

**My final honored mentors of the National Venturing Youth Cabinet Website are those who are most responsible for two amazing years on the National Venturing Cabinet.**

The President of the United States ends his term of office with presidential pardons. Since I have no one to pardon, I ask you to bear with me as I end my term as National Venturing President by publicly thanking those who have greatly influenced my development into and as a Cabinet officer. I vow to no longer poke fun at those fortunate recipients of Academy Awards as they stumble over their acceptance speech, delivering a list of thank you messages. For, as I approach the end of my two years on the National Venturing Cabinet, as Western Region President and National Venturing President, I want my final words to be those of thanks to those who mentored me to and through two of the most amazing years imaginable for an Idaho Venturer in high school.

First, I must thank the faculty at RiverStone International Baccalaureate High School in Boise, Idaho, for making this year possible. Led by Head of School Joe Kennedy, an Eagle Scout, and Lisa Fisher, the faculty team has cheerfully arranged alternate exam times, make-up sessions, and early/late project deadlines to accommodate my responsibilities in Venturing. I transferred from a rigid academic environment to RiverStone, with its more difficult yet flexible accelerated curriculum. As I reflect upon my year at RiverStone, I realized I learned more in school, while accomplishing more in life. Mr. Kennedy, Ms. Fisher, Mr. Carrigan, Mr. Ide, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Harper, Sylvie, Mollie, and Robyn, I sincerely thank you.

One does not arrive in high school an immediate success. Two noteworthy teachers changed my life. Some teachers teach to the middle of the class; others challenge students at every level. Two of the latter were Don Haisley from Hemingway Elementary School and Jessica Trager, Wood River Middle School Teacher extraordinaire. Ms. Trager's mission seemed to be to prepare me for the future. I was 12 when she began teaching me about interviewing and on-camera; advised me as newspaper editor; and helped me with my first web project. Every student should have a Ms. Trager!

Also at 12, Midge Fisher of Girl Scouts of Silver Sage (GSSSC), became an important individual in my life. Not only did Midge Fisher spend hours training me; she demanded/arranged opportunities for me to utilize the training. I am also grateful to the dedicated women in GSSSC's Service Unit #21 who have supported me for years, especially Willa McLaughlin and Pam Doucette. Finally, thanks to Jo Beecham, the GSSSC Executive.

My national Venturing journey began with Roy Graybill, a retired educator and now erstwhile District Executive of the Snake River Council. Roy sponsored my nomination for WR President, ignoring protestations that I was too young. He was the first person I called when I was selected as National Venturing President.

Thanks for Father John Morgan and Teresa Gregory for spiritual guidance, and my personal "Board of Directors" from the Church and community: Susan (Chairwoman of the Board), Ghislaine, Kitty, Lynn, Gerri, the O'Connors, the Blues, the Hunts - your example and years of caring have positively impacted my life.

Grandpa, my brother Joe, and my step-dad Rick - you keep me humble and laughing. Thanks. I love you. Friends from Sun Valley (lunch club) and Boise - you were there for the best of times and made the worst of times better. Thanks!

And now to my Venturing family...

First, Crew 192 - with founders like Joe (West Point '07) and Ryan (Harvey Mudd '07) and members Andrew (Harvard '09); Ben (Yale '09); Connor (Boston College '09), Anneka (Manhattanville '10), and Max, top ranked bicyclist in Idaho and top ranked Nordic skier in the Mountain Region - I was surrounded by amazing leaders with incredible parents.

Steve Nelson, Council Executive of the Snake River Council, his wife, Diane, and daughter Nakita have treated me like family, even offering to include me in a family day at Six Flags, had I not been selected NVP. Steve, I know every step I have taken, you have been beside me. No Council Executive could have done more to assist a youth in success. The staff of the Council, its Executive Board and Committee have steadfastly supported me in my service. Special thanks to Kathee, Karen and Gloria, for paperwork, uniforms and laughs.

The Ore-Ida Council, whose erstwhile Executive Sam Thompson is now the National Director of the Cub Scouting Division, and the Grand Teton Council have assisted me with many opportunities. Thanks.

I enjoyed every minute at the BSA high adventure camps. Thanks to my Rayado crew, Sea Base crew from Minnesota, Kean-san at Northern Tier and Captain Dennis at Sea Base.

Charles Holmes exhausted himself bringing Venturing to my beloved Idaho. Charles, I know visiting three councils in three days and driving 600+ miles within the state was a bit excessive, but your work has positively impacted Venturing in our state. Thank you.

Bill Evans, Doc Miller and Dr. Mike Barrett -- our Kodiak/Kodiak X masterminds -- you are developing a generation of leaders. Thanks for believing in me and giving me opportunities to implement the Kodiak/Kodiak X skills I learned with you.

Donna and Larry Cunningham, you helped a 15 year-old girl prepare for two amazing years. I hope you know how much your efforts assisted me.

Dottie Brown and Bill Daggett, not only do you run the best week at PTC, the Venturing week, you have watched over me during my tenure on the Cabinet. Thank you for your many kindnesses, in letters and at meetings.

Kerry & Ian Cheesman, thanks for Venturing's outstanding TRUST Award.

Keith Gehlhausen and Randy Seefeldt, thanks for allowing youth to lead at Jamboree.

Sharon Aycock (aka Mom), Susann McElroy and Keith Walton, thanks for two years of support, guidance and help.

My final thanks are to the team who helped me turn this year as National Venturing President into something that will endure for Venturers around the country. Web Site Advisor Dr. Craig Murray's selfless gift of time and talent has resulted in a web site that has recorded more than 22,000 hits since January. Craig, thanks for your many hours of work and good humor. Thanks to your wife for the many hours she shared you with us (including New Years Eve!) Last, but definitely not least, my mom, Web Site Coordinator Cindy Jesinger, whose organizational ability enhanced our productivity. Mom has been my friend, supporter and mentor throughout this process and I am blessed with her presence in my life.