



# VENTURING AT CREWSING ALTITUDE

THE NEWSLETTER FOR VENTURERS AND ADVISORS IN THE CENTRAL REGION

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## AND THE NEW REGIONAL PRESIDENT IS....

A message from Paul Lee, Regional President

Do you like to travel, talk to amazing individuals, and speak to your fellow Venturers? Then my job is the one that you should apply for! The Central Region, BSA office is now accepting nominations for the position of Regional Venturing President. The role of the Regional Venturing President is an amazing position few have the honor of holding. You are the number one youth in the Venturing program within your region. You possibly serve on the Regional Executive Board, helping to guide the entire region's program! Being a member of the National Venturing Youth Cabinet, you have the opportunity to guide, direct, and change the direction of Venturing nation-wide! As a national youth officer of the Boy Scouts of America, you represent the entire program, sometimes even globally! This position requires much work, strong communication skills, and a passion for improving the Venturing program.

How do you apply? Well, applications are out now, and you can get one from [www.crventuring.org](http://www.crventuring.org)! Fill it out and send it to your local council service center as soon as possible. Each council can submit only one application, which has to be in by Feb. 28th. Each region will conduct their selection differently, but must select their President by April 15th. The newly chosen Regional President will be sworn in at the National BSA Meeting in May, located in Washington D.C.!

It's a great opportunity to serve, and is something that you will remember for many years to come! If you have any questions, please contact me at [president@crventuring.org](mailto:president@crventuring.org).



If you would like to take pictures or write for the newsletter, send a note to [editor@crventuring.org](mailto:editor@crventuring.org)

## WE REMEMBER....

It is with great sadness to inform you of the death of Sam Stocker. Sam was an Eagle Scout, Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow, recipient of the National Venturing Leadership Award, and earned the Venturing Silver Award. He served Scouting as an OA Lodge Chief, OA Section Chief, Program Vice-Chief of Philbreak, and National Venturing President. In 2004 he

was presented the Order of the Arrow Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding service in helping create the Philbreak program at Philmont.

Thank you Sam for the leadership that you gave to Venturing in the beginning years.



**WHAT IS SEAL?**

Suzanne Kissel, Regional Boatswain

Sea Scout Advanced Leadership (*SEAL*) Training is a petty officer (youth) leadership training course offered by the National Sea Scouting Committee. This is a one week, hard core leadership course that is conducted at sea. This course is a leadership course, *not* a seamanship course. It covers such topics as preparing, goal setting,, organizing, supervising, commanding, communicating,

training, motivating, and other skills that will help you in functioning as a leader in your Ship and in life.

To attend a *SEAL* class you must be a registered Sea Scout, have earned the Seaman Ordinary rank prior to attending *SEAL* training, and have a thorough, working knowledge of Chapter four of the *Sea Scout Manual*. I encourage any Sea Scout that is

Ordinary rank or higher to apply for this awesome training experience. For a listing of upcoming *SEAL* courses, please check out <http://www.seascout.org/>. Feel free to contact me at [boatswain@crventuring.org](mailto:boatswain@crventuring.org) for more information about this program or if you need help in preparing for *SEAL*.



**WINTER CAMPING TIPS** From the Outdoor Action Guide for Winter Camping

- Dress in layers for maximum warmth.
- Research in detail where you are camping.
- Use an internal frame backpack instead of an external one.
- Put a foam pad under you sleeping bag to keep heat inside your bag.
- Do not eat snow!
- Have current winter first-aid training.

**POWDER HORN UPDATE**

Signe Rogers, Regional Powder Horn Coordinator



I am excited about the future of Powder Horn in Central Region. We just concluded our fourth Powder Horn Course Director's Conference (PHCDC) which was full of enthusiasm and learning. I cannot over-emphasize the importance of Councils sending several representatives to a PH CDC as the first step in their planning process for holding a Powder Horn course, even before course approval is sought. We had several Councils represented this year that will be holding courses in the fall of 2007. Although it may come as a shock to think so far in advance, this year was the perfect time in the cycle for those Course Director's and a few key staff to attend the CDC. There is much information given that they can fully utilize as they prepare for their courses. Our next PH CDC will be held October 20-22, 2006 at Ransburg Scout Camp, Bloomington, Indiana. It is imperative for Course Directors to attend then if you are thinking about a course in 2008 or 2009. It is highly encouraged that Staff Advisors and other key staff members attend as well which forms a stronger base of support to conduct a successful course.

My desire is for each staff to experience the enjoyment of seeing participants who are WOWed by a successful course as the fruits of the staff's hard labor. From whatever point I first make contact with a Course Director; at CDC, or seeing your name on the Council's request to hold a course, or an inquiry to ask how to proceed, I am here to offer any assistance that I can to help ensure that each Powder Horn course is successful.

