



# Why Start a Venturing Crew?

## What is Venturing?

- The young adult program of the BSA for young men and women 14 (who have completed the 8th grade) through 20 years of age
- Youth member is a "Venturer"
- A unit is called a "Venturing Crew"
- Venturing adults are "advisors"
- Youth leader is the "president"
- \$16 annual membership fee (includes Council Insurance fee) - same chartering process

## Why your Troop should consider organizing a Venturing Crew

- The Venturing Program complements the Boy Scout Troop. It adds exciting new advancement and leadership opportunities for your older boys
- It allows flexibility, so boys can participate in both programs
- Venturing can help solve many of the Scoutmaster's challenges
- It meets the wants and needs of 14 to 18 year old boys

## Scoutmaster Challenges

- Keeping 14 to 18 year old Scouts "engaged" in the troop
- Challenging older Scouts, while at the same time, trying to attract and retain younger Scouts
- Competing with older Scouts interests; cars, girls, High School
- Giving leadership/role model opportunities to all older Scouts
- Giving younger Scouts something to anticipate beyond the Troop

## National BSA Statistics

- Average Boy Scout is 13 years and 3 months old
- Average Eagle Scout is 14 years and 9 months old
- Average Boy Scout attendance at summer camp is 2.8 years

## Male Venturers may continue to work toward Eagle

- Must be at least a First Class earned as a Boy Scout or Varsity Scout
- Requirements remain the same
- Board of review can be conducted by the troop or crew
- Those registered in both the troop and crew can receive multiple credit for many Bronze, Gold, Silver and Ranger requirements
- Can receive past credit for certificates earned

## What does Venturing offer to older Scouts in your troop?

- New advancement opportunities for boys interested in progressing beyond Eagle
- New awards and recognition for boys out of the advancement loop
- Activities with boys and girls their own age
- New leadership skills training for all members
- Older Scouts give leadership to the Troop through the Ranger program

## How does a Troop and a Crew work together?

- Scouts ages 14 to 18, and adult leaders can be members of both units; primary registration in the troop and multiple in the crew
- The Crew meets separately from the Troop twice each month and has occasional activities apart from the Troop
- Older Scouts in the Troop, (especially troop leaders) are expected to participate in both units
- Recruit an Assistant Scoutmaster to serve as Crew Advisor
- Utilize existing merit badge counselors as consultants for the Ranger Award
- Utilize Troop advancement chair to help conduct Crew reviews for Gold and Silver Awards
- Venturers can wear distinctive uniforming and maintain the same unit number

## 14 to 18 year old boys want:

- Challenging physical activities with boys their own age
- Recognition of their "older" status
- Activities with girls
- Control of their environment
- Independence
- To explore and experience their world
- A sense of belonging and acceptance from their peer group, inclusion in a "gang"

## 14 to 18 year old boys need:

- Consistent adults that "Walk their Talk"
- Character and ethical education outside the classroom
- Positive adult role models, male and female
- Opportunities to become proficient at something
- Leadership opportunities

## What is the difference between Venturing/Venture?

### Venturing Crew

Stand Alone Unit

Coed, all male, or all female

Ages 14-20

5 Bronze awards, Gold, Silver, Ranger, Quest, Trust, Boy Scout advancement above 1st class for males

President, two VP positions, Secretary, Treasurer, Quartermaster, Historian, Guide, Activity chairs

### Venture Patrol

Optional patrol of a troop

Male only

Ages 13-17

Boy Scout advancement only

Venture Patrol Leader

## Ranger Core Requirements

Standard first aid plus CPR

Emergency Preparedness

Land Navigation

Cooking

Communications

Wilderness Survival

Leave No Trace

Conservation

## Ranger Electives (must earn 4 of 18)

Backpacking

First Aid

Hunting

Physical Fitness

Cave Exploring

Fishing

Lifesaver

Plants & Wildlife

Project COPE

Ecology

Mountaineering

Shooting Sports

Mountain Biking

Equestrian

Outdoor Living History

Winter Sports

Water Craft

SCUBA

## Venturing's growth is happening in these areas:

- Church youth groups that adopt the structure of Venturing to help strengthen their youth group and give them a focus
- Successful troops that adopt Venturing to meet the wants and needs of their older boys
- High School and college outdoor clubs that adopt Venturing to complement their program
- Independent groups that are organized from High School hobby surveys



# What Is Venturing?

Venturing is a new "old" program of the Boy Scouts of America. Originally part of the Exploring Division, it finally came into its own in 1998. It has become the fastest growing program of the BSA. Young adults have found through the Venturing program the outlet they have been looking for in their age group. It has been an exciting time of fast growth and great learning experiences.

