

Dear Advisors, Skippers, and Youth Leaders,

The **Annual Venturing Celebration Dinner** is quickly approaching. While there will be a future mailing with more of the details, the Dinner Committee wanted to make sure that the correct details were out about the event. Though this is a long, detailed letter, we appreciate your time reading it.

The Venturing Recognition and Awards Night Dinner is open to all Venturing Units in the Greater St. Louis Area Council, whether anyone in the Unit has earned an Award. All unit members and their guests including parent and siblings are invited to attend this special event. *Please place this event on your Unit calendar, and plan for attendance.*

The Dinner will be held this year on **Thursday, May 30, 2013.** This date is a change because of conflicts that have arisen beyond our control for many of the youth who will be recognized including Camp Staff and NYLT Dates.

This year the committee is working hard to improve the program of the event. We have secured the Assistant National Scout Executive as a guest speaker. As with last year, we will also have an informal reception following the Celebration Dinner. Though we do not yet have an exact cost for the event, the dinner will be around \$15 a person, and will be held at Manchester United Methodist Church near 141 and Manchester.

For those of you who have never been, the program includes a catered dinner, followed by the recognition of award recipients for the 2012-2013 program years. This includes recognition of the following youth awards:

- Venturing Bronze
- TRUST
- Sea Scout Able
- Venturing Gold
- Quest
- Venturing Silver
- Ranger
- Sea Scout Quartermaster
- Sea Scout Ordinary

As in previous years, and consistent with the Council's traditions of providing the top level achievements, such as Eagle, at no cost, the Venturing Silver, Sea Scout Quartermaster, Ranger, Quest, and TRUST will be presented at no cost to units or recipients. But, in an effort to make the dinner as affordable for all attendees, units are asked to provide the other Venturing and Sea Scout awards for presentation.

The Bronze, and Gold Venturing Awards, and Able and Ordinary Sea Scout Advancement will still be recognized in the program, and the recipients called forward and recognized, but we are asking units to either cover the cost of the award or provide the awards to be presented at the dinner themselves this year. The Awards committee will contact unit leaders to coordinate the purchasing of these other awards.

*\*\*Remember: Units making their Friends of Scouting Goals receive these awards at no cost\*\**

The Venturing Youth Awards will be presented and recognized if the advancement report is filed with Council during the period of May 1, 2012 – April 27, 2013. (unless recognized at the 2012 dinner).

In addition the Advisor/Skipper Training Award and Key will be recognized. The actual recognition item will not be presented at the Dinner, as these are usually presented at District or Unit ceremonies. But the accomplishment will be recognized in the program.

As usual, the *Venturing Leadership Award* (Youth) and the *Venturing Servant Leader Award* (Adults) will be presented at Recognition Night. We can only give out approximately 9 each of these awards. This award, *nominated in secret*, is given in recognition of a person's service and leadership, both within the Venturing program and to the community. Nominations for this are available on [www.stlbsa.org](http://www.stlbsa.org) and are due to the Council office no later than April 1, 2013. *Note: this award is presented at no cost to units or recipients also.*

Stay tuned to [www.stlbsa.org](http://www.stlbsa.org) for more information and be looking for the formal invite in the upcoming months.