



# The Central Point



Newsletter of the Central Region | Boy Scouts of America

June Newsletter 2016

**A BIG thank you to  
the previous Central  
Region VOA for all  
their hard work!**

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2015-2016



President



Brian Parro

Administration



Nate Steele

Program



Katie Bruton

Communications



Jennifer Bullock

## Central Region VOA

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!**

<http://www.crventuring.org/Home/Welcome>

# Meet the Area Presidents for 2016-2017



## Area 1

Dominic is from the Northern Star Council in Saint Paul, MN. He is an incoming junior at Como Park Senior High School, where is involved with band, cross-country running, Nordic skiing, and tennis. He joined Scouting in the third grade, and has earned his Arrow of Light, Eagle Scout Award with 2 Silver Palms, and the Dr. Bernard Harris Supernova Award. He is currently a member of Crew 9761, chartered to the Mounds View Lions Club. Dominic also serves as Northwest District Chapter Chief in Totanhan Nakaha Lodge, Junior Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 9050, and as a Senior Staff member of Northern Star Council's NYLT. Outside of Scouting, Dominic volunteers with his church and in the Emergency Department of a local hospital. He enjoys reading, swimming, and spending time with friends and family.



## Area 2

Nick is a member of Crew 29 out of the Great Lakes FSC and has been involved with Scouting since Cub Scouts. For the past 7 years he's been a member of Troop 755 out of Northville, MI. Nick received his Eagle Scout in 2011 and has stayed active since then. He is mostly active in the OA where he is the Noquet Lodge Chief. As well, he is in charge of planning Sash 'n Bash 2, a giant camporee with over 5,000 people. Outside of leadership roles he has been backpacking in the Grand Tetons and scuba diving in the Keys with his troop. Nick lives in Plymouth, MI and attends the University of Michigan pursuing a double major in Political Science and International Studies. In this term, Nick hopes to advance the ranks of the Area 2 Venturing program through recruitment programs and increased communication. His biggest goal is to create a Southern Shores VOA. Nick looks forward to the challenges and fun he'll have with the rest of the Area 2 officers.



## Area 3

Emma is a member of Venturing Crew 2648. In the past, Emma has served as the President of Crew 2648, and she has also served as the Gravois Trail District VOA Vice President of Administration and Program in the Greater St. Louis Area Council. Emma has earned the Venturing Outdoor Bronze Award, Venturing Gold Award, and Venturing Silver Award. Emma has been recognized with the Council and Area Venturing Leadership Awards. Emma currently has her Discovery Award and is working towards the Summit Award. Since joining Scouting, Emma has completed Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews, National Youth Leadership Training, Powder Horn, Kodiak Challenge, Project Management, Mentoring for Venturing, and Goal Setting and Time Management Training. Emma is a junior at Oakville High School.



## Area 4

Hanna Edens is a 17 year old Venturer from Charleston WV where she has completed her term as the 2015-2016 Buckskin Council Venturing President. A graduate of Sissonville High School with over 330 hours of community service, Hanna has been president of Crew 59 since joining at age 14. She has a love of Venturing that has led her to lead beyond the crew and to seek to improve herself by taking Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews, Goal Setting and Time Management Training and NYLT. She has earned the Discovery award and has been honored with the Council Venturing Leadership Award in 2016. Fun fact about Hanna, she is a two-time National Champion in Judo & Ju-Jitsu and continues as a teacher. Her favorite activity is fishing with her crew. She plans on enlisting into the Air Force in 2017.



## Area 5

Kelsey is currently a Junior at Washburn Rural High School in Topeka, Kansas. She started scouting at age 7 as a Girl Scout and was involved with Girl Scouts until she was 14 when she joined Crew 2249 out of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. She has completed Kodiak training twice, has finished NYLT and several other Venturing Leadership Trainings. Kelsey has received her Discovery award and will receive her Pathfinder award this May. She hopes to reach out to more youth and help others grow through Scouting as she has.

