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Central Region Venturing Monthly Newsletter



Welcome to the 9th edition of the 2008-2009 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.

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Central Region Venturing Facebook Groups



The Central Region Venturing Communications team is working tirelessly to create Venturing Facebook groups for every council within the Central Region. Links to the existing council groups are listed on the Central Region Venturing Facebook page and can easily be found under their respective Areas. Groups can also be found by simply searching the name of your council! Be sure to support Venturing collaboration by joining your council group and the Central Region group! If your council does not have a group yet, you won't have to wait very long since we're about 80% done!

Contact Us:

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To contact the entire Central Region Venturing Committee, e-mail Communications Coordinator Debbie Keyes and she will pass on the message.

Venturing Crew You Should Know

Millstadt Venturing Crew (MVC) brought 5 fencers to the fight. Southeast Missouri (SEMO) had 7. In addition there was one fencer from Springfield Illinois who will be a freshman at SEMO next fall.

First was the individual competition where it is each man (and woman) for themselves. The Springfield fencer took first place. SEMO fencers won second and third. A MVC fencer took fourth place.



Redhawk Duel: Millstadt Venturing Crew vs Southeast Missouri State University on their campus on January 31

Next was the team competition. Each team consists of 3 fencers. SEMO fielded 2 teams. MVC fielded 2 teams with the help of the Springfield fencer who

joined one of the MVC teams. The teams were seeded going into battle according to the placement of the individual fencers from the preceding individual contest. SEMO was seeded first and third. MVC was seeded second and fourth. So SEMO 1 fenced MVC 4 and MVC 2 fenced SEMO 4. In both semifinal competitions the MVC team won. Final placements were MVC winning first and second place. SEMO winning third and fourth places.

MVC started practicing in March of 2008. We started competing in the fall of 2008. The Redhawk Duel was our first head to head competition with a University team but we have been competing in open tournaments against college athletes from Northwestern, University of Missouri, University of Illinois, Purdue, Vanderbilt, University of Kentucky, University of Tennessee and many more.

We've been knocked on our butts a few times but we keep getting up for the next round. They don't intimidate us. And we keep getting better. Maybe they need to keep their eye on us!

Q & A:

Q: How can I learn more about Kodiak and Kodiak X?

A: Attend the Kodiak/Kodiak X Course Directors Conference in Evansville, IN on March 27-29. Kodiak & Kodiak X CDCs are for anyone interested in learning more about how to plan a Kodiak course. It is open to youth and adults and includes a wide range of topics, including: course standards and guidelines, course format, approval process, budgeting, staff selection and development, participant recruiting, logistics, etc. Several Kodiak commissions will be presented and there will be ample time for miscellaneous question. Registration begins at 5 pm on Friday, March 27 and the conference will end before noon on Sunday, March 29. The conference will take place in Buffalo Trace Council at the Eykamp Scout Center. Check out www.cventuring.org for the registration form! If this isn't quite your level of interest yet, check out the Central Region website for more general information, resources, and links about Kodiak courses.



Central Region Venturing President Applications are Still Available.

Applications are due to the Regional Office by **March 2, 2009!** Candidates must: Be a currently registered Venturer in his or her council; be a present or past crew president, or a present or past chair or officer in his or her council's teen leaders' council or equivalent district or council organization in his or her council; be recommended and approved by his or her council; be less than 20 years of age on May 31, 2009; be able to attend the BSA National Annual Meeting, May 20–23, 2009, in Orlando, Florida, and the National Venturing Cabinet orientation, July 9–12, 2009, in Irving, Texas. This is a fantastic opportunity for deserving youth! Applications are available on www.crventuring.org and if you have any questions please contact the current Central Region Venturing President, Katelyn Childs, at crventuring_prez@yahoo.com.



Central Region Area Venturing President applications will soon be available on www.crventuring.org. So be on the lookout!

Central Region Venturing Leadership Award

The Regional Awards are given by the Central Region Venturing Committee to youth and adults who have given outstanding service to Venturing beyond the local council level. Award nominations might be considered for youth and adults whose service includes, for example: service as an Area Venturing President, planning/leading an area-wide or council cluster Venturing event, helping to train Venturing youth and adult leaders in other councils, staffing multiple Powder Horn/Kodiak Course Director Conferences or Seabadge courses, leading a Regional Venturing contingent to a World Jamboree or Venturing Moot, helping build/maintain the Regional Venturing web site, newsletter, social networks, etc. (Please note that the term Venturing includes Sea Scouting and any activities designated under that banner.)

