

The FORUM

Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring Newsletter since 2003
May 2014 Issue

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The Current FORUM newsletter:

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

The Current FORUM Attachments

http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/~forum_attach.php

The FORUM Back Issues

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

This issue's attachments include:

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National and Other

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The Central Point



Newsletter of Central Region Venturing | BSA



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The April 2014 Central Region Venturing newsletter written by the region's Venturing officers is now available on our website newsletter page at <http://crventuring.org/Home/Newsletters/> or at directly at http://issuu.com/crventuring/docs/central_point_april_2014. The April Central Point also is included in the FORUM downloads.

Articles this month include:

Area conferences & events collage

CSVE Recap

Powder Horn in the region

Area 1 Goes Medieval

Area 4 Fun Event - New River Experience

Pilot NAYLE at Sea Base

Sea Scout update

President's Corner

Caption Contest

Name that Camp

Website highlight - Unconventional Crews

Yours in Venturing,

Emily Mausshardt

Central Region Venturing Vice President - Communication

Deb Keyes

Central Region Venturing Associate Advisor - Communication

<http://crventuring.org>



Powder Horn Course Sept 2014

Chippewa Valley Council and Samoset Council, in Wisconsin, invite Scouters to their 2014 Powder Horn Course. Outdoor and high adventure experiences provided participants, and the resources they'll be put in touch with, can be applied to every level of Scouting, from Webelos on up.

September 5-7 Scouters will be housed at Samoset Council's Crystal Lake Scout Reservation. They can expect tips on physical fitness, opportunities for C.O.P.E., climbing and scuba diving, as well as presentations on bicycling, backpacking, communications, winter sports, first aid, trip planning, fishing, land navigation and watercraft activities.

During the second three days, **September 26-28**, there will be a road trip in the Chippewa Valley Council. It starts with a presentation on caving, moves on to equestrian, settles in for a LNT overnight with an outdoor cooking presentation, then moves out the next day for a presentation on ecology and a sample of river canoeing before rolling into Phillips Scout Reservation for the night. The final day will be on the shooting ranges.

More information is available at the Chippewa Valley Council's website, <http://www.bsa-cvc.org>; at the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/607016162675639/>; by emailing Jim Nosker, course director, at cvc_2014_powderhorn@yahoo.com, or telephoning him at 715-962-4237.





Fact Sheet 2014 National Law Enforcement Exploring Conference



BACKGROUND: The National Law Enforcement Exploring Conference is conducted every other year and is attended by thousands of Law Enforcement Explorers and their adult leaders from throughout the country. The conference program provides a week of team and individual competitions, seminars, demonstrations, exhibits, recreation and fun.

DATES: July 14-19, 2014

LOCATION: Indiana University – Bloomington, IN

COST: The conference fee is \$475 per Explorer or adult, plus a non-refundable Post registration fee of \$100.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM:

Team Competitions: **Law Enforcement Response Team Events:** Arrest and Search, Bomb Threat Response, Burglary in Progress, Crime Prevention, Crime Scene Search, Crisis Negotiation, Domestic Crisis Intervention, Judgment Pistol Shooting: Shoot/Don't Shoot, Officer Down: Emergency Field First Aid, Traffic Accident Investigation, Traffic Stop, White Collar Crime. **Special Team Events:** Drill Team, Non-Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (NEVOC).

Individual Competitions: Police Physical Fitness Test, Air Pistol Competition, Pistol (.40 caliber) Competition, Sample Police Written Exam, Bike Policing Competition.

Seminars: Bomb Investigations, Combating Terrorism in America, Executive Protection, Leadership Development, Fugitive Investigations, Gang Recognition and Identification, Hate Crimes, Narcotics Trafficking and Interdiction, Protecting our National Borders, Protect Yourself: Self-Defense, Psychological Profiling, Surveillance Methods and Technology, Advisor Seminars, and other presentations

Conference Features: Dynamic opening and closing shows, exciting entertainment night, Career Fair, Exploring U.S.A., Rally Demonstration, nightly Jump Club dance, election of National Youth Representatives and retail Cop Shop.

REGISTRATION: All Law Enforcement Explorer Posts registered with Learning for Life are eligible to attend the conference. The 2014 National Law Enforcement Exploring Conference registration forms and Guidebook are available on the Learning for Life website at: www.learningforlife.org/exploring/lawenforcement. The guidebook contains detailed information about the conference along with an Advisor Checklist to assist with the registration process. The conference is usually a "sell-out" event and registration is on a first come, first served basis. Make plans to join us at Indiana University for another incredible conference!

We are excited and ready to have another great conference in 2014! You are now able to register for the 2014 National Law Enforcement Exploring Conference to be held at Indiana University, Bloomington, IN at <http://exploring.learningforlife.org/services/career-exploring/law-enforcement/2014-conference/>. All rooms are air-conditioned!!!!!!

LEARNING FOR LIFE

Forest Corps enters its Second Season!

Sign up today.



Forest Corps participants bravely join their two fearless Instructors venturing out into the [Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness \(BWCAW\)](#), embracing both the trials and triumphs of the trail. While enjoying a canoe trip in the Wilderness, participants challenges themselves mentally and physically by helping the US Forest Service perform vital trail and campsite repair and attending educational sessions to learn about the ecology of the area.

Designed to teach young adults about important concepts of responsible land management, practical conservation skills, and the ethics of [Leave No Trace](#), the [Forest Corps program](#) is an amazing co-educational offering Northern Tier provides for Scouts and Venturers ages 14 to 21. While focusing on environmental education components, leadership principles are infused throughout the program to aid the students in becoming young outdoor leaders. Specifically targeted to Venturers, the elements of this program allow for scouts to complete various components of their Ranger Award while on the trip.



