



Central Region Venturing Monthly Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 6
November 2007



Welcome to the sixth edition of the 2007-2008 monthly Central Region Venturing Newsletter. Each edition will feature information that you will find useful for your council's Venturing program. We will highlight items that support the development of your Teen Leadership Councils, Roundtables, chairmanships, commissioners, professional staff, council-wide activities and the Central Region Venturing Areas. We look forward to being of service to you in Venturing.

Amanda Vogt

Central Region Venturing President/Newsletter Editor

Keith Gehlhausen

Central Region Venturing Chair

Debbie Keyes

Central Region Communication Coordinator

Joe Vollmer

Central Region Professional

The Areas of Central Region

Area 1: South Dakota, U.P. of Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota

Area 2: Indiana and Michigan

Area 3: Northern Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, and Wisconsin

Area 4: Ohio and West Virginia

Area 5: Southern Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska

Announcing the New North East Region Venturing Website

I would like to encourage everyone to check out the new North East Region Venturing website. No, I did not have a capitalization error there. Their website is nicknamed NERVE which stands for the capital letters in the title of this article. This website is still in the beginning stages, but already promises to be full of great resources like our own Central Region Website.

The web address for that website is as follows: <http://www.nerventuring-bsa.org/index.htm>

The Venturing web addresses for the other three Regions are:

<http://www.crventuring.org>; <http://www.wrventuring-bsa.org>; <http://srventuring-bsa.org/newsite/>

Contact us at:

Amanda Vogt

president@crventuring.org

Keith Gehlhausen

venturing-chair@crventuring.org

Joe Vollmer

staff-advisor@crventuring.org

Debbie Keyes

communications-coordinator@crventuring.org

To contact the entire Central Region Venturing Comm. email Debbie Keyes and she will pass it on.

This Month's Q & A

Every month, we will answer questions frequently asked by Venturers, Advisors, or Professionals. If you have any questions you would like answered, please email them to president@crventuring.org

This month, I asked you some questions, through the Central Region Venturing Facebook Group, and you gave me some answers.

The first question was: *"What was the best Venturing activity or event you have gone on as a Venturer?"*

Here are some of our favorite, and most frequent answers:

"Bay Jammer... hands down ;) If you don't know what that is... you should come experience it for yourself!"
-Danielle (Truman State)

"Going to Philmont, or Okpik (part of Northern Tier's winter program.)"
-Melissa (St. Louis, MO)

"The Chicken Patrol event Crew 601 held in Galena, IL. The Venturers cooked breakfast that we brought, fished for lunch and cooked dinner from scratch - literally. Four chickens were brought in and were fresher than you can get in any grocery store. We saw a lot of personal growth from several in the crew that day."
- Douglas (Chicago, IL)



Another question asked was: *"If you had to name one activity or event you 'would like your crew to do, what would it be?"* Here are some of our favorite answers.

"A dodge ball tournament, with all the crews in the council. That would be sweet."
-Elliot (St. Louis)

"I've been waiting for this question!! SPELUNKING!!! I know our crew thinks mud is gross, but my friend that hates muddy stuff has been spelunking like 3 times and she says it is so much fun and she loves it. So we should go."
-Annina (St. Louis)

"I would like to see my crew participate in the International Student Volunteers program and all go to New Zealand for 2 weeks of service and 2 weeks of high adventure. That would be amazing."
-Patrick (U. Memphis)

Regional Venturing Leadership Award Presented

On October 28th, two Regional Venturing Leadership Awards were presented. The first recipient was Connie Elliot, the Central Region Kodiak Coordinator. The second recipient was Joseph Vollmer, the Central Region Program Director, who works very hard for the Venturing program.

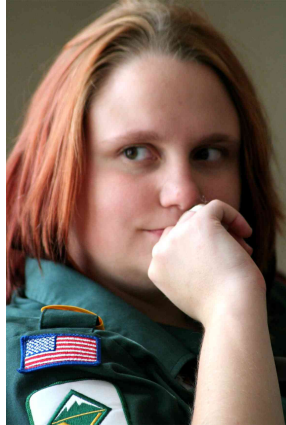
If you have a nominee from your council that volunteers at an Area or Regional level please email Dorothy Gehlhausen at vlacoordinator@crventuring.org



Venturer You Should Know

Each month we will feature a Venturer or an Advisor that you should know. If you know a Venturer or an Advisor you would like to nominate, please send Amanda Vogt a short bio on them and a photo.

Katherine Maxim is the Area 2 President for 2007-08. Her leadership and organizational experiences in Venturing are extensive. She has served two years as the president of the Detroit Area Council Venturing Officers Association, VLSC chair for two councils, and on staff for the National Jamboree in 2005. Her high adventure activities include trips to Philmont and Northern Tier. She is the Chairman for the 2007 Area 2 Assemblage and serves on her council's Executive Committee representing Venturing.



She is a student at Eastern Michigan University and remains involved at the First United Methodist Church. Her interests include fine arts and camping. She enjoys working on camp staff at D-A Scout Ranch in the summer.

