

The FORUM

Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring Newsletter since 2003
February 2018 Issue

Central

CR Newsletter Highlights January 2018

**National
and Other**

**Selection of National, Regional and Area Scout Boatswains
Sea Scout Leadership Award Nominations Available
November 2017 Uniforms, Insignia, etc.**

Northeast

**Sea Scouts– Northeast Region Telegraph Newsletter
A Venturer Reports: The First NCAC/082 Venturing Camporee
SCOUT WARS 2017
World Scout Jamboree**

Southern

**Small Boat Handler Awards and National Boating Standards
Sea Scout Academy 2018 Galveston
Crew 210 Experiences Council Jamboree
Sail Aboard the USCG Eagle
Area Boatswain of the month: Ryan Trefny**

Western

**Scouts from the lower 48 experience Interior Alaska' winter
The Benefits of Joint Practices
Promotion of Sea Scouts in High Schools.**



**I
n
t
h
i
s
I
s
s
u
e**

The Current FORUM Newsletter:

http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/current_forum.php

The FORUM Back Issues

http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/venturing_archive.htm

Large Crews

http://minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/documents/FORUM-Crew_27-Large_Crews_articles.pdf

Crew 27 Large Crew Series (Articles on Large Crew Operations)

The FORUM Attachments Central Region

The FORUM Attachments National

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/regions/NAT-0218.zip>

Commissioner

Commissioner_Tools_Troubleshooting Guide

Commissioner-Service-to-Exploring-FAQs

Sea Scouting Info:

Sea Scout Advancement Requirements

Sea Scout Boatswain Nomination Form

Sea Scout Eligibility for Venturing Awards and Information On other Awards

Sea Scout Liability Insurance for Watercraft

Sea Scout National Flagship Competition Application

Sea Scout New Century Universal Uniform

Sea Scout Revised Safe Boating and Sailing Standards

Sea Scout Standard Operating Procedures 2017

Sea Scout Power Point—State of Sea Scouts Oct 2017

Sea Scout Strategic Plan-SMART

Sea Scout Sea Scout Log Fall 2017

Venturing Info:

Venturing Awards and Recognitions

Venturing Board of Review Guide

Venturing Ethical Controversies

Venturing Goal Setting Time Management for Venturing Crews

Venturing Mentoring for Venturing Crews Facilitator Guide

Venturing Standard Operating Procedures (Current

Venturing Terms Lets get it Right

Venturing Venturing FAQ

The FORUM Attachments Northeast Region

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/regions/NER-0218.zip>

NER-World Scout Jamboree

The FORUM Attachments Southern Region

No Attachments

The FORUM Attachments Western Region

No Attachments

**F
O
R
U
M

D
O
W
N
-
L
O
A
D
S**



The Central Point



Newsletter of the Central Region | Boy Scouts of America

The January 2018 edition of the Central Point, the Central Region Venturing newsletter, written by the Central Region's Venturing Officers is now available on our website at <http://crventuring.org/Home/Newsletters/>.

Articles this month include:

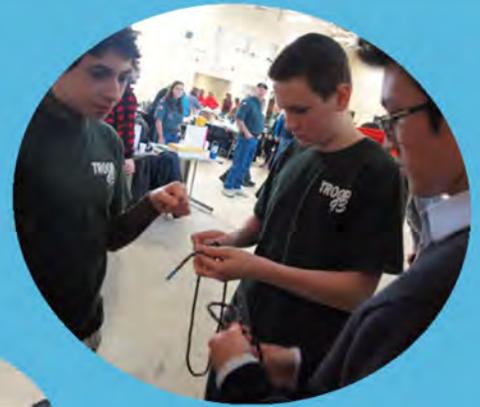
Happy New Year!
12 Days of Venturing
VenturingFest 2018
New Year Resolution
Area 4 Spotlight
CR Area Highlights
Upcoming Activities
Advisor's Minute
President's Corner



Winter Amidships

baylakesbsa.org/WAM

The 44th WAM!



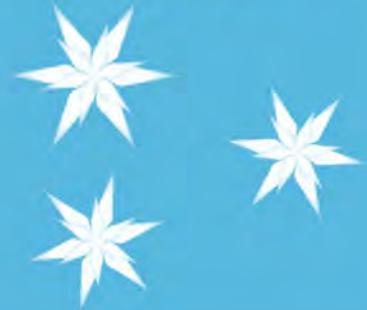
Saturday, February 24, 2018

8:30am - 10:30pm

National Guard Armory, 796 Sullivan Drive

Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

Registration: Youth \$20 / Adults \$15



WAM is a one day event for Scouts (14-20 years old) with activities ranging from obstacle courses, Scout skills, and nautical themed challenges. Lunch is on your own and the night is completed with a dinner and a dance!

Visit baylakesbsa.org/WAM to register and for all the details

Supported by:



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
BAY-LAKES COUNCIL





Selection of
National, Regional, and Area
Sea Scout Boatswains

The selection process for the National Boatswain, the Regional Boatswains and the Area/Flotilla Boatswains for the 2018-2019 year has been established. There is one application for all positions and is designed for a youth who qualifies and is interested in applying to check one or more of the titles for consideration. The application is available on the Sea Scout Website at: www.seascout.org

The deadline for submission of the application for National Boatswain is February 15, 2018; Regional Boatswain is March 1, 2018; and Area/Flotilla Boatswain is March 15, 2018. The complete package for the application can be emailed, or mailed to the Office of the National Director in Irving, Texas. The address is on the application. It is not necessary to email and mail the application package.

Please share this with youth in your council and area to let them know of this great leadership responsibility. If there are questions, they can reach out to Keith Christopher, National Director, Sea Scouts BSA at 972-580-7810 or keith.christopher@scouting.org.

Sea Scout Leadership Award Nominations Available on a Council, Area, Region, and National Level

The Sea Scout Leadership Award is presented by councils, areas, regions, and the National Council to Sea Scouts and Sea Scouters who have made exceptional contributions to Sea Scouting and who exemplify the Scout Oath and Scout Law.



The Qualifications for the award can be found at the following link along with the application, number of presentations allowed per level in the program and deadlines for submission: <https://seascout.org/leadership-award>. Please share this information with all Sea Scout ships and Sea Scouting leadership in your area.



November 2017- Uniforms, Insignia, etc.

by Sea Scouts, BSA
Commodore's Corner- November 2017

I recently read that SG Trading Post is stocking Official Sea Scout Uniform items; what's the latest on that?

SG Trading Post has recently begun carrying Official Sea Scout Uniform items in addition to the "Class B" and logo items they have carried in the past. The uniform shirts come with the Flag, World Crest, and Sea Scouts BSA already on them. Check on this at: seascouts.sgtradingpost.online.