With the education and guidance of their leaders, the students are placed in a unique learning environment where they are free to discover and make connections about how their actions can impact the greater world. Through the medium of experiential education, students are able to grasp the notion that wilderness areas, like the [BWCAW](#), would not exist if their generation did not care about protecting and managing these beautiful, natural places. One of the aims for the [Forest Corps program](#) is to create land stewards who have a positive connection with the land around them. The program teaches scouts to develop a passion for conservation and advocate for the protection of natural places so these spectacular recreation areas exist for the enjoyment of generations to come.

Why participate? This program is an incredible opportunity to learn about interesting topics such as forest fire ecology, geology, natural history, ecosystems and low impact wilderness travel in a fun and non-traditional way - through experiences outside in nature! You get to work and play outside for two weeks - rain or shine - working alongside some of the coolest people you will ever meet. You also will gain practical conservation and land management skills while working with the US Forest Service.

Forest Corps enters its Second Season! Sign up today.



Why send your Scout/Venturer? Two trained, highly knowledgeable outdoor professionals will instruct participants on the different elements of the trip and train them in the proper handling and use of conservation tools. In addition to environmental education, both instructors have training in wilderness medicine, [Leave No Trace](#) and group management skills. These certifications are industry standards and provide instructors with the proper guidelines for effectively leading and developing the potential in participants.

This two-week co-educational experience has the capacity to educate today's youth about important environmental concepts and inspire the confidence to become an effective leader- not only in the outdoors but in every aspect of their life. Participants are encouraged to take what they learn home and educate their communities about these important environmental concerns explored during their time serving and playing in the [BWCAW](#). The elements of this program hope to inspire corps members to freely learn about their relationships with ecosystems, and what they can do to protect them. The [Forest Corps program](#) will most definitely deliver a wilderness experience that lasts a lifetime!

For more information visit www.ntier.org, email info@ntier.org or call 218.365.4811.

See you Up North!



Now in its fourth year, Kandersteg International Scout Centre is proud to announce International Rover Week 2014: Summer Edition! Come and join Rovers from around the world as they engage in fun and interesting activities, working together as a team to cook and live in a unique multicultural atmosphere in the heart of the beautiful Swiss Alps.

Dates: 13th - 23rd July

what can you expect?

As an international event, International Rover Week aims to bring together people, both individuals and groups, from different countries within Scouting and Guiding. During your stay you will be offered a wide range of activities out in the Swiss Alps around Kandersteg. You can expect to have an individual, customized experience while practicing real team work with new found friends from all around the world. If you are into making new experiences and getting to know new cultures, the International Rover Week is the right event for you this Summer!

who can participate?

All Rovers, Rangers and Leaders, 18-30 years old, belonging to a National Scout Organisation recognized by WOSM or WAGGGS. You can participate individually or as a group. We keep the right to limit the amount of participants per country if too many people from one country apply, in order to ensure the cultural diversity of the event.

If you think this event is exactly what you would like to make your Summer the best it can be, you can register now over at [kisc.ch](http://www.kisc.ch) via the link below!

<http://www.kisc.ch/events/events-of-2014/international-rover-week-2014/>



Fact Sheet

2016 NATIONAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES EXPLORING CONFERENCE

BACKGROUND: 2014 National Fire and Emergency Services Exploring Conference will be held at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN. We will come together for a week of team and individual competitions, seminars, demonstrations, exhibits, recreation and fun.

DATES: July 14-19, 2014

LOCATION: Indiana University – Bloomington, IN

COST: The conference fee is \$475 per Explorer or adult this includes meals and housing, plus a non-refundable Post registration fee of \$100.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM:

All Fire and Emergency Services Exploring activities will take place at a local Fire Training Center in Bloomington, IN. The Explorers will be housed on the Indiana University campus in the dormitories and transported to the training center.

In addition, the Explorers will be invited to the dynamic opening and closing shows, entertainment night, rally demonstration, and the nightly jump club dances.

Team competitions will include: CPR & AED, Spinal Immobilization & movement, Haz-Mat Recognition & Identification, Personal protective clothing & SCBA Relay, FF Search & Rescue, Make & Break, Firefighter combat challenge, and Taking a Hydrant (Team relay)

Individual events will include: One-Person CPR, Candidate Physical Ability Test (Modified CPAT), Written Examination (Entry level), Incident Management on-line classes/Test (IMS 100 & 700), Wildland fire shelter deployment, PPE & SCBA time (2-min drill), Taking a Hydrant, and Knot Tying.

REGISTRATION: All Fire and Emergency Explorer Posts registered with Learning for Life are eligible to attend the conference. The 2014 National Fire and Emergency Exploring Conference Guidebook will be available this summer. The conference is usually a “sell-out” event and registration is on a first come, first served basis. Register your Post now! All housing is air conditioned!



2014 SEAL TRAINING GAME PLAN

Who would like to go to SEAL 2014? Let your Skipper know now.

I, as Commodore, see the high importance of preparing as many crew members as possible to graduate from SEAL 2014. Most youth who complete SEAL had a fun time, met new friends, gained a high degree of personal skills and confidence, have gained world view of Sea Scouting, and come back to the Ship energized to be a leader.

That being said, how can you achieve this goal?

Within one year of becoming a Sea Scout, you may be able to qualify for your set of Dolphins, the SEAL pin. Requirements are as follows.



