



Growing Venturing

at

**Florida Sea Base
Islamorada, FL**

The Venturing A-L-P-S program model builds on success from the past and provides a framework for a dynamic program of adventure, leadership, personal growth, and service; grounded in a flexible program of continuous, youth-led adventure with the new recognition system providing Venturers with benchmarks of progress. Using this program model as a framework for supporting your crew's program and for establishing council support for crew program needs forms the heart of this conference. This conference is designed for crew advisors, crew committee members, and crew officers.



Mark Your Calendars!

You won't want to miss it!

January 15-21, 2017

**For more information
Website:**

www.bsaseabase.org/ConferenceCenter.aspx

Contact:

jessica.janscha@scouting.org

Get to Know Your Staff:



Michelle Merritt
National Venturing
Vice President

Michelle Merritt is the 2016–2017 National Venturing Vice President. Michelle is from the Spirit of Adventure Council in Boston, Massachusetts. She joined Venturing at the age of 14 to experience the outdoors. The friendships and opportunities that Venturing provides keeps her active in Crew 345 of Kingston, New Hampshire. She has earned her Sports Bronze Award, Venturing Gold Award, and Venturing Silver Award as well as the Pathfinder Award. In addition, Michelle was awarded the council and area Venturing Leadership Award. Within her council, Michelle has been a staff member at Lone Tree Scout Reservation for three summers and this year worked at a local Boy Scout day camp, New England Base Camp. At age 14, she attended National Youth Leadership Training and has worked as an NYLT staff member for the last three years. Last summer, she was the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader for her council's NYLT course. Michelle sought out leadership roles in her crew and quickly became crew president. Looking for the next challenge, she applied for an area position. This past year she was the Northeast Region Area 1 President and worked to start and lead the Venturing Officers' Association for her home council. As the National Venturing vice president, Michelle hopes to work

with the National VOA to improve the brand recognition of the Summit Award and promote Venturing advancement as a way to grow the program. In addition, she plans to work to get more Venturers involved with their local council VOA by promoting the activities they plan and the opportunities they provide. Michelle plans to attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute studies chemical engineering. Michelle Merritt is the 2016–2017 National Venturing Vice President. Michelle is from the Spirit of Adventure Council in Boston, Massachusetts. She joined Venturing at the age of 14 to experience the outdoors. The friendships and opportunities that Venturing provides keeps her active in Crew 345 of Kingston, New Hampshire. She has earned her Venturing Silver Award as well as the Pathfinder Award. In addition, Michelle was awarded the council and area Venturing Leadership Award. Within her council, Michelle has been a staff member for four summers. At age 14, she attended National Youth Leadership Training and has worked as an NYLT staff member for the last three years. Last summer, she was the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader for her council's NYLT course. Following NYLT, Michelle attended NAYLE at Philmont.



Rachel Zahrobsky
Central Region Area 7
Venturing Advisor

Rachel Zahrobsky brings years of proven leadership and communication skills to the Venturing program and has been involved as an adult for the past 7 years. She has been awarded the Area Venturing Leadership Award for her service to scouting. As a youth, Rachel was involved in Girl Scouts, which began her foundation for being a leader. She was also very much involved and held numerous leadership roles as a collegiate member of Sigma Kappa Sorority (Beta Nu). There she was involved in many philanthropic activities and was on the executive board throughout her 4 years. She served as the Area 7 Venturing Associate Advisor of Communication from 2012-2014. Rachel has extensive experience in newsletter creation and social media, as well as working with youth. She began her role as Central Region Area 7 Venturing Chair/Advisor in 2014. Rachel has attended numerous training courses, including Venturing BLAST! which was held this past summer at the Philmont Training Center. Away from Scouting, Rachel attended Lewis University where she studied Sports Management with a Business Administration & English minor. She also helps out at her former high school every spring as an assistant coach to all levels of the Girls' Badminton teams. Professionally, Rachel works as a supervisor of the Pre-Access Scheduling department at one of the large hospital systems near her home. Here she oversees many employees and schedules for 4 hospitals & multiple onsite facilities, as well as train new employees in her department.