

January 2009
Volume 2, Issue 8

Central Region Venturing Monthly Newsletter



Welcome to the 8th 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.

Katelyn Childs

Central Region Venturing
President / Newsletter Editor

Keith Gehlhausen

Central Region Venturing Chair

Debbie Keyes

Central Region Venturing
Communications Coordinator

Joe Vollmer

Central Region Venturing
Staff Advisor

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2009-2010 Regional President applications are now available!

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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.

Venturer You Should Know

Sarah Ward is the Central Region Area 5 Venturing President for 2008-2009.

She is a junior at Marquette High School in Chesterfield, Missouri. She currently plans on attending the University of Missouri - Rolla for a degree in Engineering. Sarah is a member of Venturing Crew 982, chartered through American Legion Post #208 in St. Louis, Missouri.

She is an 11 year member of the Girl Scouts of America, and is working towards the completion of her Girl Scout Gold Award (Girl Scouting's highest youth award). Sarah has served this past year as the New Horizon's District VOA Vice President of Communications of the Greater St. Louis Area Council. The New Horizons District is larger than 75% of all councils in the number of Venturing Crews chartered. In that position she has coordinated several multiple crews events, developed contact lists with Crew Advisors and Presidents, and helped increase the level of youth involvement in Venturing District Forums. Sarah has earned the Outdoor Life Bronze and nearing completion on Religious Life Bronze. Sarah has completed Kodiak and Kodiak X.



Council Standards of Venturing Excellence Award



Applications are due by **February 15, 2009!!!!** Make sure you check with your Council leadership to see if the application is being submitted. The award is meant to ensure positive progress for Council Venturing Officers Association (VOA). To apply for the award, the Council and VOA leadership fill in the council information at the top of the form, mark the requirements that have been completed, and get the requested signatures. The completed form is then mailed or faxed to the Central Region office. Recognition items will include a plaque, recognition in the Central Region newsletter, listing in the Central Region luncheon program at

the Annual BSA Meeting, and listing on crventuring.org. CSVEA forms are available on the Central Region website at www.crventuring.org.

CRV President Applications!

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Apply to be the 2009-2010 Central Region Venturing President! Applications are available at <http://nationalventuringyouthcabinet.org/youthRes.shtml#Nomination09> or on the www.crv venturing.org website. The form must be submitted by March 2, 2009 to the Regional office. Candidates must:

1. Be a currently registered Venturer in his or her council.
2. 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.
3. Be recommended and approved by his or her council.
4. Be less than 20 years of age on May 31, 2009.
5. 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.



Please bring this opportunity to the attention of dedicated and deserving youth! Applications for Area Presidents will be out soon so keep checking crventuring.org and keep reading this newsletter! If you have any questions please contact the current Central Region Venturing President, Katelyn Childs, at crventuring_prez@yahoo.com.

Q & A:

Q: How can a council recruit members for the VOA?

A: There are many reasons why a VOA is important, but how can it serve its importance if it has no members? This article is here to help any council who has trouble getting members to a VOA meeting so your VOA can be a functional one.

Remember your target audience is the youth ages 14-21. Think of what they do on an average day. They do homework, hang out with friends, and of course spend time on the computer. So how can you get people to your meetings? My favorite method is to divide the meeting into two parts. The first part is a business meeting and the second portion is a fun activity. You are most likely wondering how this would work if people just came late so they could do the activity? One way is to invest in a roll of carnival tickets or hand stamp and you would have each person show their ticket or stamp to proceed to the activity from the meeting. You can also use a reward system so that every 10 or 20 meetings attended you are eligible for a prize of some sort like a free activity that would cost money or free admittance to an event hosted by the council's Venturing program.



