



The Central Point



Newsletter of the Central Region | Boy Scouts of America

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BACK TO SCHOOL AND RECRUITMENT

By Pamela Petterchak

The air is beginning to chill, Starbucks has rolled out their Pumpkin Spice Latte, and Halloween decorations and school supplies line the shelves at Walmart; it's clear that fall is upon us once again! As our summer adventures come to a close, it's important that your crew keeps its momentum as we plunge into the chilly months of the year. But how do you keep a strong program as summer camps close for the season and school year schedules start to get busy?

The good news is, back to school season is the perfect time to start growing your crew's membership and program! The beginning of a new school year is a great time to invite friends to join your crew. Here are some great tips to help your crew gracefully make the transition from summer to school year and gain a few new members along the way.

- **Plan your annual program:** Before you can start recruiting new members, you need to have a plan for your annual activities. Take some time to sit down with the officers and advisors of your crew and plan meetings, day outings, and campouts for the year. Make sure to take everybody's school schedules and extracurricular activities into consideration. Does your crew



President: [Dominic Wolters](#)

VP of Administration: [Kevin Leahy](#)

VP of Program: [Catherine Colletti](#)

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meeting schedule still work for everybody in your crew? Are there any extended weekends that are perfect for camping? Be sure to accommodate for important events, like Graduation, Homecoming, and holidays.

- **Look for opportunities to promote in your community:** At the beginning of the school year, many schools provide opportunities to promote student activities to parents and students. Talk to your school about setting up an info booth at an open house, parent teacher conferences, or during lunch. If you are chartered through a church or another community organization, ask your chartering organization what opportunities they have for promoting your crew as well. Use the fun events you planned during program planning to catch the interest of teens in your community!
- **Aim your recruitment efforts at a younger audience:** While recruiting teens of all ages is very important, the beginning of the school year is a great time to catch the interest of new freshmen at your school. Many freshmen use the first year of high school to get to know clubs and programs offered at your school, so be sure to talk to them about Venturing and invite them to participate in crew activities. This is a great way to gain new members and make new students feel welcome at school!

How does your crew start off the school year? Tell us on social media by tagging #CRVenturing!

20 STORIES TO CELEBRATE 20 YEARS



Want to win a VIP VenturingFest 2018 experience? Don't forget to enter our contest that is looking for "20 Stories to Celebrate 20 Years"! If you are a youth, adult, or alumni who has been impacted by the Venturing program, this is your chance to share your personal story. Submit your response by November 1 to be entered in the VIP VenturingFest 2018 experience. We can't wait to hear from you! goo.gl/X7VH9E

ACTIVITY PLANNING TOOL

Have you ever felt you needed better organization for planning an event? Check out the Venturing Activity Planning Worksheet. This tool comes in handy for creating a well-organized activity. http://www.scouting.org/filestore/venturing/pdf/510-022_Fillable.pdf

When your event is planned and you want to invite others outside of your crew, use our PR Checklist for Events at <http://crventuring.org/Home/Fulltext/s=1&id=278>

GROWING A VENTURING PROGRAM

By Dominic Wolters

With nine participants from around the country, Growing a Venturing Program at the Philmont Training Center was a fun-filled week that covered the basics of building and sustaining a Venturing program in local units and councils. From the first 100 days to retaining older members, from VOAs to Venturing awards, this was an awesome conference!



Tucked away in the mountains of New Mexico, Philmont was the perfect location for this conference, providing opportunities for adventure throughout the week. During the day, participants were able to experience COPE, hiking, Rayado, tomahawk throwing, and much more! Even during classroom portions, the course was kept up-beat with games from the conference next door: Games with a Purpose.

The conference was well-received, and everyone had a great time learning about how individuals can impact the Venturing program in a big way. On the last day, all of the participants made a contract with themselves to implement what they learned during the week back in their home crews and councils.

If you ever have the chance to attend a Venturing conference at Philmont, or at any of the other national high adventure bases, you should definitely do it because it is an experience that you won't soon forget.

VENTURING BLAST!

By Grace Prorok



Venturers “Lead the Adventure!” There was no better place to learn about what it means to be a Venturing officer than the beautiful Philmont Training Center. During our 5-day course, we had a blast shooting guns, rock climbing, hiking and learning about the history of Philmont. But, all of these activities were “fun with a purpose”, at the end of every activity there would be a discussion of how we could use what we learned to strengthen our council and area VOAs.

However, the most valuable part of Blast didn't come from the training in the syllabus, but from the community that formed between the members of the class. Venturers and Adult Advisors came together from all around the country to create a rich learning environment. Where else are you going to get to hike the tooth of time while chatting with the National Venturing Vice President, while singing Disney songs with a Venturer from Hawaii, and comparing notes about NYLT with a Council Venturing President from Idaho?

