

**For Immediate Release:**  
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## **Venturing Crew Chartered**

*American Red Cross, Black Hawk County Sheriff  
and Black Hawk County EMA Join Forces*

WATERLOO - The American Red Cross Hawkeye Chapter is pleased to announce a new partnership with the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Department and the Black Hawk County Emergency Management Agency.

The agencies will sign a charter at the Sheriff's office on January 15, 2010, at 10 a.m. to create the Emergency Services Venturing Crew. Venturing is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are 14 through 20 years of age. Venturing's purpose is to provide positive experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults.

Through the new area Venturing Crew local youth will obtain adult training in the emergency and disaster services areas. Some of the Red Cross courses include CPR/AED, First Aid, sheltering basics, client assistance, and damage assessment. The Black Hawk County EMA will offer CERT and other related courses. The Black Hawk Sheriff's Department will offer various classes in investigation, search techniques, and self defense basics.

The newly formed Venturing Crew will be contacting the local schools to share this opportunity with interested young adults. The goal of the Venturing Crew is to provide members valuable training so they are able to assist during local disasters.

For more information about Red Cross programs and services, call (319) 234-6831. Visit on-line at [www.hawkeyechapter.org](http://www.hawkeyechapter.org)

### **About the American Red Cross:**

*The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies nearly half of the nation's blood; teaches lifesaving skills; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a charitable organization — not a government agency — and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or join our blog at <http://blog.redcross.org>.*

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