



The Central Point



Newsletter of the Central Region | Boy Scouts of America

March 2018

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STAY CONNECTED WITH CRV!

By Pamela Petterchak – CRV Vice President of Communications

Did you know that the Central Region has a wide variety of social media outlets? Yes, it's true! We have many options for you to choose from, so here is a complete listing of Central Region social media outlets!



Facebook group: [Central Region Venturing](#)



Facebook page: [Central Region Venturing](#)



Instagram: [@crventuring](#)



Twitter: [@crventuring](#)

Pinterest: [CRVenturing](#)



YouTube: [Central Region Venturing](#)



Yahogroups and other mailing lists: available [here](#)

Central Region Venturing website: www.crventuring.org



President: [Dominic Wolters](#)

VP of Administration: [Kevin Leahy](#)

VP of Program: [Catherine Colletti](#)

VP of Communications: [Pamela Petterchak](#)

A complete listing of Central Region Area social media outlets is available with the Area Highlights on page 7.

WESTERN REGION TAKEOVER

By Sarah Chen – WRV Vice President of Administration

Hi Central Region! I am Sarah Chen, the Western Region Venturing Vice President of Administration. February has been an exciting month for Venturing in general: Venturing's 20th anniversary, exciting area events, Council Standards of Venturing Excellence Awards (CSVE) submissions (just admin things). In February, I had the pleasure of attending

Western Region Area 4's Passport to Venturing event. The event took place in Southern California's Lost Valley and consisted of paintball shooting, mountain boarding, and COPE



courses. Last year, I was staff for the event, so it was humbling to see so many face- familiar and new. This year, I attended the event as a youth participant. It was a refreshing change of dynamics, where I got to experience the same event as staff and as a participant.

Exciting things are happening in Western Region as well! Council Standards of Venturing Excellence (CSVE) submissions have skyrocketed this year. The CSVEs are a form that councils fill out to track their progress in all facets of a Venturing Officers' Association (VOA): governance, recognition, promotion, etc. It is also a way for us to see how we can improve council VOAs in the future. Both Central Region and Western Region CSVE submissions improved tremendously. Nationally, 81.8% of councils submitted their CSVEs!

We also recently released Western Region Neckerchiefs! The first set of shipment sold out in the first two hours! We are very much on our way towards ordering and selling more neckerchiefs.

It's very exciting seeing what Central Region is doing, and we only wish more successes for Central Region and Venturing in the future.



WHERE TO GO VENTURING AND SUMMER ACTIVITY PLANNING

By Catherine Colletti – CRV Vice President of Program

A crew's summer can often be a key indicator of its health. Crews who go on a super activity over the summer are generally healthier and better suited for retention and recruiting and provide their members with greater opportunities for leadership and growth. A super activity is some type of long adventure, designed to be challenging and involved. In the Venturing program, these are also referred to as Tier III activities. A Tier III activity is important because it serves as a sort of capstone for a unit's annual program. This is generally an event that the crew has prepared for throughout the year and may have even planned related smaller events (Tiers I and II) to prepare. It is an incentive for crew members to remain active.



From a unit growth perspective, it also makes recruiting easier. Crew members can tell potential members about the “big trip” coming up, which is a huge selling point and way to characterize the crew. Of course, these super activities are simply fun as well. They could be anything from a cross-country trip out to a national park to a once-in-a-lifetime experience at VenturingFest. Tier III activities come in two varieties: build-your-own or pre-planned. A build-your-own style adventure is one in which the crew plans every aspect of the trip. They may decide to go on a tour of amusement parks in the Midwest or a week-long biking trip through their state. A pre-planned adventure is the type provided by one of the BSA high adventure bases or a council summer camp. Both types of adventures are wonderful and contribute to a healthy unit's repertoire of program.

Does your unit have a super activity for this summer? If not, never fear! The Central Region VOA has an awesome tool to help connect units with Venturing-specific summer camp programs. Many council summer camps do not offer program for Venturers that is specifically meant for Venturers. Luckily, “Where to Go Venturing- Summer Camps” is a list accumulating the council summer camp programs in the Central Region that are meant especially for Venturers. The tool can be found on the [crventuring.org](http://www.crventuring.org) website at http://www.crventuring.org/Other/Where_To_Go_Venturing. It gives each opportunity, along with dates, location, and how to find out more. Perhaps you have a few Venturers in your crew that are still looking for more to do this summer even though you already have a crew super activity? Some council summer camps have the option to take these Venturers as individual provisionals for a week, but be sure to check with each camp to see what their policy is. If at any time you notice incorrect or missing information in the database, please email vp-program@crventuring.org and it will be corrected.

Summer is coming up shortly, so be sure to check “Where to Go Venturing” to make sure you are ready to lead the adventure this summer!

BACK TO BASICS: WHAT'S A VOA?

