



WRV

WESTERN REGION VENTURING



March 2016

College graduate and former Venturer Kim Schneider was a part of Crew 17 in Rio Rancho, NM when she was in high school. Now, she is on a month-long road trip up the West Coast, this stop at Pismo Beach, CA. If nothing else, we know she packed a tent--if this doesn't say "adventure," I don't know what does!

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Advisor Hello



Western Region Advisor RICK KAGAWA

Wow! This time of year is so exciting. There is so much coming up for the Western Region and all of Venturing, Nationally.

Let's get to the important part: elections are coming. The National, Region, Area and Council VOA elections are happening soon. Here is the website with the application for National, Region and Area officers:

[http://www.scouting.org/filestore/.../venturing/.../512-042\(16\).pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/.../venturing/.../512-042(16).pdf)

National is due February 29. Regional is due March 15. Area is due March 31.

Now on to the fun events. Don't forget to register early before March 11th for SCOUTvivor: Sector Redwood outside of San Jose, CA on April 8-10, to save \$15. The cost is \$65 before March 11 and \$80 after, so save your spot today! We will have ATVs, shooting sports, COPE, and a White-Out Dance. Here is the registration:

<http://www.pacsky.org/Event.aspx?id=2042>

What are you doing this summer? Here are two exciting events: Our Western Region SuperActivity will be in Moab, Utah, where there are going to be 3 days of whitewater rafting, rappelling and slick rock mountain bikes. The dates are July 5-9, and the total cost is \$200. There is a limit of 30 Venturing participants, so register soon! Here is the registration:

<http://www.utahscouts.org/wrventuringentrada>

Last but not least, the Venturing National event at the Bechtel Summit in West Virginia will be held July 31 to August 5. The cost is \$400 per youth and \$300 for leaders. Many of the events are exclusive to the Summit, including shooting sports, rock climbing, Motocross bikes, skateboarding, and much more. Here is the registration site:

<http://www.summitbsa.org/venturingfest/>

I hope you have a wonderful spring. Remember, those who fail to plan, plan to fail.

Rick Kagawa

www.wrventuring-bsa.net

Message from your President

Western Region President PRATIK VAIDYA

March Madness!

Happy March, Western Region! I can tell you have all had a wonderful start of the year from all the pictures I've been seeing and the stories I've been hearing. January and February have been incredible for me! I had the opportunity to meet Scouts from all over the world in Guatemala City, Guatemala, and learn about how Scouting works in each of their home countries. I highly encourage each of you to have at least one international Scouting experience in your time as a youth. There's so much to learn from others' approaches and perspectives, and I promise that you'll return with new ideas, inspiration, memories, and friends.

I also traveled to the Chief Seattle Council VOA's Venturing Winter Challenge in Cle Elum, WA. The weekend was full of shooting sports, snowshoeing, sledding, chicken curling, a dance, and more! I had the opportunity to talk to lots of Venturers, present VLAs, and talk about everything going on in the region.

Did you hear about the Western Region Venturing Open Forum? For the first time, we hosted a virtual open forum where Venturers from across the Region (and even the country) came together to ask and discuss any questions relating to the Venturing program! We had over 58 people join us and had amazing questions from the audience. Check out the notes from the open forum! We included links to a lot of helpful resources.

Speaking of events, we have a lot of opportunities coming up:

- I hope you've already signed up for SCOUTvivor: Sector Redwood. We have a full weekend planned with All Terrain Vehicles, Crew-Based STEM Competitions, high COPE, shooting sports, a white-out dance, and much more! You won't want to miss out on the fun. Register before March 11th and save \$15. If you have a minute and four-seconds to spare, check out a video featuring Edward Abraham, National Venturing President and yours truly.

- Here's something else we're doing for the first time ever — a region-hosted SuperActivity! Join us in Moab, UT, from July 5-9th for three full days of white water rafting, slick rock mountain biking, and repelling on the red rock cliffs! There are only 30 spots available. Check out the Facebook event for more information!

