



## The Venturing Times

The Venturing Times can be viewed electronically on the [Venturing Home Page](#) and are available at all Round Tables. Please share the information provided in this newsletter with others in your crew, ship or troop.

### Table of Contents

**Awards Ceremony Scheduled!**

**Absurdly Formal Ball scheduled for Friday, April 7, 2017**

**Meet your VOA Officers!**

**Venturing Subcommittee Meeting Schedule**

**VOA Meeting Schedule**

**Venturing Training Dates**

**2017 World Scout Moot – to be held in Iceland!**

**Send your articles and/or events to Becky Elzas at [becky@elzas.net](mailto:becky@elzas.net)**

### **Awards Ceremony to be held at the Snow Snake Rendezvous!**

The Snow Snake Rendezvous is the annual Venturing winter campout. It is also where the 2017 Venturing Awards Ceremony will be held.

**Date:** January 7, 2017  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch – Dining Hall

There will be an open floor to recognize any other awards or Achievements – so come prepared!

We will honor all Venturing youth and adults who have earned any awards – Venturing Leadership Award, District Award of Merit, The Discovery Award, The Pathfinder Award, The Summit or Quartermaster Awards, and any other Scouting Awards earned.

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### **Absurdly Formal Ball Scheduled for Friday, April 7, 2017 at Colorado Adventure Point!**

The Absurdly Formal Adventure Ball is a formal dance, like homecoming or prom, but also includes open times for climbing, archery, air pistols, welding, slacklining, campfires, indoor/outdoor gaga ball, and awesomeness, making this event unlike any other homecoming or prom you've ever been to! Dancing in the gun range will commence at approximately 10:00 p.m.

**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2017  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m. to midnight (Sign in begins at 5:30 p.m.)  
**Place:** Colorado Adventure Point  
**Cost:** \$20.00 per person (Includes dinner – approx. 6:00 p.m.)

All Venturers are encouraged to bring their non-Venturing friends, to introduce them to why you wear that Awesome Green Venturing Shirt.

You can register on the Denver Area Council Calendar.

## MEET YOUR VENTURING OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (VOA) OFFICERS!



**Colton Spomer**  
**VOA President**

Hi, my name is Colton Spomer. I have been involved in scouting since I was 7 as a Tiger Cub. Over the next 5 years, I worked through Wolf, Bear, and Webelos, earning many belt loops and pins along the way and having a great time doing it. After earning my Arrow of Light award I crossed over from Cub Scouts into Boy Scouts, joining the troop my grandfather started in 1976, Troop 685. During my time in my troop, I was inducted into the Order of the Arrow, accumulated over 150 camping nights, and served in many leadership roles including SPL for two and a half years and quartermaster for 3 years.

When I was 15, I helped in the formation and became the first president of a brand new crew in the Littleton area. Not long after becoming a Venturer, I attended Bighorn Leadership Camp (NYLT) and served on Bighorn staff for the two following years as a Troop Guide as well as a Sr. Troop Guide. After Bighorn, I earned my Discovery award and became more active in the council. While attending a camporee planning meeting, I was invited to one of our council's VOA meetings. I thought the VOA was an awesome idea and thought it had a great deal of potential to better Venturing on a council level. I started regularly attending the VOA meetings and after 6 months of attending, was selected as the VOA president in April of 2015. Most recently, I have completed my eagle project and now only have my Board of Review left to complete my Eagle Scout rank.

Outside of scouting I am currently in my 5th semester at Red Rocks Community College as a high school student. After my 6th semester at Red Rocks, I will transfer into the Colorado School of Mines as a 2nd semester sophomore and pursue my degree in Mechanical Engineering and later my masters degree. I enjoy swimming competitively and qualified to swim at the state swim meet while helping to coach our community swim team. I also enjoy working with computers, rock climbing, backpacking, and kayaking.



**Sarah Larson**  
**VOA Vice President**  
**of Program**

Hello! My name is Sarah Larson. I currently serve as the Vice President of Program on the DAC Venturing Officers Association, which means I oversee the council venturing activity planning.

I attend the University of Colorado Boulder studying aerospace engineering and am finishing my sophomore year. I have been involved in scouting for twelve years and in Venturing for six.

I have earned the Girl Scout Silver Award, the Venturing Outdoor Bronze, Gold and Silver, and the Ranger Award. I was also awarded the Triple Crown Award, Venturing Leadership Award, and Jim Scott Award (presented by the Tahosa Alumni Association). I have worked at Camp Tahosa for the past two summers as the C.O.P.E. (Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience) councilor and plan on working there again this summer, taking on multiple roles. I participated in NYLT (National Youth Leadership Training) and have staffed it for the past four years and became the Senior Patrol Leader of a week. I also attended NAYLE

(National Advance Youth Leadership Experience) at Philmont. I have been to Philmont multiple times, Sea Base and Northern Tier.