By Catherine Tutt – CRV Area 2 Vice President of Communications



One common question among the new members of my crew has been *What is a VOA?* A VOA is not only an acronym, but something every Venturer can belong to! VOA stands for Venturing Officers' Association. A VOA is a youth-led team supported by advisors. It's role is to provide leadership through advice and training assistance (see the previous Central Point for more information on training!), while also being a voice for Venturers in the nation, region, area, council, or crew.

VOA officers and advisors stand as models for local crews while ensuring Venturers are able to fulfill ALPS: adventure, leadership, personal growth, and service. Serving on a VOA is a leadership experience within itself. A VOA is able to offer large-scale programs and events that give Venturers the capability to learn, meet other Venturers, and, most importantly, have fun!

Let's talk about positions. There are four officers in a VOA: a President, Vice President of Administration, Vice President of Program, and Vice President of Communications. The President is selected or elected by a group of Venturers. In the case of Areas, Regions, and National, the President picks his or her Vice Presidents. A council or crew may select or elect their Vice Presidents in the same way as the President. The "Key Three" of a VOA is the VOA President, Staff Advisor, and Volunteer Advisor.

A VOA is a great place for anyone who wants to gain a better understanding of the Venturing program, gain leadership skills, and meet new people while having an awesome time! VOAs are a great place to make an impact on the Scouting program and Scouts themselves.

Catch the next edition of our "Back to Basics" series in the next Central Region newsletter! Send in any questions you have about Venturing to vp-communications@crventuring.org, and we will be happy to cover them!

VenturingFest 2018 and PTC

By Pamela Petterchak – CRV Vice President of Communications

What a time to be a Venturer! This summer, there are numerous amazing events planned that will excite any Scout, so be sure to take some time to check them out.

VenturingFest 2018

Join us at the Summit Bechtel Reserve from July 1st-July 6th to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Venturing! Here in Scouting, we know how to throw an amazing birthday party; you'll enjoy all the fun of the Summit, including BMX, white water rafting, ziplining, and more. You'll also get to meet Venturers from across the nation and participate in exciting activities exclusively for Venturers attending VenturingFest. Don't miss out! Visit <http://www.summitbsa.org/venturingfest/> for more information.



Philmont Training Center: Venturing Blast! And #Awesome STEM Exploration

Week 7 (July 22-29) at PTC is Central Region week, and there are numerous courses taking place that are of interest. At Venturing Blast, you'll meet Venturers from across the nation and learn about how to be a better officer for your council, area, and even unit! Share experiences and have fun at Venturing Blast! Are you a STEM enthusiast? Then you should check out the #Awesome STEM Exploration! Explore Philmont and learn about the science behind-the-scenes. Both courses offer a unique perspective to Philmont Scout Ranch, so you should consider attending! More information is available at <http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/PTC/ConferencesE.aspx>



APPLY FOR A VOA POSITION

By Dominic Wolters – CR Venturing President

The deadlines to submit your application to serve on an Area or Region VOA are quickly approaching! VOA Officers are able to directly impact the Venturing program through their leadership and ideas. Share your passions, inspire others, and help spread Venturing outside of your own council! As a VOA Officer, you will be able to improve your leadership, communication, and time management skills, all while making friends for life.

If you're interested, find an application at <https://venturing.org/apply-to-be-a-voa-officer.html>.

Deadlines:

- Region President: March 15
- Area President: March 30
- Region or Area VP: As soon as possible before May 1

CR AREA 6 SPOTLIGHT

By Sydney Roscoe and Mackenzie Martin – CRV Area 6 President and Vice President of Communications

Hey there Central Region,

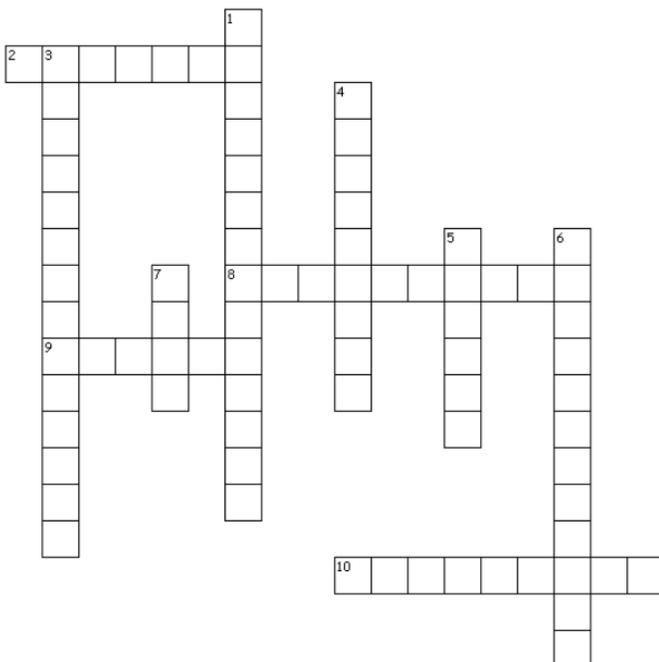
Area 6 has had a great year! We recently turned in all of our CSVEs, which enables the Region to help each of our councils better their Venturing program and better Area 6 as a whole. If you are interested in joining the Area 6 VOA next year, please stay tuned to our area and council Facebook groups for applications and deadlines. Leadership is also an important part of the Venturing program. Have you met a fellow Venturer or Advisor who has taken their leadership in the Venturing program to new heights? Nominate them to receive the Venturing Leadership Award for their outstanding hard work and dedication to the program and all those in it. The nomination forms are also posted on our Facebook groups. Finally, have fun and be sure to “lead the adventure”!