The only way a deserving youth or adult Venturing leader can be considered for this recognition is if they are nominated. The deadline for Regional VLA nominations is March 15. Please submit nomination forms to:

Attn: Joe Vollmer
Venturing Leadership Award Nomination
Central Region, BSA
P.O. Box 3085
Naperville, IL 60566-7085

Nominations for the National Venturing Award should be submitted to the National office at the address on the bottom of the form.

The nomination form can be downloaded from the Central Region website under the resources tab at: <http://www.crventuring.org/document2.php?s=1&id=15>

Should someone that you nominate be selected to receive a Regional Venturing Leadership Award, we will contact you to find an appropriate avenue for presentation of this distinguished award. Should you have any questions about the VLA or how to utilize this program in your council, please contact Brian Stanfill, the Central Region Awards & Recognition Coordinator at bstanfill@ameritech.net



Southern Region Winterfest

On January 31, 2009, more than 2600 Explorers and Venturers converged on the gorgeous mountain town of Gatlinburg for a weekend of fun at Winterfest, the annual event of the Southern Region.

Winterfest began officially on Friday evening with a welcome ceremony and a dance party complete with a DJ and party lights. The following day, the festivities started early with the first competitions beginning at eight. There are far too many things to list, but among the events that Venturers participated in were water basketball, backpack cooking contest, the flying squirrel - which is where a group of scouts pulls someone in a harness until they are swinging back and forth at the ceiling of the conference center, - orienteering around Gatlinburg and a climbing wall.

Those interested in shooting sports could check out the indoor air rifle and archery range set up in the ballroom, or if you like to get into tight spaces you could try to beat the record of fitting through a hole the height of a dollar bill at the squeeze box.

The Explorers spent the day in competitions of their skills including fire relays and felony vehicle stops. Many of these competitions were open for Venturers to watch.



Southern Region officers being installed with the help of the National Venturing Youth Cabinet

For anyone who wanted to brave the cold they could go out and see the Dutch oven and backpacking cooking contests. While there, you could enjoy the smells, learn about new stoves and maybe even get a taste of the final creation! If that did not catch your interest, you could head on down to the engineering contest and be captivated by feats of new engineering.

During a slow time, you could see the endeavors of several Venturers through the table top display contest.

By the end of the evening there were many awards to be given out. But before the winners were

announced there was the roundtable meeting for Venturers and Advisors with the regional officers from all four areas, including the Central Region! At this meeting, there were many excellent questions and connections made and many more Venturers know who their youth leaders are.

Following the roundtable everyone rushed to the ballroom for the awards ceremony. The flag was presented by a fire Post in dress uniform and the awards began! The tension was palpable before each award was announced, everyone hoped to see their name declared from the giant screens on either side of the stage. In between awards there were seven talent acts that included everything from singers to skits to a juggling act.



All and all the weekend was a great success with record numbers of attendees. The North East Georgia Council deserves a big thank you and hopefully we will see you there next year!

~Article by Sarah Polan



Crew 520 outside the convention center

Central Region Areas

Area 1: 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.

Upcoming Events

Feb 15-17: Hannah Winter Resort 6
Feb 15-17: Arctic Adventure
April 3-5: Seabadge

Contact them at

Area President: Carrie Schmitz
area1president@crventuring.org
Area Chair: Chris Sandberg
area1chair@crventuring.org

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

Upcoming Events

Feb 15-17: Venturing Kick-back weekend 08
March 27-29: Kodiak & Kodiak X CDC

Contact them at

Area President: Kaytie Corlew
area2president@crventuring.org
Area Chair: Jeff Gerald
area2chair@crventuring.org

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

Upcoming Events

April 17-19: Powder Horn wknd 1
April 18: Rock River Regatta

Contact them at

Area President: Cody Romano
area3president@crventuring.org
Area Chair: Kris Zahrobsky
area3chair@crventuring.org

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

Upcoming Events

Feb 16-17: Ski Weekend Extravaganza
Feb 27-Mar 1: Sea Scout Winter Training Weekend
Feb 28- Mar 1: Wilderness First Aid
March 28: Venturing C.U.P.

Contact them at

Area President: Ben Hayes
area4president@crventuring.org
Area Chair: Len Roberts
area4chair@crventuring.org

Central Region Areas (continued)

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

Upcoming Events

Feb 22-23: HOAC lock-in

March 6-7: End of Winter Adventure Weekend

April 3-5: Spring Olympiad

Contact them at

Area President: Sarah Ward

area5president@crventuring.org

Area Chair: Bob Vogt

area5chair@crventuring.org

More information on all of the events and links to the councils listed above can be found on www.crventuring.org

Submit your Event at http://www.crventuring.org/event_submission.php

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://groups.yahoo.com/group/crseascouting/?yguid=280725914>