to provide a pathway to many different experiences, the Venturing Bronze Awards Program is offered.

Venturers can earn their crew's specialty Bronze Award or all five Bronze Awards.

The five different Venturing Bronze Awards (shown above in this order) are:

Arts and Hobbies

Outdoor

Sea Scouting (The requirement is to earn the Ordinary Rank)

Sports

Religious Life (Formerly called Youth Ministries now the Trust Award)

All five Bronze Awards contain the common elements of experience, learning a skill, and sharing your experiences and skills with others. Earning at least one Bronze Award is required for the Venturing Gold Award. The Bronze Award is designed as the entry-level award for a Venturer so that they can acquire usable skills



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that will carry them along the trail to the Venturing Silver Award.

Particular questions in regards to the Sea Scouting Bronze Award were brought up.

For detail on the Sea Scout bronze award see attached flyer.

Dan Stryker

District Chairman

Orange Mountains District

Mate: SSS 62 – Battleship New Jersey

Crew 9 Chester County Council

Hershey Cave 11-18-07



The Dragon Breath Grotto is an Independent Youth Grotto for young men and women 15 y/o (or 14 and graduated the 8th grade) to 21 y/o. This was the first official caving trip for this grotto. Most of the members have caved in one form or another before, but this was the first trip as a group. The members from Dragon Breath that were there were Paul S., John L., Dan W., and Dan G. Members of the Philadelphia Grotto who were along were Amos, Marci, Steve Gadd, and myself (Allen) who is registered in both grottos.

It was in the low thirties and slight drizzle outside as we were suiting up to go inside the cave. We were looking forward to the relatively warmer fifty-five degree cave temperature. The newer guys did well with coming up with suitable clothing for caving. Most of it did wear

well, but I'm wondering how it all cleaned up.

Hershey Cave does not have a lot of climbing. There is some but not as much as others in the same area. Mostly there is crawling. Some hands and knees crawling and some belly crawling. Some crawling seems to go on forever.

And there's the mud. Some sticky mud and some slippery mud. The water table was low for this trip. The pit with the pool was empty and made a nice climbing exercise. Another advantage of the low water table is that all that crawling was not in 1 to 2 inches of water. Just a little muddy.

One section was a long crawl to dividing line for Coy Cave. We got up to that line and turned around. It gets really tight at that point and Coy is still off limits.

Some of the guys went through the front maze. I don't fit, so I have to take their word for it that it was nice. Overall we were in Hershey Cave about two and half-hours.

This was a great cave for our first trip as a team and things just clicked into place. There were no issues and everyone seemed to really enjoy the challenge and the company. It seemed like every one in Dragon Breath has a friend that they'd like to bring on the next trip. We'll have to get together and with everybody and see when and where we'll go next. Hopefully it'll be next month. I don't want to wait too long before I get these guys underground again.

Allen Maddox, Advisor



Chester County Council Big V Day

Big V Day at Camp Horseshoe

The goal was to recruit 200 new Venturers into Chester County's Venturing Program by the end of 2007. Hopefully the answer is Big-V Day!

Across the Council, Crews and registered Venturers were encouraged to bring non-registered guests. Individuals and/or groups of friends with no affiliation to a specific Crew were invited to come to learn more about Venturing in Chester County. In total over 100 high school-aged youth came out for the day.

See Attached flyer "Big V Day" for pictures and details

Southern Region- Ultimate Quest

March 28-30, 2008

Osceola Heritage Park - Kissimmee, Florida

Cost \$50.00

The Ultimate Quest is a weekend long event for your Crew where you will learn and compete in non-traditional sports. Learn how to fence, play lacrosse, or scuba dive. Receive coaching from the best instructors in the country through the Amateur Athletic Union.

Spend a sports filled weekend with your Crew in Central Florida. Come early and stay late to enjoy special discounts on hotels and theme parks.

<http://theultimatequest.com/>

See flyer attached.

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 NE Region and Venturers in Central, Southern and Western regions. The Cluster newsletter is not an official publication of any Region. It is the Venturers newsletter. We have been growing thanks to your efforts.

To help with the distribution of this newsletter can you email me the following: Your Region, Your Area in the Region or Council. This will help to create multiple groupings to distribute your newsletter to Areas instead of larger distributions. This will also allow the addition of new Venturers to the list.

Thank you 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