

The FORUM

Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring Newsletter since 2003
November 2016 Issue

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0217-43th Winter Amidships (WAM)

National and Other

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Marlborough Police Department and BSA participate to offer
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A Venturer Reports Scout Day Service at the National Museum
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My Thoughts on Recruiting
50th Anniversart Celebration of Baldwin Stockard Elementry
School, In Arcadia, Ca.



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The Current FORUM Newsletter:

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

The Current FORUM Attachments

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

The FORUM Back Issues

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

This issue's attachments include:

Central

Exploring Info:

Law Enforcement Exploring Pistol Championships

International

31st Asia Pacific Regional Jamboree 0717

Sea Scouting Info:

Sea Scout Log Fall 2016 First Issue

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

National and Other

Northeast

Crew 27 Large Crews (Articles on Large Crew Operations)

Southern

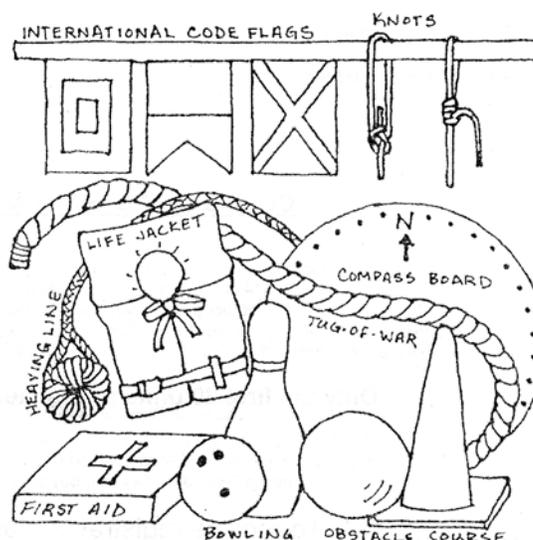
Western

No 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.



ScoutStuff.org

HAVE YOU SEEN THE NEW EXPLORING ACTIVITY LIBRARY?



For years, the field has been asking for more “meat” in the Exploring program, and now it’s here! The National Exploring team has worked with a variety of subject matter experts to develop new content for the Exploring Activity Library – a web-based resource for new and seasoned Exploring leaders available at www.exploring.org. Each activity lists learning objectives, required materials and step by step instructions for the facilitator.

Currently the activity library has 105 activities and is growing every month. The National Exploring Career committees will assist in securing new content on a regular basis in all career fields. In addition to the 12 career-specific Exploring categories, there is also a Life Skills category with activities relevant to all career fields. Topics like resume writing, online presence, email etiquette and more can be found in the Life Skills section.

Check it out and tell us what you think! Leaders who use the activities can vote “yes” or “no” for each activity (scroll to the very bottom of each activity to vote) so we can monitor not only the relevance but also the effectiveness of each activity. Questions or suggestions? Email us at exploring@flmail.org.



Marlborough Police Department and Boy Scouts of America Partnering to Offer New Opportunities to Youth

The Knox Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America and the Marlborough Police Department have joined forces to start a group for young men and women interested in exploring the field of law enforcement. Aptly named “Exploring” this co-ed program is open to youth in grades 8-12 and offers them the opportunity to do hands on work with police officers, detectives, K-9 officers and more. Keith Moro, Marlborough’s Community Policing Officer, is excited about the new Exploring post. “I think we need to build a stronger bond with the community and especially young people. It’s important for them to know that we’re just like they are. That we help people.” Officer Moro is planning an active and varied year of experiences for the new Explorers. “I have several different ideas. I want to cover the whole aspect of being a police officer, then advance to detective work. I’d like to do a mock motor vehicle stop at night to give them that experience. Often the police arrive (to a medical call) before the ambulance so it’s important to know first aid and what to do.”

The Exploring Post is meeting for the first time at 6pm on October 19th and is open to all youth interested in learning about law enforcement at the local, state and even federal level. For more information please contact Community Policing Officer Keith Moro at Kmoro@marlborough-ma.gov or his partner Borden Wicks at bwicks@marlborough-ma.gov. You can also contact the Exploring Executive Stephen Lavoie at Stephen.lavoie@scouting.org

To learn more about Scouting in your area please visit www.beascout.org



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 be 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.

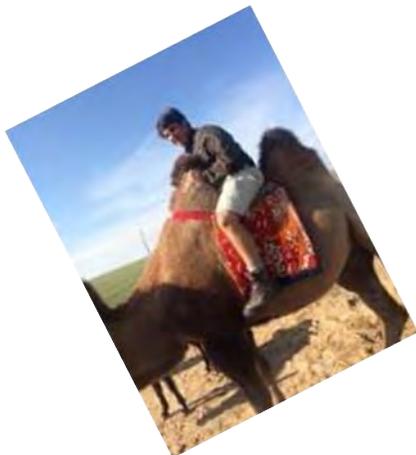
One must see is the giant (80 meter high) statue of Gengis Khan built on the site where he got his vision to spread conquer the world.

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](tel: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.



January
Week 1: 8-14
Week 2: 15-21

2017 Florida Sea Base Volunteer Training Conferences

Join us in the beautiful Florida Keys to learn with experienced and informed Scouters with ample time to enjoy the climate and beauty of the Keys!

January 8th-14th

- ◆ The Council/District Training Committee
- ◆ Key Concepts of Commissioner Service in Scouting's Second Century
- ◆ The Mechanics of Training



January 16th-21st

All Program...All the Time

- ◆ Cub Scouting
- ◆ Boy Scouting
- ◆ Venturing
- ◆ Disabilities Awareness
- ◆ Advancement

(Sign up for *one* of the conferences listed.)

Don't miss the boat!

Registration for the 2017 training conferences is now open. Click here <http://BSA.kintera.org/2017FSBC> to register.

