



Armed Forces Retirement Home Visit

Annual visit December 21



Troop and Crew 1100 are continuing the tradition of visiting the residents of the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, DC on Sunday, December 21st. We will again sing Christmas carols with the residents, and provide them with the handmade cards we've been working on, and your dozen or so cookies (regular and sugar free).

Scouts and drivers will meet at the Safeway / McDonald's parking lot at 12:00 PM, and return approximately 5:30 PM. For more information, contact Mrs. Gray at 703-455-1425, Maureen@blueridgenetworks.com. Please also let us know if you plan on attending, so we ensure we have enough drivers.

BRING YOUR COOKIES, and any cards you may have. See you Sunday!



Ski, Ski, Ski

Two trips available

The Crew will be making two ski pilgrimages this winter, and if you hurry, you can still sign up!

1. Blue Mountain in Pennsylvania on Dec 29-31. We have a lodge to ourselves, and a great deal on the slopes.
2. Timberline in West Virginia on Jan 29-Feb 1. We are going with Troop 1100, and will stay in bunkhouses right on the Timberline property – walk to ski!

Both trips offer skiing and snowboarding, and the cost includes meals, lift tickets, rentals, lessons, and any mix of the above.

If you are interested and have not signed up yet, contact one of the Advisors. See you on the slopes!



Calendar

Dec 4	Meeting at 7:30
Dec 11	Meeting at 7:30
Dec 18	Christmas Dinner Party
Dec 21	Visit to Armed Forces Retirement Home
Dec 25	NO MEETING
Dec 29-31	Ski-Blue Mountain
Jan 8	Meeting at 7:30
Jan 15	Meeting at 7:30
Jan 22	Meeting at 7:30
Jan 29	Crew Leaders' Meeting
Jan 30-31	Ski-Timberline
Feb 1	Ski-Timberline
Feb 5	Meeting at 7:30
Feb 8	Scout Sunday
Feb 12	Meeting at 7:30
Feb 19	Meeting at 7:30
Feb 26	Crew Leaders' Meeting
Mar 4	Meeting at 7:30
Mar 5-7	Cave Exploration
Mar 18	Meeting at 7:30
Mar 25	Crew Leaders' Meeting

Crew Web Site

Venturing Crew 1100's website is www.crew1100.com. Please bookmark this site. The crew roster is posted here, protected with a password. Newsletters, forms and flyers, and other information can be downloaded from this site. If you have any additions, changes, or suggestions for the website, please contact Mrs. Gray at 703-455-1425, crew1100@troop1100.com. Additionally, any help would also be appreciated. Thanks.



Will Zivich Earns Outdoor Bronze Award

At the Crew's fall Parents' Meeting on October 16th, Crew Vice President for Programs Will Zivich was awarded the Venturing Outdoor Bronze Award. Will is the third member of Venturing Crew 1100 to earn the Bronze Award but the first to earn the Outdoor Award. A charter member, Will has been active in the Crew and a constant presence at all Crew activities. As a member of Boy Scout Troop 1100 since 1997, Will has earned the rank of Eagle Scout, served as the Troop's Senior Patrol Leader, and has participated in more troop outings and activities than anyone of recent record. Will is currently a senior at Lake Braddock High School and a member of the varsity golf team. In addition to his Scouting achievements, Will has participated in a variety of other school and church activities while providing many hours of service to the local community. Will is an avid outdoorsman and an accomplished golfer and auto mechanic.

To qualify for the Outdoor Bronze Award, Will completed the American Red Cross First Aid/CPR Courses, Leave No Trace, cooking, and land navigation core requirements as well as the backpacking and watercraft elective requirements for the award. In completing the backpacking elective, Will's achievements included backpacking in excess of 100 miles and participating in the Troop's 2002 Philmont trek. For the watercraft elective, he paddled in excess of 150 river miles and sailed the Florida Keys as a part of the Troop's 2001 National Sea Base High Adventure. Earning the Venturing Outdoor Bronze Award represents having completed half of the Ranger Award, Venturing's highest proficiency-level award. Will is also well along toward earning the Venturing Gold Award and we all look forward to presenting it to him in the future.

Congratulations Will! We are all proud of you and thank you for your friendship, your support, and your leadership of our Crew. You have enriched our lives by your presence, and our Crew is better because of you.



