The FORUM

Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring Newsletter since 2003

August 2016 Issue

In this Issue

Central

0816 Central Point Newsletter Highlights
1016 Powder Horn Course Directors Conference
0217-43th Winter Amidships (WAM)

National and Other

1016 National Outdoor Ethics Conference
New Sea Scout Manual available
Go Nomad 2017 Asia/Pacific Regional Jamboree

Northeast

A Venturer Reports: My first Outing with my Crew.
NER Sea Badge Course Nov 18-20, 2016
Venturing to College
Large Crews-Problem Parents in Venturing

Southern

0916 Area 5 LEGACY 40
1016 Fright Fest

Western

Interview with the Sea Scout Ship Kia'iokekai Skipper
Sea Scouts Taking on Philmont
Sea Scouts 2020

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:

Central

Mid Iowa Council Powder Horn 0917

National and Other

Exploring Info:
Law Enforcement Exploring Pistol Championships
International
31st Asia Pacific Regional Jamboree 0717
Sea Scouting Info:
Sea Scout -Advancement Requirements
Sea Scout - Eligibility for Venturing Awards and Information On other Awards
Sea Scout - Strategic Plan-SMART
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

Northeast

0916 Five Rivers Council VOA Pandora's Box evemy
0916 Insomniacs Revenue of the Crews
VOA Newsletter NEPA Council
Crew 27 Large Crews (Articles on Large Crew Operations)

Southern

0916-The Legacy Year Four Info Packet
1016-Fright Fest Flyer

Western

No Attachments

FORUM Downloads

The Central Point

Newsletter of the Central Region | Boy Scouts of America

The August 2016 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:

Central Region Venturing Video Contest
New Venturing Shirts
Area 2 Fun Event
Upcoming Activities
Advisor's Minute
President's Corner

We've placed the newsletter on our website for you to access directly at http://crventuring.org/document2.php?s=1&id=1026

Central Region

Powder Horn Course Directors Conference

Event Details

While no longer required to host a Powder Horn course, the Powder Horn Course Directors Conference is still a valuable tool to learn "best practices" and methods of success. Mid-America Council in Omaha, Nebraska is hosting the event on October 1, 2016, and anyone interested in helping with a Powder Horn course, or simply to expand your professional knowledge, is encouraged to attend. This is a one day session, lunch is provided, and you will walk away armed with the tools to put on a Powder Horn course.

WHEN October 1, 2016; 8:30am - 5pm

WHERE Mid-American Council
St Martha's Episcopal Church
780 Pinnacle Dr.
Papillion, NE 68046

COST $10 per person;
includes lunch and a wealth of knowledge!

Contact

Charles Argo
Mid-America Council Training Chair
charles111961@yahoo.com
402-812-4493

Luke McNeese
Soaring Eagle District Director
luke.mcneese@scouting.org
402.514.3032

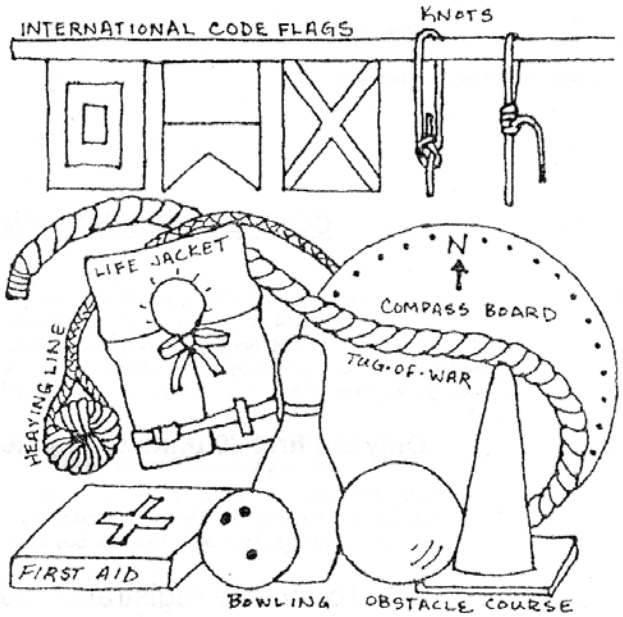
Durham Scout Center
12401 W Maple Rd
Omaha, Nebraska 68164
Phone: 402.431.9272

See Flyer in FORUM attachments

43rd WINTER AMIDSHIPS (WAM)

Saturday, February 25th, 2017

- ✓ Register online
- ✓ Co-ed Event
- ✓ Dinner & Dance
- ✓ Indoor and Outdoor Events
- ✓ Team Building
- ✓ Ribbons, Trophies & Patches
- ✓ 43 Years of Experience



Dear Unit Leaders and Members,

Bay-Lakes Council of the Boy Scouts of America and alumni of Fond du Lac/Oshkosh Scout units are proud to invite you to Winter Amidships (WAM) co-ed Scout event to be held

Saturday, February 25th, 2017, at the National Guard Armory Fond du Lac, WI.

This 1-day event is open to units of Venture Crews, Sea Scouts, Career Explorers, Boy Scouts, Varsity Teams, Girl Scouts, and American Heritage Girls.

Events: Knots, Compass Board Relay, Life-Jacket Relay, First Aid, International Code Flags, Obstacle Course, & Scooter Race events all have 4 members each; Heaving Line & Bowling have 3 members each; Battleship Tournament-2 members. Tug-of-war teams have an 800 lb. weight limit.

The day also includes dinner, awards presentation, dance, and event patch. Pre-registration is required online on the Bay Lakes Council web site. We will accept up to 20 units OR 200 participants, whichever comes first. On-time registration AND payment is due Feb 10, 2017 (late fee applied after).

AGE REQUIREMENTS**: Venturers*, Varsity Team Members*, Sea Scouts, Girl Scouts/Mariners, Boy Scouts and American Heritage Girls must be at least 14 years of age **OR** 13 years AND have completed the 8th grade. Explorers must be at least 14 years of age AND have completed the 8th grade. All Venturers, Sea Scouts and Explorers may compete up to their 21st birthday. Girl Scouts/Mariners and American Heritage Girls may compete through their senior year of High School. Boy Scouts and Varsity Team Members may compete up to their 18th birthday. All units must be accompanied by 2 adult leaders (**one** must be at least 21 years of age). *Venturers and Varsity Team Members who are part of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints must be 14 AND have completed the 8th grade.

**[Effective May 1, 2010 by BSA's National Executive Board]

FOR A COMPLETE EVENT FLYER AND MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT US AT:

Winter Amidships
(WAM) Chairman:
Ann Gratton, Oshkosh WI
920-231-3015
wamgratton@gmail.com

Winter Amidships
(WAM) Staff Advisor:
Jon Martin
920-638-3432
Jon.Martin@scouting.org

Bay-Lakes Council, BSA
Appleton WI
800-372-6887
www.baylakesbsa.org

The new Sea Scout Manual is available at ScoutStuff.org

That's right!

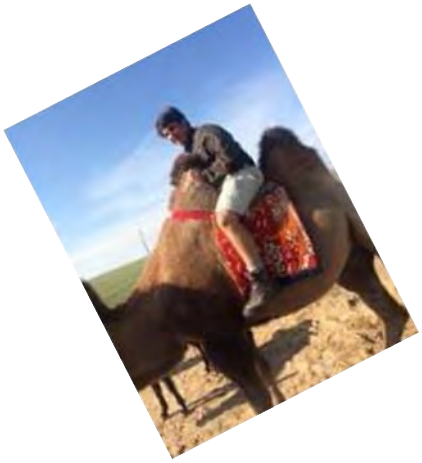
The Sea Scout Manual has been reissued with lots of new content; including new rank advancement requirements and electives, paddle sports, the New Century Universal Uniform, a new appendix on insignia, and much more.