Outside of scouting, I enjoy spending time with my family. I love the outdoors, especially backpacking, hiking, and boating. Growing up I played soccer and piano. In high school, I was very active in the Technology Student Association (TSA) and National Honor Society (NHS). 2



**Max Pivonka**  
**VOA Vice President of**  
**Communications**

My name is Max Pivonka and I am serving as the Denver Area Council Venturing Officers Association Vice President of Communications for 2016-2017. Within scouting I am also involved in Order of the Arrow with Tahosa Lodge currently serving as the Lodge Banquet Co-Chairman and work on planning the annual lodge banquet. Additionally I work on summer camp staph at Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch serving as Program Director for Magness Adventure Camp for the 2016 summer season.

Outside of scouting I just completed my first year of college at the University of Denver and am majoring in Environmental Science and Communication Studies. At the University of Denver I'm involved with Clean Community Crew which plans community litter clean-ups throughout the school year which was my community engagement project for the Environmental Sustainability Living Learning Community at DU. I was pledged and was activated into Alpha Phi Omega in the Alpha Eta Iota chapter at DU, a national co-ed service fraternity, and will be serving as treasurer for the 2016-2017 school year.

## **Venturing Committee Meetings – both adults and youth are invited!**

The Venturing Subcommittee meets once a month to discuss how to provide leadership and service to the Venturing Program by supporting and providing program for youth.

**Here is the 2017 Committee Meeting schedule (please add these dates to your calendar):**

- January 18, 2017 – begins at 6:30 p.m.
- February 15, 2017 – begins at 6:30 p.m.
- March 15, 2017 – begins at 6:30 p.m.
- April 19, 2017 – begins at 6:30 p.m.



All meetings will be held at the District One Police Station (Community Room) 1311 W. 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Denver, CO 80211

## **Venturing Officers Association (VOA) Meeting Schedule for 2017**

At VOA meetings, much of the planning for venturing activities on a council level happens. Attending VOA meetings would give you an opportunity to participate in planning of those Venturing activities and opportunities and empowers the youth to truly make Denver Area Council's Venturing Program what we would like it to be. All meetings are held at Hamilton Scout Headquarters, East Side of the building, at 7:00 p.m..

**Here is the 2017 VOA Meeting Schedule (please add these dates to your calendar):**

- |              |               |                |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| • January 12 | • February 9  | • March 9      |
| • April 13   | • May 11      | • June 8       |
| • July 13    | • August 10   | • September 14 |
| • October 14 | • November 12 | • December 14  |

## Training Corner – Venturing Training at a Glance



Below are some upcoming training dates – by District.

For more information or to register, please go to the DAC Calendar.

<i>Training Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>District</i>
Varsity Coach Leader Specific Training	March 4, 2017	Arapahoe
Venture Crew Leader Specific Training	March 4, 2017	Arapahoe
Varsity Coach Leader Specific Training	November 4, 2017	Arapahoe
Venture Crew Leader Specific Training	November 4, 2017	Arapahoe
Varsity Coach Leader Specific Training	August 11, 2018	Arapahoe
Venture Crew Leader Specific Training	August 11, 2018	Arapahoe

<i>Training Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>District</i>
Varsity Coach Leader Specific Training	November 11, 2017	Valley
Venture Crew Leader Specific Training	November 11, 2017	Valley
Team Committee Challenge	November 11, 2017	Valley
Crew Committee Challenge	November 11, 2017	Valley
Varsity Coach Leader Specific Training	November 10, 2018	Valley
Venture Crew Leader Specific Training	November 10, 2018	Valley
Team Committee Challenge	November 10, 2018	Valley
Crew Committee Challenge	November 10, 2018	Valley

<i>Training Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>District</i>
Crew Committee Challenge and Venturing Leaders Specific Training	January 21, 2017	Gateway





# 15th World Scout Moot Iceland

The 15th World Scout Moot will be held in Iceland 25th July to 2nd August 2017. It is an official event of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), hosted and organized by the Icelandic Boy and Girl Scout Association, for young people aged between 18 and 25 inclusive.

If you are a Scout in a National Scout Organization that is a member of WOSM and if you are born on or between the dates of 2nd August 1991 and 25th July 1999 you are eligible as a participant. If you are born on or before 1st August 1991 you are eligible to join the Moot's International Service Team (IST).

The plan is for 5.000 participants and 1.000 IST from 80 countries around the world to join the Moot in 2017. So come on – register and join a fantastic international event held in a country of natural wonders and bright nights.