Katherine has earned numerous awards and recognitions. These include the Venturing Silver and Ranger Awards, Council Venturing Leadership Award, God & Church Religious Award, and the GSA Silver and Gold Awards. She has advanced training in first aid, lifesaving, diving, and conservation. She also serves as an Assistant Scoutmaster and merit badge counselor. She attended a Woodbadge conference in the fall of 2007 and is working on her Woodbadge ticket.

A Venturing Summary of the Central Region Kodiak/Kodiak X CDC and Powder Horn CDC

October 26th-28th, 2007
Rochester, Indiana

What is Kodiak & Kodiak X? Go to this link for the answer:

<http://www.crventuring.org/Training/Kodiak/>

What is Powder Horn? Go to this link for the answer:

http://www.crventuring.org/Training/Powder_Horn/

With 75 participants and staff the weekend was filled with learning, questions, fun, and very little sleep.

If you are interested in leading a Kodiak trek in the near future I would definitely recommend attending a Kodiak CDC. This course will answer any and all questions you may have before you set off on your trek. The next CDC being offered is in March in the Southern Region. More information can be found at www.kodiak-bsa.org

Also If you are interested in taking a Powder Horn course check out the Central Region website for dates of upcoming courses.

While at the CDCs this past weekend we had a unique opportunity to have a whole lot of green shirts, and some kaki shirts in one room for a Venturing Roundtable. Lots of information was shared and many questions answered.



Consulting Tip of the Month

Every month we will feature a resource that could be beneficial to your council or crew. This month we are featuring the resources available on the Central Region Website.

The website features resources for general Venturing links and specific links for programs such as the Trust Award.

Please check this site out:
http://www.crventuring.org/Links/Trust_Award_Links

Venturing Awards and Recognition Program

Encourage your Venturing crew members to work towards the completion of one of the Venturing awards. The process of working towards the awards will help keep youth interested in Venturing.

Gold Award

The Venturing Gold Award was developed to recognize the significant accomplishment in a Venturer's life as he or she has proven outstanding performance in a broad spectrum of activities. Earning it will challenge and motivate Venturers over an extended period.

This award provides a favorable image of the Venturing program among youth, parents, schools, and the community. It offers challenging and stimulating opportunities for Venturers to develop and achieve personal goals in the areas of leadership, character development, and personal fitness.

The requirements for this award can be found in the Venturing Handbook.

Where To Go Venturing

Does your crew know what it wants to do, but not where to do it? Do you know where you are going, but not sure what there is to do there? Or are you planning a longer trip & need to find stop-overs along the way?

Central Region Venturing has been working on a major project over the last 6 months to help you in your quest in Where to Go Venturing. Your Regional Committee along with volunteers from several states have created a database of Where To Go Venturing facilities. Close to 1000 facilities, including BSA camps, State parks, etc. located throughout the Central Region have already been entered. Thousands more will be added over the course of the next year.

We are now ready to Beta release the Where To Go Venturing database. A Beta release means that it is not yet final. We are asking you to review it, comment back to us on it, and supply us with additional data. Send info to communications-coordinator@crventuring.org

The Where To Go Venturing database can be found at :
http://crventuring.org/Other/Where_To_Go_Venturing/

You can filter the data by Name, States, Managing Agencies, Seasons of Operation, Facilities and Activities.

GO VENTURING!



How to Organize a Venturing Activity

The Central Region Venturing calendar has a number of activities open to Venturers throughout the region. You can browse through them at http://www.crventuring.org/Activities/Events_Calendar/

You may wonder how the Crews, Districts, Councils and Areas organize such events.

The activity or events you choose are conducted by a committee of Venturers and adults. Districts and councils have complete flexibility in planning activities. There are no national rules other than health and safety guidelines.

District or council committees, groups of councils, or groups of crews or even a single crew can host an event.

A key element is to have youth participation in selecting and planning Venturing activities. You will find that many of your Venturers are valuable program resources.

How? To choose activities, determine the following:

- * The interests of Venturers and crew leadership
- * The need to offer a variety of activities so every Venturer can benefit from them
- * The need to offer new interest to crews and Venturers
- * Availability of resources
- * Availability of equipment, facilities, volunteers
- * Number of crews you have or expect might attend

The key is to select activities that your crews want. Be sure to offer something for Venturers of all levels. Do not expend energy and expense to put on an activity that no one will attend.

Selecting the right activity, planning for it appropriately and providing ample promotion will ensure attendance and enjoyment.

The Central Region has several communications venues to assist you in your promotion for activities that are open to Venturers beyond your council.

*Submit your event to the website calendar at:

http://www.crventuring.org/event_submission.php

*Share your information with the members of our yahoo group by sending an email to crventuring@yahoogroups.com (you need to be a member first - join sending an email to crventuring-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

*Tell others about your event at our Facebook group:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2292491801>

Other things to consider include location, timing, leadership, backdating, equipment, and budget.

