

# AREA 2 WINTER WONDERLAND



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## University Of Venturing Recap

*By Catherine Tutt*



University of Venturing was a success! University of Venturing was the annual Area 2 Conference turned into an overnight event. The event focused on skills that anyone, even if they are not involved in their VOA, can use. We even included the Venturing Mentoring training taught by John Davis and Gabe Lane. Gabe Lane, VOA president of President Ford Field Service Council, said "I think it was a great event put on by an excellent team. I think favorite part was teaching the mentoring training". We also played Sardines, Minute to Win It Games, and built an "impossible" puzzle. On top of all of that, there was amazing food and two amazing guest speakers. David Chmura the Chief Instigator at Humble Daisy, Inc, and Systems Architect at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor taught about designing a flyer. Kevin Tutt, the Associate Dean for Curriculum, Pedagogy, and Academic Opportunities for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) at Grand Valley State University and a Professor in the





## President's Spot

*By Gordon Meier*

Some crew meetings can get dragged out and be a bore at times. One thing I struggled with while I was a crew president was creating an interesting and fun meeting where my crew members would leave feeling inspired or feeling like they had a great time. Most of the fun we had was on our crew trips around the country or a 2-mile hike to Ziggies (our local ice cream shop). I would always start with a plan for the meeting. I would set a timer for 20 minutes. This would be enough time for us to get through the announcements while reminding me to keep things short and concise. Then we would move on to crew program. Crew program can range from anything you can think of. Whether it's learning skills for your next high adventure, making a dutch oven meal, or playing a game of cards as long as everyone is interested and having fun, it is a success! I recommend the following to spice up a crew meeting: team building games, a sports activity, interesting ethical debates (because those are always a good time), cook-off competition, a simple game of head up seven up, or even some tasty food. Also, you don't need to do just one activity at the meeting. You could teach your crew a new skill, like making fire with a light beam. Just think outside of the box and use the internet for ideas. There is a lot of good ideas out there!

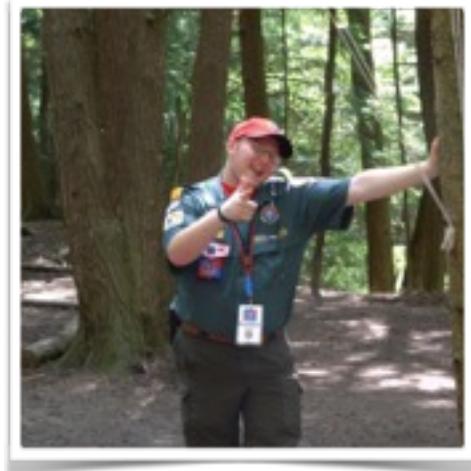
Department of Music and Dance where he conducts the Symphonic Wind Ensemble taught about how to prepare for interviews and what to expect.

Together, these two dominated the "most helpful" and "favorite part" of our evaluations. Towards the end of the day, we awarded two VLAs to Brooke Werner and Gordon Meier. Congratulations guys! Thank you to our cooks, our special guests, and all of the Venturers who came to the event.

## Brandon Gaines: A First Time Venturer

*By Brandon Gaines*

I had always been interested in the Venturing program; my troop never did big high adventure activities. I have also thought that the green uniform was the coolest thing ever since I was younger. Last year in 2016 I was staffing NYLT and realized I need to join a crew and wear the cool green uniform I had always liked growing up. I then had to make the choice of which crew to join, I joined crew 29 through the OA. So here I am 18 years old, and starting my Venturing career. A good friend of mine Nick Meier was in the same crew as me, but I had no idea how involved he was with Venturing. At Rendezvous 2016 I was riding around with Nick and he had told me I should get involved in Venturing. He talked about how great the program was and he encouraged me to get involved. I asked what I could do that year and he said all his positions were full but wanted me to apply next year. Nick sent me the application, I



filled it out and talked with Gordon Meier. This year I returned to NYLT staff as SPL and am now involved in Venturing as the Area 2 V.P. of Administration. Venturing is a great program that helps youth to go places that they'd never dreamed of going before and instilling them lifelong lessons and tools to help them succeed in the now and in the future. Both inside and outside of scouting. I am so happy I am a part of this program!

## An Unofficial Scout to Official Scout

*By Jill Annable*

So, I've been involved with scouting since I was a little girl without actually being "in scouting". I was first introduced to scouts when my twin brother Jordan and older brother Tyler became Cub Scouts. A flyer came home with my older brother and my parents decided scouting would be a good thing to get the boys into. My brothers joined Pack 3057 when Tyler was in 1st grade and Jordan and I were in Kindergarten. (Of course, Jordan didn't join until he was in 1st grade as well.) When the boys joined, my parents took the whole family to the meetings because we didn't have a babysitter. Instead of leaving me to sit off to the side while the boys played games and did other things, the Cub master allowed me to join in on the fun. From then on, more and more scouts joined and more and more siblings became involved, so our pack eventually made a den totally dedicated to the siblings of the scouts. We did everything the boys did, just without the awards. We would learn how to fold the flag, whittle down a piece of soap, and build a fire just like the boys.