Registration fees: \$495 per conference participant

\$300 per non-conference attending spouse

All registrations must be received **no later than December 31, 2016**. A welcome letter with additional conference information will be sent with your registration.

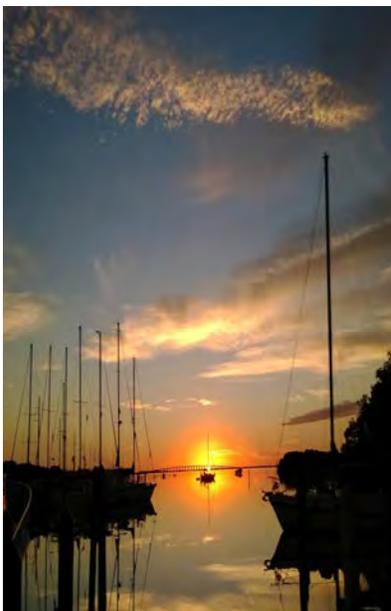
Please note that due to the conference and Sea Base schedule, early arrival and/or late departure might require you to find off-site housing.

Questions?

Conference-related: 817-430-5303
Facilities-related: 305-393-7374

Conference housing:

Although the Florida Sea Base has a vast program facility (the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico!), it has a limited land base. Therefore, housing for ALL participants will be in the SCUBA dorms. The dorms consist of separate male and female bunk-style beds with common bathroom/shower facilities. The dorms are quite comfortable, but they were built with the occasional summer or fall tropical storm in mind which means they are on the second story and do not have elevator access.



Available Spouse Opportunities

Sunset Cruise
Stand-Up Paddle Board
Kayaking
Dolphin Research Center
Snorkeling
Gallery Tours
Everglades
The Turtle Hospital

Conference fees include:

- ◆ Housing
- ◆ Meals
- ◆ Snacks
- ◆ Bedding and Towels
- ◆ Meeting Facilities and Course Materials
- ◆ Sunset Cruise (weather permitting)

The Council/District Training Committee

For members of the district training committee and council training committee and trainers, this conference features the latest tools, techniques, and best practices to help you increase the number of trained leaders while building a successful and sustainable training program. Additional topics include creative ways to reach the untrained leader; how to utilize unit trainers; and methods to recruit, train, and strengthen the district training team. Participants will also learn where to find, interpret, and act on council training data. The most current information on new and/or revised syllabi for volunteer training courses will be shared.

(Jan. 8-14)

Key Concepts of Commissioner Service in Scouting's Second Century

Unit service is all about impact. This conference will focus on the impact that commissioners have on units. Whether you directly serve a unit or serve as a roundtable or an administrative commissioner, this conference is for you. The conference will enable participants to strengthen the relationship between unit service and district operations while strengthening unit key 3 relationships. The conference will also provide ways for commissioners to extract data from Commissioner Tools and turn it into actionable information which will be the basis of the unit service plan. You will gain a better understanding of the methods commissioners use to help units better serve more youth through Scouting.

(Jan. 8-14)

The Mechanics of Training

Designed for unit-, district-, and council-level volunteers and professional Scouters, this conference will cover the mechanics of training including the latest training tools, techniques, and best practices. Participants will be instructed in how to use My.Scouting Tools, the Learning Management System (LMS), training reports, and basic training requirements for leaders. Also discussed are meeting the JTE goal for training, monitoring and promoting volunteer training awards, and how to plan, organize, and implement a unit/district/council training plan.

(Jan. 8-14)

All Program...All the Time

We know you have a passion for the Scouting program. The question is, what can we do to deliver a more robust program and get more youth involved? Come and spend a week with members of the National Program Development Team where we will focus on every aspect of program execution and delivery as well as how to make it so much fun that you can't help but grow. You can spend your week focused totally on your favorite program or mix it up a bit. You'll have over **FIFTY** different topics to choose from, covering Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Venturing, Disabilities Awareness, and Advancement. Whether you choose to focus your learning or just sample around, you'll have the opportunity to spend some time with experts in each of these program areas. You don't need to become as knowledgeable as they are, but knowing how your program can benefit and be benefitted by the full family of Scouting will move you to the next level. No matter what your current Scouting position is, if you're into delivering or supporting an awesome Scouting experience, this week is for you. Just to give us an idea of your interest, register for the conference specific to your passion, but come prepared to take home a broader view of all that Scouting has to offer.

(Jan. 15-21)



SEABADGE (SB-28-CT-2016)



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 Served 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



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Venturing Crew 276 takes on the High Seas at National High Adventure Base Florida Sea Base By Crew President, Stephen Rozek

From August 17th-24th, Venturing Crew 276 participated in the Coral Reef Sailing and Snorkeling Adventure at Florida Sea Base.

We left early in the morning on the 17th, where we traveled from Newark Liberty International airport to Fort Lauderdale Florida. After arriving at the airport, we headed to our lunch destination for the day which was the Islamorada Fish Company. After lunch, we visited the Museum of Discovery and Science, the Anne Kolbe Nature Center and a Bass Pro shop.

The next morning, we went to the Everglades Alligator Gator Park for an airboat ride. After the ride through the Everglades, we watched an alligator show, toured the facility viewing all different animals from snakes to emus. We even got to eat alligator for lunch. We later arrived at Robbie's where we got to hand feed live tarpon from the docks. Tarpon are huge game fish that grow to be as big as over 300 lbs. and over 8 feet long.

Shortly after feeding the tarpon, we arrived at Sea Base. Six youth and two adults checked in to begin a week of high seas adventure. For some, it was their first time, others had visited before.



After check in, we met out Mate. Mates at Sea Base serve as guides for units while they are on land at Sea Base. We then got fitted for and issued our equipment for the week. These items included snorkels, masks, flippers, PFDs (Personal Floatation Device), tickle sticks, nets and fishing gear. Next, we met our captain and prepared the boat for our adventure.

