

The Central Point



Newsletter of Central Region Venturing | BSA

February Newsletter 2012

Dan Carriveau: Reflections on a Scouting Journey

By Thomas Spargo

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Dan Carriveau, 2011-2012, National Venturing President and past Central Region and Area President.

The following is a transcript of a phone interview between Thomas Spargo, the 2011-2012 Central Region VP of Communication, and Dan Carriveau, the 2011-2012 National Venturing President conducted on February 9th, 2012.

How did you get involved in Scouting?

I started out as a Tiger Cub in my local elementary school. My brother was involved in the Cub Scouts and I hung around his meetings after school with him and got a feel for the program. I wanted to get some of the same experiences as my brother, so I decided to sign up. When I finally joined, I feel in love with the Scouting program.

How did you first hear about Venturing?

I knew that Venturing existed as a Boy Scout, but I knew very little. When I was on summer camp staff, there was a Venturing summer camp program offered and I got to learned more about Venturing. I had a great experience, and loved the high adventure; I had to have more.

What thoughts or emotions went through your mind when you filled out your first Venturing position application, and how did those emotions change as you applied for higher positions?

My first position in Venturing was Central Region Area 1 Venturing President. I wasn't sure what would happen when I filled it out, and honestly I didn't know what was all entailed. So I talked with Carrie Schmitz, the current Area 1 President at the time, to get a feel for the job. I'm an administration type person, and I could lead people, so I submitted the application, had an interview, and became the next Area 1 President. I was excited thinking about the impact I could make in the program. As I moved up to National Venturing President, I was having a bigger impact, getting more opportunities to meet people and travel, and it was even more exciting. National Venturing...

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Welcome to the 2011-2012 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 council VOA, Venturing Forums, professional staff, and the Central Region Venturing Areas. We look forward to being of service to you in Venturing.

Follow us on:



Area 2 Conference

The second annual Area 2 Conference was held in Lansing, Michigan on January 28th, 2012 at the Royal Scott Golf and Bowl. We had 55 total participants - 20 youth and 35 adults. Nine of nine councils were represented! These participants included the entire Area 2 Sea Scout Committee, all of the Area 2 youth officers, the past and present Area 2 Presidents, the Area director and the new director of program!

The morning began with a welcome and introductions to the event and to each other. From there, the sessions focused on the different levels of VOAs featuring leadership from Regional, Area and Council levels. Included in these sessions was information on the SOP and about the CSVE. Following, was an informational session on the various Venturing trainings: ILSC, Kodiak, NYLT, Powder Horn, Woodbadge, and the Venturing Leader Specific Training. This session featured the Area 2 Kodiak and Powder Horn chairs as well as numerous youth presenters.

Lunch was enjoyed as a time to meet new people and to share Venturing best practices. The afternoon had many great features. Sea Scout Jay Montgomery enlightened all of the green shirts in the room about Sea Scouting, and Mike Melinn answered questions about the changes coming to Area 2 with the "Area Project." We also enjoyed a presentation on effective communication and how to utilize internet resources for better Venturing. The Area 2 Logo Contest was also announced and can be found on the Area 2 Facebook Group.

As a new part of the conference, Area VLAs were awarded for the past year. Nick Huyser, Brianne Curtis and Elizabeth Wisman were each presented with this award for their service and leadership within Area 2. Also, as one of the last adult council VLAs, Jay Montgomery was awarded a much-deserved VLA.

The Area 2 team reflects on this year's event and looks forward to next year's upcoming Venturing conference. We would love to have your input! If you have questions, suggestions, comments or concerns, please e-mail us at area2president@crventuring.org.

Article contributed by Lizzie Wisman, Area 2 VP of Administration.

Dan Carriveau

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President is about four times as much work as Regional President, but the position is also four times the excitement.

What has been your most memorable experience in your Scouting career?

Going to Bay Jammer with my crew in 2008 was one of the most memorable. We put together a competition team and practiced over and over for every event. I got to know my crew members more than ever before while competing against others. While it was a very competitive environment, we were in the minority of those that practiced so hard. We came out of the event with 2nd place. I had such a great time with my crew and got to form a much deeper bond with all of my crew members.

How have you balanced your Venturing position, school, and work?

Organization is my secret to staying on top of things. I have a schedule with to-do lists for every day. This organization has helped me get everything done that I need to.

What do you plan to do in Scouting after your youth career is over?

I would like to serve as an advisor and I may become a Central Region Area 1 Associate Advisor. Until then, I will be helping the next National President move into their position and be there to support officers who need advice; however, I'd like to be involved in a Regional or National Committee or Task force at some point.

If you had all the time in the world, what non-Scouting activity would you do?

I would go on a very long vacation to many destinations to relax, take time to enjoy myself, and to observe different resorts and hotels since it is my career.

What are three of the best changes you've seen in Venturing since you've started?