Why does the SG Trading Post website use the terminology "Official Sea Scout Uniform" to describe their uniform garments?

The dark navy Sea Scout uniform, introduced as the "New Century Universal Uniform" in 2012, our centennial year, is the Official Sea Scout uniform.

Does that mean the legacy traditional uniforms, converted from U.S. Navy garments, aren't authorized?

The legacy traditional uniforms are authorized Sea Scout uniforms and may be worn in accordance with the descriptions on pages 19-23 of the 2016 printing of the Sea Scout Manual, SKU 620543. BSA National Supply continues to stock insignia for the legacy traditional uniforms.

With the U.S. Navy introducing new "cracker jack" white uniform jumpers with cuffs and piping on the collar flap and cuffs, what should Sea Scout Ships that wear the legacy traditional dress white jumper do?

The Navy intends to phase in the white jumpers with piping over the next few years; starting with Navy recruits in the Fall of 2017.

If your Ship (unit) wants to continue with the legacy traditional white jumpers (without piping) they are available from ships-store.com.

If the Navy's new white jumper with cuffs and piping is to be converted into a Sea Scout uniform, it must be altered by removing the center stripe of piping on the collar flap and cuffs, and by substituting the Sea Scout Collar Emblem (or "bug"), No. 4146 (white), for the star on the corners of the collar flap. The standards for Sea Scout insignia on legacy traditional uniforms may be found on pages 22-23 of the Sea Scout Manual. Or, take this opportunity to shift to the dark navy Official Sea Scout Uniform ("New Century Universal Uniform") available from SG Trading Post; or by ordering garments from www.dickies.com. More information about the Official Sea Scout Uniform can be found on pages 18-20 of the Sea Scout Manual, or on the [Official Sea Scout Uniform Fact Sheet](#).

Why does the answer to the previous question include the words: "Ship (unit)"?

Scouts and Scouters who aren't already familiar with Sea Scout terminology will hopefully read the Commodore's Corner from time to time. In Scouting, Ship = unit = Troop, etc., so the parenthetical reference may aid their understanding. We can also spell Ship with a capital "S" to mean a Scout unit; and avoid confusion with the generic word ship with a lower case "s". As your national Sea Scout committee works to expand the Sea Scout program, you may notice other places where similar editorial devices are used to clarify information about the Sea Scout program.

November 2017- Uniforms, Insignia, etc.

by Sea Scouts, BSA
Commodore's Corner- November 2017

Are there any new badges available from BSA National Supply?

The following badges are now available through ScoutStuff.org or your local Scout Shop:
No. 639091 – Emblem Sea Scout Chartered Organization Representative
No. 639092 – Emblem Sea Scout Chaplain Aide
No. 639675 – Emblem Sea Scout Trained Strip

A note about stock numbers.

BSA National Supply may occasionally change the stock number on some items, including Sea Scout insignia. For example, the number for the black “Sea Scouts, BSA” strip recently changed to No. 641602. The stock number for the white version is unchanged, No. 4126. You can order either through your Scout Shop or ScoutStuff.org

Where should I wear the new Sea Scout Trained Strip?

Wear the Trained Strip on the wearer's left sleeve, in uniform position 4, just below the badge-of-office. This placement is consistent with other BSA programs.

I have earned the Long Cruise badge and wear it in that position; and the left sleeve on my short-sleeved shirt is already full; now what?

The long cruise badge may be worn on the wearer's right pocket, with the long cruise arcs encircling the badge.

The National Sea Scout Committee needs your help with Marketing.

We're still looking for help to develop marketing materials to support our membership efforts. If you (or a volunteer you may know) have a knack for that sort of thing we can sure use your talents! Or, maybe your Ship has a successful flyer or video that could be used nationally. Either way, please contact us at: commodorescorner@seascout.org.

You can submit your question to the Commodore's Corner at commodorescorner@seascout.org; or [click here](#). We'll answer selected questions in a future edition of the Commodore's Corner.

Subscribe to the Commodore's Corner via the [National Sea Scout Distribution list here](#).

CC





24th
**WORLD SCOUT
JAMBOREE**
SCOUT MONDIAL
UNLOCK a NEW WORLD
— USA —

JUL 22-AUG 2
2019

SUMMIT BECHTEL RESERVE

GET CONNECTED

www.wsj2019.us

facebook.com/wsj2019usa

REGISTRATION FEES*

\$2,400 EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

\$2,500 REGULAR FEE

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION VISIT**

wsj2019.us/faq/



ARE YOU READY FOR THE ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME?

The World Scout Jamboree is about Friendship, Fun, and Adventure. If you like to make friends, learn, and experience new things, this is the place for you! With 50,000 Scouts from 169 countries living side-by-side, you'll participate in a global community and will meet amazing people faster than you can imagine. Don't miss what will surely be the largest Scout celebration in the world!



*Denotes pricing for Northeast, Central, and Southern Regions

JOIN THE JAMBOREE VENTURING CREW FROM AREA 2!

The 24th World Scout Jamboree will be hosted by the three nations of North America – Mexico, Canada, and the United States at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia from July 21 to August 2, 2019.

UNLOCK A NEW WORLD, for young people ages 14 to 17 years from all 166 National Scout Organizations.

The BSA contingent will include 10,000 people — the largest contingent the BSA has ever sent to a World Jamboree. 80 % of the participants will come from over 160 countries, with co-ed units just like Crews!

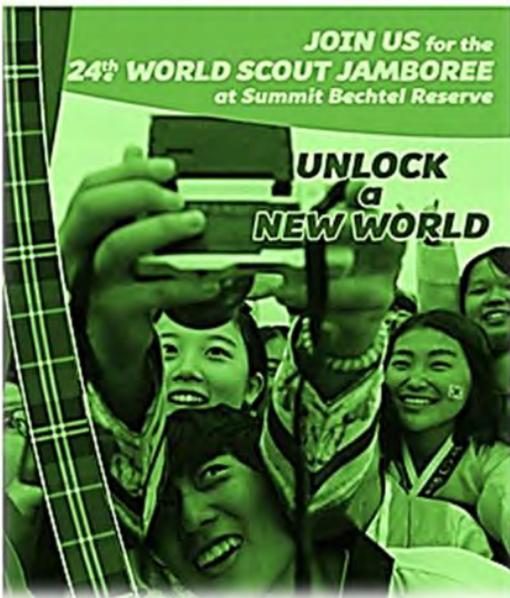
The World Scout Jamboree has special programs for participants to learn about different cultures, sustainability, peace and community service. These activities are intended to give participants an opportunity to learn new things and to build new friendships.

