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 a 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.

AREA 2 VENTURING APEX 2018 REGISTRATION:
https://www.bsa-gnyc.org/NERAPEX
RECRUITMENT DAY

Learn about joining Venturing and have fun with high adventure activities while developing leadership and outdoor skills! Come and meet the EVOA officers and advisors, for a fun packed day in camp.

We will participate in Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures. This will include seasonal activities all around camp. This fun-filled summer day will include the following activities:

• **Boating** - Canoes, kayaks and row boats will all be available for use on this day.
• **Disc Golf** - Our new disc golf course is just waiting for you to give it a try. We will provide the discs, you bring the skill!
• **Rockets** - Water bottle rockets are a fun opportunity to test your design skills. Directions are attached below (or you can find out how to build one online). We will have limited materials if you need to make repairs or forget to bring one with you.
• **Climbing** - Looking for a challenge? We have our bouldering wall for everyone to try out their climbing skills. If you are 10 or older, then you can challenge the 68' tower. There are three sides to climb and one side to rappel down.
• **Radio** - Learn about Ham radio and contact other people, possibly from around the world!
• **Archery** - Can you hit the bullseye? Join us at the archery range and find out!
• **BB's** - Air rifles present a great introduction to developing good marksmanship.
• **Ecology** - Come explore the beauty of the world around us!
• **Blacksmithing** - Looking for a souvenir of your time at the heights? Then the blacksmith shop is the place for you!

Cost: $5 * Snacks available for purchase or bring your own.

Date: June 9th, 2018

Location: Horace A. Moses Scout Reservation

Registration will occur in Nunes Building, when you first arrive to camp.

For more information about WHOA, please go to [https://www.wmascouting.org/WHOA](https://www.wmascouting.org/WHOA)

Contact Riley O'Connor at wmassvoa.president@gmail.com with any questions or concerns you may have!!
VenturingFest 2018 is a special Scouting event at the Summit Bechtel Reserve open to registered Venturers, Venturing-age Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts, Explorers and adult leaders. This six day high-adventure experience invites participants to explore the best that the Summit has to offer. As if the adrenaline pumping activities weren’t enough, VenturingFest attendees will also get to jam out to concerts and meet new friends.

WHAT MORE COULD YOU WANT?!

ACTIVITIES

AQUATICS
Paddleboarding, Kayaking, Water Obstacle Course and White Water Rafting*!

COPE & CLIMBING
Rock Climbing, Rappelling, Canopy Zip-Line Tours Team-Building, and Challenge Courses!

OUTDOOR SKILLS
Geocaching, Wilderness Survival, Orienteering & Pioneering!

SUSTAINABILITY & ECOLOGY
Leave No Trace, Nature, Service & Conservation Projects!

SHOOTING SPORTS
Rifle, Shotgun, & Pistol Shooting, Laser Shooting Range, Static Archery, Crossbow & Sporting Arrows!

WHEELED SPORTS
Mountain Biking, BMX, Skateboarding, and more!

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

CELEBRATIONS & SPECIAL EVENTS
Live Music, DJ/Dance Night, 20th Anniversary Celebration and much more!

FAST FACTS

WHEN IS IT?
July 1st - 6th, 2018

WHERE IS IT?
Summit Bechtel Reserve
Mt. Hope, West Virginia

WHAT DOES IT COST?
Youth Registration Fee: $500
After April 30th, 2018: $600
Adult Registration Fee: $400
After April 30th, 2018: $500

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**
Registered Venturers, Venturing-Age Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts, Explorers and adult leaders! Register as Crews, individuals or council/area contingents.

CONTACT US
venturingfest@scouting.org
www.summitbsa.org/venturingfest

*Additional $75 fee per person
**Most complete Summit Waiver and parts A, B & C of the BSA Annual Health & Medical Record (meeting height/weight requirements for Summit High Adventure).
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

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

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

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, 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 Crew Corner

Crew 168 & Troop 7 out of Brimfield, MA has an upcoming Philmont Trek, and they have 3 open positions for any interested scout. You do not need to be a member of Crew 168 or Troop 7, because they have opened their trip to anyone interested. Their Trek is from July 26-August 6th, 2018, with a horseback, climbing, and hiking aspects mixed in. If you are interested in joining this unit to Philmont, please email Matt Tassinari at mtass@mtass.com.