Sea Scout Advanced Leadership Training

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. If you successfully complete the course you will be awarded the **SEAL Training Award**, which is a silver pin with twin dolphins, to be worn on your uniform (*see above*).

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.

Potential SEAL Candidates please fill out attached 2014 application as a draft with your parents.. This is a small commitment; a starting point for 204 final application.

Pick your port of departure. Bring draft application, questions and parent to Sea Scout SEAL Program Kickoff Meeting at your next Ship meeting.

Newport Beach, CA June 13-22, 2014) _____
2014) _____

(Chesapeake Bay, MD June 21-29,

(Galveston Bay, TX June 27- July 6, 2014) _____
20, 2014) _____

(Long Island Sound, NY July 12-

(Seattle, WA July 24- August 1, 2014) _____



Northern Tier National High Adventure Programs

Ely, MN - Atikokan, ON - Bissett, MB

Boy Scouts of America

Northern Tier is your launching point for high adventure treks into the wilderness waterways of the remote Northwoods. Northern Tier's three summer canoe bases offer a wide variety of wilderness adventures, fully-outfitting crews for 6 to 10 day wilderness treks. A trained staff member accompanies each group, teaching new skills and customizing the trip to suit the needs and desires of every participant.

Requirements to attend:

- Minimum of 14 years of age, or 13 and completed the 8th grade by the date of attendance
- Must be classified as a swimmer
- Must weigh less than 295 lbs. and strongly recommended each participant weigh at least 100 lbs.
- Minimum of 6 and maximum of 8 people for a crew (Ely Base)
- Minimum of 6 and maximum of 11 people for a crew (Atikokan and Bissett Bases)
- Minimum of 2 adult leaders - 1 trained in CPR and Wilderness First Aid

Cost:

Please see our website for updated fees. All fees include stoves, fuel, tents, rain fly, cook kits, packs, all food while on the trail and 2 nights on base. Also included are aluminum canoes (lightweight upgrades are available for additional fee), paddles, life jackets and emergency communications device.

www.ntier.org 218.365.4811



Rendezvous = Doctor WHO?

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Anyone who registers by May 3rd will get the early bird special of \$40 per person. After that, the regular fee for the event is \$45 dollars if paid by **May 15th**, after that it goes to \$50 per person, day of the event. So you want to register ASAP to take advantage of the early bird special.

Point your browsers to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8DwOFx6jrg> for a youtube update on the sessions and consultants that you will see at the Area 5 Rendezvous.

At the Rendezvous you can expect to enjoy amazing activities such as:

- Visit different cultures and Time Periods
- Pistol Shooting
- Black powder
- Restaurant Cooking
- Archery
- Action Archery
- Knife throwing
- Robotics
- Make a Movie – Star / Direct/ Edit
- Judo – from the 3rd Doctor
- Ethical Problem Solving
- Fly Chinese Lanterns
- Painting with van Gogh
- Help Build the Mark II TARDIS Console
- And a lot more!



Not only do you get to experience all of these amazing things. But each participant will get the chance to make:

- Your own Rocket
- Concrete Weeping Angel Statue
- A Fez
- A Bow Tie
- A Sonic Screwdriver
- A Tardis Key
- A Vhovian bottle cap necklace
- A Sheild

And each crew over with 8 or more registered participants (adults included) will be have the chance to make their own Handles.

The Rendezvous will be held at Camp Acahela on **May 16th, 17th and 18th** at Camp Acahela in Blakeslee PA. There is an early bird price of \$40 per person if you sign up by May 3rd. and \$45 per person if you sign up between May 4th to May 15th. on May 16th it is \$50 per person.

Tyler:

The rendezvous is open to all Venturers, as well as Boy Scouts of Venturing age. (14 – 21)
For more information about how to sign up, please go to ne5venturing.org

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NORTHEAST REGION AREA 5 VOA

NE5VENTURING.ORG



YOUR WORLD YOUR TIME
YOUR VENTURING

Doctor WHO?

Written By: Matt Gromala, Edited by Tyler Sepcoski

“Fantastic!” “Allonsy!” “Geronimo!”

The whole of time of Space will be colliding at one spot-The Area 5 Rendezvous at Camp Acahela, in Blakeslee, Pa., located in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Council.

Yes that's right, the theme of this year's Rendezvous is the dark, yet lovable cosmic hobo himself-The Doctor!

For the sake of the uninitiated, I'll briefly explain what Doctor Who is. Doctor Who is a British science fiction show that will be celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. The Doctor is an alien from the planet Gallifrey, who travels through time in the TARDIS (**T**ime **A**nd **R**elative **D**imension **I**n **S**pace), basically a big blue police call box, with his companions, saving the universe quite frequently. The Doctor has this trick to cheat death, regeneration, the only catch is he completely changes, from his looks to his personality each time he regenerates.

The 4th Doctor, our president Tyler Sepcoski, is currently in search of his TARDIS but we are assured that once he finds it he will amass a collection of the best consultants throughout time and around the world at Camp Acahela for the best Rendezvous of all time. What if he can't find his TARDIS in time you ask? Well it's a time machine he will find it someday and when he does there will be no stopping him until the best of the best are all brought together just for you!

The Area 5 rendezvous will be held the weekend of **May 16th through the 18th**. Some of the activities to expect as you travel through time and space would be, building your own Sonic Screwdriver, Venusian Aikido (which is really judo) from the Third Doctor's time, robotics, Archaeology, Shakespearian Theater, Painting with Van Gogh, movie makeup, and so much more! There will also be concrete statue making, so remember, Don't Blink! The Area 5 rendezvous is the only place experts from the Civil War, WWII, the Renaissance period, several countries, and even outer space will be in the same place at the same time. So, you won't want to miss this one.