We spent five days on the boat; sleeping, cooking, cleaning, fishing, sailing, snorkeling and more. On day one of sailing, we visited a reef called the Donut as well as the wreck of the San Pedro. While there we got to snorkel and swim with schools of fish, take pictures and

While sailing from reef to reef and destination to destination, the captain would let us take the helm and captain the 41 foot sail

boat. In addition, we would fish by trolling from the back of the boat while under sail. This is when we would have our rods in holders with our lines out a few hundred feet trying to catch fish. We caught many fish; unfortunately, many of the fish were Barracuda, which are not good eats. We did get some good photos. We also caught Bonitos, Snappers and many more. Two of our crew members won the weekly fishing awards; one for biggest edible fish and one for biggest inedible fish.

My favorite things to do while on the boat was trolling and fishing. When anchored for the night, we would put away the deep sea fishing rods and take out the smaller ones used for casting. Most nights, we caught dozens of fish this way. These fish included Hardhead Catfish, Pufferfish and the most common, little red grubs. Each fish had its own unique behaviors. In particular, the grubs would throw up while we were removing the hook and the catfish would make strange sounds. The Pufferfish would smack our hands with its tail while we were removing the hook. explore the reef and shipwreck.

The next day, we visited my favorite reef from the last time I went to Sea Base. It is called Alligator Reef and was as beautiful as I recalled. It is my favorite because of the great variety of underwater creations, from many species of tropical fish to rays and sharks.

Venturing Crew 276 takes on the High Seas at National High Adventure Base Florida Sea Base By Crew President, Stephen Rozek

Many reefs, dives and fish later, it came time for “midweek”. Midweek is when you return to land for a day of activities. While back at base, we participated in stand up paddle boarding, ocean kayaking, kayaking through the mangroves, ping pong, volleyball and small boat sailing.

After midweek, we set sail once again. During the second half of the week, we got to do more fishing, snorkeling, sailing and exploring. We also got to dive for lobster. Sailing was great because everyone was functioned as a team in the process of raising, lowering and controlling the sails. We sailed from reef to reef at about 6 knots.

Diving for lobster is always fun and something the crew was hoping to get to do. We managed to catch four legal sized lobsters. Catching lobster is a very interesting process. Lobsters in Florida (Caribbean Spiny) do not have claws, so they flee from danger - scouts with nets and sticks. The best way to catch them is to put a net behind them while you use a tickle stick to coax them to swim backwards into the net. We all enjoyed the lobster the next day at lunch time.

Some of my favorite memories were watching beautiful sunsets and swimming with sea turtles. We were anchored for the night when the captain spotted a sea turtle. Soon, one turned out to be three. We quickly geared up and jumped in to get a closer look at the turtles. I was fortunate enough to swim with three turtles. The only downside to the turtle adventure was the jellyfish and their annoying stings. Turtles eat jellyfish, so there were many of jellyfish in the area.



In addition to these fun activities, we were also the boats crew, so we had duties and responsibilities. We would raise and lower the anchor, flake the chain, work the sails, take the helm, help navigate, clean the boat and the head, cook and staff anchor watch all night. From 8 PM through 8 AM, crew members were required to take shifts and stay up and keep watch on the anchor, the boat and the crew members to make sure all were safe and secure. This was a great part of the trip, because of the sense of responsibility it gave the crew members, the beauty of watching a moonlit ocean, the presence of more stars than you can count and of course, the amazing sunsets and sunrises.

During the week at sea, crew members had the opportunity to sleep both above and below deck at night. During the trip, the crew took time out to complete the “Duty to God” award. We also participated in a service project by cleaning up the side of Overseas Highway in the area of Sea Base.

One day, we anchored near Indian Key in order to visit the Indian Key Historic State Park. This park is on an island so can only be visited by boat. After anchoring, we geared up and swam from our anchorage to the park. We took a self-guided tour of the park before returning to our boat, the Second Star.

Our last day at Sea Base was spent celebrating with a Luau. Luau started with games such as ladder ball, corn hole and volleyball. After games, there was a limbo contest in which one of our crew members came in second. The Luau meal consisted of shrimp, crab cakes, chicken wings, fish, corn, rice, Hawaiian rolls and key lime pie. The evening ended with all crews performing skits for each other.

For more photos of the event - <http://tinyurl.com/joelvka>

Venturing is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are 14 through 20 years of age. Venturing Crew 276 meets monthly in Byram Township at the Lakeland Emergency Squad building. More information on the crew can be found at venturecrew276.com.

Crew 27 Summer Adventure to the Shenandoah Valley and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia

By Amy, Bilal, Nathan & Zune

Crew 27 Summer Adventure Trip 2016

This past summer, Venture Crew 27 of the National Capital Area Council embarked on a trip between August 13, 2016 and August 21, 2016. We traveled through parts of Virginia and West Virginia, camping in tents and cooking our food on propane camping stoves. Our adventure included going to the Frontier Culture Museum, mapping hydrogen ions at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO), hiking to Skyline Drive, visiting the city of Roanoke, and exploring Luray Caverns. Despite attendance being lower than anticipated, it was definitely an enjoyable experience for all of us as it was an opportunity to learn about science, history, and coordinating the extensive aspects of an eight-day trip. We started the first day, August 13th, packing our items into cars at Rockville, MD; then we headed to Lyndhurst, Virginia. Conveniently, we were able to stay in Nona's brother's backyard. The following is a compilation of accounts regarding the rest of the trip, written by the Venturers who attended.

Frontier Culture Museum by Bilal (Sunday, August 14th)

Located in Staunton, VA, our first stop was the Frontier Culture Museum (FCM).



