



At this year's Western Region event SCOUTvivor: Sector Redwood, Venturers and Advisors were split up into tribes and faced with challenge competitions based off the reality TV show *Survivor*. Above, Gavin Vlietstra (finder of our hidden immunity idol as well) is very intent on keeping his egg on his spoon.

# May 2016

## IN THIS ISSUE

2 **ADVISOR HELLO**

3 **MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

4 **WESTERN REGION NEWS**

6 **THINK YOU KNOW SCOUTS?**

7 **THEN AND NOW**

8 **UPCOMING EVENTS**



# Advisor Hello



## Western Region Advisor RICK KAGAWA

I would like to congratulate our own Pratik Vaidya on being selected as the 2016-2017 National Venturing President. His new position is well deserved, and I know he will do a great job and make us all proud.

The second congratulations goes to Katie Schneider. She has been chosen to lead the Western Region Venturing Officers Association for 2016-2017 as our new Western Region President.

Both of these youth have done much for the Venturing program in the past, and I do not see that changing with their new positions. Congratulations to both of you again!

I am so happy that the SCOUTvivor event was such a success. The food was fabulous and the events were just as good. I think everyone had a great time. The rain did not dampen spirits at all—the fun was being with all of you and seeing a good time was had. What was your favorite event or moment? The White Out dance? The COPE

course, the shooting, or something else?

These events we put on have a purpose. If you had fun at this event, we want you to copy it in your Area/Council. We want to have fun, but we also want to show you how to make these events a success. I know any of the current officers; Hannah, Nate, Katie, or Pratik will be glad to mentor you through the process of creating an event.

We are in the process of choosing our next Area Presidents and the Region Vice Presidents. For all of you who are running for office, good luck and don't be nervous. Just do your best.

Finally, I would like to take the time to thank all of our current officers for a fabulous year. I think we have accomplished a lot. Thank you for all your time and hard work, as it is truly appreciated.

Rick Kagawa

[www.wrventuring-bsa.net](http://www.wrventuring-bsa.net)

# Message from your President

## Western Region President PRATIK VAIDYA

Happy May, Western Region!

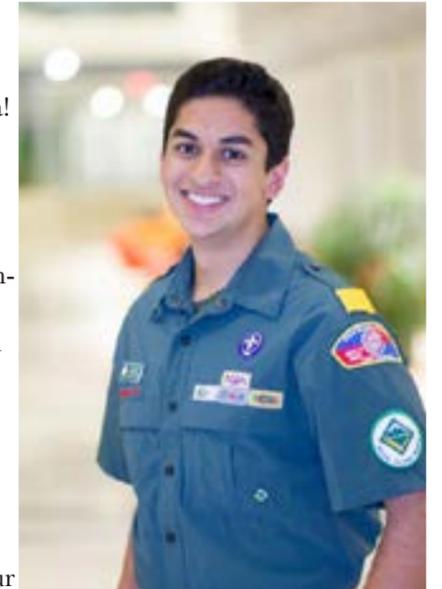
Thank you to all of you who joined us in Northern California for SCOUTvivor: Sector Redwood! We had participants from all over the country, ranging from Washington, North Carolina, Nevada, and of course, the great state of California! We spent several months planning for the weekend, but it all paid off! I hope you all had as much fun and made as many memories as we did.

As you may know, my term is slowly coming to an end. As of today, I have thirty-one days left until I get to turn it over to Katie Schneider, from the Great South-west Council. Katie has been a quintessential part of our Region VOA this past term, and has helped us tremendously in planning SCOUTvivor, staying in touch with all of you, creating and maintaining our website, and much more! I've had the time of my life over the course of the past year – I've loved meeting all of you and working on improving Venturing in our Region with your help! We've come so far, but there's always an endless road in sight. I know Katie and the rest of the team will continue growing the program we all love!

As you know, Venturing presents completely different opportunities to explore your passions and create your own adventure. It's given me so many: eating breakfast at 9,000 feet, staring at a beautiful view with my closest friends, and even traveling to Guatemala and meeting Scouts from around the world, learning how to dance, and teaching leadership and communication skills to them. I encourage you to find your passion and take advantage of all the resources and opportunities Venturing offers to try something incredible!

Thank you for all the memories and stories you've left with me!

