The EVOA Newsletter will be sent out to all registered Exploring and Venturing Scouts and Leaders on a bi-monthly basis. Please keep an eye out for each issue of the newsletter to stay informed and up to date on anything EVOA related.

**What is the E.V.O.A?**

Exploring & Venturing Officers Associations (EVOA) provide opportunities for adventure, leadership, personal growth, and service. By doing so, they serve to model best practices in programming for local crews and to provide a program resource for Explorers, Venturers and Advisors throughout the EVOA’s area of operation. Exploring & Venturing Officers Associations provide opportunities for personal growth and leadership for their officers, just as the leaders and members of the EVOA provide programming of interest to their constituents. A strong EVOA usually means strong crews and posts.

Program and training events offered by the EVOA gives Explorers and Venturers the chance to meet other Explorers and Venturers to build friendships and networks, to learn from their experiences, and to have fun! The purpose of EVOAs is to provide fun and informative program opportunities for Explorers and Venturers. In many ways, the EVOA serves as a forum for planning and carrying out great program. The leadership and Advisors for the EVOA know they have done their job well when they see that the efforts of the EVOA have served to strengthen the Venturing and Exploring programs in their areas of operation.
Upcoming Events and Meeting Dates?

The EVOA is scheduled to meet the third Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Westfield Scouting Service Center. Please check the council calendar for any change of meeting date or location (https://www.wmascouting.org/calendar) or follow us on Facebook.

Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews

December 9, 2017
Westfield Scouting Council Service Center
1 Arch Rd. Suite 5, Westfield, MA 01085

Who should attend? Venture crew officers, members, and leaders.

Why attend? The purpose of the Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews course is to teach crew members with leadership positions about their new roles and how to reach success most effectively in that role. It is intended to help Venturers in leadership positions within their crew understand their responsibilities and to equip them with organizational and leadership skills to fulfill those responsibilities.

Cost? $10, which includes lunch and materials you will receive throughout the training.

What should Scouts bring? For the training sessions, everyone should bring a notebook, a folder, a pen/pencil to take notes, and a water bottle to stay hydrated.

Check In: 9 AM. Training runs until 5 PM.

Questions? Contact Corenn Boyer at wmassvoa.vicepres.adm@gmail.com

Register: Register online by December 4th or by registration form. Visit: https://www.wmascouting.org/ilsc
Lock In  
Date: February 17-18\textsuperscript{th} 
Location: TBA

Yearly Banquet  
Date: April 22\textsuperscript{nd} 
Location: TBA

More information and registration flyers to come soon! Please stay up to date with information by following our Facebook page and reviewing future EVOA newsletters.

https://www.facebook.com/WMCEVOA/
How can the E.V.O.A help YOUR unit?

The EVOA is a contact between your unit and Western Mass. Council, where we are able to help with Exploring and Venturing related questions you may have. During recruiting season, planning activities or trainings. The EVOA understands the challenges each unit is faced with and we are here to help. If you would like the EVOA to attend one of your unit’s meetings, trainings, or activities, please contact us! We are here to help YOU!

How to reach the E.V.O.A.

Riley O’Connor
President
wmassvoa.president@gmail.com

Corenn Boyer
Vice President of Administration
wmassvoa.vicepres.adm@gmail.com

Jacob Adams
Vice President of Program
wmassvoa.vicepres.program@gmail.com

https://www.facebook.com/WMCEVOA/
How can YOU join the E.V.O.A?

All Exploring and Venturing scouts and leaders are welcomed to join the EVOA, and first should attend EVOA monthly meetings and events.

QUALIFICATIONS:

To run for an Exploring & Venturing Officer position, an Explorer or Venturer MUST:

1. Be a currently registered Explorer or Venturer in the Western Massachusetts Council.
2. Be recommended and approved by his/her Post or Crew.
3. Be less than 20 years of age on Sept. 1, 2017 (to remain a youth member for the year).
4. Have 1 year tenure in Exploring and/or Venturing.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Must maintain active attendance and participation at EVOA meetings.
2. Represents Exploring and Venturing at:
   - Regional activities and meetings (when designated)
   - Council activities
   - Special projects (as assigned)
3. Responsible to the EVOA Advisors.
4. Assists the council with Exploring & Venturing activities.
5. Supports the council in any effort to train Explorers, Venturers and Advisors.
6. Promotes national, regional, area, and council activities, programs, and awards.
7. Agrees to wear the Exploring or Venturing uniform in accordance as suggested by the EVOA Advisors.

EXTRA:

The nominee can (and is encouraged) to describe on a separate page his or her qualifications for the Exploring & Venturing Officers Association, including:

1. Experience as the Post or Crew President and/or other Exploring or Venturing Officer.
2. Non-Scouting awards, recognitions, scholarships.
4. Schools, clubs, sports, and other leadership positions.
5. A statement on a present school status and college or career plan.
6. A brief statement on why you want to be on the Exploring & Venturing Officers Association (EVOA).
7. Other information on your qualifications to run for office.
2017-2018 Western Massachusetts Council
Exploring & Venturing Officer Association Nomination Form

(Please Print)

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Home Address: _________________________________________________________

City: ______________________ State: ___________ Zip: _________________

Telephone #: ______________________ Cell #: ____________________________

E-mail: ________________________________________________________________

Birth Date (mm/dd/yyyy): _____________ Age on Sept. 1, 2017: ________________

Currently Registered in Crew #: _______________________________________

Position desired (check all that apply):

President _____ Vice President of Administration: ______
Vice President of Programming: _____ Treasurer: _____ Secretary: _____

Crew Officer positions held/Service dates: ________________________________

Former VOA Officer positions held/Service dates: ________________________

Nominee’s Agreement:
I am able and willing to run for a position on the Western Massachusetts Council Exploring & Venturing Officers’ Association. I meet the qualifications listed. If elected, I will serve the Western Massachusetts Council to the best of my ability.

Approval Signatures:

________________________________________________________ (Nominee Signature) (Date)

________________________________________________________ (Parent(s) Signature) (Date)

________________________________________________________ (Crew or Post Advisor Signature) (Date)
How can YOU send pictures and/or articles to the EVOA newsletter?

The Western Massachusetts Council’s EVOA would like every unit to send in articles to share accomplishments, events and/or fundraisers to add into each Newsletter. If your unit has something they would like to share within the EVOA newsletter, please email Corenn Boyer at wmassvoa.vicepres.adm@gmail.com.

Venturing Crews’ Corner

The Western Massachusetts Council’s EVOA would like to congratulate Jacob Adams, from Venturing Crew 168, for earning his Summit Award on November 21st, 2017. We would also like to take a moment to thank him for everything he has done as a youth officer for the past two years in the EVOA.

The Summit Award is the highest award of Venturing, and is earned by Venturers who have “matured in their personal direction, skills, and life competencies, and who have accepted the responsibility to mentor others and serve their communities in a lasting way.”