We saw many exhibits depicting life-like settlements of European settlers, including a 1600's English farm, 1700's German farm, and 1700's Irish forge. These exhibits showed how Europeans lived before they came to America. The first English colony was Virginia, beginning with the founding of Jamestown in 1607. Due to the overwhelming number of English settlers, English contributions dominated in North America. The FCM showed us the conditions the settlers came from. The FCM includes an actual English home dating to the 17th century that was moved to the FCM.

The Germans were the largest group of non-English speaking settlers. Their contributions included pottery, painted furniture, and the "Kentucky," Rifle. The FCM included an Irish Forge that was completely functional and staffed with a blacksmith. The forge was complete with a bellows for oxygenating the fire, a hammer, anvil, and a live reenactor. Blacksmiths were among the most important craftsmen of the 18th century. An 18th-century blacksmith was also a businessman. His livelihood depended on how well he could do his job. He had to know exactly how hot to heat his iron for each type of tool. Between crafting new items and repairing old ones, the blacksmith's job was never finished. Europe wasn't the only continent depicted.



Nona, Bilal, Amy, Nathan & Zune at:
17th Century English Home at the Frontier
Culture Museum

Crew 27 Summer Adventure to the Shenandoah Valley and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia

By Amy, Bilal, Nathan & Zune



African Igbo Village at the Frontier Culture Museum

A West African family compound depicted the living style of a typical Igbo tribe from Nigeria. The compound included separate huts for the father, each of his wives and their children. Goats were the principle livestock depicted. We were shown how the Igbo used small, round pieces of wood to balance heavy loads, such as pots of water, on their heads.

A Native American compound showed the lifestyle of a Ganatatswi tribe. Like the West Africans, they used dried-up gourds to store things like water and grain. Each new group of settlers brought a new set of skills, contributions and challenges to the growing population of North America.

Exploring the Invisible Universe by Amy (August 14th through 18th)



**The Greenbank Radio Telescope at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO)
The largest fully articulated Radio Telescope in the world - 682 feet in diameter!**

On the afternoon of the 14th, we arrived at the NRAO in Green Bank, West Virginia. We took a quick tour of some of the facilities with Sue Ann, who coordinated and arranged a large portion of our time at the NRAO. She showed us how to operate a 40 foot telescope by tilting it to the correct angle (Right Ascension), and cycling through frequencies a tenth of a Megahertz at a time to the beat of a metronome so we could detect the electromagnetic emissions of mono-atomic Hydrogen in space.

Crew 27 Summer Adventure to the Shenandoah Valley and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia

By Amy, Bilal, Nathan & Zune



Sue Ann Teaches Crew 27 how to operate the controls of the 40 foot Radio Telescope at NRAO

We were receiving in the region of the electromagnetic spectrum around 1.421 Gigahertz (or 1,421 Megahertz), specifically: 1.420.4 GHz. Two people were required for this task. One person marked the chart recorder whenever the frequency was changed. The other manually advanced the receiver to the next frequency. Some of us found the metronome to be soothing, whereas others considered it a nuisance. We then recorded all of the information necessary to use the data in the future. This included the Sidereal Time, the elevation (right ascension) of the telescope, the date, and the calibration mark. The calibration mark is a signal calibrated to equate to 500 Jansky's. A Jansky is 1×10^{-26} Watts. Finally, we rented space in a campground about a few miles up the road to the north in Boyer, WV, set up camp and cooked dinner.

We spent the next few days going to the NRAO after breakfast every morning, using the 40 foot radio telescope to search for hydrogen ion emissions in space. Thankfully, the facilities included a shed of bikes so we could get to our telescope faster. You can't drive to the telescope unless you are in a diesel vehicle because the interference from the ignition of a gasoline powered vehicle interferes with the telescopes. Controlling the telescope from an underground room, we were able to change the angle of right ascension to find various celestial bodies. Because the 40 foot telescope was so old, it could only tilt in one axis so it can look from the southern horizon to the northern horizon but it cannot look east-west. For that we had to rely on the direction the earth was pointing as it rotated on its axis. This meant that everything we did had to be timed perfectly. One night, we stayed

up watching The Fifth Element (which we bought from Dollar General), while waiting for signals from M-87 and W-51, two nearby galaxies. Walking to the telescope in the dark was definitely unforgettable, especially seeing the clouds glow in the moonlight. Much to our disappointment, we couldn't take any pictures, as digital cameras produce radio interference! Avoiding such interference became really important to the telescopes at the NRAO, as radio emissions from nearby phones, cameras, and even certain cars would disturb data collection.



Crew 27 Doing dishes at the Boyer, WV Campground

Crew 27 Summer Adventure to the Shenandoah Valley and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia

By Amy, Bilal, Nathan & Zune

Every day, after the galactic center moved out of our radio vision, we would eat cold cuts by the visitors' center. At this time, Pete introduced some of us to bread and butter pickles. We also had some really interesting discussions about space and time with Nona.

Because the 40 foot telescope was solely used for education purposes, we had the opportunity to create a banner on the wall of the underground control room. Seeing the banners left by other groups being hung from the ceiling rather poorly, Pete used his time to display them better. He found a drawer full of old banners that had been taken down, and taped many of them to the wall using masking tape (once again, from Dollar General). He also created a massive Crew 27 banner, which outshined all the others. Since we were using the equipment, he had plenty of time on his hands.

We also spent some time in the computer lab doing some research on other galaxies. We shared the information we found, and showed each other pictures. It was definitely a great opportunity to learn.

Spending time at the campsite was also a highlight of the trip. Because of the rain, some of us got water inside of the tents. One night, Zune and I had to spend our time bailing out our tent using a mug from her mess kit. We also spent time watching movies on Pete's laptop, including Men in Black. Because we only had four Venturers on the trip, each of us was able to plan meals for two days. This meant that everyone was able to finish that part of the RANGER cooking requirement. Our Crew still awards an 'Outdoor Bronze' Rank because it is a long way to RANGER and we think it is nice to get a little recognition when a Venturer is halfway there. Nathan completed his Outdoor Bronze when he finished the cooking requirement. He had been working on it for three years.