Get your copy through your local Scout Shop or order online at ScoutStuff.org; be sure to use the new SKU No. 620543 2016 Printing.

Go Nomad! (This is not a cheer for your local sports team)

Go Nomad is the theme for the 2017 Asia/Pacific Region (APR) Jamboree being hosted by the Mongolian Scout Association in late July, early August 2017. Nomads wander and roam the countryside and this is still the habit for about one half of the population of Mongolia.

Mongolia is about one quarter the size of the USA but we have 100 times the population so that going around in Mongolia it seems very large and empty. About one half of their three million population live in the capital city of Ulaan Baatar (there are many acceptable spellings of this name in English).



The Jamboree is going to held just outside the city limits of the capital city in the national children's center, a facility built by the Soviets in the late 1970s. The theme of Jamboree will celebrate Mongolian culture which includes horse riding, camel riding, archery and other cultural activities and exchanges including a visit to the dinosaur museum. Did you know that more dinosaur remains have been found in Mongolia than anywhere else?

It is expected that about 10,000 Scouts from APR Scouting organizations and other countries will be in attendance.

The weather in Mongolia has two extremes, very hot and very cold. July and August is the hot part and temperatures are usually in the high 90s and dry.

Although the Jamboree is short in duration, the BSA contingent will be gone roughly three weeks. Here's the plan: We will travel in a group, probably leaving from Salt Lake City to Beijing, China. A three day stop in Beijing to visit the Forbidden City, the Great Wall and other sites then board the train for an exciting overnight ride to Ulaan Baatar. Arrive in Mongolia and move directly to the Jamboree site.

Since Mongolia is so spread out the post Jamboree stay is planned for five days. This will offer the opportunity for home stay, sight seeing in UB (even the Mongolians shorten it) and side trips to various points of interest around the country. There will be an opportunity to develop a menu of options for visiting coming in future updates.

One must see is the giant (80 meter high) statue of Gengis Khan built on the site where he got his vision to spread conquer the world.

UB is a modern city in the midst of rapid growth. A special Scouting connection is that the lead architect for the design team on both the new international airport and the largest building in the country is a Scout and served as an International Camp Staff member in Camp Daniel Boone, NC in 2009.

After the Jamboree and visiting afterwards, we will fly directly from UB back through Beijing to Salt Lake City and then to your home towns. This travel will require both a valid US passport with at least six months remaining before the expiration date and a Chinese visa. Mongolia does not require a visa for short stays.

Head of contingent for this trip is Pete Armstrong,28-654-9920,peteberet@aol.com. This event is a Daniel Boone Council event not a BSA national event.

Since this is the bottom line I will tell you what I believe will be the bottom line, $3000 all inclusive. Unfortunately this is an estimate because it is still too early to make the travel plans.

2016 BSA National Outdoor Ethics Conference
October 6-8, 2016
Camp Tracy, Salt Lake City, Utah
2016 Theme: "Step Up"
http://outdoorethics-bsa.org/OEconference/

The Conference topics include:

Delivering the Outdoor Ethics program in your Councils, working across the multiple levels of our councils (unit, district, council staff and volunteer leadership)

Information/updates on Outdoor Ethics advancement requirements, Awareness and Action awards, program implementation.

New science-based studies to support what is being promoted as "best practices".

Everyone is welcome, in particular anyone interested in Leave No Trace, Tread Lightly!, BSA Outdoor Ethics programs, and sharing this information within their council/district/units.

Most of the attendees are serving as an Outdoor Ethics Advocate in their Council, Area, or District, but this is not a requirement.

We have posted a lot more information about the BSA Outdoor Ethics programs on our task force web site: http://outdoorethics-bsa.org/ Information and resources there include contacts in councils across the country and information about upcoming Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly! Courses.

David O'Leary
BSA Outdoor Ethics Task Force

SEABADGE
(SB-28-CT-2016)

Northeast Region

Dates: November 18th , 2016 thru November 20th 2016
Cost: $175.00 / Participants
Course Director: Marshall Parsons, twinpars@earthlink.net C860.938.7681

Application and Information: http://nerseascout.org

- ★ Meet with other Sea Scouts around the Nation
- ★ This course is the newest and revised for 2016
- ★ Learn from over 100+ Years of Sea Scouting Knowledge from our Instructors
- ★ Participate in activities that will build on your seamanship skills
- ★ Team Building Activities
- ★ Explore the Seaport and learn about "living" maritime history
- ★ Right in Picturesque Mystic CT
- ★ Make new Scouting Friends

Easy Location for Travel

- ★ Nearby Groton Airport GON Severed by Regional Airlines
- ★ TF Green Airport in Providence about 40 Min Away
- ★ Amtrak in Mystic CT
- ★ Bus Service and Train Service to nearby New London CT

A Venturer Reports - My First Outing With My Crew, Biking on the Maryland Rail Trail and Visiting Fort Frederick State Park

Crew 27 Departs for the Rail Trail and Fort Frederick 2016

It was a hot July day when several members of Venturing Crew 27 donned their green long sleeved pants and shirts. Then came the arduous task of locating both bike and helmet, which, at least in several cases, had not been used in some time. We arrived at our Associate Advisor's house around 5pm on Friday the 22nd of July. Loading the bikes and gear into our Associate Advisor's trailer was like playing high stakes Tetris, the weight of the bikes and backpacks had to be perfectly balanced otherwise the trailer would either be unstable (negative tongue weight) or put too much stress on the leaf springs of the 1970 Plymouth Valiant. Although we had to pop the front wheel off one bike (to be reassembled later) we were able to get everything loaded and properly balanced.

Flash forward an hour and a half of a car ride as we pulled into Fort Fredrick, MD. We quickly unloaded our gear and set up our tents with not too much trouble. Then we piled back into the vans for a late dinner at Cracker Barrel in Martinsburg, WV. The dinner was filled with puns and the realization the apple crisp was truly one of the best things in this world. On the drive back to camp we played a word game based on quick thinking and creativity. Naturally, this led to many laughs from us teenagers and a few exasperated sighs from the adults. Friday night we drifted off to sleep to the thunder of trains roaring up and down the Potomac River Valley reminding us all that we were not in fact at home in our cozy beds.

Crew 27 hits the Rail Trail 2016

The next morning we woke at 9 and enjoyed a simple breakfast of Lucky Charms. The plan had been to create sandwiches and then bag them to eat later on the bike trail. This plan was momentarily deterred when we realized no one had brought plastic bags to place the sandwiches in. Thankfully Venturers have a reputation for being resourceful and we were no exception so we simply took the bags surrounding the bananas and repurposed them to hold our sandwiches.

A Venturer Reports - My First Outing With My Crew, Biking on the Maryland Rail Trail and Visiting Fort Frederick State Park

What followed was a quest along the Western Maryland Rail Trail from Fort Fredrick State Park to Hancock, MD and back again! We quickly ate our sandwiches along the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal before walking up to a thrift store where we unearthed treasures of a lost age (the 1990's) including but not limited to several prom and wedding dresses, a jacket that was on the run from Michael Jackson's closet, and ties for every occasion. On the way back the group spilt up. Several of us stopped for ice cream whereas the rest of the group blazed a trail back to the campsite. It was starting to get late in the day and we had yet to see Fort Fredrick as had been an original objective of the trip so we raced back at the speed of heat.

