

# VENTURING MAGAZINE

**First Jamboree with Venturers** by Sherry McGugin

**November 2013**



There is something special about being the first to do anything. The Middle Tennessee Council along with 2,118 Venturing youth and 455 Venturing leaders made history by being the FIRST Venturing boots on the ground as participants at the 2013 BSA National Jamboree. The event

was held at the beautiful Summit Bechtel Family Reserve in New Hope, West Virginia. The participants braved the elements of incredible rain storms and extreme heat once arriving at the Jamboree site. The Crews did not let the weather challenges prevent them from experiencing all the Jamboree had to offer. The first National Jamboree held at the "Summit" was a great success providing exciting programs, many informative exhibits and opportunities. The youth had occasions for personal growth, mingling of cultures with shared experiences from units across the U.S. and 18 countries from around the world.

Our Crews 705C and & 705D had opportunity to camp with international Scouts which was an important aspect of the experience for many in our Venturing Contingent. The willingness of the internationals to share Egyptian tourist information, English tea ceremonies, Korean games, Scottish culture was a unique experience and much talked about aspect of the Jamboree for many of the youth. The various dialects heard from the tents during the night were an experience of a lifetime.

Venturing youth participated in Technology Quest in the Clouds, Mountain Bikes, and the Shooting Sports at the Barrels which was located at the top of Heart Attack Ridge. Others participated in the Dragoon Boat races, braved the Whitewater rapids of the New River Gorge. The reenactment of Brownsea Island, which relived the original activities from Sir Robert Baden Powell at the campfire were a delight. Most of the Scouts traded patches, while others rode the zip lines. The Big Zip, one of the highlights from the jamboree, featured a ride from the top of a 1200ft mountain; traveling three-quarters of a mile down the line nearly 65 mph suspended over 150 feet above ground.

For some of our youth, the 7 mile trek to the Garden Ground and the programs available was a favorite. For others, the final Arena Show and the concert by Three Doors Down and what some say were an incredible Fireworks show. Basecamp Foxtrot wouldn't know unless that was a Bat-signal. Curse you clouds!!

The Day of Service was an incredible success and was well received by the surrounding communities. One of the unscheduled highlights of the Jamboree occurred when the Scouts took the words of special guest speaker and Eagle Scout Mike Rowe to heart when he told the young people that "that a Scout was Clean but not afraid to get DIRTY! Slip-n-slides in the campsites were a common occurrence.

What does Emily Baker, Middle TN Council VP of Program think about her first Jamboree? "I enjoyed just about every minute, even walking and the extremes in the heat. The activities were a blast and I learned some very interesting about everything. Everyone treated me as an equal even though I as a girl. She got to meet others involved in scouting from area the world. "I must say, the thing I cherish about those 10 days was everyone I met," Baker said. "I don't think I came across a single person I didn't enjoy being around. I still talk to this day about all the memories I have there. It was definitely an experience I will never forget."

"I was honored to be a part of the first ever group of wonderful young ladies ever allowed to attend as a participant at a National Jamboree," says Cora Wilson. I met the most amazing people there as well. Our Subcamp -Foxtrot- was the best part of the trip. We camped with the international Scouts and was the first opportunity to meet and talk with someone from another country. I am now friends with some Scottish and British guys and it is better than I could ever dream of for a girl from a small town in Tennessee."

Thomas McGugin attended the National Jamboree as a Boy Scout in 2010 at A.P.Hill. "I am proud to be one of the first Venturing youth attend the event. It was amazing to trade patches, scarves, pins, scarves and uniforms and learn about cultures from their country," Thomas said. "Despite the rain which was around 9 in for the 10 days, the extreme mileage (average 15 miles a day) to travel to the high adventure areas, this was the most incredible trip I have ever been on," he said. I got the opportunity to meet people from around the world, do some high adventure and make history as a Venturer. I definitely had a greater experience as a Venturing youth than when I attended the Jambo in 2010."