On the 17th of August, we took a break from observing and drove southwest of the NRAO to Cass, WV. Cass is a semi-restored historic town that has museums and a steam powered cog railway that still operates. As we arrived, the engine had built up a head of steam and was about to pull out. The lady at the ticket booth wouldn't let us on.



Crew 27 having Lunch at the NRAO Visitors Center - Nathan Waves



Crew 27 arrives at Cass, WV too late to board the train

Crew 27 Summer Adventure to the Shenandoah Valley and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia

By Amy, Bilal, Nathan & Zune

We spent some time in a little shop where they sold various handcrafted items, and saw a video on the history of the town and the railroad. Pete noticed a barbershop and promised everyone root beer floats if Nathan got a haircut. We all crowded in the tiny room of Lefty's, where Zune giggled quietly as Nathan complained about the circumstances and turned respectable looking.



Nathan Before and After at Lefty's Barbershop in Cass, WV - Earning Root Beer Floats for C27

After our visit at Cass, we beat feet back to the NRAO where we had an appointment with Sue Ann. She gave us a tour of the control room for their largest telescope, the Green Bank Telescope (GBT). We also got to see other parts of the building, including a room for engineering different telescope components. After the tour, Sue Ann talked to us about the data we collected. We learned about the reason for the observed Doppler red-shifts (sources moving away from us at high speed) and blue shifts (sources moving toward us at high speed), and discussed possible projects we could pursue in the future. Our data showed all four arms of our Milky Way. We are in the 'Hunters Arm' and far away from the massive black hole (Sagittarius A) at the Center of the Milky Way. Our experience at the NRAO definitely extended our knowledge of science and the galaxy that we inhabit.



C27 goes over data with Sue Ann at NRAO - Spiral Arms, Red Shift, Blue Shift - Lots to Learn

On the morning of August 18th, we broke camp and headed back to Lyndhurst, VA. On our arrival, we set up camp and spent the rest of the late afternoon doing what teenagers do best - absolutely nothing.

Crew 27 Summer Adventure to the Shenandoah Valley and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia

By Amy, Bilal, Nathan & Zune

Hiking to Skyline Drive by Nathan, with the help of Zune (August 19th)

On the morning of August 19th, we drove from campsite to the town of Sherando, VA and started to climb to the crest of the Skyline Drive via State Route 610 (AKA The Howardsville Turnpike). SR-610 starts out as a paved two way road but a little way up the Blue Ridge, it devolves into a dirt road with erosion that could eat a jeep. We saw a bunch of animals along the way on people's lawn's, Pete imitated a couple cows and whistled to them. On our way up the hill we told stories and pointed out interesting things we saw along the road. We stopped every now and then to drink water. The road was like a green tunnel covered in trees so it was relatively cool and protected us from the sun. We put the slowest person in front to set the pace so that we would stay together. There wasn't much traffic on the road.



**Zune, Amy, Nathan, Nona & Bilal
Day Hike to the Skyline Drive from Sherando, VA**

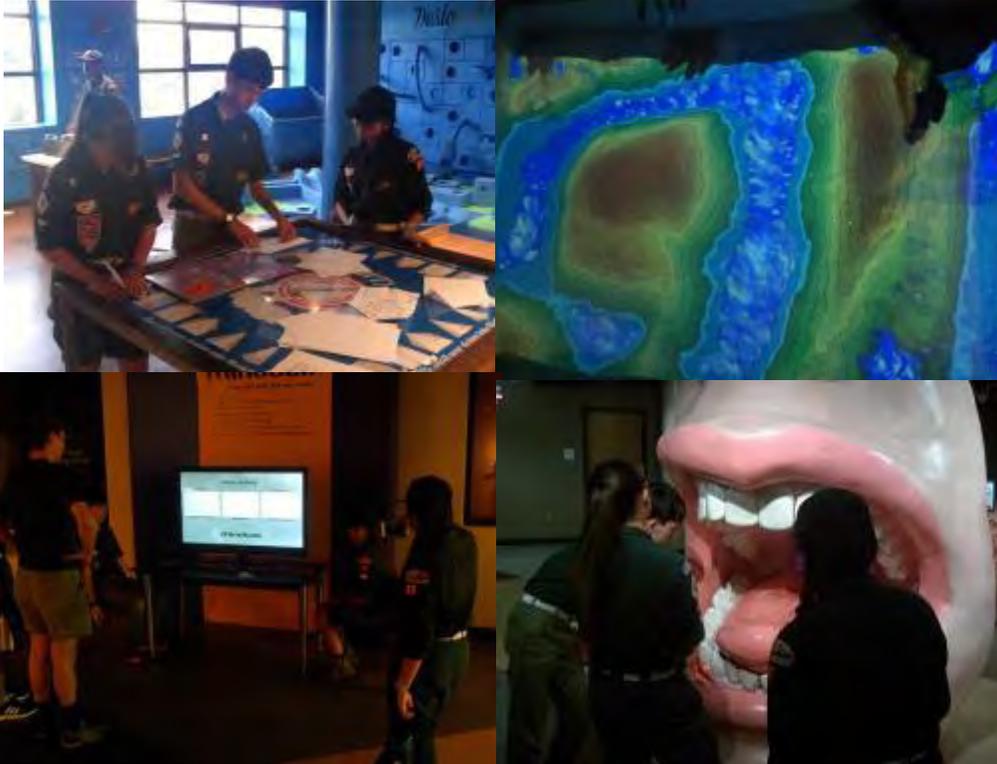
When we got to the top of the Blue Ridge, we really couldn't see anything except the Skyline Drive and a side road. The foliage that had protected us from the sun now prevented us from getting much of a view down into the valley where we had started our hike. We had lunch and rested for a while (about an hour). On the way down, hiking was much easier, Zune was going down the hill like it was a slide and had to slow down every now and then so the rest of us could catch her. She definitely has 'downhill legs.' After a while we put Nathan in front and he kept us together. As we hiked down, we played a couple games which made time seem to pass more quickly. It was a lot of fun, we should have thought about that on the way up. We played 'Would You Rather' and a couple other games. Pete showed us this plant that tasted like a spice called Sassafras. Zune volunteered that people use it for seasoning in Burma. Sassafras used to be the principal flavor in Root Beer until people discovered that it contains a substance mildly toxic to the liver. After the hike we went to the movie and saw *Suicide Squad*. This was followed by root beer floats, without the Sassafras.