The focus is more on meeting people from different cultures and countries than doing high-adventure activities. Sure, you will have plenty of opportunities to zip-line, kayak, and ride mountain bikes, but you will also have many opportunities to meet new friends and learn what Scouting and life is like in other countries.

To be eligible to be a Venturing youth participant at the 24th World Scout Jamboree



VENTURERS



- you must be born between **22 July 2001 and 21 July 2005 (no exceptions to this)**.
- If you are **older** on the given dates of the Jamboree, you may be able to apply to become member of the **International Service Team**.
- The fee for participants and leaders for contingent crews in the Northeast Region will be **\$ 2,500 for Venturing Youth and Leaders** (includes travel from a designated hub) and **\$ 1,800 for ISTs** (no travel included).

There is an early applicant discount: applicants who submit a \$250 deposit between November 1, 2017 and January 31, 2018, and make all payments on time will have a \$100 discount applied to their last payment.

Go to <https://wsj2019.us> for information on registration and programs

Jamboree units will be set up within the 27 Areas of the BSA, and leader will be recruited by the area committees. Our council is part of Area 2 of the Northeast Region, serving the following councils: Connecticut Rivers Council, Greenwich Council, Housatonic Council, Connecticut Yankee Council, Western Massachusettes Council, Rip Van Winkle Council, Hudson Valley Council, Westchester Putnam Council, Greater New York Councils, Theodore Roosevelt Council, and Suffolk County Council. The Crew will be formed from Venturers in Area 2.

CONTACT YOUR COUNCIL SERVICE CENTER or email your council WSJ Chair for updates or more information.

Council staff contact : **Matt Conlon** Matthew.Conlon@scouting.org

Council WSJ Chair: **Eric Anderson** EEA-BSA@optonline.net

A Venturer Reports: The First NCAC/082 Venturing Camporee - SCOUT WARS 2017

By Maggie

The Scout Wars 2017 Venturing Camporee began like any Venturing event does: at a meeting. Crew 27's Associate Advisor, Pete, offhandedly mentioned that due to our Crew's large size we could spearhead Council events such as Camporees. The idea turned itself over in my head.

About a week later after taking advice from my mom, dad, and a few friends I emailed Pete and told him that I would be willing to chair the event and suggested Camp William B. Snyder as a potential location. I asked for volunteers to serve on a Camporee committee at our Crew Holiday Party in December of 2016 and got a dozen Venturers signed up to help right away. Camp Snyder was only available the weekend of November 3-5, 2017 so we had our date.

The committee ended up consisting of me and 21 other Venturers from Crew 27. We all decided that Star Wars should be the theme of the event. Other contenders were Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings. Although the voting was a democratic process, Star Wars won the instant one committee member made the pun of 'Scout Wars.' Each committee member suggested two games or events. All of this information including a proposed schedule for the weekend was compiled into a proposal for the National Capital Area Council's (NCAC) Council Venturing Officer's Association (CVOA). We needed their approval to hold a Council-wide Camporee. Making the pitch of the proposal to the CVOA at one of their meetings was easily one of the scariest moments of my life.

The CVOA approved the Venturing Camporee and assigned me to head up the project. This created a lot of tasks that had to be completed. For instance, I had to estimate attendance, create a budget and submit it to Council so it could be established as a funded project. This was essential because we couldn't arrange to pay for the Camp without an account to bill charges against and collect money into. There was also the seemingly endless paperwork and emails. Patches needed to be designed, staff needed to be recruited, leader's guides needed to be published, the sign up website registration needed to go live, supplies needed to be gathered, menus needed to be created for the Cracker Barrels and my regular high school homework still needed to get done on top of all of it. Thankfully I had a great team. Nearly a third of our Crew volunteered to assist - by the time of the Camporee, I had a committee of 22 Venturers, including myself.

Pete and I had frequent meetings, phone calls and emails to figure out how to structure leadership and to establish a budget. Dawn provided pretty constant input from the CVOA because the officers of the CVOA who approved the project would be gone by the time we executed it. We divided the tasks by categories: registration, camp site assignment & checkout, fun events, competitive events, education, cracker barrels and entertainment. For each category of event, we appointed a leader to recruit workers and superintend their area. The leaders were responsible for recruiting people to their staff's events. Staffers had creative freedom to lead, structure, and score the events anyway they chose. When the new CVOA arrived, Laura (Our new CVOA President) volunteered the CVOA to handle on site registration. She is a trooper and ended up doing most of that work solo.

A Venturer Reports: The First NCAC/082 Venturing Camporee - SCOUT WARS 2017

By Maggie

The patch was a journey. My brother John designed this really nice Star Wars themed patch and we sent it to Disney for copyright approval. Eight weeks later, Disney replied - 'no go.' I'm not going to Disney theme parks again! Fortunately Dawn is our CVOA Advisor and one of her coworkers designed the patch we modified and distributed at the event. It stayed clear of any copyright issues and was just gorgeous. We even had the Moritz Company of Pennsylvania make it with glow-in-the-dark thread. It is a real work of art.



Scout Wars 2017:
The final Patch Design - totally Awesome!

I was curious if there had been any other Council level Venturing Camporees since Venturing was created out of Exploring. An internet search turned up no record of any. All of the events like this seem to be at the Area and Regional VOA level or at the National level like VentureFest. Could this be the first Council level Venturing Camporee in the history of Venturing? Time and more research will tell.

Courtney volunteered to lead the Cracker Barrels. I asked her to compile a menu to offer at the Cracker Barrels on Friday and Saturday nights. The menu was much lighter for the second night because one of the many activities of the weekend was a Dutch Oven Baking Competition. Mel, our Crew 27 VP-Program, volunteered to provide program at the Cracker Barrels.



Mel and Julie Lead Songs at the Saturday night Scout Wars 2017 Cracker Barrel backed up by Jessica, Courtney, Keegan, Zoe, Ty and Braden.

A Venturer Reports: The First NCAC/082 Venturing Camporee - SCOUT WARS 2017

By Maggie

I had to field all sorts of questions from adults. One advisor wanted to know why we were not providing all the meals for the participants. I shot right back that "the 'Road to RANGER' leads right by the Dutch Oven." Providing that insight pretty much ended any further discussion of catering food. There were lots of reasons not to provide food but the biggest is that it would rob Venturers of the opportunity to gain advancement credit for RANGER. You cannot earn RANGER unless you can plan a menu for six people over three days and cook in the outdoors. A secondary reason was that renting the kitchen and purchasing food for everyone would have really driven costs up and we had to keep the cost at or below \$25/person for the weekend.