There are other factors that influence whether or not Venturers will attend your VOA meetings. Distance by far is one of them. Remember that not all of the youth in Venturing will have a driver's license or other means of transportation, so always try to set up car pools for the youth farther away. It is also good to find a meeting place with free internet so that someone can bring their laptop so that you can communicate with those unable to attend the meeting in person over the internet. For those larger councils out there it is also important to form district VOA's so that you will not get too many people at one meeting, and two it is easier to have people travel if there is only a couple of officers from each district that have to attend.

If you still need help with recruiting members to your VOA you can always email your Area president with any questions on how to get more members.

-Cody Romano, CRV Area 3 President

New Year's Resolutions

Happy New Year!

When January 1st rolls around we all know it's time to set some New Year's Resolutions. Make 2009 your year for Venturing! Take some time to review what you want to accomplish this year and set out some Venturing resolutions. This process of resolving to accomplish something involves setting goals! Any goal you set should be a "SMART" one:

Specific

Measurable

Attainable

Relative and Realistic

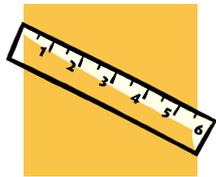
Timely



This acronym can help set quality goals that you are more likely to achieve.

Specific

Specific and detailed goals are defined with "who, what, where, why, when, which and how" questions. Vague and ambiguous goals aren't easily monitored and don't have a definite start or end.



Measurable

How will you know when you've accomplished your goal?

Establish concrete criteria for measuring progress toward the attainment of each goal you set. Measuring progress encourages you to stay focused and on track for your personal timeline.

Attainable

With the right attitude, many goals are actually within reach. However, be sure to make goals that you actually have the ability to affect. Don't make goals about what other people will finish. It is ok to have goals that are lofty though, striving for something will make you expand your abilities and grow in pursuit of your aims (as in the Gold award).

Relevant and Realistic

Make your goals relevant to what you are actually interested in accomplishing. Ideally, your short-term goals would be relevant to long-term plans and overall visions. To be realistic, a goal must be something that you are willing and able to work for. Only you can decide how high your sites can be.



Timely

Give your goals a time constraints. Set out with a specific plan that includes personal deadlines.



Here are some tips for success with your Venturing resolutions:

- Tell people – especially your Advisor and Crew members; they can help keep you motivated and connect you with help
- Do things together – if your entire Crew wants to work on similar requirements then you will motivate and support each other while have a great time fulfilling your goals
- Get help – there is absolutely nothing wrong with asking for assistance; don't make excuses simply because something appears to be difficult
- Make a timeline or plan – this will keep you on track and give you a sense of how you're long-term vision is progressing
- Create checkpoints – these will keep you on track and help you quickly identify when you're slipping from your plan
- Reward yourself! – it is certainly a good idea to give yourself some incentive and celebrate your accomplishments and success!



The various Venturing handbooks offer some guidance on an ideal timeline. Some requirements can be completed at your leisure while others are time oriented and require certain amounts of tenure or progression over a few months. Here are some brief ideas of the minimum time requirements that are stated (excluding bronze awards):

Quest: page 8 of the Quest book illustrates a 12-month timeline from start to finish

TRUST: the requirements under "Serving your Community" mostly require about a 6 month commitment to something

Ranger: very few time constraints but a lot of requirements to sort through

Gold: requires 12 months of tenure as an active, registered Venturer

Silver: must have served 6 months in a crew, district, or council leadership position

And of course that ultimate timeline is the 21st birthday!

Good luck!



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 1-3: Hannah Winter Resort 4
Feb 8-10: Hannah Winter Resort 5
Feb 15-17: Hannah Winter Resort 6
Feb 15-17: Arctic Adventure

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

Jan 23-25: Boyne Mountain Ski Weekend
Feb 15-17: Venturing Kick-back weekend 08

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

Jan 17: Snowstorm
Feb 9: VLST
Feb 13: VLST
Feb 15: Arctic Bast

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

Jan 16-18: Venturing Arctic Weekend
Feb 8-10: Wilderness First Aid
Feb 16-17: Ski Weekend Extravaganza

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

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

Please submit events via 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>