

SOUTHERN REGION SNAPSHOT

2019-2020

The official newsletter of the Southern Region VOA



IN THIS ISSUE

**2019-2020 VOA OFFICER
FAREWELLS**
PAGES 01 - 04

ADVISOR FAREWELLS
PAGES 05

AREA NEWS
PAGES 06 - 14

**THINGS TO DO IN
QUARANTINE**
PAGE 15

**CONTACTING YOUR
SOUTHERN REGION VOA**
PAGE 16

Farewell Southern Region!

by 2020-2021 SR VP-Communication

Don't let COVID-19 keep you from being in the Scouting spirit. There are some many things you can do from home to help others and continue Scouting, things like making masks at home to donate to those in need, or holding a virtual campfire for your Region, Area, Council, or Unit.

As the 2019-2020 VOA term comes to a close we wanted to give the Officers a chance to say their farewells to the Southern Region. The first pages of the Snapshot hold the articles written by the officers and a few fun photos from their term.



2019-2020 SR VOA President Farewell



Howdy Southern Region!

It is so crazy to think that my term has come to an end. There are so many people to thank, memories to share and things to talk about. I want to thank every single person who has impacted the Southern Region VOA and the great team behind it. A huge thanks to every Area President and Area Advisor along with their other team members. This term the SRVOA has made a huge impact on its Venturers.

We have increased in VOAs, held online virtual trainings during these rough times and continued to lead the adventure in a number of ways, which many of you have contributed to. The amount of passion and love my team has for this program shows through all their hard work and dedication. I want to give a huge shout out to my three VPs; Bain, Connor, and Samantha. They have done an excellent job and I could not have done it without them.

My favorite memory from this year was Winterfest! It was incredible to see the team all together and in action. We hosted an incredible brunch along with fun games, a team spaghetti dinner and had some great quality and team bonding time. I could not have asked for a better team to help run such a great event.

There is one last person that I would like to thank, and that would be my amazing Region Advisor, Mrs. Sherry McGugin. Her ability to scout with her whole being combined with her immense knowledge and dedication create the ultimate standard for servant leadership. I want to thank her for her words of wisdom, advice and patience she has had with me. I like to think we made a pretty good team this year and I am so blessed to have had her with me every step of the way.



I am so happy to have been a part of this great team and community. The Southern Region will always hold a special place in my heart. I cannot wait to see what the future has in store for the incoming team, I know they will go on to do great things. I want to say thank you to the Venturing program and community - Thank you for entrusting me with this great honor and duty to serve as your Region president. I am forever humbled and grateful for the opportunity to serve.

God Bless and may y'all continue to lead the adventure,

Ella Sierra Hirsch

2019-2020 SR VOA VP Administration Farewell



I am very grateful to have been able to serve the Southern Region over the course of this past year. Though there were many unique obstacles, I am proud to see all the hard work Venturers contributed to make Venturing a home for everybody, even when our lives were so disrupted. I have made many friends over the course of this term, and I hope to stay in contact with them. I hope the achievements of this year will create a foundation for next year's term to build from.

- Bain McHale



2019-2020 SR VOA VP Program Farewell

Southern Region, what a joy it has been to get to work and know so many wonderful people as Vice President of Program. My biggest goal this term was to make Winterfest an incredible event for all to enjoy. For those who attended Winterfest, we can all admit that we faced road bumps that occurred. We got moved from our original location, struggled to get participation in some of our events, and had a ton of snow fall! With those struggles, we also saw tremendous things occur: friendships were made (some best friends were even made), games were played, laughter was shared, yummy jambalaya was eaten, and an incredible service project was pulled off to donate canned food to the local Church in Gatlinburg.

I know that Raven (the incoming VP) will do amazing planning for next year's Winterfest and make it even bigger and better! I hope to continue to interact with the Southern Region this next year as we have the BEST people ever in my opinion and I hope to see more growth (and friendships!) occur.

My best piece of advice I would offer to anyone thinking about joining the Region VOA or VOA in general is to reach out and try everything! We are always wanting people to join and be involved and help us improve and you might just have the next best idea that we need!