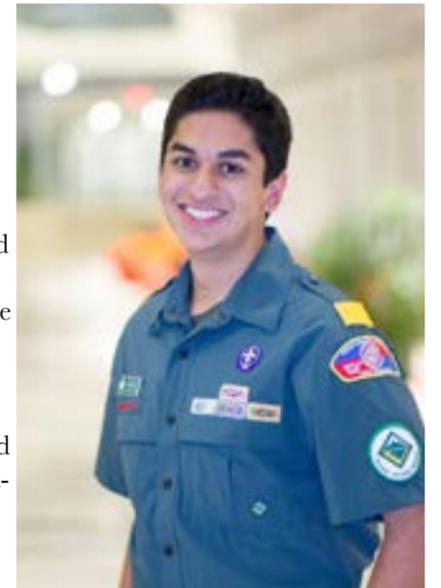
- Finally, we'll be having VenturingFest 2016, the first national gathering of Venturers at the Summit Bechtel Reserve. Come join us for a new Venturing experience, a fest filled with climbing gear, skateboards, bikes, and water sports and nights busy with new friends, new food, and concerts. Click here for more information!

As you can tell, we have A LOT going on in the Western Region this year! Be sure to get involved and join in on the fun!

I want to share one last opportunity to get more involved in the Venturing program! Don't forget that Area VOA President/Vice President applications are due on March 31, 2016. Hopefully all of you have started filling out your applications. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me or ask any of the amazing individuals featured in this newsletter how life changing the experience has been and about the impact they've been able to make to the Venturing program. Apply today!

Yours in Venturing,

Pratik Vaidya
Western Region Venturing President



Western Region News

Catch up with what our **Venturers** have been up to in the past few months!

Leadership Development Conference

Submitted by **Adam Brendgard**, Crew 14 President, Washington Division President

On November 7th, 2015, Scouts of all ages gathered at Southridge High School in the early hours of the morning to do one thing; learn. The Leadership Development Conference (LDC) is an annual event run by the Order of the Arrow where Scouts are able to take age-specific leadership courses taught by qualified Arrowmen and Venturers.

There were many new additions to the program this year, specifically splitting up into basic, advanced, and Venturer level classes. In the Venturing unit, Venturers and Sea Scouts learned the fundamentals of teamwork and participated in challenging events that tested the limit of their newfound skills. Courses were taught by dedicated Venturers from the community, who were highly experienced in leadership. One of these instructors was Simone Lake, a fifteen year old Scout of Crew 14, and a camp staffmember. "All of my students were highly engaged, especially when it came to the group challenges." Simone recalled. "Though they destroyed the world with 'thingamabobs', they were always in high spirits"

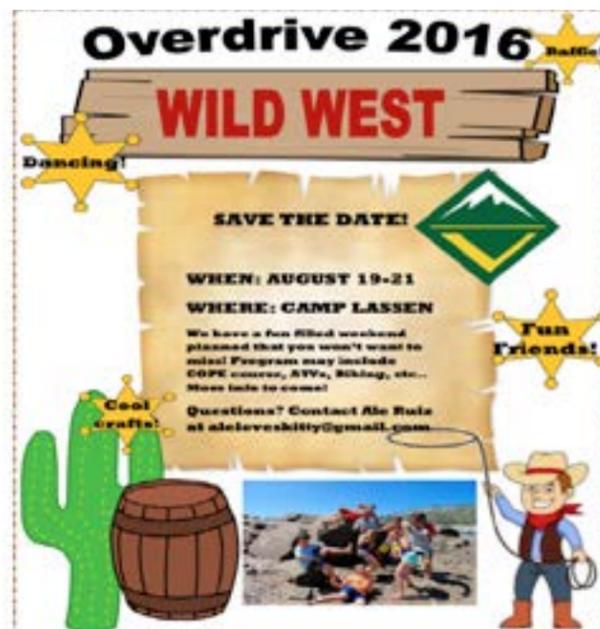
Lasting impacts were immediately evident, as the event was bookmarked by glowing reviews written by the students in regards to the program. The new skills learned at this conference, won't soon be forgotten to time.

Overdrive 2016

The Golden Empire Council's VOA will be hosting Overdrive 2016 this year on August 19-21 at the amazing Camp Lassen. The theme will be Wild West and there are a bunch of awesome activities planned that includes all Camp Lassen has to offer!

Program activities may include a COPE course, bikes, and ATVs to name a few. There will also be a Wild West dance, fun crafts. More details to come. Sign up information to come soon on the Golden Empire Council Website.

