

November Issue, 2010

area one

the newsletter of Central Region Area One

part of the Boy Scouts of America



Venturers

Get "Hooked"

Equipment has been unloaded, inspected and positioned. Supplies are in place. Everyone is briefed. Our Venturing Crew is ready.

By the water's edge on this summer day, there is a gentle breeze. Shadows dance below trees that hang beyond the shoreline.

We're here to fish. Or more exactly, we're here to introduce fishing to the boys and girls and their families who will be here in a few moments.

They've already finished an educational program with the park ranger staff. They've learned about fish and fish habitat. They've learned some basics about fishing gear and tying fishing knots. They've made their own fishing lure and a fishing pole using a pop can as a spindle. Now they're ready us.

It's not hard to spot them as they cross the parking lot heading toward the fishing pier. Some come with a bounce in their step. Some with hesitation. Others with an intense concentration and seriousness. They come with brothers, sisters, cousins, parents, grandparents, neighbors, classmates, or with fellow members of their 4-H Club, or their Scout unit.

We greet them with a broad smile and move them first to our "casting station" on shore where both youth and adult fishing poles are set out with practice casting

weights on the line instead of fishing hooks. Venturers first explain the safety precautions of looking side to side, above and behind before casting. We chat for a moment to determine what, if any, experience they have had. Depending on their answer, we may begin with the simplest aspects of using the reel and then demonstrate overhead casting, and both left and right underhand short tosses. Occasionally a tree reaches out and grabs some of the fishing line. That's Ok. It's just part of the learning.

When they're comfortable using the equipment they get a pole that's ready with a hook, bobber and sinker. We talk briefly about controlling their fishing hook around others – and then it's off to the fishing pier!

On the pier Venturers help bait hooks and help those fishing learn to watch the bobber so they're ready to haul in their catch of the day! Soon the first excited yells show who has caught their first fish and Venturers show how to remove the hook and release the fish back into the water. Eventually some of the more confident will move to shore for more serious casting from a less crowded location. Mostly they catch little pan fish, but occasionally someone hooks one big enough to put up a fight and break the fishing line. The process continues throughout the afternoon with a steady flow of fun.

Most fishing are in grades 1-9, but often it's an excuse for older family members to learn too.

All of the fishing equipment and bait is provided the DNR's MinnAqua program. Park staff make sure that everything is on-site and ready to go. Park staff advertise the event annu-



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Area One Annual Conference

On Nov. 5-7, Central Region Area 1 held its 2nd annual Area conference at the Holiday Inn Bloomington, Minn. Friday night featured a cracker barrel, games, swimming in the pool, and relaxing in the hot tub.

On Saturday, the conference featured speakers Thomas Spargo - Area 1 President, Chris Sandberg - Area 1 Advisor, and Carl Anderson - Area 1 Kodiak Coordinator. The conference also included special guests Dan Carriveau, - the Central Region President, James Wells and Austin Boene from Bay Lakes council, and John Laswell and Mike Franson - Powder Horn Course Directors for upcoming courses in 2011 and 2012.

After all of the training was done on Saturday, participants were treated to a trip to the nearby Mall

of America in Bloomington where they shopped and rode rides at Nickelodeon Universe theme park inside the mall. The night ended with a pool party and late night games.

On Sunday, Area 1 conducted its election of Vice President of Communication. (Other positions were filled previously before the event) Four excited Venturers ran for the position with Sarah Hopkins from Voyager Council in North Eastern Minnesota winning. She is a freshman at a community

college in Virginia, MN and has been a part of Venturing since age 14. She is looking forward to working with Thomas and the rest of the Area VOA in her new position, and hopes to make Venturing a stronger program in the Area, and her council.

The weekend was successful with 32 participants from five different councils, and 18 of them being youth. Everyone is excited to make their council stronger, and to give Venturing an exceptional year.





Area Vice President of Communications

Sarah Hopkins is President of Venturing Crew 161 in Aurora, Minn.

She has been in Scouting for the

past six years when she, along with her family, started Crew 161 in November of 2004. Sarah has helped staff many day camps, Webelo action camps, and spring & fall camporees as well as having the opportunity this past July, to be on staff at the 2010 Boy Scout National Jamboree. She recently earned her religious award and is in the progress of earning the highest award in Venturing, the Silver award. Sarah currently is trying to help start a VOA in the Voyageurs Area Council. She also plans to attend her council's Wood Badge course this winter. Sarah is also involved with the Virginia Junior Rifle team as well as working towards her

next rank in Judo.