There are continued misconceptions about what Venturing is all about. Venturing is not for young boys and girls but rather for young adults. They are able to do more and go further as a Venturer or Sea Scout in a Venturing crew or Sea Scout ship.

Venturing provides positive experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. Venturing provides the skills needed for young adults to make ethical choices, experience a fun program full of adventure and challenges, acquire leadership skills, and to take advantage of opportunities to advance their skills and knowledge in the areas of high adventure, sports, arts, hobbies, religious life, and Sea Scouting.



## The Venturing Oath

As a Venturer, I promise to do my duty to God and help strengthen America, to help others, and to seek truth, fairness and adventure in our world.

## The Venturing Code

As a Venturer, I believe that America's strength lies in our trust in God and in the courage, strength and traditions of our people.

I will, therefore, be faithful in my religious duties and will maintain a personal sense of honor in my own life.

I will treasure my American heritage and will do all I can to preserve and enrich it.

I will recognize the dignity and worth of all humanity and will use fair play and goodwill in my daily life.

I will acquire the Venturing attitude that seeks the truth in all things and adventure on the frontiers of our changing world



## The Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my best to...

Be clean in my outdoor manners. I will treat the outdoors as a heritage. I will take care of it for myself and others. I will keep my trash and garbage out of lakes, streams, fields, woods, and roadways.

Be careful with fire. I will prevent wildfire. I will build my fires only where they are appropriate. When I have finished using a fire, I will make sure it is cold out. I will leave a clean fire ring, or remove all evidence of my fire.

Be considerate in the outdoors. I will treat public and private property with respect. I will use low-impact methods of hiking and camping.

Be conservation minded. I will learn how to practice good conservation of soil, water, forests, minerals, grassland, wildlife, and energy. I will urge others to do the same.



# Areas of Emphasis

## Outdoor/High Adventure



Focus is on outdoor skills and high adventure activities such as backpacking, mountaineering, SCUBA, geocaching, cave exploring, land navigation, wilderness survival, and winter sports.

## Religious Life/Youth Ministry



A perfect fit for church youth groups, the Religious Life Bronze award has members learning about cultural diversity, volunteering in the community, serving as Sunday school teacher or helping with Vacation Bible School, meeting with the church leader to find out what it takes to become the leader of a church and why they think it is important, and earning the religious emblem of their faith.

## Sports



This is a good area for youth who are already heavily involved with sports, and gives them an opportunity for learning first aid for sports-related injuries, the importance of sportsmanship and how it applies to everyday life, total body fitness including training techniques and how drugs affect your conditioning, and organizing sporting events for youth.

## Arts/Hobbies



Covers a wide range of interests including, drafting, theater, art, advertising, collecting, photography, and sports hobbies such as golf and in-line skating. There's something for everyone here.

## Sea Scouting



A specialized area of Venturing, a Sea Scout Ship's focus is on sailing. Sea Scouts learn everything associated with the daily operations of a boat including knots for sailing, navigation using a compass as well as the stars.

Venturing Crews can adopt one area or a combination to fit their needs and interests. Most crews are outdoor oriented, with youth ministry a close second. Many crews combine ministry efforts for their church with outdoor retreats and high adventure activities. The possibilities are endless as to what your crew's focus can be.

What a Venturing crew does is limited only by the imagination and involvement of the adult and youth leaders and members of the crew — sail the Caribbean, produce a play, climb a mountain, teach disabled people to swim, or attend the Olympics. All these adventures and many more are being done today by Venturing crews and ships across the country. All that is needed are concerned adults who are willing to share a little bit of themselves with today's youth — tomorrow's leaders.



# Venturing Training

## Venturing Advisors and other Crew adults

**This is Scouting:** an introduction to Scouting available online or as a DVD.

**Venturing Adult Leader Fast Start Orientation:** an introduction to running a Venturing Crew available online or as a video CD.

**Venturing Leader Specific training:** introduces adult Venturing crew leaders to the basic information needed to operate a crew. The training offers five sessions: Here's Venturing, Understanding and Protecting Youth, Leadership and Organization, Awards and Recognition, and Resources and Program Planning. This training is designed to be completed in five hours.