I decided that the Camporee would draw more Venturers if the program offered some advancement opportunities. I was able to recruit four Venturers from Crew 27 to serve as 'Yodas.' Each one would lead a course. We would run Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews (ILS(C)) and the ALPS Award advancement courses (Time Management/Goal Setting, Project Management, and Mentoring). Everyone in Crew 27 is trained in the ALPS courses and ILS(C) within their first year so finding people to teach was easy. Registration went live over the summer and I emailed the link and a promotional flyer to all of the Crew advisors in NCAC. Pete sent the leader's guide throughout northeast region's Areas Five & Six and southern region's Area Seven. Despite all the advertising, no one turned up from out of Council. As it turned out, eleven Venturers registered for ILS(C) and thirty-three registered for the ALPS courses. That accounted for 40% of our youth attendance. A few Venturers from Crews that could not convince advisors to come camp with them only showed up during the day to take the courses. My take away is that any large Venturing event **MUST** offer training and advancement opportunities for participants.



Courtney and Johana teach Goal Setting/Time Management at the 2017 NCAC Scout Wars Venturing Camporee

A Venturer Reports: The First NCAC/082 Venturing Camporee - SCOUT WARS 2017

By Maggie

With three weeks until the Camporee, I gathered all the staff in my basement using pizza and snacks as a bribe. We went through their events and they told me what supplies they would require. Later that weekend I went on a Wal-Mart spree with my Dad. In addition to gathering all of the supplies that my staff had requested such as: string, brace late clasps, and lighters; I also grabbed the supplies for the cracker barrels such as tablecloths and streamers to make the dining hall look festive.

Over the preceding 20 years of Venturing, our Council had tried to have a major Venturing event five or six times. Each time one was planned it was canceled about a month before it was supposed to happen because people were not signing up. This had become almost a self-fulfilling prophecy. Three weeks before our Camporee, only 37 people were signed up to attend. Since I had scoped the event for 150 participants, this left our budget a little short. Our District Executive for Venturing sent an email to me, Pete and Dawn suggesting that we either scale back the activities or cancel for lack of interest. Pete replied that he would donate \$1,000 to Council if we came up short but that we really needed to have the event. Personally, I think the rest of the potential participants were waiting to see what would happen before they committed. From that point on, another 123 people registered bringing the total up to 160. That put us clearly in the black. Canceling would have been a big mistake! Pete was off the hook for his donation offer!

Two weeks out, as the registration numbers started to grow, the Council Training Committee saw an opportunity to offer training to Venturing Leaders and asked if they could be added to the Camporee. I was happy to make room for them and we ended up training over a dozen adult leaders in addition to all of the Venturers. The in-person Advisor and Committee Training lasted most of the day.



Advisors and Crew Committee members get trained at Scout Wars 2017

A Venturer Reports: The First NCAC/082 Venturing Camporee - SCOUT WARS 2017

By Maggie

Friday the 3rd of November our 'advance team' consisting of me, my mom, and three other Venturers drove to Camp Snyder right after lunch. When we arrived we set to work setting up the dining hall for the first Cracker Barrel. A few hours after us, most of the rest of the Crew arrived and the Camporee got started. We opened with a Songfest Cracker Barrel. Saturday was filled with games and the approaching rain did not appear to hinder any fun times. We simultaneously ran ILS(C) and the ALPS courses on Saturday. Venturers had the option of either participating in the games, taking ILS(C), or taking the ALPS courses. We also ran a scavenger hunt based on Scouting History. Everyone thought that was a lot of fun!



Lola (Crew 27 Advisor) braids Sofie's hair as Mel manages program at Scout Wars 2017



Crews face off in 'Tug-of-war' at Scout Wars 2017

A Venturer Reports: The First NCAC/082 Venturing Camporee - SCOUT WARS 2017

By Maggie

Saturday night we had another superb Cracker Barrel, held the competition for the Dutch Oven dishes, watched Star Wars: *Revenge of the Sith* (Episode 3) and had a costume contest. The products of the Dutch Oven Baking Competition were amazing.



Katie, Maggie and John served as the judges for the Dutch Oven Contest



Venturers play board games at Scout Wars 2017 late into Friday & Saturday nights

A Venturer Reports: The First NCAC/082 Venturing Camporee - SCOUT WARS 2017

By Maggie

At the end of the evening, we had to clean the dining hall. The hall is really large - it rents for \$750/day without the kitchen - so we cleaned 3/4 of it and left 1/4 for the religious services the following morning. After they were complete, we cleaned the rest!



Maggie leads her clean up crew in Camp Snyder's dining hall late Saturday night

The next morning Monsignor Brady, a very senior Catholic Priest and a famous Scouter in the National Capital Area Council (Eagle Scout Class of 1939), provided mass for the Catholics. We also had a non-denominational religious service. The winners of the various contests were announced (Congrats to Staff!) and patches were distributed. Everyone expressed what an awesome time they had and how they wanted to get together to do it again soon. At the next CVOA meeting we considered another event in the Spring. Now that we have the bugs worked out, getting this done should be much easier.

A Venturer Reports: The First NCAC/082 Venturing Camporee - SCOUT WARS 2017

By Maggie

It was an awesome event and the process of leading it taught me more about project management and perseverance than any training has to date. The lesson that I learned again and again was that two-way communication is a must and that minor miscommunications need to be corrected immediately because they lead to severe issues. I also learned that following up with people who say they will do something is very important as sometimes they can forget. One of Scouting's purposes is to train young people to take on the ever-evolving challenges of leadership at any level: from president of a school club to president of a country. While I don't feel completely ready to lead a country, I didn't feel completely ready to plan a 150-person event either and look how well that turned out. One of the adults from another Crew at Scout Wars 2017 told Pete that they saw the Venturing mountain on the Venturing insignia as Olympus and remarked that Crew 27 resided on the summit. While I'm not a polytheist, I did appreciate the comparison between the Venturers of Crew 27 and the Greek gods. The Crew did an amazing job!



← Olympus

Maggie

Maggie was the author of this article and the Venturer who took on leading the first ever Venturing Camporee in the National Capital Area Council (NCAC). Over the last 20 years, the Council had planned and canceled several Council Level Venturing events. This event was the first one to actually be carried out! NCAC has just over 1,100 registered Venturers and Maggie's home Crew 27 sports 75 of those! Maggie is a junior at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bethesda, Maryland. When not participating in Venturing related activities she enjoys running and is a triple varsity athlete in Cross Country, Winter Track, and Track. She also immensely enjoys reading and writing. Someday she hopes to write her own books and become a published author.

