The EVOA Newsletter will be sent out to all registered Exploring and Venturing Scouts and Leaders on a bi-monthly time period. 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. 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 not to hold meetings, but 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 an EVOA know they have done their job well when they see that the efforts of the EVOA have served to strengthen the Exploring and Venturing program in their area 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 Scout Office. 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

March 3, 2018
First Congregational Church of Brimfield
20 MAIN STREET
BRIMFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

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

To register by Tentaroo or print out form: https://www.wmascouting.org/ilsc
Lock-In Overnight Camping

February 17-18, 2018
Moses Scout Reservation
310 Birch Hill Road
Russell, MA 01071

Who should attend? Exploring and Venturing Scouts and leaders

Why attend? Come join Exploring and Venturing Scouts from all over the Western Mass. Council for an overnight Lock-In at Horace A. Moses Scout Reservation! During the day on Saturday, we will participate in Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures. This will include seasonal activities all around camp. This fun-filled winter day will include the following activities:

Ice Fishing - What can you catch?
Snow Shoeing - Explore some of our 1,300 acres of wilderness.
Blacksmithing - Our blacksmith shop will be open for you to try your hand at working with metal.
Radio - Learn about Ham radio and contact other people, possibly from around the world!
Fire Building - Learn about some different methods of starting fires, even in cold snowy conditions.
Welding - Learn about the basics of this important skill!

After the fun packed day participating in Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures, we will continue the fun at Guyton (one of the cabins in camp). Where our Lock-In overnight stay will begin with movies, games and lots of yummy food!

Cost? $25 per person

Registration Deadline? Saturday, February 10th

What should Scouts bring? While participating in Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures, we will be outside taking part in seasonal activities and everyone must bring layers to stay warm (winter coat, snow boots, hats, gloves, etc.) Also, everyone attending the Lock-In needs to bring the essentials to sleepover in one of the camp’s cabins (sleeping bag, pillows, change of clothes, toothbrush, etc.). Everyone in attendance can also bring some snacks and games they wish to enjoy after the fun packed day.

Check In: Saturday, February 17th, 2018 at 8:45 a.m. Guyton Cabin
Check Out? Sunday, February 18th, 2018 at 10 a.m.

Questions? Contact Riley O’Connor at wmassvoa.president@gmail.com

For more information about WHOA, please go to https://www.wmascouting.org/WHOA
Register online at https://westernmass.tentaroo.com/ or print out a form to mail or bring into one of our Western Mass. Council Scout Service Centers.
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 understand the challenges each unit is face 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
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, 2018 (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.
2018-2019 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, 2018: ________________

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 Venture 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 did 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.”