Crew 27 at Fort Frederick State Park

Before taking a self-guided tour of Fort Frederick, we swung by the Park Store and quickly hydrated ourselves, as the temperature on Saturday the 23rd of July was in the nineties. A particular quote that was repeated was, "A hydrated scout is a happy scout. A dehydrated scout is a dead scout and dead scouts have no fun." Our group was one that did like having fun, so hydration was of the utmost importance.

We began our tour of Fort Frederick with a short history lesson on why Fort Fredrick was constructed (to protect the Maryland Frontier during the French and Indian War of 1756 until Fort Duquesne (aka: modern Pittsburg) fell to the British settlers. When Fort Duquesne fell, Fort Frederick was no longer needed because the frontier had moved several hundred miles west. Fort Frederick is the last significant remnant of the French and Indian War. It was never taken and is built in the shape of a four pointed star with 40 foot high stone walls. While it never would have stood up to a siege cannon, none were ever able to be transported up the Potomac River Valley to attack it.

Each point of the star provides the opportunity for defenders to lay down a crossfire between the points with muskets and a cannon on each star tip. A costumed reenacter demonstrated proper rifle firing technique for us before we explored the Fort. Our hour and a half yielded several bits of fascinating information. The first and foremost was that straw beds and chamber pot should be left in the past where they belong. Other revelations included marveling at just how far medicine had come. The Fort includes an eighteenth century hospital and the reenactors were well schooled about eighteenth century medicine.

Fort Frederick reenactor taking aim with his rifle

A Venturer Reports - My First Outing With My Crew, Biking on the Maryland Rail Trail and Visiting Fort Frederick State Park

In just over 200 hundred years doctors have progressed from cutting off injured limbs so they could stop bleeding and minimize the chance of infection, to restoring them. Apparently there are also several Pokémon hanging around the fort as well. Go figure.

Despite falling out of use by 1759. Fort Frederick was used as a prison to house captured British soldiers during the American Revolution from 1777 to 1783. In 1791, the Fort was sold at auction and became farmland. It resumed minor military importance as a defensive Union outpost protecting the Potomac River Valley and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad from Confederate incursions in 1861 during the American Civil War. In 1922, the State of Maryland reacquired the land the Fort occupies. Through the Great Depression the land was developed Maryland's first State Park by the Civilian Conservation Corps and it remains a remarkable piece of early North American Colonial history to this day.

Fort Frederick State Park Sign

West Barracks at Fort Frederick State Park

Dinner that night was reminiscent of the creativity previously mentioned. The unfortunate souls to have KP looked at the ingredients they had (nutella, peanut butter, bread, beans, canned lentil soup, spam, and a case of canned fruit) and created a spam lentil soup that was slightly nutritious as well as healthy and filling. A spur of the moment milkshake run to McDonalds was suggested and just like that Class A uniforms were pulled on and our minivan was burning rubber to retrieve that sweet, creamy MickyD's desert. The next morning we packed up our gear and attended our various religious services in the town of Clear Springs, MD.

After church, on the way home, we stopped in a fascinating restaurant in Frederick, MD at the Frederick Airport where we had some really good sandwiches in a building dating back to the 1930s and the Works Progress Administration.

A Venturer Reports - My First Outing With My Crew, Biking on the Maryland Rail Trail and Visiting Fort Frederick State Park

This mix of activities is very common at Crew 27. Both Venturers and adult leaders worked in tandem to create a mix of actives to cater to the palette of every kid. On that one trip, we got exercise in the fresh air, learned some local history, and have milkshakes. It was a good weekend where everyone of us had activities both in our comfort zone and beyond our comfort zone.

Zune gets to work with the sewing kit at Fort Fredick State Park

Maggie pedals the Rail Trail with Crew 27

Maggie and Nav on the Rail Trail at Fort Frederick

Gaggle of Crew 27 on the Western Maryland Rail Trail

<u>Maggie</u>

Maggie is a brand new member of Venturing Crew 27. She is an avid runner and reader. She loves puns and telling 'bad' jokes well so she fits right in to Crew 27. Maggie is an academically minded Sophomore at the Stone Ridge School in Bethesda, MD. Her commitment to sporting teams does not leave a lot of time for writing but she loves to try to make time for composition and one day would like to be a published author. As a result, when given a chance to write up her first Venturing experience, she jumped at the chance!

Large Crews

A series of articles

By Pete Mapes, NCAC Crew 27 Associate Advisor

Northeast Region Crew 8 World Scout Jamboree 2015
Crew Advisor Dr Pete Mapes and a group from Crew 27

Program is the most important element of a strong Senior Division Unit (Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring). Without program that is interesting and fun for the Venturers, Explorers and Sea Scouts, any Unit will flounder and fail. For this reason, Dr. Pete Mapes leads off a series of articles this month on Large Crews with a discussion of Program. Over the next several months he will follow up with articles on Large Unit Operations, Recruiting and Youth Leadership. Stay tuned for a peek at what turned into the largest Venturing Crew in the fourth largest Council in BSA!

Large Crews
Problem Parents in Venturing

By Pete Mapes

This article has been in the back of my mind for a while and I think it is time to get it on paper. I'm sure any Advisor or Scoutmaster of a large Post, Crew or Troop has run into problem parents. What I'd like to try to do here is to provide a framework that provides some options and helps adult volunteers deal with problem parents without taking too much time away from their principal duties of providing Scouting to youth.

It is probably good to remind ourselves why we volunteer to be leaders. The principal goals of Venturing are to: learn to make ethical choices through the Scout Oath and Law; experience a program full of fun, challenge and adventure; become a skilled training and program resource; acquire skills; experience positive leadership from adult and youth leaders and be given opportunities to take leadership roles; and finally – to have a chance to learn and grow in a supportive, caring and fun environment. Did you know we were doing all of that?

I need to provide a small disclaimer here. I have been the lead Advisor for what has become the largest Venturing Crew in our Council for seven years and just become an Associate Advisor last January. The opinions I'm about to express are mine and not necessarily those of the Boy Scouts of America or any other organization. I offer them to give you a framework for dealing with 'problem parents' if you think you need the help, or are just interested in the subject. I'm a practicing physician and this probably colors the lens I look through. I've been an adult volunteer in Scouting for just over 25 years and spent ten years of my youth as a member of Scouting.

Let's start by defining a problem parent. As far as I am concerned, a parent creates a problem when they: interfere with the Scouting program (as identified by the goals in paragraph two above), neglect or abuse their child, take an unreasonable amount of time away from adult leaders so that the leaders cannot do their jobs as effectively as they should be able to, or behave in a way that is deleterious to Scouting. Everyone has their moments but problem parents exhibit a consistent pattern of behavior that interferes with the goals of Scouting.

The Helicopter Parent

By far, the most common problem is the helicopter parent. This parent can take several different forms. One form is the parent who refuses to allow their child to attend any activities unless they are also present. This parent can exhibit a great deal of selfishness that can be very harmful for the group. For instance, buying their child ice cream or bringing pillows or other special items from home that the other youth do not have access to. Most (but not all) helicopter parents are concerned solely with their child and are oblivious to how their actions appear to other participants. The issue can become extreme when the helicopter parent is well to do financially and focuses their resources solely on their child. Additional complicating factors include the parent who packs their child's equipment for trips. This behavior robs the child of even being able to exercise personal responsibility for themselves, much less anyone else.