An Urban Adventure in Roanoke by Amy (August 20th)

August 20th, Amy's birthday, was spent in Roanoke, Virginia. Nona had to leave early that day to take 'Trainer's Edge' so Amy's parents joined the Crew for the last couple of days. We took two cars and headed southwest down the Shenandoah valley to Roanoke where we got to visit the Science Museum of Western Virginia. Despite being noticeably aimed towards younger kids, we still had a lot of fun messing around with the hands-on exhibits. This included making paper airplanes, moving sand around in a sand box hooked up to a computer that projected elevation data onto the sand, seeing who could win a game by having the least amount of brain activity and examining diverse exhibits like dentition (teeth) or electrostatic discharges.

Crew 27 Summer Adventure to the Shenandoah Valley and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia

By Amy, Bilal, Nathan & Zune



(Clockwise from upper left) Paper airplanes, topographic sand, Mindbatl & Dentition



Electrostatic Discharges in Roanoke at the Science Museum of Western Virginia

After exhausting every display, we went up to the roof to get a view of the city. After leaving the museum, we hiked around downtown Roanoke and got a sense of its history. There was an open air market we got to explore. When one of the vendors learned it was Amy's birthday, from Nathan, Amy got a free snack. At around 4 o'clock, we headed back to Lyndhurst. The return trip was broken up by a stop to celebrate Amy's birthday at one of our favorite haunts when we are at Goshen Scout Reservation - the Grill & Chill at Lexington, VA. It was the perfect end to a great day.

Crew 27 Summer Adventure to the Shenandoah Valley and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia

By Amy, Bilal, Nathan & Zune



Amy turns 14 and gets ready to start 10th grade with her parents at the Lexington, VA Grill & Chill

Luray Caverns By Nathan (August 21st)

On our last day, August 21st, we broke camp and headed home, by way of Luray Caverns. After we were done packing up at David and Andrea's yard in Lyndhurst we drove for about two hours to get to the caverns. We left just ahead of a downpour - good timing!



Breaking Camp at Lyndhurst, VA



C27 at Luray Caverns
Amy, Nathan, Bilal, Zune, Pam, Thomas with
Pete down in front

We arrived at around 11 o'clock. When we got there we had lunch while Pete waited in a long line to get the tickets for us to go down in the caverns. We discussed what we would be doing for a while then we decided what we were going to do, we could stick together or we could just go at our own speed, we chose going at our own speed. Before we went down, we took a group picture by the sign. The stone in the caverns has been deposited there by dissolving in water and then being deposited in stalactites that hang from the ceiling or stalagmites that rise from the floor. It takes ten thousand years for an inch of rock to form. Some of the formations in Luray Caverns are seventy feet high.

Crew 27 Summer Adventure to the Shenandoah Valley and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia

By Amy, Bilal, Nathan & Zune



Massive Formations in the Caverns of Luray took Millions of years to form

It was cool because it would reflect the stalactite formations on the ceiling like a mirror. One guide talked about how a Native American girl fell into the caverns thousands of years ago. She died and her skeleton is now at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. Another guide talked about a massive light



Pluto's Ghost in the Caverns of Luray

Do the math! If you touch the formations, you could damage them. I was very curious about what they felt like. I wanted to touch some but I didn't because I didn't want to damage them. The four of us, not including adults, stuck together for a while but then Amy went back with her parents. We waited a while at the entrance so people could leave and make room for us to hike the caverns without too much of a crowd. When we entered the Luray Caverns, there were guides stationed by interesting formations who explained the history behind them. We saw a huge subterranean lake.



The Lake in the Cave at the Caverns of Luray

colored formation named Pluto's Ghost.

A third guide described a formation known as 'The Shaggy Dog.' From my perspective, it actually looked like a shaggy dog. One part of the Luray Cavern has been turned into a musical instrument. The instrument is played by a keyboard from an organ like one you might see in a church. The rock organ is located at the deepest part of the Luray Cavern, it is hundreds of feet below the surface of the Earth. When we entered the next room, there it was, looking for all the world like an organ. I was curious if someone was going to come out from somewhere and play it. NOPE, it works like a player piano - all automated. One of the guides told us that the organ activates solenoids with rubber hammers that have been placed on stalactites that resonate at different frequencies. A stalactite near us was making a note so I watched it and saw the solenoid actuating the rubber hammer around the end of it. I found it so cool how it was making music from hitting a rock. As we drew near the exit of the cavern, there was this big pool of money that had blue liquid in it, it was called The Wishing Well.

Crew 27 Summer Adventure to the Shenandoah Valley and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia

By Amy, Bilal, Nathan & Zune



Wishing Well in The Caverns of Luray - the money goes to good causes

On the wall there was this board saying how much money they have collected from it each year for the last quarter of a century, it amounted to hundreds of thousands of dollars. Then we exited the caverns. Bilal, Zune and I waited for everyone else. I was surprised we spent so much time down there. After everyone caught up with us, it was about 1:30 in the afternoon. When we came out of the cavern there was some impressive thunderstorm activity going on. We had no sense of it while we were underground. Our drive home in the rain took about 3 hours. For me it was an unforgettable experience because that was my first time going to Luray Caverns.



