

Western Region Venturing Youth Leadership Conference

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This past weekend, April 24-26, 2009, I attended the first ever Western Region Venturing Youth Leadership Conference. This took place in Phoenix, Arizona at the Herd Scout Pueblo camp. After leaving the airport the youth who flew in went to Castles and Coaster, a family fun center until we were able to get on the camp property. Upon arrival to the camp, we were given a schedule that had information but only 3 specific times for mandatory things such as Task Force meeting and dinner at the Cheesecake factory Saturday night. The rest was blank so we had to work together to make a functioning schedule for the 3 days.

At this conference, Matthew McGroarty, the current Western Region President and the incoming President, Jennifer Lowe were present to participate and talk. Many ideas and questions were answered about Venturing and one of the attending Venturers, gave a presentation on his VOA (Venturing Officer's Association) and provided more background on Varsity Scouts and LDS crews. I felt it was important because many people there had no idea about it. As for our sessions, they were mainly discussions amongst the 20 Venturers and the two adult Advisors, Robyn Knoll and Brian Casper (both previous Western Region Presidents). They were great advisors for the conference and fun to be around.

When attending the Task Force meeting, I and the other venturers were able to meet and talk with our Area Representatives. We participated in their meeting and they also gave us hats that said "Western Region Venturing", as well as a tour of the Western Region office.

As for the camp, it was beautiful. The best part of that would be the night hikes we took both nights led by the youth. There was a conference room, a library, kitchen and tons of rooms to sleep in so we were able to accommodate all the age groups (male/female, 14-17, 18-20 and so on) of the participants.

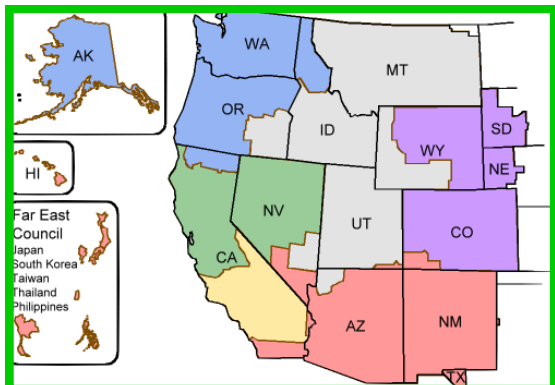
I learned many things this past weekend at the conference and here are a few of them. Western Region consist of 56 councils. We are in Area E2 (see map below, pink area). BSA is a business, some key terms when discussing it are, static/dynamic and subjective/objective. I am currently working with the other Venturers who attended this conference to plan another one for those who did not get to attend and come up with ways to build the structure of Venturing through leadership. All in all I felt that this conference was very useful to myself and the other 20 youth participating and I hope to promote this so as to get more Venturers interesting in things higher than their own crew and council levels. I also learned ways to expand Venturing from Council up to Region. And help other councils build an effective VOA.



Matthew McGroarty (Western Region President 2008-2009) and Mackenzie Lardie



Mackenzie Lardie and Haley Bahr watching a presentation.



All of Western Region. We are in the pink, Area E2.



Participants and advisors for the conference.