Here's Venturing #33466 has an excellent chapter on Program & Activities for your District, Council or Area. Pick one up at your Scout Shop and start planning a multi-crew event today.



Central Region Area Pages

Area 1

Upcoming Events

Feb. 28th: Buck Hill Lock-in

Councils of Area 1

Area 1 includes the following councils:
Bay Lakes, Central Minnesota, Chippewa Valley, Gamehaven, Gateway Area, Hawkeye Area, Hiawathaland, Mid-Iowa, Northeast Iowa, Northern Lights, Samoset, Sioux, Twin Valley, Voyageurs Area, Winnebago, and Northern Star

Information on these events and links to these councils can be found on www.crventuring.org

Contact them at:

Area President
Felicity Smith

area1president@crventuring.org

Area Chair
Chris Sandberg

area1chair@crventuring.org

Area 2

Upcoming Events

Nov. 9th-11th: VLSC

Nov. 9th-11th: Wilderness First Aid Course

Feb. 15th-17th: Venturing Kick-Back
Weekend 08

Councils of Area 2

Area 2 includes the following councils:
Anthony Wayne Area, Blue Water, Buffalo Trace, Chief Okemos, Clinton Valley, Crossroads of America, Detroit Area, Gerald R. Ford, Great Sauk Trail, Hoosier Trails, Lake Huron Area, LaSalle, Sagamore, Scenic Trails, Southwest Michigan, and Tall Pine

Information on these events and links to these councils can be found on www.crventuring.org

Contact them at:

Area President
Katherine Maxim

area2president@crventuring.org

Area Chair
Jeff Gerald

area2chair@crventuring.org

Central Region Area Pages

Area 3

Upcoming Events

Nov. 9th-11th: Rock the Castle
Nov. 10th: Sea Scout Officers
Specialized Training
Nov. 30th-Dec. 1st: Chicago Christmas
Tree Ship
Dec. 1st: Backcountry Workshop

Councils of Area 3

Area 3 includes the following councils:
Abraham Lincoln, Blackhawk Area, Calumet,
Chicago Area, Des Plaines Valley, Glaciers
Edge, Illowa, Lincoln Trails, Milwaukee County,
Northeast Illinois, Northwest Suburban,
Potawatomi Area, Prairielands, Rainbow,
Southeast Wisconsin, Three Fires, and W.D.
Boyce

Information on these events and links to these councils can be found on www.crventuring.org

Contact them at:

Area President area3president@crventuring.org Area Chair area3chair@crventuring.org
Nicole Gates *Kris Zahrobsky*

Area 4

Upcoming Events

Nov. 16th-18th: Go Shooting at
Beaumont
Nov. 18th: Venturing Leadership Specific
Training
Nov. 18th: Venturing Leadership Skills
Course

Councils of Area 4

Area 4 includes the following councils:
Allohak, Black Swamp Area, Buckeye,
Buckskin, Dan Beard, Erie Shores, Great Trail,
Greater Cleveland, Greater Western Reserve,
Heart of Ohio, Miami Valley, Mountaineer Area,
Muskingum Valley, Ohio River Valley, Simon
Kenton, Tecumseh, and Tri-State Area

Information on these events and links to these councils can be found on www.crventuring.org

Contact them at:

Area President area4president@crventuring.org Area Chair area4chair@crventuring.org
Katelyn Childs *Len Roberts*

Central Region Area Pages

Area 5

Upcoming Events

Nov. 17th: GSLAC Scouting for Food
Dec. 28th-30th: Winter Adventure
Jan. 12th: Ski Night at Hidden Valley

Councils of Area 5

Area 5 includes the following councils:
Cornhusker, Coronado Area, Great Rivers,
Greater St. Louis Area, Heart of America,
Jayhawk Area, Mid-America, Mississippi
Valley, Okaw Valley, Overland Trails, Ozark
Trails, Pony Express, Quivira, Santa Fe Trail,
and Trails West

Information on these events and links to these councils can be found on www.crventuring.org

Contact them at:

Area President area5president@crventuring.org Area Chair area5chair@crventuring.org
Dan Bedell Bob Vogt

Venturing & Sea Scouting Discussion Lists

Please sign up for the many Yahoo Groups and Discussion Lists dedicated to Venturing and Sea Scouting. Information on these groups can be found by searching Yahoo Groups for Venturing, clicking on "Discussion Groups" at seascout.org, or by clicking on the links below.



Venturing Yahoo Group: this group shares information with Venturers and Advisors from across the nation: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/venturinglist/>



Central Region Venturing Yahoo Group: this group is used to share resources and ideas, and to ask questions about Venturing in Central Region: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/crventuring/>



Sea Scouting Discussion List: this group shares information with Sea Scouts and Sea Scout leaders across the nation: <http://listserv.seascout.org/cgi-bin/wa?A0=SEASCOUT-NET>



Central Region Sea Scouting Discussion List: this group is used to share resources and ideas, and to ask questions about Sea Scouting in Central Region: <http://listserv.seascout.org/cgi-bin/wa?A0=SEASCOUT-CREGION-NET>