Sarah is a freshman working towards an Associates of Arts degree in Liberal Arts at Mesabi Range Community and Technical College in Virginia, MN. After which she plans to attend the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

She is excited to work with Tom, Laura, and Josh in building a strong program, and is grateful for the opportunity to, not only promote Venturing in our area, but also share the knowledge of what Venturing is.

President's Corner

Our conference went very well. I was pleased to see five councils at the event with two being their first time. Everyone enjoyed the Holiday Inn with all the rooms being next to each other opening up to the pool area.

Make sure to be a part of the Area action by coming to the Area 1 Assemblage on April 1-3 in the Wisconsin Dells. There will be a lot of free time to enjoy all four indoor water parks, Zip lines, (weather permitting) Go karts, arcade, and more. Groups of 10 will be placed in spacious condos with a full kitchen, living room, and a two person whirlpool. More details to sign up will be coming very soon, plus there will be a special deal for those who sign up before January 31st. Make sure you stay updated on facebook, the CRventuring website, and your inbox for more details.

Also, we are always looking for interesting articles to place in the newsletter. If your crew, district, or council did something you'd like to share to the Area, make sure you send your article for January's newsletter by December 31st 2010. You can submit them via email at area1president@crventuring.org

Happy holidays, and see you next year!

Thomas Spargo
Area 1 President

Venturers Get "Hooked" Continued

ally as part of the regular park program. That is, they really do all the work to get ready and most of the educational program. We do the fun stuff!

Venturing Crew 1849 (Stillwater, MN) has volunteered to help run this event at William O'Brian State Park in June and August of 2009 and 2010. It started when our Venturers choose to work on the fishing elective for the Ranger Award. This year, we were joined by Venturing Crew 613 (Maple-

wood, MN). On a typical day about 60 to 80 youth participate. So far we've helped about 280 youth plus the adults they've brought along.

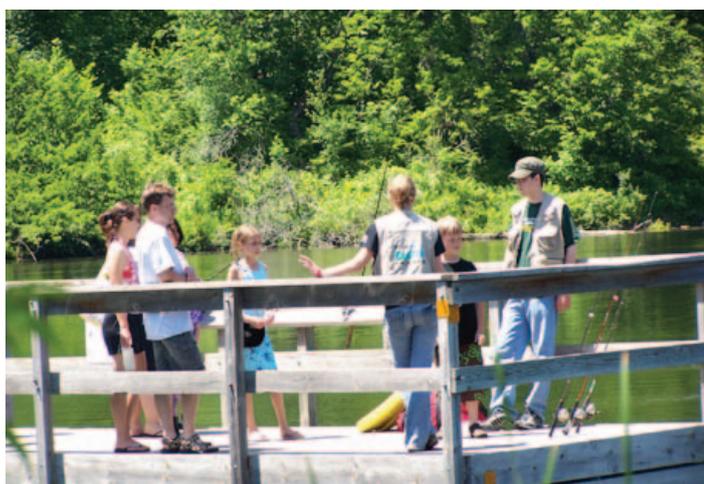
In addition to meeting the "service" part of our annual program, this has let us be publicly visible as Venturers. It has build ties with Park staff who have also been resources for our Crew's Venturing program. And let's not forget that when you learn a skill, you just learn it, but when teaching, you master it!

If your Venturing Crew would like of piece of this action, go

on-line to the MN DNR web site at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/minnaqua/index.html> for more information. There are several places nearby with staff who would love to be your MinnaAqua partner!

Get skills. Have fun. Repeat.

Yours in Venturing
Mike McCarthy, C1849
Stillwater MN



A Note

During the past 5 months, the National Venturing Youth Cabinet has been working towards a standard Venturing program throughout the nation. Venturing has made a huge step in creating the Standard Operating procedures as a way to model Venturing Officers Associations (VOA) for everyone in the nation. (please note that this document does NOT affect Venturing Crews. These

are for Districts, Councils, Area, Regions, and National VOAs)

These guidelines will be followed throughout the Area and Region, but are a recommendation for councils with the option to keep any existing VOA at the council and district level the same if they are working.

These guidelines will help set dates for the election of VOA president, the duties of the officers in a VOA, requirements for any position in the VOA,

and many other helpful things. You can find the document by going to <http://scouting.org/scoutsources/Venturing.aspx>

On December 5th at 7:00PM CST, Area 1 will be hosting a conference call to go through the document and take questions for those who need answers about the document. To call in to the conference, dial 1-866-590-5055 and when prompted, enter the access code: 6330397. Also please have the power point presenta-

tion up during the conference call. It can be found by going to the Central Region Area 1 Venturing facebook group. If you have any questions about the conference call, please email Thomas at area1president@crventuring.org

Please make sure you call into this conference call so we can make Venturing better, and our Area even stronger.

