

Greater St. Louis Area Council VOA E-Newsletter

Winter 2012

Hello everyone!

Here's hoping your holidays were relaxing, blessed, and most of all fun! Below is information on the first Greater St. Louis Area Council VOA Update. This is the first of many that we hope to keep you all updated on in the future. There are a couple updates to events and information on others

- Ski Night Rescheduled
- Last Call for Winterfest
- Area 3 Conference
- University of Scouting
- Lock-in Rescheduled
- Powder Horn in Greater St. Louis Area Council
- Recognition Awards and Advancement
- Central Region Sea Scout Rendezvous
- NYLT
- NAYLE
- Swift Base – Three Weeks of FUN!
- Fall Fun Rally!

Ski Night Rescheduled -- February 11

Due to inclement (too warm) weather, ski night has been rescheduled until February 11th. All reservations that have been submitted will be carried over to the new event date. If people would like to get their money back on the rescheduled date, they must contact Josh Bollam to do so. If you haven't signed up, you can still. The On time registration date will be extended to match the new event date. The registration flier will be posted to the <http://stlbsa.org> and <http://venturing.gslac.org> websites tomorrow.

Last Call for Winterfest -- February 3-5

Winterfest is quickly approaching. At the moment it looks like we're going to have about 18 people from our council going to this event in Gatlinburg, TN on Feb 3-5. The registration deadline has come and gone, but if you are interested in going, we need firm commitments immediately, as we have started making reservations already and need to file the tour permit with Council. Please let Jeff or Lisa know at 314-608-3444 ASAP if you want to go. The costs and the dates of the event are listed on the flier at <http://venturing.gslac.org/sites/venturing.gslac.org/files/Winterfest%202012.pdf>

Area 3 Venturing Conference -- January 13-14

The time is quickly approaching for the annual Area 3 Venturing Conference. This annual gathering from people from Missouri, Illinois, and Wisconsin includes sessions aimed at advancing the Venturing Program at the Unit, District, and Council levels. Many of the presenters for the conference are from GSLAC and they guarantee you will have a great time and learn more about Venturing there. The early registration deadline has already passed, so get your registrations in for this event coming up January 13-14. More information about it is available at: <http://crventuring.org/Home/Fulltext/s=2&id=13>

Kodiak Challenge CDC – January 14

During the Area 3 Conference, there will be a Kodiak Challenge Course Directors Course. Space is still available. Go to <http://www.crventuring.org/Home/Fulltext/s=2&id=13> for more information. Just a note – the CDC is an additional \$15 to the Area 3 Conference. The Area 3 Conference cost is \$20 after January 1. For more information, please contact Rick McIlvoy on the Kodiak Challenge at 636-394-5728 or rmcilvoy@sbcglobal.net

University of Scouting -- January 21

January is just full of Venturing activities isn't it? University of Scouting is an annual training opportunity for both Youth and Adults. Dozens of sessions ranging from high adventure to Facebook, from camping to games will be offered. The Council VOA Officers will be putting on an ILSC (Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews) that day that you all are welcome to attend, but there is also an entire Venturing College that is available. Cost is \$20 for adults, \$10 for Youth,

including lunch. More information, including links to online signup and paper forms are available at:

<http://www.stlbsa.org/training/Pages/university-of-scouting.aspx> or at:

<http://venturing.gslac.org/training/universityscouting>. There is over 15 great courses happening for Venturing at the University of Scouting, please attend, and please promote.

Venturing After Dark/Mobile Lock-in Rescheduled -- March 24

Due to the movement of the Ski Night later in the calendar, the Mobile Lock-in has also been rescheduled, so not to cluster the events. The new date for this will be March 24th. Please spread the word on this change too! This does hold an advantage as one of the venues we were attempting to work with had a conflict for the old date that might work for this new date. <http://venturing.gslac.org/events/mobilelockin>

Powder Horn in the Greater St. Louis Area Council – April 20-22 and May 4-6

Are you interested in attending Powder Horn? Register NOW! Slots are still available for the Greater St. Louis Area Council Powder Horn course that is coming up. However, there is no more Youth Slots and Adult slots are slowly getting filled. So if you are interested, and just haven't turned in your application yet, please get your application in as soon as possible to reserve your slot. Get your applications turned in because space is limited.

The Powder Horn program is six days of nonstop fun, high adventure activities that will help your program become a "WOW" program for your Youth.

For more information on St. Louis Powder Horn, please visit our website at www.powderhornstl.org email us at powderhornstlouis@gmail.com.

Recognition Awards and Advancement

Venturing Leadership Award

Do you know an outstanding Venturing Youth? How about nominating them for the Council Venturing Leadership Award!! The Greater St. Louis Area Council recognizes some of our many youth in the Council with the Venturing Leadership Award. We present this award to a select number of highly deserving people each year. To receive the Venturing Leadership Award, the nominee must have been involved in Venturing for more than one year and have provided exceptional leadership at either the Crew, District, or Council Level. The deadline to turn in a nomination is April 1, 2012. So while we still have some time, start to think about some deserving individuals. Nomination Forms can be found at: http://venturing.gslac.org/sites/venturing.gslac.org/files/Venturing_leadership_award_0.pdf.

Venturing Advancement

Also is your Venturing Youth working on Advancement such as the Venturing Bronze, Gold, Silver, Ranger, Trust, Quest, or any of the Sea Scout Awards? If they are working on it, try to promote them to complete the Award around the April to get the Award presented at the Council Venturing Recognition Dinner.