Nathan on the way home from the Caverns of Luray - his unforgettable experience tired him out

Arriving Home By Nathan (August 21st)

When we got back to Pete's House it was around 5 o'clock. It was pouring rain so Pete told us to go inside and asked us to take the supplies from the adults who unloaded in the rain and brought them to the door. This stopped us from getting wet and stopped us from tracking mud through his home. Bilal and Zune were putting away the food and other things like that while Amy and I were setting up the tents in the basement. We ran out of room so Pete came over and stacked the assembled tents. Seeing two tents on top of each other was quite funny to me at least. When we got that done we did Thorns, Buds & Roses. There were really not many Thorns, most was the weather and small things, one thorn of Pete's was a couple people who had said they were going to attend deciding to drop out the morning we left town. There were a lot of Awesome Roses, everyone was talking about how we should do this again next time and all the awesome things we did throughout the week. Not sure how many Buds there were but there were a couple. After that we all headed home with great memories about an awesome week of activities most of us had never had a chance to do before! (For example, Me)

Crew 27 Summer Adventure to the Shenandoah Valley and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia

By Amy, Bilal, Nathan & Zune

About The Authors



Bilal (above left) is a high senior in Potomac, MD - he currently serves as the Crew 27 VP-Admin. Bilal is interested in Medicine and would like to go to Medical School after College. **Zune (above right)** is new to Crew 27 and reports that she has had a great summer with the Crew. Zune is a 10th grader in High School in Rockville, MD and would also like to be a physician - she is interested in Radiology. **Nathan (below left)** serves as the 'A' Mini-Crew Guide (Leader) for C27 and is a high school senior from Germantown, MD. **Amy (with her family below right)** is the 'E' Mini-Crew Guide (Leader) and is a tenth grader from Montgomery Village, MD. Amy is interested in mathematics and would like to become an Astrophysicist so she can go: 'where no one has gone before.' And she probably will!



A VENTURER REPORTS: Scout Day Service at the National Museum of Health & Medicine (NMHM) By Courtney, NCAC/082, Crew 27

On October 15th, 2016 the National Museum of Health and Medicine (NMHM) hosted the second Scout Day in its history! Scout Day aims to help Girl Scouts (Daisies, Brownies, Juniors and Cadettes), Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts complete first aid badge requirements through a series of specialized activities taught by firefighters, first aid responders, and Venture Scouts (us). The day broke previous attendance records, nearly 300 Scouts came through the NMHM from 10:00 to noon.

Crew 27 had volunteered to help at the museum. Dr. Jim Cox, a retired Air Force physician, was aware that our Crew really liked service and that all of us had been trained in First Aid so he rung up one of our Associate Advisors, Pete, and invited us to help. Pete brought it to a meeting after bouncing it off our President - Elisabeth. Elisabeth thought it was a fine idea and seven Venturers signed up to assist at a meeting about a month and a half ago.



Dr. Cox, Grace's Dad, Grace, Nona, Courtney, Zoe, Amy, Pete and Seth at the NMHM

Since we all have had first aid training, and know our stuff, we didn't have much prep work to do. Pete has poster board and markers at his house so four of us turned up at 7:30 AM on the morning of the 15th at his home and did posters on:

- 1) Cleaning Wounds
- 2) When Wounds Need Stitches
- 3) Bleeding Control with Direct Pressure
- 4) Bleeding Control with a Tourniquet

**A VENTURER REPORTS: Scout Day Service at
the National Museum of Health & Medicine (NMHM)
By Courtney, NCAC/082, Crew 27**

I took the talk on 'Bleeding Control with Direct Pressure',



**Courtney explains direct pressure, Zoë looks on from
the Tourniquet station**

Grace (Our VP-Admin) took 'When Wounds Need Stitches',

**Amy (MiniCrew E Leader/Guide)
took Cleaning Wounds,**



Grace explains when wounds need stitches

**A VENTURER REPORTS: Scout Day Service at
the National Museum of Health & Medicine (NMHM)
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Seth took Tourniquets and Zoë, who turned up later at the Museum, helped Seth. Tourniquets included commercial and improvised tourniquets so there was a lot of 'hands on' at his station. All prepared, we headed to the Museum and started setting up by 9 AM.

Amy explains wound cleaning, dressings & bandaging



Seth explains tourniquets

**A VENTURER REPORTS: Scout Day Service at
the National Museum of Health & Medicine (NMHM)
By Courtney, NCAC/082, Crew 27**

The Museum is really cool. It was started by the Army during the American Civil War and it has all sorts of exhibits. It houses the bullet that killed President Abraham Lincoln. It has Major General Sickles leg. General Sickles lost his leg in the Civil War and while he was alive, every year, on the anniversary of the amputation he would turn up at the Museum in full military uniform to visit the leg. The Museum is free - and amazing!

At the Museum, we assembled the four stations on a card table under an outdoor pavilion. Our four smaller set-ups each faced a different direction and visiting Scouts would walk around the table to participate and talk to us. With the aid of the visuals we created, and some props - baby shampoo, water, cravat bandages, a real tourniquet, sterile gauze pads, etc. we instructed young Scouts on these important issues. Grace is a hoot, part of her "When Wounds Need Stitches" display included impaled items so she drew a banana sticking out of an arm - quite the artist and quite the imagination. She had everyone laughing! Treating outdoor injuries is important to everyone, but especially for young Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, as Scouting involves adventure activities that sometimes lead to minor injuries. Scouts can be far away from professional support so they need to know how to treat wounds. Scouts are also famous for helping people; so being able to clean wounds, stop bleeding and identify wounds that needs stitches are great skills for any Scout to use to help someone else. Teaching something is the best way to learn it, so this experience also helped to reinforce information we had previously learned.