Small Boat Handler Award and National Boating Standards

By Sea Scouts, BSA



Two organizations set national standards for boating education in the United States. The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) sets standards for classroom-based education. In many states, boat operators are required to take a NASBLA-approved course to operate a power boat. There is strong data that demonstrates completing a NASBLA-approved boating course improves boating safety. The second organization, the National On-Water Standards panel, was formed about 8 years ago. Operating under a US Coast Guard

grant, the NOWS team established a set of standards for skills-based on-water boating education. Two long-time scouting volunteers (Wayne Stacey, recently retired from the Coast Guard's Office of Boating Safety, and Robin Pope, Sea Scouting's national paddlesport specialist) were directly involved in the formation of these on-water standards. Pope also serves on NASBLA's Education Standards Panel.

Both the NASBLA knowledge standards and the NOWS skills standards went through a rigorous development and review process that included public comment and evaluation by subject matter experts. NOWS standards developers further included on-water trials of the standards by both skilled and novice boaters, to further ensure the validity of the standards. As a result of this rigorous process, both sets of standards were recently approved as American National Standards.

How does that affect Sea Scouting?

Sea Scout's Small-Boat Handler award requires coverage of all the material required for a NASBLA approved course, as well as coverage of additional material. In fact, as noted on the Small-Boat Handler outline, completion of a NASBLA-approved course is a terrific way to meet many of the award's requirements while also meeting the legal requirements to operate a boat in most states. Scouts who earn the Small-Boat Handler award can be confident that this material represents not just what Scouting's leaders think they should know, but also represent what some of the world's leading boating programs think they should know.

That knowledge, however, doesn't mean the boater can actually operate a boat, and that's where the NOWS program fits in. The National On-Water Standards describe expert consensus as to what a beginning boater should actually be able to do on the water. When the Small-Boat Handler on-water skills are compared with the National On-Water Standards, it's not surprising that the two are a close match. The take-home message for Sea Scouts is that earning the Small-Boat Handler award provides proof that they have both the knowledge and skill needed to operate a boat in entry level conditions. The Small Boat Handler bar on your uniform may not look like much, but it clearly says that a Sea Scout is more than someone who's just interested in boats – it says that they are a boater. It's an award every Sea Scout should pursue.

Sea Scout Academy 2018 Galveston



Registration is now open for Sea Scout Academy 2018 to be held at Sea Star Base Galveston on January 13-15 (Martin Luther King Day Weekend)

Seven training tracks are available for Sea Scout youth ranging from recruit (1st year) to Been There Done That (5th year). Tracks are designed based upon a typical advancement path as outlined in the Sea Scout Manual.

Registration and the Boarding Manual can be found

CREW 210 Experiences Council Jamboree

By Caitlyn and Alicia

Crew 210 of Winter Garden, FL sent two scouts and one committee member to the first Central Florida Council Jamboree December 1, 2, 3 at Osceola Heritage Park. The three day event had over 1,400 participants from all around, and included demonstrations from the US Military, battlebots, NASCAR, a Lumberjack show and so much more. Rock walls, ziplines, airsoft contests, concerts, and fireworks made it tons of fun for everyone



Alicia H. and Caitlyn C. enjoying breakfast at Central Florida Council Scouting Jamboree Dec 1-3, 2017

Alicia H., Crew Historian, shares:

“The Jamboree was a great, fun experience for me. I really enjoyed all the activities and meeting other troops and crews. The concerts were amazing. It was cool to see the bands and the magician, and I even got to go on stage and saw what my favorite part of the Jamboree was. It was a great experience and I will definitely go again the next time we have it.”

Crew 210 got to attend with their fellow Troop 210 as well, where both Alicia and Caitlyn have siblings in the troop.



Troop 210 and Crew 210 stopped for a quick photo before heading out for a fun day at

CREW 210 Experiences Council Jamboree

By Caitlyn and Alicia

“When we first got there I got picked to go on stage to assist with a magic trick. I stood right there and watched him make a card appear on a sheet of paper and I still have no idea how he did it. It was so cool. I had so much fun!” Caitlyn C., Quartermaster. “Its fun to do some things with Clifford (brother), but its really neat to do so many things on our own as well. I ran into some of my 2018 Philmont Horseback Cavalcade with Crew 225 as well, which was fun, and others from Crews I met at Camp Rainey Mountain last summer or PowderHorn and NYLT.”



Caitlyn ran into Angela P. from Crew 277 of Leesburg FL. and celebrated their love for all things Batman



Caitlyn C. watches as the magician sets up his card trick.

The Central Florida Council Jamboree is a semi annual event, currently slated to return in 2019.

Alicia and Caitlyn

Alicia H. has been involved in Girl Scouts since 5 years old, and now this is her second year in Crew 210 where she presents serves as Historian. She enjoys the many opportunities Venturing is giving her including camping, hiking, ziplining, and anything adventurous. She hopes to make a difference in the world while continuing in scouts through high school and beyond.

Caitlyn C. is the Quartermaster for Crew 210 in Winter Garden, Fl. At 15, Caitlyn has been a part of scouting since a young age. While she has always been a part of Girl Scouts since Daisy (Kindergarten), she has always "tagged along" with Dad and younger brother Clifford since he became a Cub Scout. Her love of camping has grown from those early Tiger treks, and now she is going on trips herself. From building rafts for council Raft Regattas, or kayaking and ziplines, to preparing for an upcoming Horseback Philmont Cavalcade in 2018, Caitlyn is experiencing high adventure wherever she can!

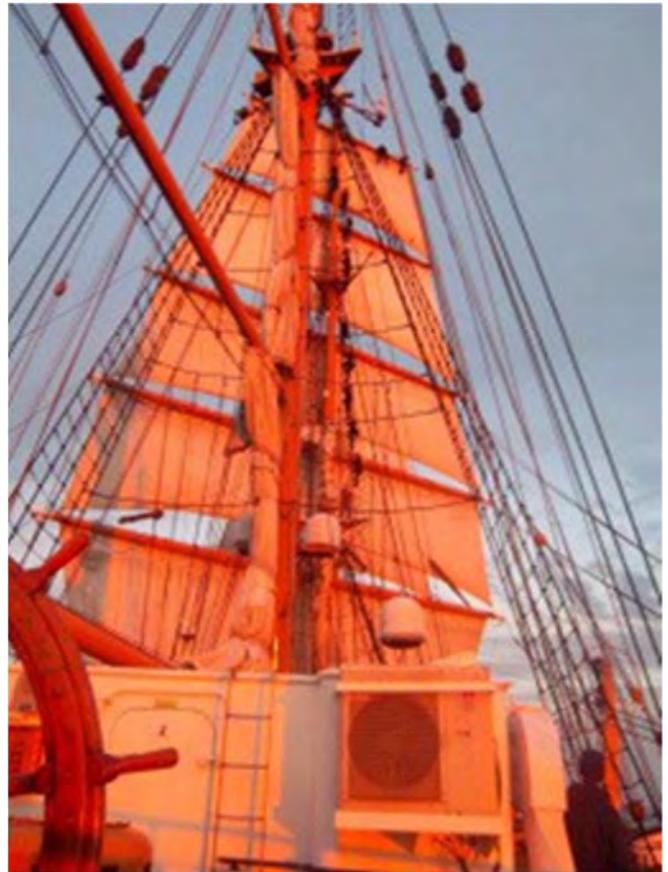
Sail Aboard the USCG Eagle

by Sea Scouts, BSA

Every summer for nearly a decade, the Coast Guard has partnered with Sea Scouting to offer a weeklong sailing adventure aboard Eagle to a select group of Sea Scouts from around the nation.