Yours in Venturing,  
Pratik Vaidya  
Western Region Venturing President



**The current Western Region VOA cabinet celebrates a successful event in mid-April, and your President, Pratik Vaidya (right), is looking great in his tutu for the White Out dance!**

## Your Tribe Has Spoken...

We had a blast at this year's Western Region Event, **SCOUTvivor: Sector Redwood!** Hear from participants about the **competitive events**, STEM presenters, and White Out dance that made this weekend one for the books.

Archery, COPE, shooting, and ATVing through the morning, and an afternoon filled with science and Survivor, and challenge events, all ending with a White Out dance. I think it is safe to say that this year's Western Region Event, SCOUTvivor: Sector Redwood was a success!

We would simply like to thank each and every youth, Advisor, STEM presenter, cook, and Cutter Scout Reservation staff member who attended the event. After months of planning, it truly would not have amounted to anything without our incredible participants and help along the way! Here are some highlights from the weekend. For those of you in attendance and to those unable to make the event--we hope to see you next year!

-Western Region VOA Venturing Cabinet

"I have had the pleasure of attending 5 Western Region events, and SCOUTvivor was definitely one to remember. It is amazing going to an event and seeing so much hard work finally paying off. I saw so many smiles that weekend I lost count! Great job Western Region, I look forward to seeing what is next."  
-Shannon Mulligan, National VOA Vice President

"SCOUTvivor was a FUNtastic event! The activities were enjoyable and well put together. I personally enjoyed everyone while they checked in and began setting up."  
-Nate Blackwell-Mitchell, Western Region VOA Vice President of Administration

**Larry Peterson, incoming Western Region VOA VP Communications Advisor, surely lit up the White Out dance--nice moves, Larry!**



**Shannon Mulligan and Katie Schneider, Crewmates since age 13, reunited at this event.**

"It is always an amazing time being able to see Venturers in the Western Region gather for a weekend filled with spectacular activities. With the SCOUTvivor and STEM theme seen throughout the weekend, I would love to give Pratik and his entire team a huge shout out for being innovative and bringing something new to a Western Region event. I had a blast that weekend reconnecting with old and new friends, and would recommend any Western Region Venturer to consider traveling out to future gather-

"The Western Region SCOUTvivor was a wonderful event that met or exceeded all of my expectations. To be honest, I have stopped going to events for the activities; I go for the people. That weekend I got to hang out with some of my oldest friends from the VOA."  
-Gavin Vlietstra

## The Absurdly Formal Venturers' Ball

Submitted by **Max Pivonka, DAC VOA VP of Communication**

The Denver Area Council VOA put on their first big event of 2016: **The Absurdly Formal Venturers Ball!** This event was based on the premise of doing awesome adventure activities while wearing formal attire. The ball was held at the Council's indoor urban adventure facility, Colorado Adventure Point, and was staffed by the Venturers who attended.

The evening began with the rain pouring down. People rolled up dressed quite dapper and everyone jumped right into activities despite the weather; there was rock climbing, archery, air rifles, welding, lots of food, and of course an actual dance to round out the night. This event was a huge success with many youth in attendance, and there are plans for potentially having multiple balls a year for Venturers and non-Venturers alike!



**How do you combine dressing up and Venturing? Rock climbing and shooting in prom dresses, of course.**



## Welcoming Your New Officers

Hi Western Region!

As the term is winding down to an end, I would just like to say thank you to everyone who made my time as Western Region Vice President of Communications an unforgettable experience! From interacting with youth from all over the country about newsletter articles, to planning and seeing SCOUTvivor: Sector Redwood come to life, I have learned so much over the last twelve months and am sad to see it coming to an end.

As we welcome in a new set of officers for the 2016-2017 term, I would like to encourage each and every one of you to continue supporting the program as you always have! Keep sharing your adventures, connecting with Venturers from other states, and attending events to create your own Scouting memories just as I have, mine. Thank you for supporting our Western Region newsletters, and keep on the lookout for a lot of new and exciting things coming your way!

Yours in Venturing,  
Katie Schneider  
Western Region VOA VP Communications

# Think You Know Scouts?

**Earth Day** (April 22) and **Arbor Day** (April 29) celebrate the **environment** each year, and there's no doubt that Venturers take part! See how some Western Region Venturers spent the day, and read up on some **Earthy** facts too.