Not only did we have a fun time, but multiple Cadette Girl Scout troop leaders and Cadettes expressed interest in Venturing. By the time Pete got home, he had three emails from Cadette leaders to answer on the subject. The event was a huge success; we had a great time and were invited back next year. The Museum organizers were grateful for our "creativity and generosity and thoughtful planning."

Courtney

Courtney is new to National Capital Area Council/082 Crew 27 and hails from Gaithersburg, MD. She has just completed her Venturer Award and is really excited to be signed up to attend the 2017 National Scout Jamboree at The Summit next summer! Courtney likes to write and was excited to be able to do an article for The Forum within two months of joining Crew 27. We think she did a great job and look forward to more articles from her in the future!

My Thoughts on Recruiting...

In order for Sea Scouts to keep going we need people continuously joining, one way we encourage this to happen is by recruiting. Recruiting is very important because if we want Sea Scouts to grow, more people need to know about it, what it's all about, and what a great program it is.



Some ways that the SSS Decisive, my Ship, based on Kauai recruits is by making brochures and handing them out to people. Skipper usually designs the brochure and a few different parent volunteers will print out color copies. On some brochures we will invite kids to what we call the "Corner Cruise". On the Corner Cruise we take the boat out to an anchorage spot right outside the harbor, actually in a far corner of it, this way kids won't get seasick and they will

get a feel for what it's like being on a boat. We put an aerial photo on the brochure of the harbor with an "X" marking the spot of exactly where the boat will be anchored, explain when, where, what to bring, and include a parental permission slip.

We hand the brochures out at different locations, for instance, I handed brochures out to my high school Cross Country team after practice. Someone else handed them out to the high school Wrestling team. We also post the brochure on local bulletin boards, like at the grocery store. Sometimes we will make a power point presentation that a few of us will show at the local Middle Schools or Cub Scout Meetings. SSS Decisive also recruits by inviting kids to go scurrying and tubing. Scurrying is just like wake boarding on the water except you use a surf board rather than a wake board



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My Thoughts on Recruiting...

It is super fun and the kids who are in Sea Scouts already will invite their friends, who aren't, to experience this fun filled day on the water and give them the taste of Sea Scouts. Usually after we have these recruiting events a few of these kids will start coming to our meetings which are held every Wednesday. So, these ideas work!

I still remember going to my first Sea Scout meeting 3 1/2 years ago, I decided to check out Sea Scouts because I found an article in my local paper that had photos and information about Sea Scouting in it.



I went to my first meeting and they had a bunch of food set out for the new recruits, they taught us some knots and told us more about scouting, especially the upcoming "Pre-Summer Cruise" and "Summer Cruise." The following weekend they had a work on the boat day, after I saw the boat I signed up for the cruises and I was pretty much hooked on Scouting.

Personally, I am trying to spread the word about what an adventure Sea Scouts is and how many wonderful opportunities it gives kids; to get on the water, learn seamanship skills, leadership skills, discover different career options for their future, help the community, make lifelong friends, and mainly just have a lot of fun.



A couple of facts about Sea Scouting that I think people would be interested to know:

Sea Scouts can be found in over 40 different countries around the world. It was really cool to find out that I have a follower from a Sea Scout Ship in Poland on my Sea Scout Instagram! Also, Sea Scouts has been around a long time, for over 100 years, since approximately 1910. I wish everyone a lot of success with recruiting! Thank you!

For more photos and updates from Area 6, please follow my Sea Scout Instagram: [bms_tessa](#)

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF BALDWIN STOCKARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, IN ARCADIA, CA



Venturing Crew 561 Honor Corps, Troop 126 and Venturing Crew 1337 of the Greater Los Angeles Area Council provided opening ceremony service for Arcadia, California's Baldwin Stocker Elementary School's 50th year celebration on October 14, 2016.

All photos by Eric Shen. Venturing Crew 561 would like to thank him for volunteering his time and photo contribution.

Venturing Crew 561 Honor Corps of Greater Los Angeles Area Council led by Mark Riebs.. From left to right, Bryan, Bailey and Mark Riebs, Venturing Crew Advisor.



Venturing Crew 561 playing "To the Colors". Troop 126 and Venturing Crew 1337 of the Greater Los Angeles Area Council presenting the colors and raising the American Flag.

**50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF
BALDWIN STOCKARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, IN ARCADIA, CA**



Greater Los Angeles Area Council, Lucky Baldwin District Cub Scouts, Brownies, and Girl Scouts saluting as the American flag is being raised by Troop 104 and Venturing Crew 1337, and Venturing Crew 561 playing "To the Colors"



Front left to right: Venturing Crew 1337: Candace, Raya, Carlyne. Back left to right: Venturing Crew 561: Bailey, Mark Riebs (Advisor); Troop 126: Charlie, David, Eric West (Scoutmaster), Kevin; Venturing Crew 561: Bryan Rose

Websites

National Venturing

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

National Sea Scout

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

Central Region Venturing

<http://www.crventuring.org>

Northeast Region Venturing

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

Northeast Region Sea Scouting

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

Southern Region-Venturing

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

Southern Region Sea Scout

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

Western Region Sea Scouts

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

Western Region Venturing

<http://wrventuring.org/>

USA Scouting Service-Venturing

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

UniformingFAQ.asp

www.venturingmag.org

Venturing Magazine

www.venturingmag.org

National Exploring

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

Yahoo Groups

Central Region

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

Northeast Region

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

Southern Region

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

Western Region

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

National

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



the FORUM

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

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

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

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

Thanks for all you do!

Bob the BEAR Monto—Editor in Chief

Pete Mapes—Associate Editor

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