- Samantha Hill



2019-2020 SR VOA VP Communications Farewell



This farewell is not just a goodbye to the Southern Region family, but to my time in Scouting as a youth. This was a great way to spend my last year. From making friends all over the country to meeting so many friends at Winterfest, I have enjoyed this experience to the fullest. Ella, Sam, Bain and I did our best to make the year fun and help Venturing grow. I watched the metrics and was stoked to see us add several hundred people to our social media and bring great news about our Region and Areas to your attention.

Atlanta was great! Meeting the folks I would be spending time with was fun. I met Ella when I was Area 7 VP Comm. Sam and Bain were both easy to get along with that first weekend, and it stayed true all year. I enjoyed teaching classes with Soren (Area 7 Prez) and stopping off on my way to see my sister in Cali by visiting some of the friends I made at Winterfest.

I am headed back to SeaBase this summer. It will be way different from last summer. Some things will be the same. I'm serving as a boat mate again, still responsible for the boat, but this year I hope to begin working towards my captain's license and returning to SeaBase as a Captain in the future. I have made friends with Rangers in the State and National Park system down there. I hope to graduate next summer and work my way through the system to become part of the Park Service. A lot of the things I learned as a Scout and Crew youth will come in handy. So, thanks for hanging out with me on this journey. I promise I will LEAD THE ADVENTURE in the future.

- Connor Harling

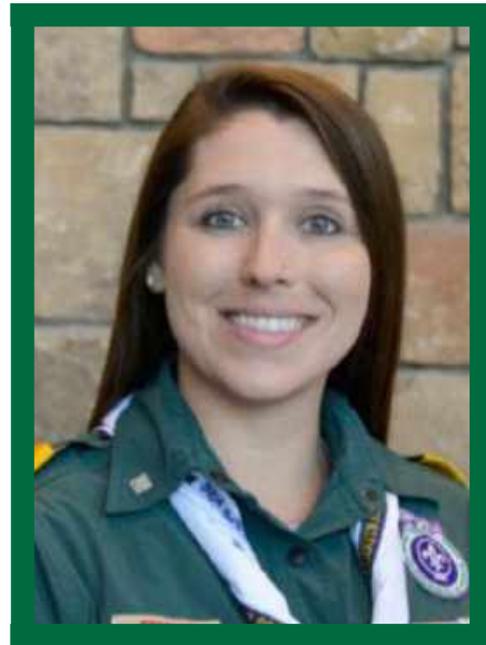


Advisor Farewells



Debbie Downey

Debbie Downey has been the Area 8 Advisor for almost 3+ years now, and as she settles down into her well deserved retirement Area 8 would like to appreciate this amazing Advisor and the immense work she has done for the Area. Not only had she supported the many youth that cycled in and out of Area 8, but she pushed them just enough to achieve amazing things. She always has a wise word for you no matter the situation. Although she enjoyed the background and watching us grow, she was the strong foundation to the bonds and the teamwork Area 8 created.



Kelsey McLeland

Kelsey is an avid Venturer who dedicates herself to helping progress the program. She has spent the last 3 year's mentoring youth as the Southern Region Associate Advisor of Administration. Though she always offers assistance, she makes sure that the youth lead and continue to grow as individuals. During her service, the region made great administrative strides, strengthening the foundation for future volunteers to build on.

Area 1



Area 1 will be hosting their annual area event, Frightfest, on October 9th-11th. This event will be full of spooky activities, shooting, climbing, and even cardboard boat racing! The event will be at Salmen Scout Reservation in Mississippi. Please follow Area One's Instagram @SR1Venturing or check out their website, sr1venturing.org.



Area 2

Sadly, Area 2 had to cancel their annual event, Rendezvous. The replacement Rendezvous will occur when Venturing the Gathering normally occurs. This replacement Rendezvous will be September 18th-20th at Trevor-Rees Jones.

The rescheduled event will not be able to have all the same activities it would have originally provided, but it will still be loads of fun! The replacement event offers shooting, water sports, climbing, and much more.