**Introduction to Outdoor Leaders Skills:** is recommended for Crew adults who are working with high adventure Crews, especially those who have little outdoor skills.

**Youth Protection for Venturing Adults:** goes beyond the regular Youth Protection training dealing with the unique dynamics in a co-ed crew available online or as a DVD.

**New Crew Fast Start:** for all members (youth and adult) of a new Venturing Crew - gives the basics for starting a Crew from scratch available online.

**Wood Badge:** BSA's premier Leadership skills course is open to all Venturing adults who are fully trained for their position.

**Powder Horn:** a high adventure resource management course open to trained leaders. Powder Horn is a 6-day course on high adventure resources. It is not a personal development course like Wood Badge or even a skills course. It will let you experience many high adventure skills, learn where to get the resources to support high adventure programs, and how to offer those programs in such an exciting, out-of-the-box way that teens will keep coming back.

**Venturing Roundtable:** monthly supplemental training that covers a wide range of topics such as recruitment, program planning, training youth officers and many others.

## Venturing Youth Members

**Venturing Crew Officer's Orientation:** comprehensive training for new crew officers. Using colorful descriptive images and video clips, it explains the role of crew officers, job descriptions, explains the planning process as well as the crew officer briefing and crew officers seminar.

**Venturing Leadership Skills Course:** a team building and leadership course taught by the Crew officers designed to run as a Crew weekend retreat and required for the Silver award.

**Kodiak and Kodiak X:** unique in that they are offered in an exciting and challenging atmosphere using whatever high-adventure resources you have available. A course could be conducted while backpacking or rafting down a river. Kodiak teaches leadership skills in a fun way that is internalized by the Venturers. In other words, it is a challenging trek with a simple and fun leadership course included. Kodiak is not taught indoors or in a classroom; it is done completely outdoors using nature's examples of leadership. Kodiak is a week-long or two-weekend course, while Kodiak X is one weekend, building on Kodiak.

**Youth Protection - Personal Safety Awareness:** deals with issues facing our young adults today. It covers acquaintance rape, peer sexual harassment, stalking, suicide and Internet safety. This cutting-edge training addresses head-on the issues facing youth.



# Venturing Awards



## Bronze Award

There are five different Venturing Bronze awards: Arts and Hobbies, Outdoor, Sea Scouts, Sports, and Religious Life. All five Bronze awards contain the common elements of experience, learning a skill, and sharing experiences and skills with others. Earning at least one Venturing Bronze Award is required for the Venturing Gold Award. The Venturing Bronze Award is designed as the first tier in the advancement track for Venturers so they can acquire usable skills that will carry them along the trail to the Venturing Silver Award. The Venturing Bronze Award is a colorful, campaign-style ribbon that may be worn on the Sea Scout or Venturing uniform. If all five are earned, all five may be worn on the uniform. The ribbons have an icon representing the area in which it was earned superimposed on the ribbon. Certificates are also available.



## Gold Award

The Venturing Gold Award was developed to recognize the significant accomplishment in a Venturer's life as he or she has proven outstanding performance in a broad spectrum of activities. Earning it will challenge and motivate Venturers over an extended period. This award provides a favorable image of the Venturing program among youth, parents, schools, and the community. It offers challenging and stimulating opportunities for Venturers to develop and achieve personal goals in the areas of leadership, character development, and personal fitness. After many months of determined service and leadership, the Venturing Gold Award should be presented in a setting worthy of the award. Suggested occasions include high school assemblies, church services, and council Venturing events. The award may be presented more than once. The award is a gold medal featuring the Venturing logo inside a compass dial. The medal is suspended from a white ribbon. A certificate is also available.



## Silver Award

The highest award a Venturer can earn, the purpose of the Silver Award is to provide a pathway for personal development; encourage Venturers to learn, grow, and serve; and recognize the high level of achievement of Venturers who acquire Venturing skills. Venturers must be proficient in emergency preparedness (including first aid, CPR, and Safe Swim Defense), participate in Ethics in Action, complete the Venturing Leadership Skills Course, earn the Venturing Gold Award, and earn at least one of the five Venturing Bronze awards. Venturers work with their Advisors to establish a plan of action for earning the Silver Award. Venturers can choose to work on the requirements alone or with other Venturers in a crew activity. Venturers can work on requirements for Bronze, Gold, and Silver Awards simultaneously. They could also work on each program separately. It's up to the Venturer and Advisor as to how they earn the award. After completion of all requirements, the Venturing Silver Award candidate will go through a formal review with other Venturers and adults from the crew. The Venturing Silver Award medal features an eagle superimposed over a compass dial, with a red, white, and blue background behind the eagle, suspended from a green and white ribbon from a silver Venturing bar. A certificate and cloth knot are also available.