Council Venturing Recognition Dinner

The Council Venturing Recognition Dinner is coming up at the beginning of June 2012. Final details are getting put together and when the information is set, we will release you the information as soon as we receive it.

<http://venturing.gslac.org/events/recognitiondinner>

Central Region Sea Scout Rendezvous

Don't miss the 2nd Annual Task Force Area 3 Rendezvous. This year it is going to be a Central Region Centennial of Sea Scouting event. As those of you who were there this past May already know it is a "Fall Fun Rally on Water". Open to both Venturers and Sea Scouts, we will have the sailboats, canoes, kayaks and lots of events on shore too. Rain or shine, night and day, we have events planned. Hope to see you there. It will be the weekend of May 18th - 20th. It is on the banks of Lake Springfield at Abraham Lincoln Councils Sailing Center in Springfield, IL. You can come for a day or camp with us for the whole weekend. Last year, this was the largest Sea Scout themed event in our entire Central Region and 2012 is looking even better. The two youth heading up this effort are your TFA3 Boatswain Lucas Shapland (lukemark774@hotmail.com), and your Central Region Boatswain Peter Schmidt (smitykid4@yahoo.com). If you would like to help run an event, help design the logo, or just want to ask questions please shoot them an e-mail. Plus for more info, we have a few of places to go on the web. Hope to see you and your unit there. Help us wrap up our first 100 years and kick start us into our second century More Information at <http://www.facebook.com/CentralRegionRendezvous> or <http://www.facebook.com/area3rendezvous> (check out the pics from 2011!) <http://centralregionrendezvous.webs.com/>

NYLT for Venturers!

Now is the time to inform your eligible Venturers about the NYLT courses that are available to them this summer at S-F Scout Ranch! There will be two courses at the Ranch (July 1-7, 2012 - based at the tree houses and July 22-28, 2012 is a co-ed Pack & Paddle NYLT course). If a Venturer meets the eligibility requirements, is a good camper, and works well with youth and adults, he/she is ready to learn and practice advanced contemporary leadership skills at NYLT! For more information and registration form, go to:

<http://venturing.gslac.org/training/nylt> for more information about each week and registration information.

Central Region NAYLE

Just released at the beginning of January 2012 - the Greater St. Louis Area Council is hosting a NAYLE course this summer! The dates are July 29 - August 3. More information on sign-ups will be coming soon from the Council. Stay tune for more information.

Swift Base – Three Weeks of FUN!

Swift Base first opened the summer of 1966 at S bar F Scout Ranch. From the beginning, it was designed to be a totally different experience for high-school and college-age members. It is one of only two bases of its type in our country. And the Greater St. Louis Area Council is lucky to have it here!

S bar F Scout Ranch is 5,200 acres of woods, trails, streams, Nims Lake and fun. Our 270-acre Nims Lake serves as the focal point for water skiing, sailing, fishing, canoeing, swimming, water tubing, sun bathing, kayaking and water sliding. Our herd of horses will allow you to saddle-up and explore the wilderness trails. If heights and challenges are your thing, we offer rock climbing, rappelling and a high and low ropes course. Mountain bikes are available every day for rides that see no pavement. You may want to try your hand at firing a .22 rifle or bow and arrow. At Swift, you choose what you want to do.

All meals are served in Swift Lodge, dining hall style. Your crew will camp on a campsite with your crew and leader. Tents are set up for you on wooden frames. There are five campsites that are scattered in the woods, so that the crews have shade and some privacy. Swift Base is located at S bar F in Knob Lick, Missouri. Go to the Swift Page or the Summer Camp website for more information.

There are three weeks available this summer for Venturers. All of them are specialty weeks meaning that they will focus more on certain themes for the week, but classic activities will still be available during each week.

Week 1: June 17-23, 2012 Sea Scout and Aquatics week

Week 2: June 18-June 30, 2012 Great Outdoors

Week 3: July 8-14, 2012 Mountain Man Adventure

For more information visit: <http://venturing.gslac.org/camping/swiftbase>

Fall Fun Rally

The Fall Fun Rally Advisor (Tim Yahl) and Fall Fun Rally Chair (Adam Kaul) have been hard at work getting the ground work together for the next Fall Fun Rally. In January the District Officers will start to get the ball rolling on their activities at the Fall Fun Rally. Remember, SAVE the DATE of September 28-30, 2012. More information will be coming soon on the Fall Fun Rally. www.fallfunrally.org

Future Article Submission

Do you have a wonderful adventure your Crew has recently done that you would like to share with other Crews across our Council? Then please let us know about it and we will highlight your Crew in our VOA E-Newsletter. Just write up a short article and be sure to include some pictures. Submit the articles to the Vice President of Communications – Jacob Hanneken at s.silence1@yahoo.com and/or the Associate Advisor for Communications – Eric Mircsov at eaglescout939@hotmail.com.

Your Venturing Officers and Advisors for 2011-2012

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Greater St. Louis Area Council Website – www.stlbsa.org

Venturing Officers Association of the Greater St. Louis Area Council – www.venturing.gslac.org

Facebook Group for the VOA - <http://www.facebook.com/groups/gslacventuring/>

Contacting the Council Officers or District Officers - <http://venturing.gslac.org/contact>