My parents saw how much fun I was having with the Cub Scouts and decided we should check out some Girl Scout troops around our area. After doing some research, we had found one and made a date to go to one of their meetings. The night finally came and I remember being ecstatic. We were given a warm welcome, and after their meeting, my parents and I



## Letter from The Editor

*By Catherine Tutt*

Why stick out and stay with your crew? My crew hit it's 10-year mark, last summer, which is statistically when crews reach a rough patch. At the same time, I found myself questioning whether or not to drop out of my crew. I can say with 100% honesty, I am so happy I stayed! My crew struggled with low attendance and as the months went on it became increasingly frustrating to cancel event after event. Then marching band and school started up and members became even less likely to help plan or attend an event.

The more my crew struggled, the less fun Venturing became. Then, out of the blue, around six girls joined. They were young. They were ambitious. They loved Venturing just about as much as I did. I was ecstatic. Our crew all of a sudden was alive again with a scouting passion from youth who wanted to learn and experience everything the world had to offer. These six young ladies were my crew's saving grace. Whether your crew is struggling now or begins to struggle in the future, stick it out. You don't know what or who could pop out as a diamond in the rough.



had some questions. The first and definitely most important being "do we get a discount on the cookies?" (which they don't and I still think that's malarkey). After that, I remember asking the question "do you go camping often?" as I knew the boys did and that was one reason I wanted to join. I specifically remember either the leader or one of the girls responding to this question saying "sometimes we have a slumber party in my basement." That's when I knew Girl Scouts wasn't going to be for me. I wanted to do everything the boys did.

Some couple of months later, after talking about our experience with other scout friends, my parents and I were introduced to the newish program called "Venturing". It included boys and girls. After learning more about it, I loved the idea of Venturing and wanted to be apart of it right away. But there was one constraint: the age you had to be to join. The requirements are that you have to finish the 8th grade or be 14 years old. It was heartbreaking knowing I would have to wait years before I could be officially in scouting. But I was still hopeful and waited for the day I finally turned 14.

I continued to be involved with the pack until both the boys were in a troop. After that, I wasn't as involved with the troop like I was with the pack. Although I was still involved with the pack as a "den chief" for day camps in Michigan since I had known the ups and downs of scouting. (I didn't become an official den chief until last October when I completed the training.) Around the end of my 8th-grade year, my mom and I started looking around at crews in our area. We visited a couple crews until meeting with Crew 2146. Of course, I was a little shy when meeting the group, but their stories of their high adventure and camp-outs made me want to join right away. Joining the crew was a big step for me as I had to quit baton (which I had been doing for 9 years) and it made my schedule twice as much busier than it had been.



After being in the group for about a quarter of the year, I'm honestly loving Venturing more than I thought I could. I love the campouts and the opportunities I have from being in the crew. I am now the first female den chief for the pack that started my whole journey as we are expecting to get some girls to join when the new year starts. In the crew, I recently went on my

first campout as a Venturer at Rota-Kiwan. I had so much fun and I bonded with my crew so much. I was able to complete a dream that Girl Scouts couldn't that night. I expect to be a part of my crew until I age out, and I can't wait for more fun outings and lessons I will be a part of in years to come.

## Great Lakes FSC Spotlight

*By Rachel Yagley*

If you're like me and love everything Venturing, then you're definitely going to want to hear about what's happening this spring in The Great Lakes Field Service Council. We're starting off the year strong, helping you rank up in Venturing with our University of Scouting on January 27th. You can take trainings like Project Management, Running ILSC for your Crew Officers, and meet other Venturers in our council!

Another event you're going to want to mark on your calendar is the VOA Spaghetti Dinner on March 9th at 6:30 pm. Not only do you get served great food, but you also get to show off your crew, and see what other crews in your council are up to. The dinner will take place at Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church in Troy. This event is great for recruitment, so invite your friends! To RSVP for the event, sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4eafa62ea75-what1>

One event that everyone will be talking about is The Rifle River Gauntlet at Cole Canoe Base. The theme this year is Greek Mythology. Your crew can campaign down the river just like Jason and The Argonauts, except instead of a warship made out of the strongest materials, you will be creating your own out of cardboard. Will you accept the quest? If water isn't your thing, no worries, there will be tons of dry land activities for you to participate in as well. The cost for this action-packed weekend is \$45 and takes place June 1st - 3rd. What better way to start off the summer than an epic Venturing campout?