## Ranger Award

Because of the attraction of high adventure to today's teens, the Ranger Award was created. The purpose of the award is to encourage Venturers to achieve a high level of outdoor skills proficiency; recognize achievement of this high level of outdoor skills proficiency; provide a path for outdoor/high-adventure skills training; and establish Rangers as a highly trained leadership resource for crews, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and the community. The Ranger Award exemplifies a challenging high-level outdoor/high-adventure skills advancement program. Once earned, it will identify a Ranger as a person who is highly skilled at a variety of outdoor sports and interests, trained in outdoor safety, and ready to lead or assist others in activities. Rangers can be a great program asset to Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, and others. The Ranger award is a sterling silver medal that features a powder horn superimposed over a compass dial. The medal is suspended from a green and white ribbon from a silver Ranger bar. A cloth Ranger bar is also available.



## TRUST Award

Religious organizations charter the majority of Venturing crews. Trust is an essential aspect of our relationship with others - both personally and corporately. Learning to trust is the challenge. Today young people live in an increasingly pluralistic society made up of multiple nationalities, cultures, and religions. One way to work toward a safe future is to learn to get along and work together. Understanding is a good start toward trust. While working on the TRUST award, Venturers will learn more about themselves, their communities, their religion and culture, as well as those of others. As with many other requirements throughout the Venturing Program, Venturers will be required to share what they learn with others. The TRUST award medal features the world enveloped in a pair of silver hands. The world has been a symbol of Scouting, communities, and religions for many years. The silver hands are both a representation of the Religious and Community Life Bronze Award and of the caring, nurturing, and understanding that the TRUST award instills in a Venturer. The medal is suspended from a ribbon with a solid field of purple. The purple represents both the color of the Religious Life programs of Venturing and is a historic color of religion and royalty for much of the world.



## Quest Award

While working on the Quest Award, Venturers will be required to learn more about what makes up a nutritional diet as well as design their own personal exercise plans based upon lifestyle, fitness levels, and desires for a healthy and long life. Hopefully this program will introduce Venturers to a sport or sports that they will enjoy the rest of their life. As with many other requirements throughout the Venturing program, Venturers will be required to share what they learn with others. This sharing may be done through various sports clinics and presentations with other groups. In the electives section, Venturers will be required to choose at least one sport in which to become proficient. The Quest award medal features the Vitruvian Man by Leonardo da Vinci. It is based on a model of ideal proportions which Vitruvius established. Like that balanced man that both Vitruvius and da Vinci modeled, the modern Venturer must be balanced physically, mentally, nutritionally, and even socially. The Vitruvian man stands before a red, white, and blue background. That background reminds us of national pride as our athletes compete against the world. The medal is suspended from a ribbon with a solid field of green. The green represents the sports field as well as the completion of the journey started with the bronze medal with its half green and half white ribbon.



## Quartermaster Award

The Quartermaster Award, which stands for excellence, goes to the young adult who attains the highest rank in Sea Scouting. The award is a reminder that as a ship needs a rudder, a compass, and a moving force to reach its destination, so an individual must be physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight to achieve worthwhile goals in life. It represents fulfillment. It results from a young adult's determination to reach goals that he or she has set and achieved in spite of difficulties along the way. The award is rich in symbolism. The blue ribbon stands for loyalty and country. The compass suggests the importance of carefully chosen direction in life. The wheel reminds us that we are the guide of our own future and that we must persevere with self-discipline. The Scout badge, the emblem of purposeful brotherhood, has challenged and strengthened the lives of more than 40 million men. It shows Sea Scouting as an important part of the Scouting tradition. The anchor reminds us that a truly worthy life must be anchored in duty to God. This badge of color, beauty, and symbolism, but most of all, challenge, awaits every Venturer who has the determination to achieve excellence. Sea Scouts who earn the Quartermaster award can also receive a recognition certificate from the United States Coast Guard.