There will still be the standard annual Rendezvous on March 19th - 21st at Camp Wisdom

You can keep updated on the official rescheduling of Rendezvous by checking out Area 2's Instagram and Facebook @sr2venturing, as well as their website, sr2venturing.org.



Area 3



In February, the Area 3 VOA hosted the Venturing Challenge with the Sam Houston Area Council VOA at Bovay Scout Ranch in Navasota, TX. The Venturing Challenge was a great success. There were many activities including jousting, knife-throwing, and an obstacle course. Keep your eye out for more information about the event in February of 2021 by following the Area 3 VOA on their Instagram @sr3venturing.



Area 4



While the 2020 WOAH was cancelled, WOAH will run as scheduled in 2021 for March 19th - 21st at Camp La-No-Che in Paisley, Florida! Their VOA Orientation is scheduled virtually for August 22nd & 23rd.



Despite the quarantine, the Area 4 VOA joined up with the Area 7 VOA to host a Virtual Venturing Training. This training consisted of multiple courses that are required for advancement to the Summit rank in the Venturing program. This training opportunity was not limited to only Area 4 & 7, though! Venturers from all areas across the Southern Region participated in this amazing opportunity. Over 130 Scouts attended!

VIRTUAL
venturing
TRAINING
BY AREA 4 AND AREA 7

MAY 3RD
- MENTORING

- PROJECT MANAGEMENT
- ETHICAL CONTROVERSY

MAY 9TH
- GOAL SETTING &
TIME MANAGEMENT

- INTRO TO SKILLS FOR CREWS

Area 5



Unfortunately, the Area 5 VOA had to postpone their March Photo Scavenger Hunt. The Scavenger Hunt is an event in which Crews will complete various challenges directed by the Area 5 VOA, and in order to gain points they are required to post photos or videos of the group completing the task.

Additionally, the Area 5 annual event - Legacy - has been moved online due to Coronavirus. You can stay updated on the statuses of the Scavenger Hunt and Legacy by checking their instagram and Facebook @sr5venturing.



Area 6



Area 6's annual event, SOAR, has officially been cancelled. You can keep updated on their upcoming events by checking the Area 6 Facebook and Instagram @sr6venturing.



Area 7



At the moment, all council Venturing events in Area 7 have been canceled. Area 7 is also planning on hosting their orientation online. The orientation will be August 22nd. Their annual area event, Last Venturer (TLV), is still scheduled to occur in person from October 30th - November 1st.



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Area 8



The Area VOA is excited to announce that their annual Area Venturing event, *Venturers Under the Christmas Tree*, will be at Kerr Scout Ranch in Tishomingo, Oklahoma from December 11th to 13th.

The Area 8 VOA Orientation will occur virtually from September 4th-6th.



Area 9



The Area 9 VOA is proud to announce that they are in the process of planning a new Area Venturing event, the Venturing Olympics. While the date is not confirmed, the projected date for the event is April 9th-11th. To receive updates about the status of the Venturing Olympics and the Area 9 VOA, follow their Instagram @sr9venturing.



Things to do during Quarantine

- **Give Blood**
 - Blood donation numbers have gone down due to the Social distancing measures put in place, but this does not mean there is a change in demand for blood. Contact your local Red Cross to find information on blood drives that are near you.
- **Volunteer at a Food Bank**
 - With a loss in jobs comes the need for someone else to provide food. Contact a local food bank and volunteer to help!
- **Help someone with errands**
 - For those who are at high risk for the virus and find it difficult to run errands, go to the grocery store, pic up mail, etc. may need someone to do these things for them. Consider volunteering to do these tasks for them.
- **Make a Mask**
 - If you like to craft, or have friends who do, this is the perfect activity. The CDC has guidelines available for how to make masks, and you can also find many other mask templates online.



Don't feel limited by the suggestions on this page. There are so many more things you can do to help others during this difficult time!



Contacting Your Southern Region VOA

Follow us on Social Media:



See [SRVenturing.org](https://www.srventuring.org) for more information!

Email us:

president@srventuring.org

vpadministration@srventuring.org

vpprogram@srventuring.org

vpcommunication@srventuring.org