Large Crews
Problem Parents in Venturing

By Pete Mapes

How to deal with this? A reasonable parent is the easiest to deal with. These are generally the parents of only children and they don't even realize they are hovering. A simple explanation of how the Venturing program works will allow them to see the wisdom of it and they will back away on que. Harder to deal with is the parent with a personality disorder. Lots of common issues amplify helicopter parenting. These include overprotectiveness due to an abusive parent (frequently no longer on the scene but still a potential threat), empty nest syndrome where the major support structure of the parent in question revolves around the child(ren) and the child(ren) are growing up enough that the inevitable departure is foreseeable, and a degree of obsessive-compulsive disorder in the parent making them unable to allow any 'controlled failure' so necessary in the Venturing Program. In these more difficult cases it may not be possible for the child to participate without disrupting the experience of the other Venturers. I have never had to purposely disenroll a Venturer or a parent from the Crew. In most cases, the parent senses that things are not working out and departs the scene on their own after failing to exercise control. Unfortunately, they take the child with them and the youth loses out on the Venturing experience.

One of the most severe cases of helicopter parenting I experienced involved a parent who volunteered to serve on the committee (Crew 27 requires that any adult starts their service on the Crew Committee and serves there for at least six months before being considered for an Advisor position). The particular individual would come to Crew Committee meetings with her own agenda and continually derail the formal meeting agenda with her own issues. In the end, the Crew Committee Chairperson gave her a letter removing her from the committee based on the fact that they didn't seem to work effectively together. She would allow one of her children to attend meetings but not weekend events and the other child was simply not showing up. Since the absent child held a Crew Officer position, I advised mom that no credit would be given for advancement for wearing the patch and not participating. Sure enough, four months later, mom demands that I sign the Venturer's handbook for holding a leadership position. I reminded her of our earlier discussion and that ended that. The family was with us for a year and left of their own volition. Great kids, problematic mother, enabling father. Difficult situation all around. The kids seem to be doing better in another unit.

The next case has repeated itself several times. There is an abusive, non-custodial parent out there somewhere and the custodial parent is nearly always present watching the child. Understandable in the circumstance but the watching parent needs to pull their weight and avoid interfering with the development of the youth. Inevitably the supervising parent is unable to muster the resources to allow for an effective program and the family usually departs of their own volition. This is really a shame because the youth in question usually seems to get a huge amount of value from the Venturing program. I think the best way to deal with this is to be understanding, explain what is happening to the parent and hope that they 'get it.' Hasn't worked yet, most of the parents in this case are badly scarred by the abuse and that colors their judgment and capability to interact effectively.

Large Crews
Problem Parents in Venturing

By Pete Mapes

In yet another example of helicopter parenting, we see a youth in a degree of revolt against the parent. In every case, this has been a young woman revolting against her mother. We call this the 'CARA' syndrome after one of its most well known practitioners in the Crew. At any rate, Mom locates this awesome Venturing program for her daughter, drags her along and signs her up. That is the last we see of the young woman. Interestingly, all of the young men with similar circumstances have come around and become great Venturers. Frequently they have dropped out of Boy Scouting and several have gone on to earn Eagle in Venturing. Not so much the young women. 80% of them end up dropping out within two months. The warning sign for this issue is a call from a parent seeking information about the Crew. Now, when I get these, I ask to speak to the potential Venturer directly. I'm a pretty good sales person for Scouting so if they appear reticent after the contact initiated by their parent, I become suspicious of the circumstances. I think the best way to cope with this scenario is to keep an open mind and continue to be welcoming. Just don't be too hopeful of a recruit if the prospective Venturer is being dragged in by their parent, particularly if she is a young woman.

The Abusive Parent

Fortunately, this parent is relatively rare, rarer than the neglectful parent in my experience. I've run across two types of this behavior. In the first case, the parent hit her child hard for properly documenting advancement in a Venturing Handbook. The corporal punishment was way out of proportion to the alleged 'sin' and the 'sin' was actually completely appropriate behavior. Since the episode happened in front of me and in my own kitchen, I had some latitude not usually available to Venturing Leaders. The only question in my mind was "do I report this to child protective services or not?" This was the first episode of physical abuse I had confronted with the family in question. Maybe I should have reported it immediately. I didn't, I told the offending parent that she would not batter her daughter on my property and that I thought this physical bullying was extremely reprehensible behavior. She started to defend herself verbally then acceded to the fact that her behavior had been inappropriate. With a public apology in front of the aggrieved child and no permanent physical damage, I was slightly more confident that the situation was under control. I did report the incident to the Committee and recommend that this particular parent not transport any youth other than her own and that she not be relied upon as an adult in computing chaperone ratios for events.

I mentioned a second instance of physical abuse by a parent. A much different situation. In this case the parent confronted me to inquire if I had reported him to child protective services for abuse. Since I had not observed this parent being abusive, I replied in the negative. This divorced dad had custody of his kids and had at least two who would get attention any way they could, good or bad. Apparently, the screaming at the kids and corporal incidents had risen to the point where the neighbors had become concerned and reported the family. Somehow the dad got the idea that I had reported but I actually had no knowledge of the problem. My response was to go back to the committee chair and report the issue. The committee acted as they had in the earlier case, recommended that the parent drive only their own child(ren) and no one else. The dad has gotten some anger control counselling and is doing much better but it took the threat of losing custody to make it happen.

Large Crews
Problem Parents in Venturing

By Pete Mapes

Whether it be a momentary loss of control or simple anger control and inept parenting, physical abuse presents a real and present danger to Venturers and once a leader suspects or confronts an issue, a report to other adults in the program and to child protective services is warranted. It isn't our position to judge the parent or the situation, we just need to make sure it gets investigated. In accordance with BSA YPT policy, a report to the Council Scout Executive is also required.

Parental Drug Abuse

This hasn't raised its head often, but what do you do when you have reason to suspect parental drug abuse? In the few times I've had to deal with this the answer has been to prevent the parent in question from driving and to ensure that they understand that any drug use at a Scouting event will result in an immediate police complaint. Make sure the Committee knows and concurs with whatever tact you take here. The children of drug abusers need Scouting very badly; it is important to keep them in the program. Their contacts at Scouts and in School define 'normal' for them since their parental contact is decidedly abnormal. You may need to make some heroic transportation arrangements and parents who use drugs may be short on discretionary income to support the Scouting program of their kids. This may require some generosity from other families in the Crew or from you if you are able to help them. The deal I make with them is that I will pay for their activities if they show up. If they are a No Show, they need to pay. This prevents last minute excuses and no-shows.

Financial Insolvency

It isn't a crime to be poor. Fully a quarter of the 60+ Venturers in our Crew are from way below the poverty level. Many are immigrants who are here because their families won the 'Immigration Lottery' the USA runs that brings in 10,000 families a year. If you don't find a way to help them, they just are not going to be able to participate. Don't throw it all on the parents, they are struggling to put bread on the table and do not have discretionary time, just like they do not have discretionary money. Product sales can be a help here to allow the Venturers to earn their way to events. Our Crew has sold over $200K in popcorn in the last seven years but this year we won't be selling because Council has reduced the support they provide to the program. One of our parents runs some summer businesses at swimming pools and provides Venturers with $50/day if they help. The work isn't hard but the pay is pretty low. The good news is that 14 year olds can participate. One of our Venturers earned $1,350 helping at the pool to help pay for going to the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Japan last summer. Check with your parents for employment opportunities. See if you can offer those to your low income Venturers. Again, be careful, some Venturers in the lower income brackets have child care responsibilities for sibs and other issues that preclude earning much money. They may also need help with transportation support. In those cases, garnering some Crew support from generous, well to do families can make a huge difference. I have one family who repeatedly tells me that they can't afford gas to get their kids to Venturing meetings and activities.