-The Area 6 Team

VENTURING PUZZLE

Test your Venturing knowledge with this crossword puzzle. Check back next month for answers and a new puzzle to solve.

(Hint: <http://venturing.org> and <http://crventuring.org> might help you find some answers to these questions!)



Across

2. event that is less than one day long
8. home of your council shoulder emblem and unit number
9. a council with 1501 points on their CSVE earns this level
10. only Venturers can earn the gold level of this award

Down

1. the P of ALPS
3. crew members should fill this out during program planning
4. the O in SOPs
5. the green VLA
6. Discovery requirement number 8
7. number of youth needed to start a crew

CR AREA HIGHLIGHTS

<p style="text-align: center;">AREA 1</p> <p>Area 1 wrapped up their annual Leadership Conference in late January, with superheroes from around the area participating in leadership trainings, games, and more, and has now moved on to beginning preparations for next year's events. In February, Area 1 broke their previous record for the number of CSVE forms submitted, and is excited to report one more CSVE rank than last year as well. Way to go, Area 1!</p> <p>Website: www.area1crv.org Facebook Group: Central Region Venturing Area 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AREA 2</p> <p>Recently, Area 2 had Kickback, an amazing council event, take place at Gerber Scout Reservation. Friday night, we celebrated Venturing's 20th birthday with a Venturing piñata, DJ, and Capture the Flag, Saturday included ziplining, repelling, pistol shooting, ATV's and square dancing. Once again, Venturers in Area 2 had a memorable time at this amazing event!</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>For Area 3, we just completed our annual conference and game show this February. We had a 90% turn-in rate on CSVE's, which is good news for our Area! We don't have a whole lot of events coming up except for this summer. Working with Area 5, we're hosting a contingent to go to VenturingFest; this includes stopping in Richmond, Virginia, and spending a night in a cave. The sign up can be found on the Area 3 website.</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>WorldFest 2018: A Venturing Fiesta is a high energy, fun filled weekend, organized by the Central Region Area 4 Venturing Officers Association. WorldFest is a weekend full of great food, shooting sports, gaga ball, and more! It will take place May 4th-6th at Seven Ranges Scout Reservation in Kensington, Ohio. Check out our social media for more info.</p> <p>The following councils will be holding a University of Scouting this month: Muskingum (March 10), Great Trail (March 3), and Buckskin (March 10).</p> <p>Website: www.area4crv.org Facebook Group: Central Region Venturing Area 4</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">AREA 5</p> <p>Area 5's fun event is April 27-29th at Falley Scout Reservation near Topeka, Kansas. Online registration will be opening soon. Get ready for challenge events, games, and competitions to show off your Scout skills and put your teamwork abilities to the test. There will be tent camping Friday and Saturday night. Get ready for a great weekend and let the games begin!</p> <p>Website: www.area5crv.org Facebook Group: Central Region Venturing Area 5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AREA 6</p> <p>More information about what's going on in Area 6 can be found in the Area 6 Spotlight article on page 6!</p> <p>Website: www.area6crv.org Facebook Group: Central Region Venturing Area 6</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">AREA 7</p> <p>The 2018 Area 7 Venturing Conference will be on Saturday, March 3 at SOKOL Spirit! Join us for a day of networking with other Venturers and Advisors, and informative sessions including "Successful Council VOA Strategies," "Trail to the Summit Award," and "Rapid Fire Discussions." We hope to see you there! More information can be found at our website or social media.</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
03/03/2018	03/01/2018	Brookfield	IL	Area 7 (Central Region)	Area 7 Venturing Conference
04/13/2018-04/15/2018	03/31/2018	Kensington	OH	Buckeye Council	Wilderness and Remote First Aid
04/18/2018	04/18/2018			Area 3 (Central Region)	Area 3 VOA-Council/District President Call
04/20/2018-04/22/2018	04/01/2018	Howe	IN	Area 6 (Central Region)	Area 6 Spring Icebreaker
04/20/2018-04/22/2018	04/20/2018	Woodstock	IL	Pathway to Adventure Council	Open Climbing Tower
04/26/2018-04/29/2018	04/20/2018	High Ridge	MO	Greater St. Louis Area Council	Powder Horn
05/04/2018-05/06/2018	04/27/2018	Kensington	OH	Area 4 (Central Region)	WorldFest
05/11/2018-05/13/2018	05/01/2018	Rocelle	IL	Pathway to Adventure Council	Ranger Weekend
06/01/2018-06/03/2018	05/20/2017	Alger	MI	Area 2 (Central Region)	GLFSC Rifle River Gauntlet
06/10/2018-06/16/2018	06/09/2018	Kensington	OH	Buckeye Council	Venturing Week at Seven Ranges
06/10/2018-06/16/2018	06/01/2018	Little Sioux	IA	Mid-America Council	Tri-State High Adventure Base
06/17/2018-06/23/2018	06/01/2018	Little Sioux	IA	Mid-America Council	Tri-State High Adventure Base
06/20/2018	06/20/2018			Area 3 (Central Region)	Area 3 VOA-Council/District President Call
06/24/2018-06/30/2018	06/01/2018	Little Sioux	IA	Mid-America Council	Tri-State High Adventure Base
07/01/2018-07/07/2018	06/16/2018	Little Sioux	IA	Mid-America Council	Tri-State High Adventure Base
07/08/2018-07/15/2018	07/21/2018	Little Sioux	IA	Mid-America Council	Tri-State High Adventure Base
07/15/2018-07/21/2018	06/26/2018	Little Sioux	IA	Mid-America Council	Tri-State High Adventure Base
07/22/2018-07/28/2018	07/07/2018	Little Sioux	IA	Mid-America Council	Tri-State High Adventure Base
07/29/2018-08/03/2018	07/08/2018	Eureka Springs	AR	Pony Express Council	Adventure Quest 2018
07/29/2018-08/04/2018	06/01/2018	Twin Lake	MI	Pathway to Adventure Council	Venturing Summer Camp
08/02/2018-08/04/2018	06/01/2017	Pleasant Lake	IN	Anthony Wayne Area Council	Powderhorn