Whether you're a Venturing officer now, or just curious to see what it's all about, I would highly suggest you checkout Venturing Blast next year at the Philmont Training Center!

ALL ABOUT ONLINE REGISTRATION

Online registration is now available for Venturers!

The online registration system is designed to make it easy for families to join Scouting. Prospective Venturers and adult leaders can find a unit, if they do not already have one in mind, or apply to the unit of their choice. The system walks them through the entire application and payment process. If there is an application or lead to be processed, the unit Key 3 will receive a notification in their My.Scouting inbox once a day letting them know they have actions to take.

See the [Online Registration Unit Guidebook \(pdf\)](#) for more information, or find a unit and register at <https://beascout.scouting.org/BeAScoutMap.aspx>

THE CENTRAL CONNECTION

By Pamela Petterchak

Did you know that the Central Region has a YouTube channel? Every month, we're posting fun and informative videos for Venturers in the Central Region! The Central Connection, our monthly video series, is an awesome resource to help you connect with the Central Region. We'll be posting lots of cool videos this year; previous episodes include "Who is Dominic?", "Venturing at the National Jamboree," and "#SummerOfVenturing." Videos are published at the end of each month.

Stay tuned for this month's video, which will focus on the beginning of the school year and recruitment strategies! If you haven't checked out the Central Region YouTube channel yet, be sure to stop by and subscribe to our channel. Current and past videos can be found linked to our website at http://crventuring.org/Media_Gallery/Videos/

CAPTION CONTEST



Are you a social media caption expert? If so, what do you think is the perfect caption for this picture from CR Cat Day? If you send us the best caption, you'll be featured in the October edition of the Central Point newsletter! Submit your response by posting your picture and caption on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram using #CRVenturing.

CR AREA SPOTLIGHTS

<p style="text-align: center;">AREA 1</p> <p>Currently in Area 1 we're preparing for our upcoming event "Venturing Around the world in a weekend" which is October 20th-22nd 2017 at Phillipso Scout Reservation Reservation! To go along with the international theme, Area 1 is arranging a grand contingent to go to 24th World Scouting Jamboree at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in 2019. We would love to hear what our councils have to say. Therefore, feel free to post on our Facebook Group contact us or find more information! To enhance recognition in the Area, be on the look out to have the opportunity to be nominated for the Venturer of the Month in Area 1! More details to be announced.</p> <p>Website: www.area1crv.org Facebook Group: Central Region Venturing Area 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AREA 2</p> <p>Area 2 just met with their council at A2V00. We are working on our annual Area 2 Conference. Debuting this year as University of Venturing!</p> <p>Website: www.area2crv.org Facebook Group: Central Region Venturing Area 2 Pinterest: Venturing Area 2 Central Region</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">AREA 3</p> <p>This September, Area 3 will be hosting the Fall Fun Rally from September 22-24. Don't miss out on a chance to play life-sized Clue and have a blast at FFR this month! Be sure to check out the Area 3 Facebook for more info on that and to stay in the loop for more events coming up.</p> <p>Website: www.area3crv.org Facebook Group: Central Region Venturing Area 3 Twitter: @CRVArea3 YouTube: CRVenturingArea3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AREA 4</p> <p>Area 4 officers are ready to attend our Area 4 Venturing Officers Conference on September 3! We'll start planning and deciding a theme for WorldFest along with other Area events.</p> <p>Website: www.area4crv.org Facebook Group: Central Region Venturing Area 4</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">AREA 5</p> <p>The Area 5 Leadership Conference is on November 4, 2017 in Kansas City, MO. We will be offering Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews, Goal Setting and Time Management, Mentoring, Project Management, Put the High Adventuring in Venturing, Venturing Membership and Recruiting, Venturing... What's That?, Effective Training for Venturing, Venturing Activities and Networking, Venturing Mini PIVOT (invitation only), Position-Specific Discussion Group, and Kodiak Director's Course. Registration is open at https://www.hoac-bsa.org/university-of-scouting</p> <p>Website: www.area5crv.org Facebook Group: Central Region Venturing Area 5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AREA 6</p> <p>The Area 6 VOA will be putting on Project Management Training at our fall event, the Taste of Venturing! Check out our website for more info.</p> <p>Website: www.area6crv.org Facebook Group: Central Region Venturing Area 6</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">AREA 7</p> <p>Area 7 is working on planning our fun event, the Extravaganza! We're still working to make it great. There will be a bunch of fun activities. Help us get the word out about this event! Check our website for more details.</p> <p>Website: www.area7crv.org Facebook Group: Central Region Venturing Area 7 Twitter: @CRVArea7 Instagram: @crvarea7 Snapchat: @crvarea7</p>	