Doctor Who episodes and even full serials will be screened over the weekend, including the two serials recently recovered from Nigeria, The Enemy of the World and The Web of Fear. Watch the Doctor at his best, and see as his hearts (yes plural) break at his worst. Also be on the lookout for audio adventures that you will only be able to listen to. A throwback to the days of radio shows.

The Rendezvous tradition of the great feast survives, and this year there will be no foods that the Doctor disapproves of. After the feast, the Doctor, our very own Tyler, has a concert planned to raise the roof as only the Doctor can.

Anyone who registers by April 30th will get the early bird special of \$40 per person. After that the cost goes to \$45 dollars if paid by May 1st, after that it goes to \$50 per person. So you want to register ASAP to take advantage of the early bird special.

So save the date, because the 2014 Area 5 Rendezvous (May 16th through 18th) will be an event you will NOT want to miss.

SEA SCOUTS OFFER LEADERSHIP TRAINING AT SEA



Each summer, several week-long sailing-based leadership development programs are offered for Sea Scouts, a co-ed branch of Boy Scouts aged 14 – 20. Established in 1996, the program, called SEAL for Sea Scout Experience Advanced Leadership, provides leadership training while sailing on the water on private yachts that have been made available for Sea Scout use by boat owners. Training locations include Long Island Sound, Chesapeake Bay, Galveston Bay, Newport Beach (CA), and Puget Sound.

Twenty-five to thirty five Scouts are selected for this program on a national basis. For these Scouts, entry into the program requires a strong working knowledge in seamanship (boating skills) and coastal navigation and advancement through the first two Sea Scout ranks of promotion.

Last summer, Connecticut proudly sent five Scouts for SEAL training, two from Westbrook (Ship 1784) and three from Groton (Ship 584) to boats in Long Island Sound, Galveston Bay and Chesapeake Bay. Grouped into crews of five to seven Scouts per boat, they sailed for eight days under the supervision of the knowledgeable boat owners plus two instructors per vessel.

Their duties and responsibilities ranged from planning and provisioning all meals, as well as cooking and clean up, to overall boat management, determining courses to sail, selecting harbors and marinas to visit, coastal navigation, sail trim and line handling. On each successive day, these jobs were rotated through the Scout crew so that every Scout could experience each job.

In addition to the seamanship skills gained from this experience, the SEAL candidates learned invaluable leadership techniques that can serve them well throughout their adult lives. These lifetime skills include evaluation, training, team building, communicating, motivating, leadership, goal setting, planning and preparing, managing, supervising and commanding. On completion of the SEAL course, candidates become graduates and are recognized for their accomplishments with a special uniform insignia showing them to be SEAL graduates.

This coming summer, one Scout from New Haven (Ship 1) will represent Connecticut as she attends SEAL training in Puget Sound. She will serve as part of a crew of Scouts from all over the USA who will work together as a team to learn the SEAL skills offered. Additionally, she will meet several new Scouts who will be her friends for life, having shared together the pleasures of sailing and the challenges and successes of the SEAL program.

Young adults with an interest in learning more through Sea Scouts about boats and the sea are welcome, as are seasoned adult mentors. For more information about Sea Scouting, please contact New England Flotilla Commodore Marshall Parsons at 860-983-7681 or seascout1@subvetsgroton.org.

Northeast Region, Area 6, 'Phenomenon'

By Tara Davis, NCAC Crew 27

'Phenomenon' is the annual spring gathering of the Northeast Region, Area 6, VOA. This year it was held at Hawk Mountain Scout Camp in Hawk Mountain Council. Area 6 also has an annual fall event usually in early November each year called 'Aspire.'

This trip started out as most trips do, in the back of the car, with the six of us jam packed into my Advisor's minivan (It seats 8 but he didn't tie the stuff on top because we had 'room' inside – note the 'had'), listening to Tommy Cox and Bobbie Reed sing very loud music about the history of submarines, for three hours. Now, don't get me wrong, I think submariner history is fascinating, but listening to it for three hours straight at a very high decibel volume, I do not recommend. Despite the horrific sound track, I couldn't help but wonder what fun was in store for our merry little band of Venturers this weekend.

I had been hearing about 'Phenomenon' for a couple of years yet had never gone, it sounded like tons of fun. The theme for this year was "Game traveler" due to the inability to choose between a "Gamer" theme or a "Time traveler" theme, so they just clumped the two together which made for a very interesting weekend. The flyer that had been put out had promised beer goggle driving, Quidditch, a Velcro wall, live action angry birds, a costume party, and more. It was all very alluring. but the weekend became even more alluring as we drove into the Hawkeye Mountain scout reservation.

It was about nine thirty at night and the world looked like little more than a shadow with blinking lights every now and then. Our Advisor, Pete, and our Crew President, Michael, hopped out to go check us in while the rest of us sat in the car, finally getting to turn off the submarine music. At last, we could hear ourselves think. When Michael and Pete returned we drove down the road, leading us deeper into this dark foreign landscape to set up our campsite.

Quickly, we pitched our tents on the available platforms so we could get our exhausted selves to bed for a seven o'clock wake up, which, for the college student and the night owl, is way too early to be waking up on a weekend. Around eleven-fifteen I climbed into the tent, closed my eyes, and dreamed about what was to come tomorrow morning.



the breakfast chow hall

I woke up to the sound of Michael banging around our tent, attempting to wake up its contents - us. I began to get ready and by beginning to get ready I mean I gave Michael a gruff reply and turned over in my sleeping bag trying to go back to bed. However my efforts at getting a little extra shuteye were thwarted by Cory who ratted me out. Eventually I actually began getting ready but in this too my efforts were thwarted. Trying to unzip my sleeping bag, I found that the zipper was stuck and so was I. Pulling at it from all sorts of different angles proved unsuccessful, as did trying to wiggle out of it, so eventually I was forced to call for back up.