For any questions please contact Ale Ruiz at aleloveskitty@gmail.com or 530-848-4748



Leadership Skills for Crews Course

Submitted by **WLACC VOA**



The Western Los Angeles County Council VOA has hit its half-way point for the 2015-2016 term, and has some great events to reflect upon. In December 2015, WLACC led the Leadership Skills for Crews (LSC) training at Camp Josepho in the Pacific Palisades. There, Venturers were given the opportunity to meet other scouts from their Councils, and have fun learning an assortment of skills that can be applied to everyday leadership, whether it may be in a group project for school, at home with siblings, or in their Crews. The LSC course was created to help Venturers learn and practice the attitudes and skills demonstrated by good leaders, and apply them to situations in and outside of the Crew.

WLACC's VOA led the training through three modules: Leading Self, Leading Others, and Leading Crews, along with sub-modules including Creating a Vision, Goal Setting, Communication, Group Decision Making, Planning, Delegating, and Team Development, all of which were presented in fun and creative manners. Overall, the weekend was a success, developing a group of Venturers into better leaders!

36th annual Sea Farer's Regatta

Hosted by the Sea Scout Ship Albatross
April 2, 2016. Martinez, California

You are invited to the Sea Farer's Regatta! Enter with your ship or crew to participate in various waterfront events and competitive games, as well as practice seafaring skills such as knot tying, radio communication, and more! The day will end with dinner, a dance, and an award ceremony.

Pre-registration Fee: \$20

Reserve by March 21

More information: Jessica Kelso (209)993-6360.

The more the merrier! Hope to hear from you and see you soon!

Ask a Venturer

Welcome to our new column, where you can ask the **Western Region** any Venturing-related **questions** you may have! Send us a message on the Western Region Facebook Page/Group or send an email to vpcomms@wrventuring-bsa.org and your question might be **answered** in our next newsletter!

Shawn Crook: Our crew has been looking into getting new activity uniforms including a hat and synthetic fiber shirts, both with an original Crew logo. What's recommended and approved by the BSA for us to do? Our troop made their own logo and we would like one as well but we're not sure how to. Any insights are welcome!

WR: Any matching shirt for the Crew will do for either a Crew activity uniform or the official Crew uniform. The Green uniform is the official uniform. It is optional. This being said, the green uniform shows you as a Venturing youth or leader to others. Hats are an individual Crew option. Just make sure that any images, logos or language is Scout like.

Cindy Reilly: What are some ideas for getting low-income Venturers to earn money to pay for their events?

WR: There are so many ideas for fundraising it is mind blowing.

First, look at the ones available through your own Council. There is BSA popcorn and the Scout fairs in the spring. Many Councils have Scout-o-Rama or a Scout Fair of some kind. Tickets are sold for these events, and youth get to have a percentage of the proceeds in both fundraisers.

The second tier of fundraising is primarily set around holidays. Wreaths, garland, wrapping paper and candy boxes precede Christmas. Candy and flowers for Valentine's day are common. On the West Coast, we have See's candy.

Car washes, flamingo ransoms, fireworks booths, Christmas tree lots are there. Be creative.

There is always the tried and true personal fundraising too. Mowing lawns, shoveling sidewalks, babysitting asking from friends and neighbors for chores. Good luck!

Think You Know Scouts?

With our event **SCOUTvivor: Sector Redwood** right around the corner, here are some things about the TV show *Survivor* to get you prepared for the **chal-**

- Filmed on 4 continents, in 18 countries
- Each Survivor can bring one "luxury item"-- some of these have included a ukelele, a Texas flag, a hacky sack, massage oils, and a skateboard.
- Immunity Idol was introduced in Season 11. 13 contestants have used it to save themselves, 13 have found the idol and gave it to some one else, and 9 were voted out with an idol in their possession.
- More than 87,000 hours of footage have been show over the show's 29 seasons.



<http://www.mandatorystore.com/2015/05/19/the-ultimate-list-of-survivor-fun-facts/>

Then and Now

You probably have some pretty great **Crew members**, but have you ever thought about who you might meet at larger Venturing events? Read this story from two **Western Region Venturers** and find out!

Submitted by **Katie Schneider** and **Pratik Vaidya**

"I met Pratik Vaidya when I was in tenth grade at an Area 6 event in Seattle, Washington. My best friend and Venturing partner-in-crime, Shannon Mulligan, and I were attending this event as our first true VOA experience outside of our Crew. At the time, there were a few things I definitely didn't realize: 1.) I would be involved in VOAs for the next three years; 2.) Shannon and I would forever reminisce about the bumpiest plane ride I've ever been on; and 3.) Pratik would soon be one of my best friends.