What exactly is it like to sail aboard the Eagle? Katie Bruton, a Quartermaster Sea Scout, provided a firsthand account of her 2015 life-changing adventure.

We began our voyage in Boston, Massachusetts where we boarded, had a safety briefing, and were assigned to our sleeping areas. During our safety briefing we were reminded that we would get as much out of the opportunity as we put in and that we were expected to do everything with the first year cadets. Some of our duties included preparing meals in the swaying messdeck for the 200 people on board, scrubbing the teak deck with Simple Green and water, polishing the brass for public tours, trimming sails for maximum speed and changing direction, and trying to stay awake in the scorching engine room at 1am. The multitude of lines we heaved and hoed during the week in order to trim the sails left us with dirty and callused hands. During our shifts, we also climbed aloft in some of the 6 miles of standing and running rigging to prepare the twenty-three sails to be set and stowed, used celestial navigation to pinpoint our location, and attended interactive trainings. These trainings included preparing for fire emergencies, man overboard, abandon ship, and weather safety.



The week of exhausting hard work did have its perks. At the beginning of the week, I, along with many of the cadets, stared at the whale-speckled horizon. We watched dolphins dance through the waves off the bow, did sunrise workouts, laughed at a 2-hour long talent show, and gazed at the glorious sunrises while standing in the rigging above the ship's deck.

I did not fully realize how amazing the opportunity was until I was 40 feet in the air watching the sunrise come over the surprisingly calm horizon of the Atlantic Ocean between Boston and New York. I knew how uniquely I was seeing the world and I was awestruck by the beauty of it.

Among an endless laundry list of things the experience taught me, is how so many people can come together to accomplish a common goal. Sailing on Eagle gave me a new view on life and I would not trade the experience for the world.

Area Boatswain of the Month: Ryan Trefny

by Southern Region Commodore



The Southern Region Quarterdeck has selected Ryan Trefny as Area Boatswain of the Month for December.

Ryan is the Boatswain for Southern Region Area 3, covering the southern half of Texas, and is doing an outstanding job! Ryan has worked to gather contact information for all Boatswains in Area 3 then uses that list to coordinate Area activities. He is currently working on plans for three major recruiting events in multiple Councils to increase Sea Scouting membership. Ryan played a key role as a youth instructor in Seabadge in Dallas this fall, teaching Customs and Courtesies. He will serve as event boatswain and master of ceremonies for Sea Scout Academy in Galveston in January.

Ryan is a senior at Meridian World School in Round Rock Texas, where he actively participates in swimming, Model United Nation, and Debate Club. Ryan is a SEAL graduate who is on track to complete the requirements for Quartermaster by the end of 2017.

Update from the Regional Yeoman

by Southern Region Commodore



I have a couple of exciting updates for members of Southern Region Sea Scouting. The first is a call for photos from your ship, council, and area activities, please send photos to srquarterdeck@gmail.com along with a short description and background for each photo.

Secondly, we would like to announce that we will have pre-orders up for Southern Region Sea Scouts merchandise up soon in the next couple weeks. We will publish the link as soon as the preorders are up. We hope to provide you with the opportunity to purchase patches and nalgene, both with the new Southern Region Sea Scout logo on them. Make sure you are following us on instagram and facebook for updates, and if you have any questions, comments, or concerns feel free to send us an email using the email provided above.

Yours in Scouting,
James MaGuirk
2017-18 Southern Region Yeoman.

Sea Scouting in South Texas Strengthening New Ships

by Southern Region Commodore



SR A3 Boatswain and Crew arrive at Camp Perry (From left to right: SSS Response Skipper Tom Trefny, Jared Panico, Ryan Trefny, Jess Hopkins)

When I visited the Texas Seabadge course in October, I heard of a new Sea Scout ship in the Rio Grande Council – Ship 911. At Seabadge, I met Ship 911's committee chair, Mr. Jesus Loperena. Knowing that I wanted to go and help train the new ship, I proposed an idea to Mr. Loperena: a weekend where a few scouts and I could train their members, while promoting Sea Scouts in the Rio Grande Council. I mentioned that the Rio Grande Council should have many ships, considering their proximity to Laguna Madre and the Gulf Coast. He was receptive to the idea, and months of planning ensued. We finally decided to visit the ship on December 27th, during the Rio Grande Council's Annual Winter camp.

After a five-hour drive from Round Rock Texas, my crew and I arrived at Camp Perry: Rio Grande Council's Flagship property. We were greeted by Tor Loperena, Ship 911's Boatswain. Tor and I had been communicating since October, and it was good to finally meet him in person. After meeting the other members, we jumped into ILSS training. Ship 911 became engaged in the foundations of Sea Scout leadership and organization.



ILSS and Navigation Training

The next day, the Sea Scouts were asked by the camp director to perform the morning flag ceremony. The whole camp saw how the flag ceremony was done with the Boatswain's pipe – something most of them have never seen before. After morning meal, Ship 911 learned the Ordinary Piloting and Navigation requirements. They learned how to plot a course using speed plotters, dividers, and charts.

Sea Scouting in South Texas Strengthening New Ships

by Southern Region Commodore

At Lunch, the Sea Scouts were asked to give a presentation to the Winter Camp – so Tor and I hosted a Q&A all about Sea Scouts:



SR A3 Boatswain Ryan Trefny and Ship 911 Boatswain Tor Loperena host Sea Scout Q&A during Lunch at Camp Perry

After lunch, Ship 911 along with my crew and I traveled to Laguna Station – a small scout outpost on South Padre Island. I wanted to scope out the property to see if Area 3 Sea Scouts could hold events there, or help Rio Grande council produce more Sea Scout ships. Although the land was a prime spot for Sea Scouting, much of the property was in need of an update. Taylor Villalobos, a prospective Sea Scout and former Laguna Station staffer, said this regarding the property: *“The facilities here at Laguna Station suffer from neglect. In fact, it’s been hard for the Council to hold onto the property. Rumors say that Laguna Station could be gone within a few years. That can’t happen, because Scouts really enjoy this place.”* When I looked around Laguna Station, all I could see was potential. This property could be an amazing spot for Sea Scouts to come over the summer or spring, especially for paddle craft skills. I looked forward to see Sea Scouts use this property in the future.