Crew Open House

By Eric Eichelberger

I would like to congratulate everyone on a successful open house. We represented the crew well and we are glad to have the new members in the crew. The open house took lots of planning. The night started with an introduction that was wonderfully presented by **Devin and Mrs. Gray**. We then proceeded to split adult and youth. They youth played icebreaker games and chatted about what Venturing means. Later we had a slide show that covered the last six months. **Will Zivich** presented the canoe trip, **Eric Eichelberger** presented Chesapeake Bay Experience, **Bryan DeRosa** and **Chris Colton** did The Maine trip. The highlight of the night was the presentation of Will Zivich's Outdoor Bronze award.

Scouting for Food

By Chris Barnett

Well done, and thanks to everyone who helped distribute Scouting for Food (SFF) bags, and then pick them up. Again, Crew 1100 distinguished itself by contributing to the annual SFF campaign.

We canvassed approximately 400 homes in the Burke area, and collected 145 bags representing well over 1000 pounds of food. Congratulations, and well done Crew 1100.

Participants included **Will Zivich, Bryan DeRosa, Chris Barnett, Zack Siders, Dan Bertelson, Devin Gray, Eric Eichelberger, Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Cass, Mr. Melchior, Mr. Barnett, and Mr. Siders**. Special thanks go to our activity chair for this event, Chris Barnett, and to Mrs. Cass for her organization of this activity.



Parents' Open House

In Venturing, one of the most important programs developed by the crew is its periodic Parents' Night. This is the crew's opportunity to show parents what the crew has done, to recognize Venturers and their leaders and sponsors, and to inform parents about Venturing and the crew's upcoming events. To achieve these objectives, Crew 1100 has been hosting a semi-annual Parents Night, usually in the fall and spring.

Therefore, the evening of October 16th saw the crew and parents come together in the Parish Hall to enjoy a delicious potluck dinner and hear about the crews past and future activities. After a scrumptious meal provided courtesy of our many parents, the crew has its own surprise. Having practiced Dutch oven cooking for the two previous crew meetings, crew members prepared dessert for all of the attendees. Three fantastic desserts – peach cobbler, pineapple upside-down cake, and a black forest cobbler – topped off the evening's meal.

After dinner, it was time to get down to business. Crew members presented a slide show and discussed the crew's many activities since our spring Parents' Night. Kayaking on the Chesapeake Bay, canoeing the Potomac River, and the crew's summer high adventure trek down the Allagash River in Maine were highlights of the presentation. Following that, Venturer Will Zivich was presented the Venturing Outdoor Bronze Award (see separate article) while the crew/individuals were recognized for achievements over the past six months, to include NCAC 2003 Outstanding Crew and Outstanding Newsletter. Lastly, the crew's new officer team was introduced and crew officers over the past six months were recognized for their service.

Thank you to all of our magnificent crew members and parents who participated in this activity and made it so enjoyable.



DC After Dark

By Matt Barry

On a Friday night in October that many of us thought would be another boring start to a weekend, the Venture Crew headed out to participate in DC After Dark. The night began with an exciting ride to the NRA provided by Mrs. Cass. Few of us knew of Mrs. Cass' previous experience as a professional stock car driver. Upon arriving at the NRA, we first took a tour of their museum. We saw an enormous collection of guns ranging from bazookas that were twice as long as a person, to a gun that could fit in your wallet. After a quick safety test, we proceeded to the range and began to unleash our anxiousness with the .22 caliber rifles. During our stay at the NRA, the instructor / tour guide pointed out how their range was one of the best indoor ranges in the country. Indeed, it was very large and equipped with the latest automated target positioning systems. After the shooting experience, we all helped ourselves to some pizza and coke provided by the Scout Council. Though we were supposed to go on a scavenger hunt on the mall, all the Scouts agreed that they really didn't want to go. Despite Mr. Melchior's valiant effort to change our mind, he finally gave in and we head back to Nativity. From the Church we went over to Devin Gray's house where we ended the evening playing video games and watching TV. Attending this night of firepower and video madness were **Devin Gray, Chris Barnett, Chris Colton, and of course yours truly.** Adults providing much needed supervision were **Mr. Melchior, Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Cass, and Mr. Meehan.**



Dutch oven dessert chefs... ↑

Hike-o-Ree camp... →



President's Corner

By Eric Eichelberger



For this issue I had a hard time deciding about what to write. One thing I kept thinking about is how stressful this time of year is with school and activities starting, traveling for holidays and other various things. I feel that, along with the other Venturers, the Hike-o-ree helped to relieve the stress. Going out and enjoying the wilderness was a pleasant get away for the weekend. So, I am looking forward to our up-coming ski trip to do the same. To continue this pattern, we need to plan ahead for the upcoming months so we can have fun and grow as friends.