UPCOMING EVENTS

Event Date (s)	Registration Deadline	City	State	Host	Event
09/08/2017-09/10/2017	09/06/2017	Camp Lowden	IL	Blackhawk Area Council	Venturing Super Weekend
09/16/2017	09/11/2017	Bonfield	IL	Pathway to Adventure Council	Shooting Sports Event
09/16/2017	09/16/2017	Fort Snelling	MN	Northern Star Council	NSC Urban Adventure 2017
09/22/2017-09/24/2017	09/01/2017	Little Sioux Scout Ranch	IA	Area 5 (Central Region)	Mid-America Council/Mid Iowa Council Powder Horn 2017
09/22/2017-09/24/2017	09/08/2017	Owasippe Scout Reservation	MI	Pathway to Adventure Council	Free Camping Weekend
09/22/2017-09/24/2017	09/19/2017	St. Louis	MO	Greater St. Louis Area Council	Fall Fun Rally
09/23/2017	09/09/2017	Chicago	IL	Area 7 Unit Event (Central Region)	Windy Cruise
10/13/2017-10/15/2017	10/01/2017	Rhineland	WI	Samostet Council	Smileys Fall Venturing Event

Find out more about these events at http://crventuring.org/Activities/Events_Listing/

Submit events to the calendar at http://www.crventuring.org/event_submission.php

VENTURING SCHOLARSHIPS



Dozens of universities, BSA local councils, and religious, civic, and military organizations offer college scholarships to Venturing Summit Award Recipients. Some scholarships are needs-based; others are merit-based. Some go to every Summit Award Recipient who applies; others are highly competitive. We have compiled a list of scholarships available to Summit Award Recipients that can be found at <http://www.venturing.org/scholarships.html>

ADVISOR'S MINUTE



Central Region,

Are you excited about Venturing for the next several months? You should be, because this is the time when inviting new members is at its best. Bring your friends to autumn Venturing events and adventures to share the great program we all enjoy, then offer them the opportunity to join your Crew. Don't keep it a secret - reach out and share the adventure!

The National Venturing Committee has been working hard to enhance our program. This committee of volunteers and youth members is developing new marketing materials to assist our recruiting efforts. The current materials are over five years old, so the Committee is freshening them for us. We'll let you know when they become available. The Committee is also working on our own unique Venturing Program Management course that will be more relevant than the current one. It is in peer review right now and will be available soon. Additional work is being done on the new Personal Safety Awareness course, and is nearing final approval. Work has also begun on a Venturing STEM Unit Guide. The volunteers and youth on this committee, with support from the National office, have been working countless hours to bring these meaningful resources to you. We sincerely appreciate all of their efforts. We're looking forward to using these program resources in the future.

And finally, be sure to encourage your Venturers and Advisors to register for VenturingFest 2018. This celebration of Venturing's 20th anniversary is going to be an amazing event. Don't wait for the next one, its scheduled for 2022.

Yours in Venturing,

-Jeff Gerald

CR Venturing Advisor



FOLLOW CENTRAL REGION VENTURING AT:

Website: crventuring.org

Instagram: [CRVenturing](https://www.instagram.com/CRVenturing)

Facebook: [Central Region Venturing](https://www.facebook.com/CentralRegionVenturing)

Twitter: [CRVenturing](https://twitter.com/CRVenturing)



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Happy September, Central Region!

Autumn is perhaps my favorite season because of the many opportunities that it provides to explore the outdoors through camping and other activities. Long believed to be a refuge from a world that is constantly moving and careening towards the next 'big thing', the outdoors can serve as a respite from hectic schedules and busy lives.

This September, as you meet new people and invite them to join Venturing, don't forget to explore the world around you; you may have heard the expression that what you're looking for is "right under your nose", I would argue that what many people are looking for is "right outside your tent flaps". Going into the outdoors, regardless for how long, brings lasting memories and limitless potential for fun. New members may find themselves to be drawn in by the quiet, starry nights or the rushing streams and trails. Returning members can mentor others in the ways of your camp or the traditions of your crew- what setting is grander than nature's classroom?

Find a camp, river, trail, or wilderness near you and Lead the Adventure into it. Enjoy the cool, crisp air and the sound of bird calls punctuating the early morning calm or the sound of water lapping on the rocks of the lake or river. Even if you aren't able to visit a great wilderness, visit a local park, arboretum, or nature preserve; the lessons of nature, and the insights that it can provide into daily life, are well worth the time.

If you attended the National Jamboree, you may have visited the Sustainability Treehouse; a monument to the Scouting's commitment to conservation, the treehouse helped educate Scouts and Venturers on the gift that we have been given in our wild places today. Celebrate this gift by sharing it with others, only then will the wilderness be eternal.

As John Muir once said, "In every walk with Nature one receives far more than he seeks." Keep walking, and see what you'll receive in this next month.

Happy Trails!

-Dominic Wolters

CR Venturing President