Large Crews
Problem Parents in Venturing

By Pete Mapes

I always counter with, "come on down and I'll buy you a tankful." Most of the time this works. I'm particularly blessed as a practicing physician who lives way below my means, this gives me more discretionary income to help some of our families with. Look around your Crew and see if wealthier families can financially adopt some of the lower income Venturers. We try to make it possible for everyone to play all the time. The Venturing program is really important and needs to be as available as possible.

Many families will effectively hide their financial challenges from you. Please make it a point to swing by homes and apartments to look around. I stopped by one family's apartment and discovered no furniture, not a table, not a chair, not a bed. They could not afford it and were sleeping on the floor. Their Venturer was suffering. We loaned them a table and some chairs so he could do his homework sitting up and so they could eat at a table.

Asking a low income family to kick out $1,250 for a National Jamboree is a non-starter. But, applying for Council or National Scholarship assistance, and getting matching dollars for parents, can make Jamboree dreams a reality for low income Venturers. We currently have eight that we are working with to ensure 2017 National Jamboree participation. We started early, figured out a reasonable monthly amount that they could pay, and began collecting their money in the Crew account two years in advance of the Jamboree. Council scholarship help just was made available 12 months out from the Jamboree, they have money to pay up to half the Jamboree cost for over 40 participants. Between matching dollars in the Crew, scholarship help, and a long range savings program, these low income Venturers will have an awesome experience at the 2017 National Scout Jamboree. We did the same thing for the 23rd World Scout Jamboree where the cost was $5,750 each. Six of our low income Venturers attended! Compared to the World Jamboree effort, the price of the 2017 National Jamboree just isn't as much of a challenge. It was good training though.

When parents defer to fund the Crew activities, before you write off the kids, look around and try to make some magic happen. Parents can't come up with money they don't have. By doing some advanced planning with them, you can make it work! As a leader, you need to adopt the event horizon the needy families don't have so they can plan far enough ahead to be able to afford these special opportunities. The 'event horizon' that I try to employ is 2 years out – that number seems to work well. We automatically start signing people up for Jamborees two years in advance and that opportunity is always published on our Crew calendar.

Personality Disorders

A personality disorder interferes with activities of daily living and interpersonal relationships. It falls well short of meeting the criteria for a psychosis (Axis Three disorder for you fans of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatric Association). People with personality disorders may have unreasonable needs for attention, phobias, low self esteem, or behavioral patterns that place them outside of the behaviors 'accepted' by the majority of the population. They may demonstrate compulsions – like hand washing or counting behavior; they may avoid certain types of activities due to fear. These characteristics occur not just in parents, but also in Venturers.

Large Crews
Problem Parents in Venturing

By Pete Mapes

You are not going to be able to significantly alter a person's behavior. It isn't your job and you probably are not trained to do it (Apologies to readers who are clinical psychologists – you are trained, and you know just how challenging it can be). As a leader, you need to accept the people as they are, recognize their limitations, and work with them to give their kids the best possible program. Be accepting and don't push too hard. You need to build trust with the parents who have personality disorders and as you build the trust you will be able to provide better program to their youth. Many parents with personality disorders recognize their own limitations and sincerely want you to be a surrogate for them in providing experiences for their kids that they cannot provide because of their issues. Work hard to get and maintain trust and then encourage those Venturers to take full advantage of the program. Recognize that parents with personality disorders can be needy and require more care, 'feeding' and communication than 'normal' parents. This is a case where 5% of the parents can take 95% of your time – USE THE COMMITTEE TO HELP YOU!!!!! Assign a committee member to each needy parent and let them do the majority of the communication. A friendly committee member can alleviate all kinds of stress that these parents can place on advisors. Ask the committee chair to assign a committee member to befriend and communicate with the parent at issue.

This article is about parents but I will diverge briefly to address Venturers with personality issues. When you observe abnormal behavior, first contact the parent and ask if they know about it. This is particularly important because they can leverage the medical and counseling resources to address it, you can't. The Venturer who engages in cutting behavior is asking for attention, but they may cut themselves in areas that are not apparent. Your first warning may be other Venturers discussing the behavior. Please talk to the Venturer right away, ask them if they are considering suicide, ask them if they are thinking about hurting someone else, get the parent involved immediately. Venturers who cut are also likely to seek attention in other ways and these episodes can endanger other Venturers. Realize that a Venturer who cuts is prone to other behaviors. They may need a holiday and some therapy before they can participate again.

For more benign behaviors, like compulsive hand washing, you can take a more relaxed approach. Keep your sense of humor and treat it a bit lightly – Venturers with compulsive hand washing slow everyone down. When they say they need to go to the bathroom, ask if it is to wash their hands. If it is, and you have time, place a 15 second limit on the behavior. Make the point that the entire Crew cannot wait on them but do it with a smile. There is no place for anger or being judgmental here. Your goal is to allow them to address their needs and balance the behavior against the timeliness needs of the Crew. There is a happy medium and you have to help broker it.

Large Crews
Problem Parents in Venturing

By Pete Mapes

Phobias in Venturers can really hinder their experiences. Fully forty percent of the American population is afraid of flying, yet commercial aviation in North America is absolutely the safest, lowest risk form of travel available. Some Venturers had near drowning experiences when they were very young and are afraid of water. Others are afraid of social situations or crowds. In each case, you need to be aware of their self imposed limitations and work to help them overcome their fears if they will let you or at least work a program that takes their fears into account.

Psychoses

This is a tough one! Parents with psychoses, when properly medicated, may be undetectable to you. All of a sudden, they have a psychotic break because they miss a dose of meds or encounter some other stress and now you are stranded because you were counting on them to drive and they are off to the ER in an ambulance. The medical form is the key here. Every parent who works with Venturers should do one every year. If they are honest, and report a recent history of psychoses or medication for psychoses, please do not count on them. You need to be aware of the potential for harm if a psychotic break occurs.

Humans tend to follow pretty reliable patterns of abnormal behavior so a brief primer on the common issues is probably in order. Mania is unusual optimism an apparent willingness to take on herculean tasks and an unrealistic assessment of the possible. The solution is recognizing it and the treatment in the Crew is teamwork. Avoid relying on a single willing parent to get things done. By bringing in several parents to a task, you get the benefit of many hands making light work and don't depend on any one person. Mania is resistant to medication to some degree. Mania frequently alternates with depression but depression can occur without mania. The depressed parent will avoid contact, not return calls, not show up and appear sad. They may lose or gain weight, demonstrate hygiene issues, be very fatigued and cease to function normally. Medication for depression can work pretty well if parents are getting adequate medical help. You need to realize that both depression and mania are diseases, just like a strep throat or measles, and they require treatment. When a parent is having problems related to a major mental health disturbance, sometime the best thing you can do is to offer to help the affected Venturer participate normally. Be aware that incapacity of a parent may place sibling care responsibilities on the Venturer and they may lose program opportunities because of those child care responsibilities. Single parents with psychoses present particularly difficult problems.