## Area 6



Jennifer Bullock is a member of Crossroads of America Council located in Indianapolis, IN which is a part of Area 6 in the Central Region, and is currently registered in Crew 545. Jennifer became involved in Scouting at the age of 15 with Crew 545 because she wanted to grow as a person and as a leader through practical experience, all while having fun, making new friends. She has served as Crew 545 President, Crossroads of America Council VP Communications, Area 6 Venturing President, and Central Region VP Communications. Jennifer has completed Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews (ILSC), National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT). Jennifer has earned her Religious Bronze, Gold, Silver, Venturing, God and Life, Council and Venturing Leadership Awards. Jennifer is a sophomore at Cincinnati Christian University majoring in Youth Ministry and minoring in Psychology.

## Area 7



Kevin is from Pathway to Adventure Council and is a resident of Lemont, IL. He is currently a Senior at Lemont High School and is on the High Honor Roll. He will be attending the University of Iowa in the fall where he will be majoring in mechanical engineering. He is a member of Crew #2049, chartered by Lemont United Methodist Church. Kevin has been involved in the Boy Scouts of America for the past 12 years, starting as a Tiger Cub. Over time, the ideals and foundation that the Scouting program has impacted on his life has made him the person he is today. Kevin is an Eagle Scout and has earned 65 merit badges. He is currently serving as Lodge Chief for Pachsegink Lodge #246 and has served as the 2015-2016 Central Region Area 7 Venturing Vice-President of Communication. Other positions that he has served within his Scouting tenure include: Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader at the 2013 National Scout Jamboree for his Troop, and a crew leader at Northern Tier, Philmont, and Seabase. Kevin is a Vigil member of the Order of the Arrow, and has been presented with the Founders Award. He has earned 4 NOVA awards, 1 SuperNova Award, the Conservation Award, and the Venturing Award. Kevin hopes to earn his Venturing Summit Award as well. Kevin has taken NYLT, NLS, Mentoring Training and has staffed Pathway to Adventure day camp and Lodge Leadership Development Conferences.

# GOOD LUCK!

# NATIONAL MEETING RECAP

BSA National Annual Meeting 2016  
San Diego, CA

This past week, thousands of Scouts, Scouters, and Professionals joined together at the annual gathering called, “National Annual Meeting” or simply, “NAM” for short. This year, it was held in San Diego, CA. Although most of us anticipated beautiful summer-style temperatures, we were surprised to find that the weather held at a steady 66-degrees the entire week.



As reunions and meetings of friends new and old occurred, there was actually some business that took place too! Here’s a recap of what happened over the week for Venturing!

**Tuesday**, the National Venturing Officer’s Association arrived and joined together for the first time since orientation. Preparations were finalized as officers looked forward to the week ahead.

**Wednesday**, the National Venturing Officers Association began walking the exhibit halls and convention floors, helping to spread the word about Venturing! They joined in the National Venturing Committee meeting, and listened as chairman, Jack Furst, laid out his goals for 2016 and beyond. By the end of 2018, Jack’s goal for our organization is 100% Council VOAs!

**Thursday**, members of the NVOA attended the National Business Meeting in the morning, and then their respective Region Business Meetings in the afternoon. During the Central Region meeting, our very own Staff Advisor, Matt Thornton, was presented the Regional Venturing Leadership Award!



At 5pm, Venturers from across the nation gathered together for the National Venturing Reception which included an address from incoming National Commissioner, Charles Dahlquist, awarding of the National Venturing Leadership Award, and end of year closing reports from our National Venturing President, Edward Abraham. Among the recognitions, Central Region Venturing President, Brian Parro, was recognized for his service over the past

year, as well as Christina Vogt received the National Venturing Leadership Award.

What made this occasion even more special is that with the effort of Bryan on Scouting, the event was able to be live-streamed on Facebook for the first time!

**Friday**, members of the NVOA attended the Venturing Spark Session which focused on helping participants create, maintain, and grow Council VOAs. Then members went to their respective region luncheons for the awarding of the Silver Antelope! Among those receiving this prestigious award included the Southern Region Venturing Chair/Advisor, Jennifer Hancock, and the Western Region Venturing Advisor, Rick Kagawa.

The week closed on Friday night as the NVOA attended the annual Silver Buffalo Recognition Dinner, and NVOA members gathered together for one final group photo.

A huge congratulations to everyone for their hard work and tireless efforts!