Of course, the best way to stay involved and up to date in our council is to attend our monthly VOA meetings. They are held on the third Sunday of each month at 2:30 pm at Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church in Troy (5500 N Adams Rd). The next meeting will be February 18th.



## Tips and Tricks

*By Robin Kiste*

As an advisor, sometimes planning an activity or event can be hard. Why? Because it is easy for us to want to take charge and do everything ourselves. However, it is the youth that should be making the plans with the advisors' guidance. It is important that the youth have the opportunity to take the leadership role and plan the event, and even more important that they step up and do so. Soon, all crew members will have a chance to become a leader. Although it may seem tough, do not get overwhelmed. Here is some advice from a seasoned advisor:



1. **First: Decide on the event or activities.** Start by brainstorming a bunch of ideas and then narrow the list down. Next, schedule the events on the crew calendar, and then assign who is going to be in charge of each event. Each event can be done by one or more people.
2. **Set a goal: Decide what you want to accomplish from your event: what you are going to do and why. Who is going to be in charge? (Remember, this person can get others to help!)**
3. **Logistics: Start by answering the following:** When should the event be held? How many people will attend your event? How many people are going to go to your event? How much is the event going to cost each person? Where can you host this event to accommodate your needs? Make sure that you contact the venue to make sure that the date works. (Call on the phone; do not always rely on email and text messages.) What is needed for this event? Do you need a menu? Are they bringing their own food? What other supplies are needed? What do people that are attending need to bring?
4. **Budget: you need to figure out what the event will cost. Remember food (if you are providing), travel cost, lodging, supplies, fees, etc. Once you set up a budget let everyone know what it is. If it is a large event, set dates for participants to make payments so that paying for the event is easier.**
5. **Promotion: How are you going to let people know about your event? (Facebook, email, messenger, Twitter, Instagram) Are you just inviting people from your crew or are you inviting people from other crews?**
6. **At the event: Enjoy yourself, but remember that you are still in charge to make sure that things get done. Also, remember that you are not in this alone and that everyone there is willing to help. It is their event too.**
7. **Evaluate: When everything is all over sit down and discuss what you think went well, what you would change next time, and what wouldn't you do again.**

**The biggest thing is to remember that this is a learning opportunity for our youth.**

## Advisor's Minute

By Lizzie Wisman

Area 2 Venturers,

The groundhog has just seen his shadow, and you know what that means! Only a few weeks until applications to become a Venturing officer are due! The application to be national Venturing president is due on February 28th, for region positions on March 15th, and for area positions on April 1st. Each council has the option to set its own deadline, so if that is in your sights, check with the current officers! Being a Venturing VOA officer is an excellent opportunity for everyone, and with so many levels of involvement, there is something for everyone. But, I know what you may be thinking: that you just do not have the time for another commitment. Fear not! You may have heard that age-old saying about Scouting being "only an hour a week." Many of us know how true that is often not, but in the case of an area or council officer, it is quite applicable. Most council VOAs meet once per month for about two hours. On the off weeks, the officers are responsible for the promotion of meetings and activities, and planning of said meetings and activities. It does not take much time to assemble a meeting agenda, call a few crew presidents, post on a few social media platforms or research a venue. Of course every so often, especially when a deadline or event is approaching a bit more time may be required, but so much is flexible and can fit around any schedule. If it's better for you, you can sit down for an hour at a time each week, and complete your tasks. Alternatively, just squeeze in 15-20 minutes a few times a week. If the day your council meets does not work with your schedule or you are looking for a bit more opportunity, an area position may be a better fit. Area officers are spread out and rarely meet in person. Monthly conference calls are created to fit around the schedules of every officer, and email is our closest friend. Each position does have a busier time, but your fellow youth and your advisors are happy to help if you run short on time or high on stress. An hour a week means two fewer Friends reruns, or a few less BuzzFeed videos. That is an awfully low price for the wealth of opportunity being an officer can afford you! If you (or your parent/guardian) are still feeling apprehensive, give me, or any area officer a shout, and we will help you make the right decision for you.

Hope to see your application soon!

Lizzie Wisman | Area 2 Advisor



# Council Updates

## Water and Woods FSC

Water and Woods FSC has trainings at merit badge college & Shoot Towards the Summit; a shooting sports event. At our upcoming VOA meeting we have our yearly elections for their officer positions.

## President Ford FSC

President Ford is hosting their annual Kickback in February. You can still sign up now! Check Facebook for the link Friday night will be a special birthday bash for Venturing 20th birthday! President Ford is working on planning Food, Fire, and Friends for May 5th.

## Great Lakes FSC

Great Lakes FSC hosted a University of Scouting this past January. In March they are hosting a Spaghetti Dinner for crews to recruit and get to know one another. In June they are hosting their annual Rifle River Gauntlet

*Have an event to advertise? Use the contact information below!*

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