Schizophrenia, the substitution of an internal reality for the external reality is also an incapacitating psychoses. If a parent has this in their recent history, you will not be able to rely on them. Make sure you have adequate resources to take care of the parent, if they become disabled, and the Venturers.

Large Crews
Problem Parents in Venturing

By Pete Mapes

Psychoses can occur from poisoning and a variety of related medical conditions. A parent with a distant history of psychoses has met the test of time and probably presents a minimal risk if the event was five or more years in the past.

Epilepsy – Seizure Disorders

Epilepsy is a disease that results in the unpredictable and uncontrollable event known as a seizure. Seizers may be catastrophic as in the 'grand mal' where the epileptic falls to the floor, is wracked by one to three minutes of uncontrolled tetanic muscular contractions and then reverts to an extremely fatigued 'post ictal' state lasting 20 to 30 minutes; or less apparent such as staring and distraction with concurrent loss of attention. Bottom line is that epileptics cannot drive, swim, operate power equipment or climb ladders or ropes. As long as you are aware of the limitations of an epileptic, you should be able to fully integrate them into your Venturing program. If they have a seizure lasting less than five minutes, they do not need to go to the emergency room. They'll recover on their own and just need to be given a chance to rest. Sending them to the ER wastes everyone's time and money. The ER cannot do anything for them. A grand mal seizure lasting more than five minutes is a life threatening emergency because the epileptic cannot breath. This condition, 'status epilepticus', requires immediate medical intervention but is relatively rare.

Summary

I hope this article provides some food for thought. We do our best work when we make the Venturing program available to everyone. Children of problem parents arguably need Venturing more than any other group so dealing with the parents becomes an imperative to providing a robust program that meets community needs. Teamwork between the committee and the advisors is key, no one can do everything alone. If you have some experiences you think would be helpful to other readers of The Forum, I encourage you to write them down and share them. The bottom line is that we need to approach each other with love in our hearts, be forgiving, and strive to work with everyone for the benefit of their kids. In twenty years, those kids will be running things so we really owe it to them to get them off to a good start – and that means working with their parents. By demonstrating the principles of the Scout Oath and Law in our dealings with parents, everyone wins and Scouting fulfills its purpose.

Pete Mapes

Our author has nine years of experience as a Venturing Leader and twenty five years of experience as a Boy Scout and Girl Scout Leader. He and his wife raised three of their own children and have been long time supporters of Scouting. Pete is a practicing physician, retired Air Force Officer and has been a regular contributor to The Forum including his four recent articles on Large Crews.

Venturing to College

By Becky DeCusatis

The process of maturing is never all at once, but the change can be demonstrated during one moment. The summer of my junior year I attended a scout camp where I was shown how much I have changed internally and externally. At this camp we did many adventurous activities like water skiing, scuba, high ropes courses, rock climbing, and hiking. During the high ropes and our group reflection afterwards I was shown how I have fundamentally changed how I approach challenges.

A few years ago I firmly believed that I was perfectly safe in my comfort zone and had no reason to leave. Before entering high school I had done little with my life. Then I met an amazing person who became and is my best friend, without him I would be living a very different life. The friend I made was completely different from me in almost every way, though somehow we complement each other. Unlike me he was raised in scouting and was practically fearless. He started dragging me with him on adventures and introduced me to a world I had never seen before. It was a slow adjustment because I was physically much weaker than him and terrified every step of the way. Neither of those two attributed have changed fundamentally since then, but I can say they have lessened significantly.

We both went to this scouting camp and I was challenged in a new way each day. On several of the days we did high adventure activities such as rock climbing and high ropes courses made of suspended cargo nets, tight ropes, and zip lines. I am still afraid of heights and fairly weak, but I tried again and again to do my best. Throughout the course of the camp I harnessed up, worked, fell, and pulled myself back up until my body was covered in rope burn, bruises, and muscle aches. No matter how many times I failed and fell I tried again. Often my fears and weakness left me shaking with pain and sobs, but I pulled myself together to trying again getting a little farther each time. This was not what showed me my change because this has become normal; it's become part of me to tenaciously push forward. I realized this shift later during discussion.

At the camp we earned the Kodiak award for leadership; after each day we would discuss what could be done better. On the last night of the camp after getting back late from closing campfire, our whole group of fifteen people stayed up till two in the morning telling each other what we admire about them and how they have inspired us. I remember all of the things said vividly but two of the comments stuck with me. One of our leaders, who continues to inspire me each day, told me I was an informal leader. He described that there are two types of leaders in the world, the formal who are placed in positions to organize people and the informal who may not have the title but can rally people behind them. He also described that I probably could never know the amount that I influenced others at the camp to keep going simply because they watched me crash down repeatedly but rise up again with an infectious smile and try again. Later my friend who got me started in everything described back to me the person I was when we first met, shy and quietly smart but extremely uneventful. Before I met him I had never even ridden a bike, but now I have matured into a leader who pushes myself to be my best and works hard to get the most out of every opportunity given to me, especially when I'm afraid to do so.."

During each of the summers of 2014 and 2015 Becky DeCusatis signed up for a week of Venturing camp at NEPA Council at Goose Pond Scout Reservation.

What came of those weeks and who Becky became is truly amazing. Actually, it was always in her. She just needed to see it.

The following is her college entrance essay.

Northeastern Pennsylvania Council
Venturing Officers Association Presents
Insomniacs Revenge 2016!

Coming this fall to camp near you is this year's Insomniacs Revenge! It is hosted by the NEPA Council Venturing Officers Association. This event is open to Ventures and Boy Scouts ages 14 and up.

The theme for this year's event is Scout Wars. It will be held at Goose Pond Scout Reservation on September 16th through the 18th.

The activities and program start on Friday night, and does not stop until Sunday morning, so that means there are over 72 hours of nonstop program for everyone to enjoy. Here are just SOME of the activities throughout the night:

Make Boba Fett's Helmet
Make a storm Trooper Helmet
Scout Wars Concert
Make your own Light Saber
Robotics
Crew based POD Races
Make the Dessert Star
And MUCH MUCH More

It would be a shame to miss out! We also have some awesome big events:

<u>Other Important Information</u>

Sleep is optional at the Venturing Insomniacs Revenge as this event is famous for its unique all night programming. Scouts arrive at camp on Friday evening and jump headfirst into an intense, high- adventure program spanning 72 hours straight to Sunday morning. With all that said, we just have one question: are you ready?

The Insomniacs Revenge is open to both Crews AND Troops. Provisional participants are welcome as well. Some basic information about the event and event registration can be found below. Be sure to download our registration forms, fill them out, and send them in to our council office with payment at 72 Montage Mountain Road, Moosic, PA 18507. You can also download our event save the date flyer and leaders' guide for more information:

What: 2016 Insomniacs Revenge
Scout Wars Insomniacs Revenge of the Crew
Who: Any registered Venturer or Boy Scout over age 14
When: September 16- 18, 2016
Where: Goose Pond Scout Reservation
1047 Goose Pond Road
Lake Ariel, PA
Directions to camp can be found in our leaders' guide
How much does it cost?
Registration is $40 per person
After September 3rd —$45.
After September 10th —-$50.

SIGN UP TODAY!

You can contact us at venturing@nepabsa.org.