I will also be contacting previous Course Directors to learn what difficulties they encountered so we can begin a more proactive approach toward helping all courses to a great success in the future. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns at [hikin\\_grammy@cox.net](mailto:hikin_grammy@cox.net) .

"The bravest are those who have the clearest vision of what is before them, danger and glory alike, and still go out to meet the challenge."



## AREA 4 PROGRAM CONFERENCE

Paul Starcher, Area 4 Venturing President



helping me with the event, and I would like to thank the area for letting us teach at this event.



The Area 4 Program Conference took place on October 29, 2005 in Zanesville, Ohio. The conference covered many aspects of Scouting including training cells in the following BSA programs: Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Venturing, and Sea Scouting. The theme for this year's event was "Blue Ribbon Scouting." There were about two hundred and fifty people in attendance from all over Area 4. I was lucky enough to teach the Venturing

and Sea Scouting Session with Len Roberts, in the session we discussed the new Trust Award, current issues in Venturing and Sea Scouting, and activities in Venturing and Sea Scouting at a council, area, regional, national, and international level. Also, we had a question and answer session where the participants could ask us questions about Venturing. Len and I were very

lucky to have Keith Walton from the National Venturing Division to help us with our session. The conference was a success and I believe everybody left understanding a little bit more about Venturing. I would like to thank the participants for their input during the question and answer session, Mr. Walton for coming up from the National Office, my advisor Len Roberts for

## WHAT IS THIS T.R.U.S.T. THING?

This TRUST thing is the newest thing smoking from the Awards and Recognitions program of Venturing! TRUST actually stands for something- Tending, Respecting, Understanding, Serving, Transforming. This award is the expert level award for the Religious and Community Life Bronze Award, much like the Ranger, Quest, and Quartermaster Awards for their respective program area.

In the years since Venturing started, the program has been defined by the activities Venturers do, and a popular activity is service. Trust is an essential aspect of our relationship with others- both personally and corporately. Learning to trust is the challenge. Today young people



live in an increasingly pluralistic society made up of multiple nationalities, cultures, and religions. One way to work toward a safe future is to learn to get along and work together. Understanding is a good start toward trust.

While working on the TRUST Award, Venturers will learn more about themselves, their communities, and their religion and culture, as well as those of others. As with many other requirements throughout the Venturing program, Venturers will be required to share what they learn with others.

This is an amazing new challenge that I encourage everyone to consider working on! For more information, log onto [www.crventuring.org](http://www.crventuring.org), or talk to your crew Advisor.

## MEET SETH WILLIAMS!



Hi, I'm Seth Williams; I'm the Area 2 Venturing President. I'm from Evansville Indiana. I'll be 20 in March, and I currently attend Indiana University. I'm a sophomore majoring in journalism and political science.

The scouting program has played an important role in my life both as a Boy Scout and a Venturer. I received my Eagle Scout rank in 2003 and the Silver award in 2004. However, activity is the crux of our program. My involvement in scouting has allowed me to travel to Thailand and Tanzania, backpack in Philmont and the Grand Tetons, and sail in the Bahamas. The most rewarding moment of my scouting career came before my trek to Philmont when I was elected crew leader! Before becoming the Area 2 Venturing President, I served as the inaugural President of the Buffalo Trace Council Venturing Officer Association.



## REGIONAL VENTURING LEADERSHIP AWARD

Kerry Cheesman, Regional VLA Selection Chair



The Venturing Leadership Awards (VLAs) are presented to individuals who have given outstanding service to the Venturing program at the Council, Regional, or National level. Most awards are given at the Council level, with each council having quotas on an annual basis based on the number of active crews and ships registered. A few awards are given each year at the National level to individuals who have helped to develop/define the Venturing program nationwide.

That leaves the Regional awards, which have been

somewhat neglected/ill-defined for several years. The Central Region includes anything larger than the council level, up to and including support of the entire Central Region (81 Councils). Regional VLAs, therefore, should be considered for youth and adults who have served beyond the Council level in any of several capacities. Examples of Area/Regional service might include: service as an Area President, leading a regional Powder Horn course, serving as a consultant on multiple regional Powder Horn courses, planning/leading an Area-wide or council cluster Venturing event, helping to train Venturing

youth and adult leaders in other councils, leading a Regional Venturing contingent to a World Jamboree or Venturing Moot, building/maintaining the regional Venturing web site, etc.