With less dignity than I had hoped, I poked my head out of my tent and asked for some assistance from my brother who refused, laughing at my weakness as most siblings would do. My savior turned out to be Michael's little brother, Patrick, who unzipped the sleeping bag like it was nothing while everyone else giggled at my failure to do such a banal task as unzipping a sleeping bag. Pete did as Pete does and took a picture of me in my extremis, I could only pray that he was laughing so much that it would turn out blurry – alas, his hand was steady. After I was finally free, we walked down and we met a Matt Smith impersonator and The Mad Hatter, both eagerly anticipating the costume party. Little did they know, so were we.



Tara calling for help after getting stuck in her sleeping bag

Breakfast was a standard scrambled eggs, French toast, and bacon. Not to mention coffee, an extremely important ingredient for pleasant campers and pleasant Advisors. Once breakfast was finished Brenna Leary, Area six's President, gave a spiel thanking us for coming out and provided an introduction for the staff. Then they let us loose for the fun activities promised.



The first thing Michael, Cory, Patrick, and I tried was beer goggle driving that was walking a straight line with beer goggles on. Some people wobbled back forth, and no one could stay on a straight line but no one fell over which a little disappointing. Cory and I decided to ditch the two brothers and left to go to the Velcro wall. It was singularly the scratchiest event there. In a few minutes I was dying to get out of the suit we wore which was covered in the hook covered half of Velcro. One of the guys in the group after us got a couple of feet up the wall, everyone around us 'ooed' and 'awed' at his achievement.

Next on the list of things to do was Quidditch which wasn't up yet, so as a close substitute we played ultimate Frisbee. The two younger brothers (Cory & Patrick) were on one team and

the Velcro wall. the two older siblings (Michael and I) were on another. The rules were explained, the game commenced. We played to three points. Victorious by a whopping one point, Cory and Patrick's team won, Patrick catching the winning goal.

At about noon now but in the Pennsylvania wilderness the morning chill still clung to the air. Feeling it in our bones, Cory and I went to the dining hall for some hot chocolate. There we sat at a table packed with people and made some new friends. Cory met some likeminded Venturers and started up a round of the card game 'Magic' that I was completely disinterested in. Instead I decided to do a potato sack race with a few staff members and other Venturers.

The five of us lined up at the start. Pete at the bottom of the hill as this race's official photographer he was quite proud of the pictures he got of me giving up at the last yard of the race. I tripped, dropped to the ground, and finished the race by rolling down the hill. Not efficient, but at least I finished the race – sort of. Needless to say, I came in last, a Venturer named Devon won.

We went inside for lunch afterward, scarfing down the tube steaks, (commonly known to regular folk as hot dogs), then headed out again for more exciting activities. The boys and I split up they could do the ever so macho task of shooting rifles. I sought out something that fascinated me. They were Venturers in medieval garb, Burger King crowns with coconut halves on strings around their necks.

The Monty python themed jousting set up with the Knights, who say, 'Ni', was by far my favorite activity. My lance was a clever duct tape striped pool noodle on a large wooden dowel and my trusty steed was a Venture scout clad in a billowy white medieval shirt with two halves of a coconut to produce the steady tempo of a clopping Jousting with the Knights who say 'Ni' horse. I challenged anyone I could convince to joust me.

The first person whom I defeated was one of my advisors, Lisa, who was also Patrick and Michael's mother.

We both lined up at the start, charging only when the Vuvuzela, the designated starting instrument, was blown. We clopped down the line trying to stick our lances through the rings and get over the finish line first with our trusty steeds. I won with three rings while Lisa got one but we both were awarded paper Burger King crowns. There was a feeling of accomplishment that settled over me and I wanted to do it all over again. So I did, over and over again.



Patrick setting an all-time record of 6" for a male in this squeeze box

After the jousting, the boys came back and we all participated in something called a squeeze box. Actually the boys participated, I watched. For those of you who have no clue what a squeeze box is, it is not a box that you squeeze or an accordion, but rather a device that is used to train people for caving. The 'box' is two reinforced 4 foot by 8 foot pieces of plywood with a carefully calibrated set of braces between them that allow them to be set in near perfect parallel with a specified distance between them. Once the boxes are set, that you try to: you guessed it, squeeze through. Patrick broke the record for males for this particular box and squeezed through an amazing six inch gap. It was "phenomenal" to say the least. His ears were bright red when he finished!

As the marvel

of how Patrick managed to fit through such a small space became little more than an amazing story to tell later, Michael, Cory, and I got dressed for the long awaited for costume contest. We saw two seals, an elephant, a Greek goddess of some sort, and others while Michael and I dressed up as Mario and Princess Peach. Michael was Princess Peach and I was Mario. It was quite the scandal amongst the older folk and a few of the scouts but all and all it was hilarious. Michael was dressed in a pink gown and earrings with a little paper crown I had made to boot. He was adorable to say the least.