## VenturingFest 2016

VenturingFest 2016 is a special Scouting event at the Summit that's open to registered Venturers, Scouts (14+) and adult leaders across the U.S. This six-day High-Adventure excursion invites participants to explore the best that the Summit has to offer. We're talking rock climbing, skateboarding, BMX biking, water sports, shooting sports, zip lines, challenge courses, and so much more.

As if the adrenaline-pumping activities weren't enough, VenturingFest-goers will also get to jam out to concerts and meet new friends in Venturing at the event. What more could a Venturer want?

**Dates: July 31- August 5, 2016    Costs: \$400 Youth, \$300 Adults**

<http://www.summitbsa.org/venturingfest/>



## Venturing Blast 2016

Venturing Blast, at the legendary Philmont Training Center Cimarron, NM will feature VOA workshop, networking, ALPS model, retention, recruitment, COPE, team building, shooting, horseback riding.

**WARNING:** This is not your typical training course!

**Dates:**

**Week 1: July 10-16, 2016**

**(With focus on Western and Southern Regions)**

**Week 2: July 17-23, 2016**

**(With focus on Central and Northeast Regions)**

**Registration Fee: \$530**

**Scholarships for youth are available if needed!**

<http://crventuring.org/Home/Fulltext/s=1&id=363>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Event Date(s)	City	State	Host	Event
2016-06-10 2016-06-12	Trevor	WI	Northeast Illinois Council	<a href="#">Powder Horn - NEIC</a>
2016-06-12 2016-06-17	Lisbon	OH	Buckeye Council	<a href="#">National Youth Leadership Training</a>
2016-06-12 2016-06-17	Elgin	IL	Pathway to Adventure Council	<a href="#">NYLT - PTAC</a>
2016-06-12 2016-06-18	Rochelle	IL	Three Fires Council	<a href="#">National Youth Leadership Training</a>
2016-06-18 2016-06-23	Berrien Springs	MI	Pathway to Adventure Council	<a href="#">NLT - PTAC</a>
2016-06-19 2016-06-24	Jeddo	MI	Great Lakes Council	<a href="#">National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)</a>
2016-06-25 2016-07-03	Detroit	MI	Area 2 Unit Event	<a href="#">High Adventure in Southwest US</a>
2016-06-26 2016-07-02	Salem	MO	Lewis and Clark Council	<a href="#">Kodiak Current River II</a>
2016-06-26 2016-06-30	Dundee	MI	Southern Shores Council	<a href="#">Cub Scout Twilight/Day Camp</a>
2016-06-29 2015-07-09	Seabase	FL	Area 6 Unit Event	<a href="#">Seabase Scuba Adventure</a>
2016-07-10 2016-07-15	Trevor	WI	Pathway to Adventure Council	<a href="#">NYLT - PTAC</a>
2016-07-10 2016-07-16	Cimarron	NM	--Non-Council Event--	<a href="#">Venturing Blast! session 1</a>
2016-07-17 2016-07-23	Cimarron	NM	--Non-Council Event--	<a href="#">Venturing Blast! session 2</a>
2016-07-24 2016-07-29	Jeddo	MI	Great Lakes Council	<a href="#">National Leadership Training (NYLT)</a>
2016-07-29 2016-08-05	Mt Hope	WV	--Non-Council Event--	<a href="#">VenturingFest 2016</a>
2016-07-29 2016-07-31	Yellow Springs	OH	Tecumseh Council	<a href="#">Powder Horn - TC</a>
2016-07-31 2016-08-05	Camp Geiger MO & Beaver Lake AR	AR	Pony Express Council	<a href="#">Adventure Quest 2016</a>
2016-07-31 2016-08-08	Metamora	MI	Michigan Crossroads Council	<a href="#">Yucca Trail Horseback Adventure</a>
2016-08-05 2016-08-07	Warsaw	IN	Anthony Wayne Area Council	<a href="#">Makahiki 2016</a>
2016-08-12 2016-08-14	Trevor	WI	Pathway to Adventure Council	<a href="#">Woodbadge - c7-456-16</a>
2016-08-19 2016-08-21	Oregon	IL	Blackhawk Area Council	<a href="#">Wood Badge c7-660-16</a>
2016-08-19 2016-08-21	Twin Lake	MI	President Gerald R Ford Council	<a href="#">Powder Horn - GFC</a>

# ADVISORS!

Congratulations to Mr. Kris Zahrobsky who is the new National Venturing Advisor! Kris has been a tremendous force for good in the Central Region as the Regional Venturing Advisor since 2014, and is now starting to serve the entire Venturing program as our National Advisor. Kris is a past youth officer, and has received the National Venturing Leadership Award and the Silver Antelope Award for his exceptional service to Venturing and the youth of our program. Congratulations, Kris!