## Shooting Sports Outstanding Achievement Award

While working on the Ranger Shooting Sports elective, Venturers are required to complete one of the following disciplines: air pistol, air rifle, archery, muzzle-loading rifle, shotgun, or small bore rifle. However, Venturers who go beyond the basic requirement and complete five of the six disciplines will earn the Venturing Shooting Sports Outstanding Achievement Award. This beautiful medal and certificate are sponsored by many companies and organizations in the shooting sports industry to recognize outstanding achievement in shooting sports.



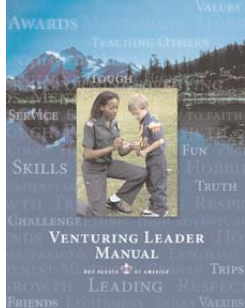
## Venturing Leadership Award

The Venturing Leadership Award is presented by councils, areas, regions, and the BSA National Council to Venturers and adults who have made exceptional contributions to Venturing and who exemplify the Venturing Code. Venturing Leadership Award candidates must be registered and involved in Venturing as a Venturer or an adult for at least one year. They must hold a leadership position or office on the unit, district, council, area, region or national level (as appropriate for the level of award presented). The candidate must show exceptional dedication and give outstanding leadership and service to Venturing and to Venturers on the level appropriate for the award. Venturing youth and adults may be recommended at the council, area, region, or national level by completing the Venturing Leadership Award candidate information form. An additional sheet with 200 words or less explaining why the candidate should receive the award and letters of recommendation (from school, church, clubs, etc.) must be provided with the information form. The award is a medallion suspended from a ribbon worn around the neck. The color of the ribbon denotes the level of the award earned - Council, Area/Region, National. A square knot is also available.



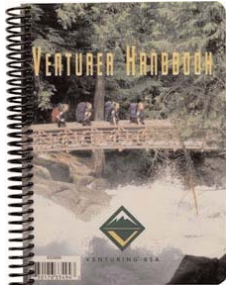


# Venturing Literature



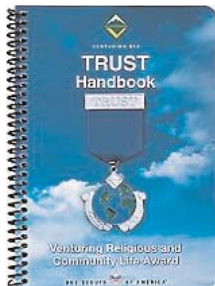
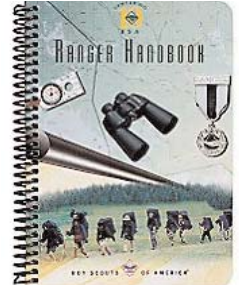
## Venturing Leader Manual

This is a great tool for everyone from the first time leader to seasoned Venturing leader. Some of the titles covered in this book are: Leadership Methods, Group Activities, Adult Associations, Recognitions, The Ideals of Venturing, High Adventure and Sports, Teaching Others, How to start a "Crew" and specific goals for Venturing. This manual has some revisions in the Requirements and in some of the Venturing procedures. There is the "Trust Award Program" that is covered in detail in this new manual. This manual is a wonderful asset and reference book to be kept in a Venturing library.



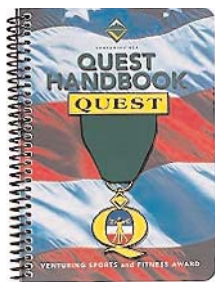
## Venturer Handbook/Ranger Handbook

The complete and essential guide for the Venturing program. This all-in-one publication combines the Venturer Handbook and the Ranger Handbook into one complete program information and reference. The Venturer Handbook includes the requirements for the Bronze, Gold, and Silver awards. Just flip the book over to find out about the Ranger award.



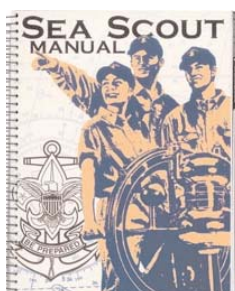
## Venturing TRUST Award Handbook

A challenging award program created for Venturing's religious life emphasis. The TRUST Award is a unique opportunity for the youth of Venturing. This handbook details the background and requirements for Venturing's TRUST Award for religious and community life.



## Quest Handbook-Venturing Sports and Fitness Award

Sports and physical fitness have become a very important activity within crew programs. Now here is a 205-page, must-have handbook for those Venturers seeking the new Quest Sports and Fitness Award. Includes a "Sports Resource" section.



## Sea Scout Manual

Includes everything a Sea Scout and leader should know about Sea Scouting and operating a boat. Includes sections on Organization and Leadership, Ship Meetings and Activities, Advancement and Other Recognitions including earning the Sea Scout Quartermaster award, Seamanship and Boating Safety, and History and Traditions of the Sea.