The look on his mother's face was a priceless look of astonishment. She was, "so proud," of him while I was just happy at how the whole thing turned out. At dinner we dined with our friend Josh who was adorned in a gladiator chest plate and a golden laurel head band. It was a feast fit for kings as we had turkey, mashed potatoes, and broccoli. It was better than I thought. We also made friends with a new Venturer from Lancaster, PA. She invited us to camp on their farm after the crops come in next October. There is a lot to go see around Lancaster so I think we will take her up on the offer. We invited her to bring the Crew to DC and camp in one of our back yards that is close to a subway station so they can see DC on the cheap. She only has seven Venturers in her Crew.

After dinner there was a dance party which everyone seemed to enjoy. Princess Peach and I had to become regular old mundane people though do to the fact he couldn't dance in the flowing dress and I couldn't breathe in my sweater. So we shimmied out of our costumes and hit the dance floor. We stayed there till the party had thinned and the night was growing old. Cory and I had been the only two in our group to stay as all the other had called it quits and trundled back to the campsite.

The pair of us did the same around eleven after we had said good bye to all the friends we had made. Together we stumbled back to the campsite in the dark with no flash-light, fortunately the moon was full and bright casting dark shadows on the ground through the trees but lighting everything else up with a pale glow. We scrambled into our sleeping bags and tried to go bed. I closed my eyes and slept for a couple of hours but I kept waking back up again due to the cold. During the night it dropped below freezing, the morning brought evidence of this because when we awoke, Michael's tent poles had frozen together and there was a layer of frost on all of our tents. Another Crew 27 Polar Bear experience – I blame Pete. He just smiled and suggested a sleeping bag with 3 pounds of fill or an extra blanket.

We left early because our Advisors had places to be later in the day so we all climbed back in the car with bitter sweet good byes as we left our new friends for another three hour car ride full of the same submariner music we listened to going up. We did get a stop at McDonalds out of the deal since we missed the Continental (Cold) breakfast at Phenomenon. Hot breakfast at Mickey D's was definitely a better deal. Over coffee we all conversed about how much fun we had and how we should go back again next year. I cannot wait to go back.



Flags at Hawk Mountain Scout Camp - Phenomenon 2014



Tara in a post Phenomenon vegetative state after 6 hours of submarine music!

Tara Davis is a member of Crew 27 from the National Capital Area Council in Northeast Reg 's Area 6. She holds the Venturing Outdoor Bronze Award and will have her Gold Award as soon as she writes her statement and gets her letters of recommendation. She attended the 2013 National Scout Jamboree at the Summit in NC 's Crew F508, the 2011 World Jamboree in Rinkaby, Sweden and is active in the Montgomery Service Area Ventur Officer's Associatio. She has served as President of Girl Scout Group 6027 of the Girl Scout Council of the Nat 's Capital. She has attended Goshen Scout Reservatio 's Camp Bowman for the last three years and has been hired to work there this summer. She loves her Venturing!

BSA Outdoor Ethics Conference

Please "Save the Date" for a Super-Regional Outdoor Ethics Conference, scheduled for **November 6-9, 2014**, at Camp Alpine in northern New Jersey. Council Outdoor Ethics Advocates, and supporters of Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly! Programs are welcome and encouraged to attend. We will help to arrange carpools, and shuttle service from the New York City airports will be available. This conference is a great opportunity to learn about BSA's Outdoor Ethics awards and other programs, and how to most effectively implement programs in your council that will help to protect and restore your council camp properties and other natural places. Meet experts and peers from many different councils for idea sharing and fun. Please watch for more details, and please watch for and respond to our survey as we gather input regarding the program and scheduling. Contact David O'Leary (daveol@earthlink.net) for more information.

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Thanks,
David O'Leary
Outdoor Ethics / Leave No Trace Coordinator
Northeast Region, BSA





**The Northeast Region
Area 3
Venturing Officers Association
Presents**

the 2014 eVENT
May 9 - 11, 2014

Hillbilly Hootenanny



WHAT DO I WANT FROM SEA SCOUTING?

It is at **CAMP NAUTICAL!!!**

Ordinary training Requirements Able training requirements

Quartermaster teaching requirements



When: Sunday AM, August 4 through Saturday PM August 9, 2014

Where: June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation, Ashford, Connecticut

Cost: \$350.00 per Sea Scout (includes meals, 2 person tents w/cots)

Details: Camp Nautical is an opportunity for any Sea Scout attending to gain skills and experience. Advancement can be a source of pride and measure of your success in Scouting. Advancement in Sea Scouting is a measure of your nautical knowledge and your performance as a leader.

The Seamanship Program will allow you to experience most of the requirements needed for the Rank of Ordinary; Able and satisfy teaching requirements for rank of Quartermaster. With structured courses in the morning and evening, you will learn about boats, marlinespike seamanship, ground tackle, signaling, quarterdeck leadership training, ornamental rope work, and environmental concerns. You will find fun in the afternoons devoted to free time. You will graduate with a report of your accomplishments, new friends and memories to last a lifetime.



More Information & Registration Contact:

Allen Iott, Skipper Sea Scout Ship 584 "Dragon"

Cell: (860) 912-1417 or aiott@tvconnect.net

National Youth Leadership Training

Northern New Jersey Council

NNJC Prepares For Ambitious 2014

In August of 2013, a large group of scouts arrived at Camp Turrell in upstate New York for a week of training in leadership skills. While many arrived unsure of what the experience would hold for



them, most left wishing they could stay another week. From the very first night, the staff unveiled their most innovative and creative program to date. The entire camp had been decorated by the staff in the week before everyone arrived, and the enthusiasm was palpable.