## Did You Know...

- On Earth Day 2009, Disney released a documentary film called *Earth* that followed the migration paths of four animal families.
- Earth Day started as 20 million people gathered across America in demonstrations against the Industrial Revolution, in support of clean air and water--as a result, an environmental movement was born.
- US Senator Gaylord Nelson founded Earth Day
- On Earth Day 2012, more than 100,000 people rode bikes in China to reduce CO2 emissions and save fuel.
- In 2009, the United Nations renamed Earth Day as International Mother Earth Day.
- The first Arbor Day took place on April 10, 1872 in Nebraska, when politician Julius Sterling Morton advocated that the planting of trees would largely benefit the state's landscape and environment.



**“Crew 128 from Santa Clarita hit the high ropes course this weekend for part one of a three part Ranger Award Development activity series. It was great fun in the outdoors this weekend!” -Jessica Suzanne Pazdernik**

## Looking for Ways to Get Involved with Your Crew?

- Carpool to your next Crew meeting, and play “Environmental Jeopardy”
- Watch a movie that will teach and entertain you about the planet, and lead a discussion afterward. Need some ideas? Try Disney films *Earth*, *Oceans* or *Wall-E*. Have a discussion after you watch.
- Volunteer with a Nature Conservancy or participate in some other type of clean up or service project for the day.
- Adopt a highway! Most states have Adopt-a-Highway programs that encourage groups to take responsibility of a stretch of roadway and pick up trash.
- Organize a competition among your Crew for the most recycled or composted objects, reduction of energy use (have them keep track for a few weeks), or see who can make the best art sculpture out of recycled objects.

<https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-earth-day>

# Then and Now

We can't wait for **VenturingFest** this summer-- but who knows the story behind the **Summit Bechtel Reserve**?

In 2007, Project Arrow began as a search for a site that could serve as a summer camp and high adventure base in the United States, with hopes of becoming the permanent location for the National Scout Jamboree. Over 80 sites in 28 states were considered, and finally this area in West Virginia was chosen in 2009.

The Summit Bechtel Reserve is the home of the National Scout Jamboree, the Paul R. Christen National High Adventure Base, the James C. Justice National Scout Camp, and the John D. Tickle National Training and Leadership Center.

The Summit Bechtel Reserve is located adjacent to the New River Gorge National River, providing access to more than 14,000 acres of managed wilderness. But this acquisition would not have been possible without the donation of \$50 million to the BSA from the Bechtel Foundation. This was the largest charitable donation ever made to the Boy Scouts of America, and headed by Stephen D. Bechtel Jr. (Eagle Scout and the National President of the Boy Scouts of America from 1956–1959). Other major donations were made by the Suzanne and Walter Scott Foundation, Mike and Gillian Goodrich, and Consol Energy.

Not long after breaking ground in October, 2010, The Summit hosted the 2013 National Scout Jamboree, seeing over 56,000 participants and guests over the course of 10 days--making Summit Bechtel Reserve the 3rd largest city in West Virginia during the event!

The Summit will now become the fourth operating national high adventure base (along with Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, the Northern Tier National High Adventure Base in Minnesota, and the Florida National High Adventure Sea Base in Islamorada, Florida), and offers Class II to Class V white water rafting, rappelling and rock climbing, mountainboarding, and freestyle BMX, and the famous Canopy which features multiple zip lines and bridges.

Though its history as a Scout camp is brief, I think we can all see that the Summit Bechtel Reserve has a lot to offer and is becoming a huge part of Venturing! The Summit will be hosting the first national gathering of Venturers at VenturingFest from July 31-August 5, 2016, as well as the National Scout Jamboree from July 19 to July 28, 2017, and the 24th World Scout Jamboree in 2019! We hope to see you all there.



**The Summit BMX terrain is just one of its unique high adventure features.**



**Consol Energy Wing Tip Footbridge made possible by their \$15 million donation.**



# Upcoming Events

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



VenturingFest 2016, the first national gathering of Venturers at the Summit Bechtel Reserve – a new Scouting experience unlike any other before – is coming your way this summer from July 31 to August 5!

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

Start thinking about attending the Western Region's first Super Activity this summer!

Come experience High Adventure activities at Utah National Parks Council's Entrada High Adventure Base in beautiful Southern Utah.

Experience white-water rafting on the Colorado River as well as climbing, rappelling, and mountain biking in an area near Dead Horse Point, Arches & Canyonlands National Parks.

**REGISTER NOW:** <http://www.utahscouts.org/wrventuringentrada>



## Save the Date!

### WR Entrada Super Activity

Location: Entrada High Adventure Base, Moab, UT

Dates: July 4-9, 2016

Rappelling • River Running • Slick Rock Biking

Only 30 Spots Available!