Laguna Station

Sea Scouting in South Texas Strengthening New Ships

by Southern Region Commodore



*Tor, S911 Boatswain, learns the
Boatswain's Calls*



*Area 3 Crew and Ship 911 depart
Camp Perry*

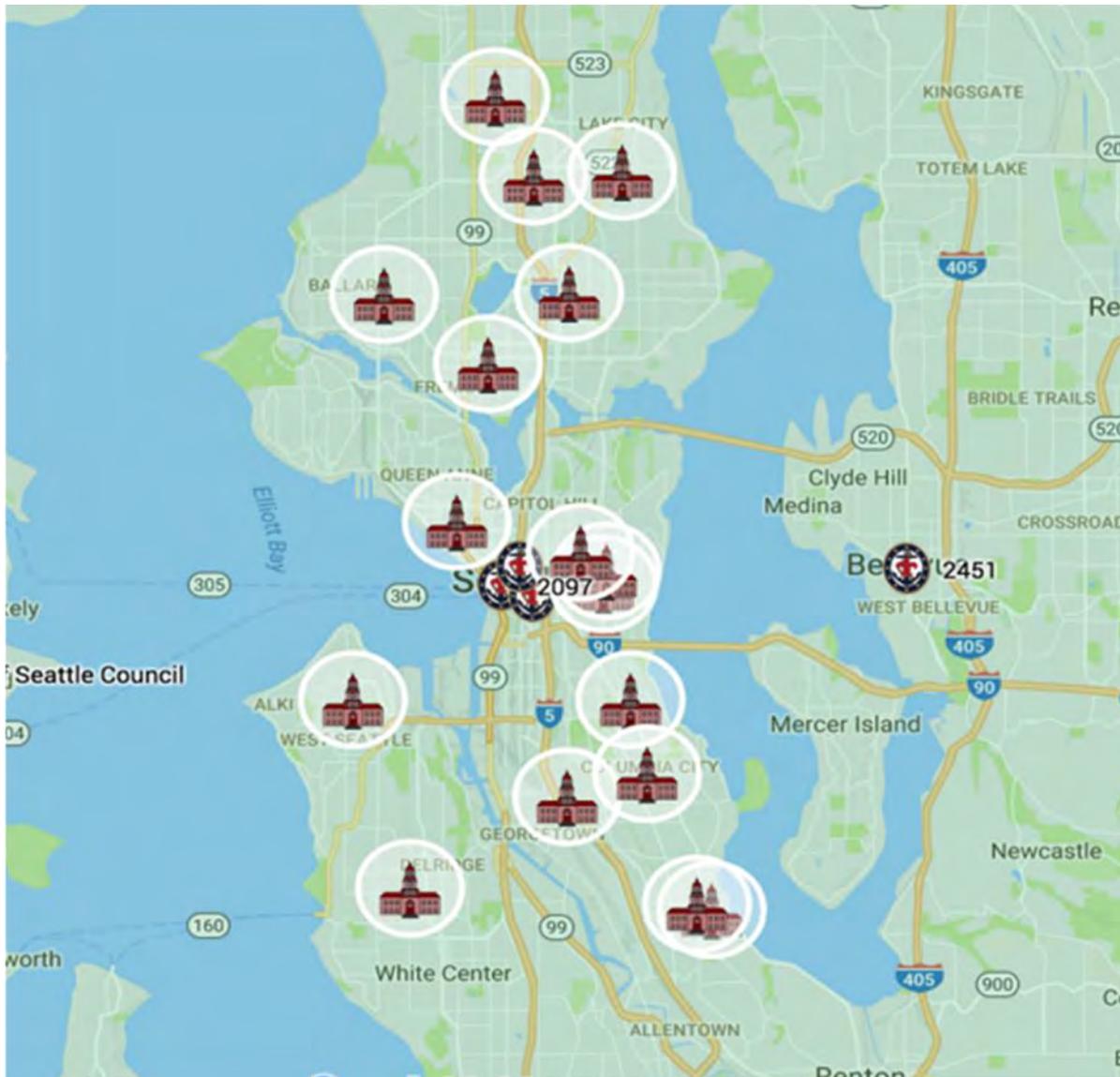
On the last day, Tor, along with some of his officers, practiced doing a Quarterdeck meeting. I helped him set up a digital system for storing Ship documents, and assisted him in organizing a Quarterdeck agenda. Tor and Taylor set up their Ship's email list to enable more efficient Ship communication.

Overall, the visit was a great success, and contributed to two of Area 3's goals – to strengthen new ships within the area, and promote Sea Scouting in councils that lack ships. With the Rio Grande Council being more exposed to Sea Scouting, Ship 911 will continue to succeed, along with Southern Region Sea Scout growth.

Promotion of Sea Scouts in High Schools

Here are tips from a middle school principal on how to submit announcements to promote Sea Scout recruiting in high schools: check the school board section of the district website for policies and procedures on how youth non-profits can submit flyers for the school newsletters. Below are examples from three school districts that provide an overview of how Sea Scout Ships can work with local high schools.

The goal of placing an announcement in a high school is to promote an open house activity to introduce students to Sea Scouts, BSA. This could be anything from a day of sailing, kayaking, building a punt or kayak out of plywood, or similar on the water activities that includes adventure and STEM. For tips on planning an open house, please see [Tips for Spring Recruiting](#) or [this video on open houses](#).
Seattle School District