Hike-o-Ree

By Will Zivich

Over the weekend of 7-9 November 2003, Venturing Crew 1100 participated in the 14th Annual Venture Hike-o-ree at Front Royal, Virginia. Designed for venture-aged youth, this annual event offers participating units the opportunity to hike one of 15 different trails in the nearby Blue Ridge Mountains and to enjoy the fellowship of a diverse group of individuals and units. The Hike-o-ree promotes high adventure programs/activities and includes presentations from different units about high adventure programs. This year's Hike-o-ree attracted over 400 venture-age participants from around the National Capital Area.

The Crew 1100 contingent included **Chris Barnett, Erin Benedict, Matt Barry, Bryan DeRosa, Eric Eichelberger, Devin Gray, Zach Siders, Dan Bertelson, Will Zivich, Mr. Barnett, Mrs. Gray and Mr. Melchior**. For our trek, the crew selected a moderate hike along Little Devil's Stairs in the Shenandoah National Park. The trail climbs up Keyser Run through the rocks of Little Devil's Stairs and then follows the Piney River down from the ridgeline. Little Devil's Stairs was the most interesting part of the hike. The crew maneuvered around the rocks in the canyon while crossing Keyser Run many times before reaching the top of the ridge. The walk along the ridge took us through old farm and homestead areas of the early settlers and then followed the Piney River back down the ridge. We stopped for a nice scenic lunch along a stream. After lunch we climbed up a little hill and at the top, we stopped to visit a graveyard dating back to the early 1800's. After we passed the graveyard, it was only a short walk down hill back to the cars. We returned to the campsite in the early afternoon, which, for the crew was an unusual treat.

On Friday and Saturday evenings the crew, along with other Hike-o-ree participants, was treated to several excellent high adventure presentations and enjoyed a camp-wide cracker barrel. In the end, the crew enjoyed an excellent campout, a beautiful walk in the forest and good fellowship while honing their camping and hiking skills.

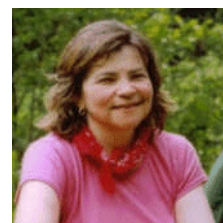
This and That

By Mrs. Gray

The Crew has gotten off to a great start this year, even though the ranks are drastically cut due to college-bound scouts. The new members have added a terrific balance for the existing members, though I would like to see a few more (especially females!).

It has been fun watching this crew come together as a team, and I think each activity we embark upon allows me more time to get to know you as individuals. You keep me laughing, and for that, I am thankful.

Thanks to each of you for bringing your wonderful personalities together as a Crew. So, what's next? Come help us plan...



Advisor's Minute

By Mr. Melchior

VENTURING— Scouting's Next Step

In the recent past, I have written to you about the spirit and goals of Venturing, leadership, and their influence on our crew. But what is this thing called Venturing and why are we really here?

The answer to why are we really here has to be found within each of our members, both youth and adult. It could be that you want to be a part of a mature group of young people who set high standards for spiritual and ethical development, demonstrate leadership, and possess a higher level of responsibility. Or it could be that you just want to have fun through shared experiences of outdoor adventure, service and social interaction. Whatever the reason, the self-development, leadership and participation of each member contributes immeasurably to the success of our crew.

As to the what is it, an outside definition describes Venturing as the BSA's older youth program designed to build individual character, promote citizenship, and develop personal and mental fitness. How the program does that is left up to the individual crews, their members, and officer team. Through a close affiliation with the Chartering Organization, an active program, and youth leadership, most crews realize a certain measure of success in the above areas. But it is important to have all three components and an active membership to reach the culminating point of these lofty goals.

Venturing Crew 1100 and its members continue to set high organizational and personal standards and truly take Scouting to the next step. In conclusion, I would ask each of you to take a moment to review the Venturing Oath and Code and recommit yourself to the ideals of Venturing and Scouting.