Thanks and we hope to see you and your crew at the 2016 Venturing Insomniacs Revenge!

Fright Fest

The Southern Region Area 1 Fright Fest, hosted by the Istrouma Area Council VOA, is set for October 7-9, 2016 at Avondale Scout Reservation near Clinton, LA. Your post, ship, crew, or troop (ages 14 and older only) will experience an exciting weekend of competition unmatched by any other event in the area! We hope your youth are excited and ready for Fright Fest. All Fright Fest information and registration can be found at www.sr1venturing/frightfest.

For more information about the 2016 Fright Fest, contact:

Emma Baker
SR1 Venturing President
area1srpresident@gmail.com

Chris Baker
SR1 Venturing Advisor
chbaker3@hotmail.com

September 16 –18, 2016

LEGACY 4.0

We Want To See You at LEGACY 4.0

LEGACY 4.0 is the largest Venturing event in Southern Region Area 5. Make plans to join us in September for an amazing weekend in the beautiful foothills of North Carolina. You don't have to be from Area 5 to attend – we had Venturers and Sea Scouts from throughout the Southern Region and beyond join us last year, and the National Venturing President and the Southern Region President are expected to attend again this year. So, wherever you are, make your travel plans and register now before the registration fee goes up on September 1st.

At Legacy you'll have the opportunity to experience a ton of fantastic outdoor activities. In the aquatics area you can paddle board, kayak, canoe, swim, or participate in the Cardboard Regatta. In the shooting range you'll get to try out rifles, shotguns, bows, cowboy action shooting and chalk ball! Camp Grimes has a one-of-a-kind frontier area, with a period correct cabin, outhouse, garden, and layout. There you'll also find a working smithy where you can learn to forge metal like a pioneer and then try your hand at tomahawk and knife throwing.

Register today at **www.mycampgrimes.org/legacy/welcome** and join us at Legacy 4.0! All Venturers, Explorers, and Sea Scouts are invited. For more, visit **sr5venturing.org** or **facebook.com/sr5venturing**

LEGACY 4.0
Sept. 16th – 18th 2016
Like us on Facebook @ Area 5 Southern Region Venturing
www.SR5Venturing.org

Legacy 4.0 Fees and Registration

Early registration is **$49**. The fee covers Meals, T-shirt, Patch, and BSA Special Activity Insurance. There is an additional fee of $6 per person for Shooting Sports. Register early, the fee for Legacy 4.0 increases to $59 per person on September 1, 2016.

Crews can register online at: **www.mycampgrimes.org/legacy/welcome**

Legacy 4.0 will feature some amazing vendors, such as the National Whitewater Center and the Nantahala Outdoor Center. As you enter Camp Grimes, you'll pass the Indian Village on your right, and the First Scout Camp on your left, and finally the Frontier area as you pull up to the office where you will be met by the smiling faces of our staff and the wondrous views of the foothills of North Carolina.

Our program of 101 Things to do at Legacy will include, but not limited to, Cowboy Action Shooting, a 5K race, Archery, Climbing, Blacksmithing, Paddle Boarding, Mountain Biking, Human Foosball, Tomahawk Throwing, Slack Line, Cardboard Regatta, and so much more! Plus there will be a star-studded campfire to top it all off. Register today!

For questions concerning Legacy 4.0, please email **MCCVOAlegacy@gmail.com**

Interview with the Sea Scout Ship Kia'iokekai Skipper and Committee Chair

The *Kia'iokekai* is a new Sea Scout Ship on the Hawaiian island of Kauai. I recently had a chance to interview Tanner Martiney, the Skipper of SSS Kia'iokekai and Christina Martiney, the Committee Chair for the new ship. I'd like to share their story and possibly help inspire anyone else out there thinking of starting a new ship:

1. First, please tell us how did you get the name of your ship, Kia'iokekai?
Skipper Martiney: We had a discussion about what kinds of names that we wanted as a ship. The west side of the island is heavily influenced by Hawaiian customs and culture, and having multiple members with Hawaiian ancestry we decided that it should be a Hawaiian name. Then one of our members started talking in Hawaiian about all different things relating to the ocean and sailing/boating. Finally we came to Kia'iokekai, which means "Protectors of the Sea". I feel this name accurately describes the mission purpose of our program as well as bringing in some of that cultural influence to match our community.
Committee Chair Christie: When the name Kia'iokekai was suggested and the meaning told to us, "protectors of the sea," our whole ship decided this is what they wanted to be known by. This name became a very important symbol of their Hawaiian heritage, the sea voyaging Hawaiians who were masters at reading the stars and navigation, masters at protecting the oceans knowing when to take and not take from its abundance and utilizing all that it offered for their survival. For our ship, this name brought us to life.
2. Why did you decide to start a new ship?

C. C. Christie: Commodore Larry Richardson (Skipper of SSS Decisive), myself and Tanner Martiney were talking about starting a new ship for almost a year, especially because we knew there were some youth on the west side of our island that were interested in Sea Scouts but making it to meetings on the east side was too difficult for them. It's always about the kids. This is a very significant program, especially on an island, to be able to offer our youth. Everyone should know how to survive in our waters. Basically, if you see there is a need, then you want to give every boy or girl the opportunity to get the skills, leadership training and fun out of it as much as you can.
Skipper Martiney: When Skipper Richardson and myself looked at the fact that we were not reaching any kids on the westside of the island we realized that we needed a program on that side. So that all of kauai could potentially take part in this awesome program.

3. How long did it take you to get the new ship started once you decided to do it?
C.C. Christie & Skipper Martiney: When we finally made the decision to move forward, I think it took about 3 months to get all of our adult leaders in order and trained, our youth registered, the paperwork processed and our meetings set.

Interview with the Sea Scout Ship Kia'iokekai Skipper and Committee Chair

4. What challenges did you face?
Skipper Martiney: One of our first challenges was membership, our first meeting consisted of myself, Chandler, and Kanani. Once we had the membership we had to basically start from scratch with training and get everyone on the same page as far as what was expected from them. When you start a ship with new members that have never been apart of Sea Scouts before they don't have the same understandings that other who have been in the program do, so early on it was a lot of explaining and training regarding exactly how meetings should be run and what each petty officer is in charge of and chain of command etc… Once that was taken care of it was basically just getting ready and trying to get everyone to show up for AMR practices.
C. C. Christie: Once we got the program started, the challenge to me was trying to get the youth on board with the organization of the program. Setting up the youth leadership positions and teaching them what their responsibilities were. Also, we have been pretty fortunate in obtaining boat donations from our chartered organization, Hawaii Youth Maritime Programs, but finding accommodations for our vessels has been a little trickier. Storage for a boat trailer and boat slips are a bit tricky.