There are a lot of Venturers and adult volunteers who have helped to spread the Venturing program throughout the region, and we need to begin recognizing their efforts. But, it cannot be done without your help. Please nominate those you know, with full information about how the individual has helped Venturing to grow in Central Region. Nominations are due to the Regional office no later than February 28, 2006.

The Awards Committee will make decisions as quickly as possible, and awards will be presented at appropriate council, area, or regional events in front of the awardee's peers. *Please take a few moments to recognize someone special today!*

Applications are on [crventuring.org](http://crventuring.org) under Resources. You may send your application forms to:

*Attn: Joe Vollmer*

*Venturing Leadership Award Nomination*

*Central Region, BSA*

*P.O. Box 3085*

*Naperville, IL 60566-7085*

[jvollmer@netbsa.org](mailto:jvollmer@netbsa.org)

## DO YOU WANT TO GO OVERSEES? YOU CAN!



Well, don't pack your bags just yet. The way you can go is by getting online, and logging onto [crventuring.org](http://crventuring.org)! The International Division of the BSA is offering a unique opportunity for 32 Scouts/Venturers from across the country a chance to be a part of the SAJ-BSA Friendship Programme. The Central Region is honored to have 13 representatives, one of the largest regional contingents!

The International Youth Forum is a bi-annual event that gathers 200 scouts from 26 different countries. Various topics will be discussed in regards to different cultures and lifestyles within and outside of Scouting.

In addition, our youth will participate in the SAJ-BSA exchange program. This program will allow them to tour historic cities and ancient sites in Japan, enjoy hospitality with a Japanese family, and enjoy fellowship with Scouts and leaders from Japan in friendship events. They have also been selected to make courtesy calls to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. The trip begins on Feb. 28th, and continues until March 14th. Check out the website daily for journal entries and photos, as well as to read a little about each of our delegates. Congratulations!

### Central Region SAJ-BSA representatives:

Sara Gillson- Voyageur Area Council  
 Josh Gillson- Voyageur Area Council  
 Caleb Gillson- Voyageur Area Council  
 Benjamin Hayes- Simon Kenton Council  
 Suzanne Kissel- Buffalo Trace Council  
 Paul Lee- Greater St. Louis Area Council  
 Danica Lowry- Voyageur Area Council  
 David O'Brien- Abraham Lincoln Council  
 William Shults III- Great Rivers Council  
 Paul Starcher- Ohio River Valley Council  
 Christopher Szybisty- Detroit Area Council  
 Anthony Uzzo- Abraham Lincoln Council  
 Christian Whitman- Hiawathaland Council



**We are on the web!**

[www.crventuring.org](http://www.crventuring.org)

## CENTRAL REGION, BSA

PO Box 3085

Naperville, IL 60566-7085

Attn: Venturing

E-mail: [president@crventuring.org](mailto:president@crventuring.org)

[www.crventuring.org](http://www.crventuring.org)



G o i n g   b o l d l y   w h e r e   n o   o n e   h a s   g o n e   b e f o r e . . .

## UPCOMING VENTURING EVENTS

Do you have a Venturing event coming up soon, and you want some additional promotions? Then you need to send us the information, and we'll get it out there. Below are some of the upcoming events. For more information, log onto the online calendar at [www.crventuring.org](http://www.crventuring.org)!

- February– Scout Anniversary Month
- Mar 6- 10 “Delivering the Venturing Program”- Florida Sea Base
- Mar 10-17 Philbreak– Philmont Scout Ranch
- April 1 Cruising the Mississippi River- St. Louis, MO



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## VENTURING RESOURCES

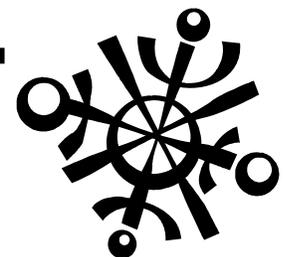
Here are some resources that might be of interest to you!

[www.scouting.org/venturing](http://www.scouting.org/venturing)

[www.nationalventuringyouthcabinet.org](http://www.nationalventuringyouthcabinet.org)

[www.crventuring.org](http://www.crventuring.org)

[www.seascout.org](http://www.seascout.org)



The Central Region is the administrative body that services 81 local BSA councils in the Great Midwest of the United States. The territory spanned by the Central Region includes council head-quarter cities in 13 states. As a whole these 81 councils touch the lives of over 1,000,000 youth registered in traditional BSA programs. Included in that figure are over 39,000 Venturers. The region works to assist these 81 councils as they build, support and sustain their programs. The objectives of the region in terms of Venturing are carried out using the methods of the Venturing program, youth leadership. Through the regional Venturing president, a youth, these goals and many more are carried out on a daily basis.