Since that weekend, Pratik and I both got involved in our Area VOAs and are now members of the Western Region VOA. We are on the phone almost daily, email each other constantly, and travel to Regions events and work together directly. I have to admit, it was so exciting to meet up last summer in Orange County, California for an officer orientation event--felt like I was being reunited with a childhood friend.

It may sound cheesy, but that's one of the best things about the Venturing program. You have the opportunity to not only meet Scouts from across the country (maybe even the world), but become true friends with them--people you can depend on, adventure with, and undoubtedly share incredible memories with. Though Pratik now lives in Michigan and I in Colorado, I think Pratik would agree that it feels we saw each other just last week! So if nothing else, please acknowledge the great relationships Venturing can add to your life!"

-Katie Schneider
Western Region VOA VP Communication



"When I was a sophomore in high school I attended the Western Region Venturing Conference that happened to be at Camp Pigott in Seattle with my Crew. I wasn't too sure what to expect - all I knew was that I'd been asked to take photos and videos of the event by the Council VOA president at the time. I didn't know what the Western Region VOA was and I wasn't expecting to meet Venturers from all over the country!

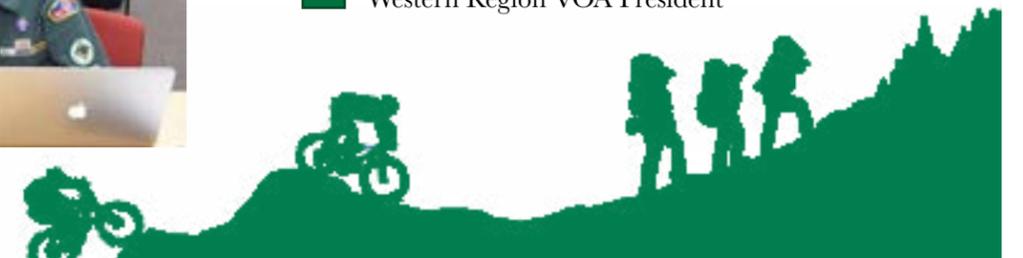
My Crew and I got to the camp fairly late in the evening and I still remember my first thought when I was greeting everyone - there were these two girls who were extremely tan and I had no idea who they were. I'd later find out they were Katie Schneider and Shannon Mulligan from Crew 17 in New Mexico! (That explained the tan.)

Then, I was still oblivious to the fact that I would become so involved in the Venturing Officers' Association and would develop such a great friendship with someone from the other side of the country. As time progressed, I got to know Katie more and more. As is common at many Venturing events, most of us didn't sleep Saturday night! We thought we'd never meet again, but the power of Venturing kicked in!

We now get to work on the Western Region VOA cabinet together daily, developing communication ideas, event promotions, and much more. Every couple months, we meet once again at Venturing events and feel like little kids being reunited.

You never know who you'll meet and what your opportunities and adventures will entail in the future. I encourage you to cherish every moment meeting others and open your eyes to the gamut of experiences the Venturing program provides. You never know when you'll meet someone who'll change your life!"

-Pratik Vaidya
Western Region VOA President



Upcoming Events

Please take note to these incredible Venturing **events** coming up! **Register soon** to secure your spot.

WESTERN REGION VENTURING PRESENTS

SCOUTVIVOR SECTOR REDWOOD

ON 8 APRIL 2016

AT CUTTER SCOUT RESERVATION
2500 China Grade Rd
Boulder Creek, CA 95006

CONTACT
Western Region VP Program
vpprgm@wrventuring-hsa.org

FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE VISIT
<http://tinyurl.com/WRScoutvivor>

Compete against each other in tribes for points in various Survivor themed STEM competitions. Shooting sports, a high COPE course, and ATV rides. Engaging talks and demonstrations by STEM professionals. You won't want to miss out on having an amazing weekend with Western Region Venturers!

\$15 OFF EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

*unofficial poster

VenturingFest

Summer 2016
Summit Bechtel Reserve
July 31 - August 5



CANOPY TOURS, BOULDERING, RAPPELLING, BIKING, SKATEBOARD, ARCHERY, OBSTACLE COURSE, TOMAHAWK, BMX AND MORE!

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION:
[HTTPS://RESERVATIONS.Scouting.org/profile/form/index.cfm?pkformid=0x545125108](https://reservations.scouting.org/profile/form/index.cfm?pkformid=0x545125108)

