

Unique Events for Venturers: CURLING!

By M. Robert Marks

Venturing Crew 306, Kennedy Township, PA



Curling Stone

Venturing is frequently described as "out of the box" and "unique". Our Crew considers that our motto and always looks for activities that provide members with new and different programs they wouldn't normally experience. We call it the "WOW factor" when we heard our Venturers proclaim "I've never done that before!"

At last falls' Powder Horn course, we had the opportunity to try curling using rocks on wheels. We also learned there was a curling club about 15 minutes from our meeting location. Sliding 44 lb granite rocks 146 feet across a sheet of marbled ice, then sweeping the ice with a broom to make it move faster seemed pretty unique to us! We knew immediately, this was an activity that HAD to be added to our calendar!

The game of curling is thought to have been invented in late medieval Scotland and has been a part of the Olympics since 1924. It is played on a strip of ice or "curling sheet" that is specially prepared with frozen droplets of water to marble the surface and reduce the friction between the stone and the ice. Curling has long been a history in Europe (Scotland, Sweden, Germany and Switzerland) and is extremely popular sports in Canada. In the US, curling grew in popularity after the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City and has gained even more recognition since the US won their first ever curling medal in the 2006 Winter Olympics.

If your Crew is interested in trying curling, you can learn more at USA Curling: www.usacurl.org or the Grand National Curling Club www.gncc.org. A map of the clubs in the US can be found at www.kccurling.com/usmap/USMap.htm there's also a good listing of clubs in Wikipedia.

Consider the "WOW" factor when deciding on activities for your crew. High adventure always has a great wow factor, but so do activities like sushi tasting or... curling. Remember also – these "out of the box" events will help your Crew recruit new members and can be the source of some very positive PR in the local media.