Having more structure in the program has made it significantly better. The addition of Vice Presidents has helped create a bigger impact while relieving the Presidents so they can focus on more specific

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Area 3 Venturing Conference

The 3rd annual Central Region Area 3 Venturing Conference took place on January 13th and 14th, 2012 in Normal, Illinois. This year's conference started off on Friday evening with both an Introduction to Leadership Skills Course for Crews (ILSC) and Venturing Leader Specific Training (VLST) offered. The ILSC had 7 youth participants who are now very eager to put on the course back in their own councils. The VLST had 3 adults trained. Saturday was filled with many different courses available and activities. A total of 71 participants and staff were present throughout the day from 6 different states. A Kodiak Challenge CDC along with 15 other courses was available throughout the day. Also at the Conference, the first Area Venturing Leadership Awards in the nation were presented. This year's



(Listed left to right) Christina Vogt, Zabrina Johnson, Sarah Mittrucker, Peter Schmidt, Samantha Yahl, and Dustin Readenour.

recipients for the Central Region Area 3 Venturing Leadership Awards were presented by Dan Carriveau, the 2011-2012 National Venturing President, and Amanda Vogt, the 2008-2009 National Venturing President.

Article contributed by Christina Vogt, Area 3 President.



2011 SEA SCOUTS

Crew Home from Mackinac City

On Wednesday July 27, two racing yacht arrived in Mackinac City at 10 AM. The Sea Scout Crews and their leaders had driven up to meet the boats for unloading and loading gear for the journey back to the home port, Port Huron. Many of the Sea Scouts had never experienced traveling on a sail boat. Safety procedures, names of things on the boat, and basic boat processes were discussed on the voyage to Cheboygan, the port of call for the first night aboard. After supper aboard, the youth attended a movie in town before hitting the sack for the first time on a sailboat.

An early wake-up call got the two boats underway before 7 AM Thursday. Since

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2011 Sea Scouts (continued from page 3)



CRVenturing.org Highlight

This month we are highlighting the Central Region Venturing website article on PR for events. It can be found under the Home tab on our site at the Article Archive link in the sub-headers or directly at

<http://crventuring.org/Home/Fulltext/s=1&id=278>

Included in the article is information on how to post your event to the Central Region Venturing website, have it published in your Area or the Region newsletter, and how to post it on social networks.

There are many useful articles in the Article Archive. Explore them all at

http://crventuring.org/Home/Article_Archive/

If you find a link that needs to change, please let us know via email to communications-coordinator@crventuring.org.

Please also contact us if you have information not listed that you would like to share on the website.

Article contributed by Deb Keyes, CRV Associate Advisor for Communications.

the destination was Harrisville, it would be a long day on the water. Unfortunately, just like Wednesday, there was too little wind to sail. All three meals were eaten en route. Motoring the sail boat at night and docking in the dark were new experiences for the Sea Scouts. Helming, knot tying, and docking were improving as the crews gained experience.

There was no wind on Friday morning, so after motoring until noon, the crew went swimming to cool off in Lake Huron. After getting underway again and having lunch, the wind picked up and the sails were hoisted. Now we were really under sail power for most of the afternoon, while enjoying speeds over 7 knots - faster than our motor. Mikella celebrated her 17th birthday helming Griffin in wind that once exceeded 20 knots. It was a thrill for all of those aboard. In the evening we docked at East Tawas. Everyone was enjoying having become accustomed to using their sea legs.

The wind left us on Saturday as we motored to Port Sanilac to spend the evening. It was a very comfortable day on the water and we watched several rain cells pass on either side of the Griffin. There was a lot of rain in the race but none on the trip home.

Here's hoping 2012, Sea Scouting's 100th Year Anniversary, will let us do this high adventure activity again with more boats and youth participating.

Article contributed by Wayne Hastings, Commodore-Blue Water Squadron

Area 1 Upcoming events:

Mar 2nd-3rd, Winter Venturing Event, Rhenlander, WI

June 25th-30th, Wood Badge, Houlton, WI

Aug 1st-5th, Powder Horn, St. Paul, MN

President: [Jennifer Wells](#)

Advisor: [Chris Sandberg](#)

**Area 3** Upcoming events:

Mar 24th. St. Louis After Dark Lock-in, St. Louis, MO

April 20th -22nd, 2012, Powder Horn, High Ridge, MO

April 27th-29th, Wood Badge, Oconomowoc, WI

April 27th-29th, Backpack Camporee, Richland Center, WI

May 18th-20th, CR Rendezvous, Springfield, IL

President: [Christina Vogt](#)

Advisor: [Bob Vogt](#)

**Area 5** Upcoming Events:

Mar 16th-18th, NRA Training, Kansas City, KS

Apr 27th-28th. Area 5 Fun Event, Kansas City, KS

Apr, 27th-29th, Wood Badge, Springfield, MO

May 26th – June 2nd, NYLT, near Wichita

Jul 29th – Aug 8th, Venture Quest 2012, St. Joseph, MO

President: [Sarah Griffey](#)

Advisor: [Julie Dalton](#)

**Area 2**

Upcoming Events:

