



Central Region Venturing Monthly Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 12
May 2008



Welcome to the 12th 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

Thank You

I would like to say thank you to everyone for allowing me to be of service this year to the Venturing program in the Central Region and across the nation.

I plan to continue serving in some capacity this next year to continue to help the Venturing program grow and develop, as I want to give back to this program all that it has given me throughout my life.

Please show your support for Katelyn Childs, 2008-2009 Central Region Venturing President, and her cabinet over this next year. With your help this program will continue to flourish.

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.

TIPS ON PRODUCING A GOOD NEWSLETTER

If you're writing and designing your crew or council Venturing newsletters (and you should!), here are a few guidelines on getting the most out of your efforts.

KEEP STORIES SHORT, SIMPLE & RELEVANT

Readers are looking to see that "their" unit is a unit to proud of. Tell them about successes, however small and what approaches the unit is taking to solve problems. Make it simple for them to understand what is going on and how the unit is doing.

KEEP A SIMILAR STYLE THROUGHOUT

Have someone double check your articles for grammar, spelling, punctuation, syntax and clarity.

CHECK YOUR FACTS

Support your statements & verify your dates, etc.

AVOID CLICHES

Avoid expressions such as "a good time was had by all," or "it goes without saying," or "needless to say."

LEARN ABOUT LAYOUTS

Also learn how to make your copy fit your layout and leading (the space between each line of type).

AVOID MIXING TOO MANY TYPEFACES

Good newsletter must be easy to read. Too many type styles are hard on the eyes. The general rule is one style for headlines and another for text. And keep it simple - fancy typefaces can be hard to read.

HAVE A GOOD MIX

Include pictures and clipart in your newsletter. Nothing is more boring than reading straight text. Too many pictures though distract from your message.

DON'T GET TOO FANCY

The main object of your newsletter is that it gets read. Stay away from colored ink for text. Use a second and/or third, color sparingly. Too much use of another color is distracting to the reader. Print your newsletter on an easy-to-read paper - white, off-white, light gray, beige, etc. Avoid red, green, blue, yellow, orange, etc.

NEWSLETTERS = GOOD COMMUNITY PR

Positive and energetic members convey that message to their alumni and parents, and that presents a good image for your unit or council. Because newsletters generally are read by many more people than just those who initially receive them, your good image will be widespread.

CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE NEWSLETTERS

When you produce a newsletter, it's important that you give readers information they will save and a reason to read-on. Ideally, your newsletter will not end up in the "circular file":

- Present a professional, winning image: highlight all your activities. Cover your skills, community service, and leadership related activities.
- Highlight the accomplishments of your unit(s) - be more informational than sales oriented and include a response mechanism
- Motivate your members by recognizing them for achievements (in & outside of your unit)
- Involve your readers. Ask questions. Profile an alum or an active member. Include photos, graphics, charts, quotes, etc.
- Provide valuable, provocative information. Newsletters are often loaded with filler and fluff. Avoid this and seek to provide information which will interest your readers. Great newsletters inform, market and sell; however, they don't brag.
- Be consistent. Publish on a regular schedule and keep your look consistent. It shows your readers that you give the same attention to your unit and/or service.
- Have fun. Enjoy the opportunity to communicate through your newsletter. Be creative. Don't cut corners. Exploit your strengths and build on weaknesses. Your enjoyment of the process will be reflected in your final publication.

Finally,
Send your newsletters to communications-coordinator@crventuring.org Great stories may be chosen for further publication by the Central Region

Trivia Question of the Month

Every month we will feature a trivia question about Venturing, answer on page 6.

Question: What are the categories for submitting a photograph into the Venturing 10th Anniversary Photo Contest?

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. This month's award is the Quest Award.

Ranger Award

High adventure and the outdoors have always been of interest to young Americans as well as an important part of the BSA program. Because of the attraction of high adventure, the Ranger Award is available to all Venturing youth members of the Boy Scouts of America.

The purpose of the award is to encourage Venturers to achieve a high level of outdoor skills proficiency; recognize achievement of this high level of outdoor skills proficiency; provide a path for outdoor/high-adventure skills training; and establish Rangers as a highly trained leadership resource for crews, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and the community.

The Ranger Award exemplifies a challenging high-level outdoor/high-adventure skills advancement program. Once earned, it will identify a Ranger as a person who is highly skilled at a variety of outdoor sports and

interests, trained in outdoor safety, and ready to lead or assist others in activities. Rangers can be a great program asset to Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, and others.

Requirements

Ranger candidates must complete eight challenging core requirements:

-First Aid

-Emergency Preparedness

-Leave No Trace

-Land Navigation

-Communications

-Wilderness Survival

-Cooking

-Conservation

And four of 18 challenging electives:

- Backpacking
- Cave Exploring
- Cycling/Mountain Biking
- Ecology
- Equestrian
- First Aid
- Fishing
- Hunting
- Lifesaver
- Mountaineering
- Outdoor Living History
- Physical Fitness
- Plants and Wildlife
- Project COPE
- Scuba
- Shooting Sports
- Watercraft
- Winter Sports

Note- Venturers who have received the Outdoor Bronze Award need to complete only four more of the core requirements and two more electives to qualify for the Ranger Award.

Central Region Area Pages

Area 1

Upcoming Events

May 30th-June 1st Spring Whitewater #1
June 6th-8th Spring Whitewater #2
July 18th-20th: Bay Jammer

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 area1president@crventuring.org Area Chair area1chair@crventuring.org
Felicity Smith *Chris Sandberg*

Area 2

Upcoming Events

May 2nd-4th: Spring Camp-out
May 9th-11th: Lincoln Bicentennial Encampment
May 16th-18th: Basic Outdoor Survival Skills
May 30th-June 1st: Powder Horn MI
June 14th-17th: Whitewater Rafting Trip
July 20th-26th: Adventure Challenge CCLT
July 27th-Aug 3rd International Camporee

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 area2president@crventuring.org Area Chair area2chair@crventuring.org
Katherine Maxim *Jeff Gerald*

Central Region Area Pages

Area 3

Upcoming Events

May 10th: NWSC VLSC
May 16th-18th: Baraboo Circus Heritage
May 30th-June 1st: LNT Trainer Course
June 14th-20th: Kodiak at Napowan
June 20th-22nd & 27th-29th NEIC Kodiak
July 27th-August 2nd: Venturing Camp at
Canyon Camp

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

May 16th-18th: Powder Horn OH

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

May 10th: Venturing and Exploring Day
June 1st-7th: Venturing Adventure
June 13th-15th: VLSC
June 15th-21st: Kodiak at Little Sioux
June 29th-July 3rd: Venturing/Exploring Camp
June 29th-July 3rd: Adventure Camp

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>