The course rests on the foundations of leadership, teaching participants the essentials of what a leader ought to be, know, and do. Over the duration of the week, staff members taught their peers how to find visions, set goals, and lead themselves. The presentations, designed by the youth staff, were mixed in between activities designed to reinforce the skills being taught. The days were long and energetic, ending in camp-wide events like Songfest or Movie Night before participants headed off to sleep before the next day.

In 2014, the staff has reassembled bigger and stronger than ever. They've created a better

program, using feedback from previous participants and staff to tighten up every aspect of the week. They've meticulously evaluated each presentation and activity as a part of their vision for this year's course. They're introducing new initiatives to improve communication, increase on-course efficiency, and more accurately target personal growth.



Interested in joining us for NYLT 2014?

Register now at nnjbsa.org/training

Date: August 17-23, 2014

Eligibility: Open to all Scouts and Venturers 14 and up (First Class for Scouts) by August 1.

Contact: Christian Emering, Course Director -- caemering@gmail.com



SEABADGE 20-MD-2014

January 20, 2014

To: Scout Executives
From: Noel E. Guzman, Commodore, Northeast Region Sea Scouts
Brian Gray, Regional Director
Subject: SEABADGE (SB-20-MD-2014)

The next Northeast Region Seabadge Conference (SB-20-MD-2014) is scheduled for Friday to Sunday, September 19-21, 2014. Due to the high demand for the limited number of participant openings, your immediate attention is requested. Please copy and share with all Scouting and Venturing professionals, your Commissioner's and Sea Scout volunteers. Thank you for your interest and support.

APPLICATION DUE DATE AUGUST 1ST, 2014

Dates-Times and Location

From: 5 pm (1700), Friday, September 19, 2014
To: 1 pm (1300), Sunday, September 21, 2014
On board the liberty ship SS JOHN W. BROWN
2000 South Clinton Street, (Pier One) in Baltimore, Maryland.



Make Venturing Memories of a Lifetime!

Be Part of Camp Somers Venture Week

A One of a Kind Experience

at Mt. Allamuchy Scout Reservation August 3-9

A Premier High Adventure Destination in Northern New Jersey

Come as a unit or as an individual!

Camp Somers is taking the lead with a unique set of programs specifically tailored to Venturing Crews and individual Venturers. Daily activities are fully customizable to meet each unit's or participant's Scouting goals and interests. Choose from a wide variety of Leadership, Teaching, Service and Personal Growth opportunities. Whether you're looking for rank advancement, high adventure or skills development...AND just plain FUN, we have the answer for you!

NJ Hunter Safety Program	COPE	NRA/Winchester Trapshooting		
STEM Week	Night COPE	Venturing Equestrian Elective		Paintball
Robotics	Leave No Trace	Rifle Shooting	Sailing	Pistol Shooting
Metal Working	Shotgun Shooting	Mountain Biking		Cooking
Astronomy party	First Aid & CPR	Wilderness Survival		BSA Lifeguard
Trek Opportunities	Fishing	Venturer FIREWATCH		ATV Climbing
Snorkeling	Auto Shop Basics	Movie Night	Cat's Eye Hike	Canoeing
K9 Nosework Demonstration		GPS Course	NRA Award Programs	
Emergency Response Crew Demo		Boating	High Angle Search & Rescue	



For more information, or to make a reservation for Venture Week
Visit www.camps.ppbsa.org or www.scoutingevent.com?Somers
Contact John Dorn at 973-765-9322 x 238 or John.Dorn@Scouting.org

Prepared. For Life.™

Central Florida Council Powder Horn Course



A successful Powder Horn course was conducted at Camp LaNoChe March 28-30th. With 42 participants, the nearly full course pushed the resources available. Despite a tornado warning and severe thunderstorms, we prevailed and had fun while keeping safe.

Activities held included swimming, sailing, canoeing, kayaking, shooting rifle, shotgun and pistols, a hunter safety course, Astronomy, backpacking, caving, leave No Trace, Plants and Wildlife, C.O.P.E, climbing, mountain biking,

geocaching and fly fishing.

Outdoor Living History, during which session everyone got a chance to engrave their individual powder horns, was a huge hit. The graduation ceremony included a presentation of the colors by local Crew 911. Many memories were made, to be shared around campfires and on treks for years to come.





The FORUM Newsletter is looking for Western Region Newsletters, events and stories from Crews, Ships, Post, Councils, Areas and the Region.

Keep Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring active and send the FORUM your articles.

Thanks for all you do for youth.

Bob "the BEAR"
FORUM Editor

Send to rmonto@aol.com



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Western Colorado Council is pleased to launch the Western Colorado Adventure Network WeCAN @ Steve Fossett Spirit of Adventure Base commencing in June.

WeC.A.N. is a new concept in providing a summer camp for younger Scouts and a high adventure base for Venturers, Sea Scouts, Explorers and older Scouts provided by professional guides and outfitters.

See websites for the base:

<http://www.wccbsa.org/camping/getoutside/wecanprogram>

download leader's guide and camp forms at (Leaders Guide is with FORUM Downloads

<http://www.wccbsa.org/camping/getoutside/summercampforms>

<http://www.wecanadventure.com/index.asp>

Venturers, Sea Scouts, Explorers and older Scouts are encouraged to attend the Western Colorado Adventure Network WeCAN @ Steve Fossett Spirit of Adventure Base for summer camp and for high adventure treks and venues such as peak climbs, backpacking, horseback riding, river rafting on the Colorado River and much more.

Base is named in honor of famed aviator, balloonist, sailor and explorer Steve Fossett who was an Eagle Scout and active on the National Council, Boy Scouts of America.