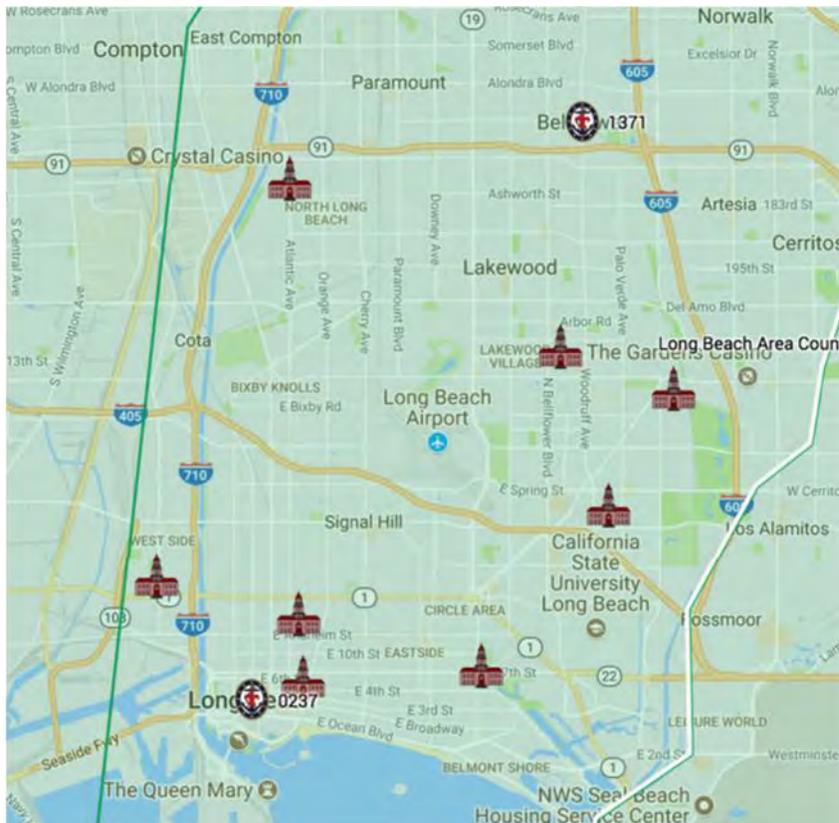
Public high schools and Sea Scout Ships by charter partner address.

Promotion of Sea Scouts in High Schools

The Seattle School District has policies for submitting announcements for school newsletters and the procedures for non-profits. Announcements require approval and a fee, so any flyer should be for a specific open house activity.

Long Beach Public High Schools

There are 23,000 high school students in Long Beach, California. There are eight local Sea Scout Ships and 106 Sea Scouts.



Not all Ships visible in this area of map with schools.

The Public Information Office must approve all flyers for non-profit organizations that provide low-cost and free services for youth and their families. Per the district policy, flyers submitted for approval should include a brief description of the program or services offered, along with contact information and the amount of any fees charged for services. Organizations submitting fliers to the school district for the first time will be asked to show proof of nonprofit status in the form of an IRS letter. If the Ship is not chartered by a non-profit, ask your District Executive for assistance with a letter from the Boy Scout Council.

San Diego Public High Schools

San Diego has over 74,000 high school students and six Sea Scout Ships with 50 primarily registered Sea Scouts.

The Benefit of Joint Practices



Learning new skills, friendships for years, and memories forever! That's exactly what happened on October 22nd when Sea Scout Ship 711, Del Mar coordinated with MSS 481, Mystic Yankee and MSS 1351, Morning Star to form a productive Southwestern Rendezvous Practice at the Newport Aquatics Center and the Newport Sea Base, a first for most scouts from these ships

The joint Rendezvous practice hosted by Ship 711 was both eventful and educational for everyone. The day started off with teaching events such as rope climb, bosun's chair, and breeches buoy. Many scouts climbed the entire length of the 20' rope for the first time and bosun's chair times improved to say the least. Scouts learned the history of breeches buoy and simulated transferring scouts from a ship to safety. In the afternoon, each ship split their scouts into two groups. One group practice small boat sailing and the other practiced ground tackle and motorboating. Some scouts who had no experience in such events walked away ready for competition at the end of the day! As a scout from MSS 1351 stated, "It was very good...just the fact that we got to practice things we don't usually practice...it was really helpful!"



The Benefit of Joint Practices

Since 1935, Southwestern Rendezvous has been a three day competition testing maritime skills and knowledge, all while putting leadership skills to the test. The 25 various events challenge crews both mentally and physically. Events vary from a 20' rope climb that some scouts climb in under 5 seconds to Rules of the Road, where questions on International Rules, Inland Rules, and aids to navigation are use to determine who's top of the class. There are special events such as drill off, scuttle off, and hell drill where the most proficient crews get to show what they're made of.



The 1940 Southwestern Rendezvous had over 1,000 Sea Scouts attend from five different states.

Sadly, 2017 Southwestern Rendezvous has been cancelled due to planning complications and a few other time related issues. However, the scouts will look forward to 2018 Southwestern Rendezvous with even drive and passion than ever. Although there are mixed feelings about the cancellation of 2017 Southwestern Rendezvous by those who were planning to attend, most feel that their work is greatly appreciated on putting together this impressive competition every year and we are look forward to what they have in store in 2018!

Websites

National Venturing

<http://www.scouting.org/venturing.aspx>

National Sea Scout

<http://www.seascout.org/>

Central Region Venturing

<http://www.crventuring.org>

Northeast Region Venturing

<http://nerventuring-bsa.org/>

Northeast Region Sea Scouting

<http://www.nerseascout.org/>

Southern Region-Venturing

<http://srventuring-bsa.org/wordpress/>

Southern Region Sea Scout

<http://sregion.seascout.org/>

Western Region Sea Scouts

<https://wrseascouts.wordpress.com/>

Western Region Venturing

<http://wrventuring.org/>

USA Scouting Service-Venturing

<http://www.usscouts.org/usscouts/venturing/>

UniformingFAQ.asp

www.venturingmag.org

Venturing Magazine

www.venturingmag.org

National Exploring

<http://www.exploring.org/>

Yahoo Groups

Central Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/crventuring/>

Northeast Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nerventuring/>

Southern Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/srventuring/>

Western Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wrventuring/>

National

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/venturinglist/>



the FORUM

The FORUM is a National cluster concept and a friendly way to help Scouting Leaders exchange ideas and programs among our Troops, Crews, Ships, Posts, Councils, Areas, Regions and National.

The FORUM is shared by Volunteers and Professionals across the country.

“The **FORUM**” has been published monthly since 2003 and is not an official publication of any Council, Area, Region or National. It is the Leaders and Professionals newsletter. Help support our teenage program by sending the FORUM your stories, Newsletters. Council articles, By-Laws, Questions and Best Practices to share with others.

As always, articles, questions and comments are welcome. Promote Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring by promoting your Unit and Council. We are seeking support from anyone interested in working on the newsletter .

Thanks for all you do!

Bob the BEAR Monto—Editor in Chief

Pete Mapes—Associate Editor

Bernie Suess - Webmaster

TO SUBSCRIBE to the FORUM:

Email Bob the BEAR at

rmonto47@gmail.com

Use the email account you want to receive the FORUM and give Full name and Council to place you in the right email list.