Leave No Trace Training

In early October, the Venturing Committee of the Northern Star Council sponsored its first Leave No Trace Trainer course at Phillippo Scout Reservation. The 16-hour course teaches the practical application of the seven Leave No Trace principles and the skills necessary for each participant to be an active and effect trainer. The course was taught by council Outdoor Ethics Advocate and LNT Master Educator Thomas Shaw, assisted by LNT Trainers Elizabeth Mahan, Elizabeth Swanson and James Swanson and Master Educator Chick Hogan from Gateway Area Council in Wisconsin.

"The Trainer Course is a great opportunity for Venturers," says Shaw. "Leave No Trace is a core requirement for the Venturing Ranger Award. As with all Venturing awards, Venturers are required to demonstrate teaching ability and extend their knowledge and skills into the scouting community and beyond. Leave No Trace is an ethic. Venturers have the opportunity to have an enormous

positive effect by working with troops and packs on the LNT Awareness Awards. Younger scouts really look up to skilled older scouts and Venturers and their modeling goes a long way to forming future behavior. The emphasis is on the thoughtful consideration of human impact on the outdoors and not on observing a list of rules and regulations. In the centennial of American Scouting, Leave No Trace has become integral with Second and First Class advancement requirements and several merit badges. With over 15,000,000 user-days each year, Scouts has the largest impact of any single group on our recreation areas. It is important that all scouts reflect on how their behavior contributes to this cumulative impact. My goal is that reflecting on outdoor behavior will lead scouts to consider the overall impact of humans on the planet and the ways in which individually and collectively we all make a difference." Shaw also notes that the Northern Star Council has been leader in this national initiative through the active

support of the council camping and training committees and professional staff.

Shaw notes the special commitment of Venture Crew 1, chartered to Minnehaha United Methodist Church in south Minneapolis has to Leave No Trace. Of the eight youth member, five are Trainers and one is a Master Educator. In addition, four Associate Advisors are Trainers and the Advisor is a Master Educator. The Crew has actively promoted Leave No Trace ethics

at council and district events for more than a year. South Korean exchange student, Geumtae Bok is one the crew to participate in the Trainer Course. Shaw believes that he is the first South Korean scout to complete the course. Bok is also serving Troop 196, chartered to Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, as the troop Leave No Trace Trainer, a Position of Responsibility for which only about 300 scouts nationally have been trained.





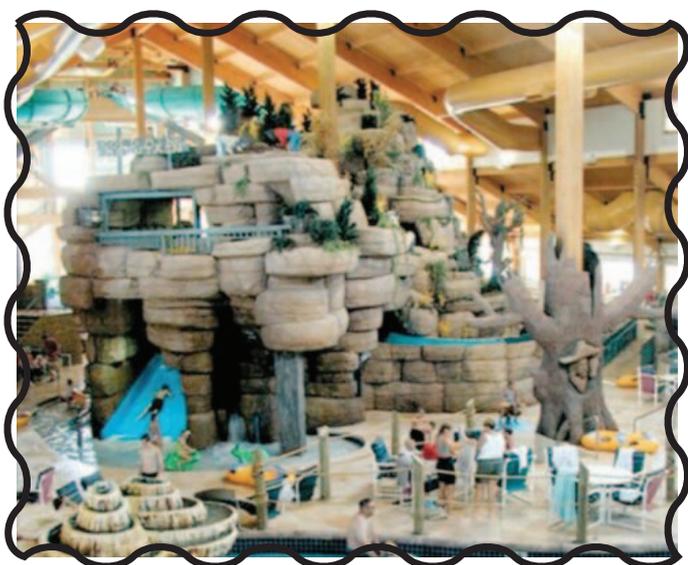
Left: Members of the Area and Regional leadership gather for a picture. **Left to right:** Thomas Spargo (Area 1 President), Sarah Hopkins (Area Vice-President of Communications), Dan Carriveau (Central Region President), and Chris Sandberg (Area 1 Venturing Chair). **Youth members of Area Leadership not pictured:** Laura Larsen (Area 1 Vice-President of Administration) and Josh Eilers (Area 1 Vice-President of Program)

Area Spring Event

Area Assemblage

April 1-3, 2011

Wilderness Resort, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin



\$80 before Jan. 31
\$90 afterwards

*Price includes all food, lodging, and waterpark admission. Details will be posted on Area Facebook Page