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

ADVISOR'S MINUTE



Central Region,

As I watch the Winter Olympics I am impressed by the performance of those world class athletes. But it's not because of their achievements on the snow and ice, it's because of the great adversities many of them have overcome to get to the Olympic stage. They have struggled with financial issues, emotional crises and serious injuries; and yet, they have persevered. They have maintained their vision of success in spite of difficulty, obstacles, and discouragements; continuing

steadfastly in doing what is necessary to accomplish their goals.

Few of them will get a medal. But all of them will get the satisfaction of dreams realized by performing on a world stage. They are participating in a transformative event that will create an incredible impact on their lives, and the lives of those who have supported them.

As you continue on your Venturing and personal journey in life, stay focused on your dreams, don't get discouraged, celebrate the successes, and be proud of the person you are and what you are achieving. I look forward to seeing all of you on the podium!

Yours in Venturing,
-Jeff Gerald
CR Venturing Advisor



FOLLOW CENTRAL REGION VENTURING AT:

Website: crventuring.org

Facebook: [Central Region Venturing](#)

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Twitter: [CRVenturing](#)

Pinterest: [CRVenturing](#)

YouTube: [Central Region Venturing](#)



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Happy March, Central Region!

Spring (and spring cleaning) are just around the corner! As you are preparing for warmer weather and your next batch of adventures, here are some tips to declutter your leadership style:

Communication is Key: Clear communication is the basis of all leadership. It is difficult to lead if others cannot understand what your vision is.

Work with your crew to make sure that your communication is relevant and meaningful to them, but also occurs through channels that they understand.

Build Personal Relationships: Venturing thrives on having a sense of community, and the first step towards a close community is developing personal relationships. When the leader knows their crew members, they can adapt their style to suit each members individual needs and development.

Ask for Help and Delegate: A leader cannot handle everything by himself or herself. It is critical for leaders to ask for help if they need it, there is no shame in admitting that. A second (or third) perspective can make all the difference in improving a crew's program.

Service with a Smile: The role of a leader is to serve those that they follow. Crew members often learn through example, and there is no better example than that of a servant leader. The needs of the crew should come first.

Shake it Up: Don't be afraid to experiment with new activities and new formats for your meetings. Leadership shouldn't feel stagnant or formulaic. When the crew's leadership starts to feel like it's not going anywhere, look for a way to involve new voices.

Regardless of your crew's size or age, there's always room to improve your leadership. There are plenty of resources available with more information on this topic, including the Venturing Handbook and the Venturing Advisor Guidebook.

Have an awesome month, Central Region!

-Dominic Wolters
CR Venturing President