5. What is the best thing about starting a new ship?
Skipper Martiney: The best thing about starting our new ship I think is the diversity that it brings to the program on island. Now we have kids from every different background that we have on this island, from Hanalei to Kekaha we have kids from all walks of life. We are able to serve our entire community now instead of just one side of the island.
C. C. Christie: I think the best thing about starting a new ship is to see the kids get it! For some, it may not be a good fit but they still don't walk away without learning something valuable, like seamanship skills. For others, they love what they are learning and want to keep going. You know you've made a positive impact when you see the kids get everything out of this program to where it becomes and essential part of their lives. It is so rewarding seeing the value of what the Sea Scout program can provide then lead into a career choice for their future. Of course, training hard and going to things like the Ancient Mariner Regatta to test our skills and staying with Sea Scout Ship Albatross over Memorial Day weekend are pretty amazing too!
6. What advice do you have for other people that want to start a new ship?
Skipper Martiney: The best piece of advice I can give for anyone starting a new ship is to just observe the area you are trying to start it in. What are the things that kids in that area into? What are some of the traditions or cultures? Once you have those then tailor a program towards including those. If you do that then attracting kids to the program and growing the program will come easy. Overall just keep trying and working at it. No one person has the right answer for what Sea Scouting means, its up to the individual to make their own way and see what works for them and for others.
C. C. Christie: If your heart is for the kids, and you love what the program offers them (and yourself because you will never stop learning), then go for it!
7. How long have you been in scouting and what is your current rank/position?
C. C. Christie: I have been a Cubmaster, Cub Scout Committee Chair and Den Leader Assistant in Pack 148 here on Kaua'i as my sons have gone through the scouting program with my youngest now in Boy Scouts. I am now a Assistant Scout Master in the Troop 148 and Committee Chair for Sea Ship Kia'iokekai. All-in-all, I've been in scouting for 16 years.
Skipper Martiney: I have been in scouting since I was about 8 years old. I attained the rank of Eagle scout in high school and shortly after began as a Junior Officer on SSS Decisive and slowly moved up and now I am the Skipper of SSS Kia'iokekai.
Thank you Skipper Martiney and Committee Chair Christie for taking the time to tell us about your ship and for the effort you have put into making the Sea Scout Program grow! Please check out Ship Kia'iokekai's adventures on Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/SeaScoutShip12.Kiaiokekai/

Sea Scouts Taking on Philmont

This past June, Ship 450 and I went to Cimarroncito, New Mexico to go on a backpacking trek for twelve days at the Philmont Boy Scout Ranch. We chose itinerary number 5, which was over 60 miles of hiking. With 12 spots, we were able to invite a neighboring Sea Scout in Nevada, some local Boy Scouts, and two foreign exchange students from Germany to come with us. This high adventure trek not only proved to be fun and rewarding, but also proved to be challenging for a large group with varying experience. Through perseverance, strength, teamwork, and a lot of hope, we were able to make it through this humbling hike with a new appreciation for nature and for the scouting way.Alright, so first things first: The Getting There.

Getting together with my Skipper and the scouts, we decided the most efficient way to travel to New Mexico would be by train. And so … we did. Now, I know what you're thinking and I can see the headlines now, "Scouts on a Train." What could possibly go wrong? Well, actually…everything went surprisingly well. Scouts like to explore, and getting to walk around on a moving train granted just that. Scouts entertained…check. And the landscapes on the way there were magnificent. I highly recommend taking the train.

A half day later, we arrived at Philmont's base camp in beautiful Cimarroncito, New Mexico. Now, right from the start, it was time to prepare. It would be two days before we would actually be getting on the trail, and our elected Crew Leader would be working with us and our Philmont assigned staff member to make sure that we were as ready as possible before heading off on this 12 day trek. Our seasoned staff member would only be with us for the first three days of the trail so it was important that we be able to rely on ourselves.

In those two days, we covered a lot. We reviewed what to do in the events of specific emergency scenarios, practiced navigating with a map and compass, and did a "shake down" of our gear to make sure we had EVERTHING we needed before heading out into the wilderness. The excitement was running high as the day we would begin our hike approached.

Sea Scouts Taking on Philmont

Now the first day on the trail our Scouts were packed up and ready to be shuttled to the trailhead. We were lucky seeing as our trailhead was right next to a staff camp. We started off with blacksmithing where we created an intricate butter knife. By choosing itinerary five, we were able to experience more programming throughout the trip, which was great for our group with varying experience.

The first day was short. Less than a couple miles and we were already to our first camp. A few miles was not far, but it felt much farther because of our packs, averaging between 35-50 pounds. The first night was definitely a challenge seeing as we were all getting used to our packs and learning the correct procedures to set up camp. That evening, we learned how to hang smellable items in bear bags, how to set up a "bear"-muda triangle to stay safe from wild bears, and how to set up a tent in record speed when one of New Mexico's thunderstorms roll in…because it did.

Almost every day about the same time, our group experienced some form of rain, thunder, and lightning while on the trail. Even on the days we left earlier to avoid this, the storm would still catch us while we were hiking on our longer 8-12 mile days. It was rough. Many of us had never hiked in rain and wind, and doing so for hours on end was miserable. Once you felt your socks get wet, the hike felt endless. Tears were shed, but we persevered and always made it to the next camp as a team.

Sea Scouts Taking on Philmont

As the trek went on, we got to experience many incredible things. For one, the nature. Our staff member advised us that we not stare at our feet while we hiked, for if we did, we would miss all the beautiful views and glimpses of nature up close that New Mexico had to offer.

Another highlight was making it to the top of Mount Phillips. The view made the strenuous hike well worth it.

By the end of the week we had experienced many great activities. Not only did we black smith, but we went panning for gold, fly tying and fishing, climbing and repelling, horseback riding, black powder rifle shooting, and so much more. In order, the camps we made it to were Olympia, Abreu, Fish Camp, Apache Springs, Porcupine, Clear Creek, Cypher's Mine, Clark's Fork, Hunting Lodge, and Minuet Meadows. At most of the staff camps we went to, there were staff members in costume acting out historical people who lived at Philmont before it's time. Along the way we learned stories of how these peoples' lives affected the securing and claiming of Philmont for the Boy Scouts of America to appreciate.

Sea Scouts Taking on Philmont

Going to Philmont and experiencing this High Adventure Camp was such a unique experience. Our group became very close with nature by the end of the week and even got the chance to give back with a conservation project.

By the end of the week, we were all glad for the experience of backpacking through Philmont with hopes of one day returning again for another great adventure

Sea Scouts 2020

The class of 2020 has just begun their freshman year of high school. These new freshman will be part of a new generation of Sea Scouts, BSA in our first year as a stand-alone program of the Boy Scouts of America. These youth have grown up in an age of social media, rapid communications, and carrying smartphones with more processing power than used to land on the Moon. Like every Sea Scout before them, they all seek adventure, making friends, and everything Scouting has to offer.

Every Sea Scout Ship is encouraged to welcome the class of 2020 with open houses in September and October. A Sea Scout Open House should play to your ship's strengths, whether it is kayaking, sailing, rowing, or cruising. The heart of Sea Scouting is helping Sea Scouts get on the water. Whatever a Ship plans, give yourselves at least four to five weeks to announce an open house. An excellent white paper on planning an open house from the Pacific Skyline Council is available on SeaScout.org.

The Sea Scouts of 2020 are looking for the same opportunities for intellectual growth, social recognition, and emancipation from pre-adolescent interests as every other Sea Scout over the last 104 years. The "Psychology of Sea Scouting," that Dr. William Menninger identified in 1939, still rings true in the 21st Century.

Now is the time to build our future with an open house to welcome new Sea Scouts. Leverage social media to promote your open house; post flyers about your event on community message boards in super-markets, teen sections of libraries, and Starbucks; and share the information with online neighborhood groups such as Nextdoor or the Patch. Some Ships have even started converting invitations to images that Scouts to text to their friends. Moreover, share this information with your Boy Scout Council Commissioner and Vice President of Marketing, so they can include it in the council newsletter and at district meetings.

Let's make the fall of 2016 a time of growth for Sea Scouts, BSA.

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
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.