A big congratulations to Jeff Gerald as the next Central Region Venturing Advisor/ Chairman. Jeff has spent nearly 10 years as the Area 2 Venturing Advisor, helping leading Venturing in the state of Michigan, and he is excited for this new opportunity to serve the youth of the Central Region as the new Region Advisor. Jeff has been honored with the Silver Antelope Award and Regional Venturing Leadership Award. Congratulations, Jeff! We are looking forward to seeing your leadership in our Region!



# Advisor's Minute

Dear Central Region,

Quite possibly, if there is a word I overuse, it is, "Team." Almost every greeting I have penned, begins with some form of the word. Many of us are a part of multiple teams. Surely within the BSA, but most likely at work, school, or at home. Sometimes they are academic, and sometimes athletic. But, they always describe a united group focused toward a joint action. Individually, we are but one drop. But, together, we are an ocean!

For the last two years, it has been an extreme honor to help advise this team and our youth leaders that have guided it successfully. As you may have heard, I have been offered an opportunity to further help our movement's efforts. Because of this, I was given the privilege of working with Central Region leadership to identify amazing advisors for consideration for my replacement. After a process that was conducted outside of me was completed, I was notified that we could offer the role to our very own, Jeff Gerald.

Brian Parro, Jessica Ayala-Janscha (National Staff Advisor), and I called Jeff on Friday evening from the BSA's National Annual Meeting, to make the official, "ask." As you may have heard, he did accept the position. I know that I don't need to tell you about Jeff, and that you are in very, very good hands.

I want to give a personal thank you to each of you for helping our Region (& Areas) look so amazing! No one can do this alone, and I am thankful I have one of the best group of people to share this adventure with. I know that Jeff and Chris will continue this charge and help elevate us to the next level.

Without all of the members of our TEAM, none of this WORK would have been possible. Because of each and every one of your efforts, Venturing continues to grow stronger each day. Do you know that we have VOAs in over 51% of our Councils nation-wide? Let's keep that growth continuing! Each VOA created is due to your tireless efforts.

But, we can't stop there. We need to keep screaming from the mountaintops about how amazing our program is! As you continue to build, support, and strengthen Crews, Councils, and Areas, our Regions will grow as well. As you continue to spread the good word about our life-changing program, more will want to join. And as you continue to join in adventures throughout our Region and across the Nation, others will follow right behind you. BE the change you want to see and show others the way.

I look forward to working alongside you in another capacity, as we help our program grow, flourish, and impact countless lives. Should you need anything, please do not hesitate to reach out.

In Service,  
Kris

# President's Corner



Dear Central Region,

I would like to first like to congratulate Kris Zahrobky for being selected to serve as the National Venturing Advisor. Kris was the past Central Region Venturing Advisor. We look forward to seeing all that you do while working with the Venturing program.

I would also like to congratulate all of the officers selected to serve in an Area Venturing Officers Association. I am confident we have an amazing group of officers that will lead the Central Region to success.

What is your favorite Venturing event? What is your favorite moment in Venturing? What made this moment so meaningful? My favorite Scouting event was my first year at a Venturing summer camp. The week was filled with amazing activities I had never done before. I distinctly remember the staff always being so kind and including in everything that they did. I also remember the members of my crew being welcoming as I was new to the program. While the activities were a blast it was really the memories made with the other Ventureres that really made the week fantastic.

I would like to challenge everyone to think back at what made their favorite activity possible and try to make a future event meaningful for new Ventureres. The Venturing program is amazing, let's try to continue the tradition of excellence and make the program better wherever possible!

Yours in Venturing,  
Chris Mausshardt  
2016-2017 Central Region Venturing President