May 4th-6th, Area 2 Venturing Encampment, Clare, MI

May 4th – 6th, Leave No Trace Trainer Course, Toledo, OH

May 12th, Venturing Shooting Course, Gregory, MI

May 16th-19th, Area 2 White Water Rafting, Fayetteville, WV

July 22nd – 29th, MI International Camporee, Lupton, MI

President: [Nick Huyser](#)

Advisor: [Jeff Gerald](#)

**Area 4**

Upcoming Events:

Aug 10th, Wood Badge, Ray, OH

Aug 17th-19th, Sea Scout Rendezvous, Delaware, OH

Aug 24th – 26th, Wood Badge, Kensington, OH

Aug 25th – 26th, Powder Horn, Peninsula, OH

President: [Blaine Lott](#)

Advisor: [Ms. Ann Rose](#)



Area 6 Upcoming Events:

Mar 23rd-25th, Area 6 SS Celebration, Indianapolis, IN
 Apr 12th – 14th, Spring Icebreaker, Indiana
 Apr 20th-23rd, Wood Badge, Pleasant Lake, IN
 Apr 27th-29th, Sea Badge, Lake James Assembly, IN
 May 11th-13th, Night Owl, Cincinnati, OH
 June 10th-16th, NYLT-KY, Union, KY
 June 10th-16th, NYLT-COAC, Muncie, IN
 June 25th-30th, NYLT-KY, Union, KY

President: [Sarah McMurphy](#)Advisor: [Len Roberts](#)**Area 7**

Upcoming Events:

Mar 17th, Area 7 Conference, Addison, IL

June 23rd-30th, Kodiak-NEIC, Pearson, WI

Aug 17th-19th, Wood Badge, Woodstock, IL

Aug 24th-26th, Wood Badge, Morris, IL

Oct 6th, Area 7 Venturing Extravaganza, Morris, IL

President: [Aaron Beatty](#)Advisor: [Kris Zahrobsky](#)**President's Corner**

By Dustin Readenour

"The Main Thing" as expressed by the Boy Scouts of America's National President, Rex Tillerson, is indeed important to Scouting. "The Main Thing" is membership. As we continue to develop and push forward in the Venturing program, we must remember to keep recruiting and retaining youth. If we recruit but don't retain, it is going to be an uphill battle we will eventually tire from and lose. If we retain but don't recruit then the crew will die because of the youth aging out. So what is the key to "the main thing?" In order to both recruit and retain youth, we must provide a quality program. This comes from trained youth running the program supervised by trained adults. It is also very crucial the program be fun, varied, and inclusive. Finally, in order for a great program to be executed with good attendance, there must be communication. You can have the best event in the council, but if you don't tell people about the event, then they can't show up.



To help each of you with "the main thing," the Central Region Venturing Website offers two major resources. The first is the membership tab (<http://crventuring.org/Membership/Overview/>) found on crventuring.org. This is where you can find recruiting tools and best practices. Second, we have the activities tab (http://crventuring.org/Activities/Events_Calendar/) on crventuring.org. This allows you to put your event on the site, browse other events, and even locate where I am traveling. Because of all the resources provided and your dedication to the Venturing program, I am confident 2012 will see growth return to Venturing.

Submit your Venturing event on the Central Region Website.

Go to <http://crventuring.org> and click on the "submit a calendar event" button on the lower left side of the page. Fill out the form, and now you will be able reach thousands of Venturers to come to your event!



Dan Carriveau (Continued from page 2)

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Dan Carriveau (sideways) at the Central Region Venturing Orientation in June, 2011.

duties. Also, having more acceptance of the Venturing program across the nation by professionals and national/regional executive boards and committees has helped formed a cohesive relationship between the programs to improve Venturing and Scouting.

Where do you see yourself and Venturing in 10 years?

I'm hoping to have an established career in 10 years, and be a Venturing advisor in my crew, or an Area, Region, or National advisor. I want to help youth reach the opportunities I've experienced so they

can experience them too.

I hope the VOAs across the country are functioning well, and most councils would have VOAs and district VOAs being formed, along with a larger youth membership base.

What advice would you give Venturers who are thinking about applying for a position, but don't know if they want to do the job or don't know if they have the time?

If you are thinking of applying, make sure you know what you are getting in to. The jobs aren't hard, but they take time. If you can fit it in your schedule, and want to make an impact, put together an application, work on a few interview questions, and go for it. It is worth the experience and time.

What advice can you give current Venturers in leadership positions?

Enjoy the time that you have and the impact you can make. Put your best foot forward. You may not see the impact you made until your term is done. I didn't see some of my work until my term was done in the Area and Region. Understand you can make a difference, whether you know it or not.

About Our Organization...



Venturing is a Scouting program for male and female youth ages 13-21 that lets youth experience new activities, build leadership skills, earn awards, make new friends, and of course have fun.

The Central Region is one of four regions of the Boy Scouts of America. This region includes the states of: Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and West Virginia.