We.C.A.N. offers access to some of the most spectacular and beautiful outdoor areas of the Flat Tops Wilderness Area and peaks of Western Colorado in or near the White River National Forest.

WeCAN @ Steve Fossett Spirit of Adventure Base is located to the west of Vail, Colorado at 7177 Colorado River Rd. [which is seven miles north of the intersection of interstate 70 and the exit to Dotsero, Colorado].

Staff positions are also available at the base for older Scouts, Venturers and Scouters. For more information contact:

Jim Graham, Camp Director
 We.C.A.N. Steve Fossett Spirit of Adventure Base
 Western Colorado Council, B.S.A.
 839 Grand Ave.
 Grand Junction, Colorado 81501
 e-mail
jagraham@bsamail.org
 970 243-0346

Bob Amick,
 Vice President for Young Adult Programs
 Chair Risk Management Health and Safety Committee
 Western Colorado Council #64



performing arts Venturing Crew 91

Western Colorado Council, B.S.A. Young Adult Programs division is pleased to announce the formation of the new performing arts Venturing Crew 91 for high school students and the Explorer Club 91 for middle school students [which is sponsored by and chartered to the Meeker Arts and Cultural Council (MACC) in Meeker, Colorado] as part of their drama outreach experience for youth. Venturers and Explorer Club members will plan and pursue future performing and fine arts interests and activities in cooperation with MACC, ERBM Recreation and Parks district and the Meeker School District.

The Meeker Arts and Cultural Council partnered with Colorado Mesa University [CMU] Theatre Arts Department to provide an outreach seminar for Venturers and Explorer Club 91 members. The youth are also members of the Meeker High School Drama Club and International Thespian Society Troupe 1284, as well as the ERBM Recreation and Parks District's *Center Stage Youth Theatrical group*. The first outreach program was held on Saturday, March 1 at CMU. Twelve youth members participated in outstanding singing, choreography and acting seminars with Professor Tim Pinnow, CMU Department Chair, Jeremy Franklin, Musical Arts Program Director, and other faculty, students and staff.

At the afternoon seminar, students were taught and performed one of the major songs and choreography for "What You Want" from the current musical *Legally Blond* which they enjoyed seeing in the evening production shortly thereafter. Following the show, Venturers and Explorers spent more than an hour with CMU student cast members and directors who shared their acting experiences and career choices with the students. Several cast members remarked that "having the opportunity to see a professionally performed production at a University or Performing Arts Center and being coached by theatre faculty and actors greatly helps our ability to perform in our own shows at a much higher level, and offers a chance to see what acting careers may be like."

The next outreach program will feature a trip to the Denver Center for the Performing Arts Temple Buell theatre in the near future for a similar experience with cast and crew of a major touring production. Also included will be trips to the Denver Art Museum, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, IMAX theatre and the Gates planetarium.

Another outreach experience will include attending the Glenwood Springs Vaudeville Revue production and side trips to the Glenwood Adventure Park and caving in the famed Fairy Caves which overlook Glenwood, as well as swimming in the renowned Glenwood Hot Springs Pool.

Students participating included Lily Munn, Sam Bailie, Delenn Mobley, Sena Zellers, Bruno Juarez, Annelise Amack, Mariah Jensen, Maddie Kummer, Savana May, Layton Bair, McKenna Kummer, and Hailey Simonsen.

MACC Crew Advisors and Explorer Club advisors, Gary Zellers, Laurie Zellers, Bob Amick, and Jody May were also in attendance.





VENTURING · BSA®

Western Region Venturing Youth Extravaganza!

Western Region Venturing Youth Extravaganza!!!

Presented by the Venturing Committee of the Denver Area Council

ARE YOU TOUGHER THAN A VENTURER? Join us and find out!

Mark your calendar ... The WRVYE and DAC X-Games will be held August 29-31, 2014, at Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch located at 7,000 feet elevation near the town of Elbert, CO. (Peaceful Valley is 90 minutes from the Denver International Airport.)

X-Games is a late night event (Friday, August 29) where the youth split into 4 – 6 person teams and use their orienteering skills to go from station to station. Each station is a fun, scored event, and at the end of the evening the scores are totaled and the Crew with the highest score wins the coveted 'Traveling Trophy'.

This is a great place to meet other Venturers and put your skills to the test. Learn more about the Venturing Program. There will be a banquet and lots of open activities, tentatively including: climbing, repelling, scuba, mountain biking, rifle, pistol, shotgun, muzzle loading, archery and disc golf – as well as the Venturing X-Games Friday evening.



Dates: August 29, 30 & 31, 2014

Place: Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch – Elbert, CO

Cost: \$60.00 per person (includes X-Game fees, camping, food and most of the open activities costs)

For more information go to denverareacouncil.com/xgames

You can contact Scott Elzas at scott@elzas.net or 303-868-2774 or Dave Whitner at Dave.Whitner@scouting.org or 720-266-2101, or the Western Region VOA Vice President of Program at vpprgm@wrventuring-bsa.org for more information.

Websites

National Exploring

<http://www.learningforlife.org/news-events/news-exploring/>

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 Scout Net

<http://seascout.net/>

Southern Region-Venturing

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

Southern Region Sea Scout

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

Western Region Venturing

www.wrventuring-bsa.org

USA Scouting Service-Venturing

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

Maine High Adventure Base

http://www.katahdinareabsa.org/content/4126/Maine_High_Adventure_Base/

Venturing Magazine

www.venturingmag.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, Posts, Ships, 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 us your Crew, Ship and Post 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

TO SUBSCRIBE to the FORUM:

Email Bob the BEAR at rmonto@aol.com

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