

Eagle River District

Northern Star Council, BSA



Corps of Discovery

Standards of Operation

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Corps of Discovery

Named for the group who traveled with Lewis and Clark on their expedition through the west in an effort to find a route to the Pacific, the Venturing Corps of Discovery is an effort to develop a program to recognize the older youth of the Scouting program who have gone the extra step to help a unit grow and develop.

The Corps of Discovery is set up to allow Venturing Crews and Ships to recognize their outstanding youth members. Those who have done the most to help the unit grow and develop, and have helped the youth in the discovery of Places, People, Skills, Ideas, and Self are those who should be selected. Each year a unit should hold elections to choose those qualified youth and adult leaders who have done all they can to help the unit improve and move forward.

First proposed by Crew 477 of Northwest Suburban Council, BSA, the program has been through testing at several levels and many youth and adults were allowed to give their input into developing the program, the suggested by-laws, the ceremony, and the recognitions.

Why Lewis and Clark? Lewis was first asked to make the trip when he was only 18 years old, and when he finally did make the trip for President Jefferson, he had reached the age of 22. He was a man who tried to do many things, including designing and having built the boat they originally used to move upstream. He did not choose a second in command, but instead a partner in command in Clark, a river man with a good reputation. Their Corps probably was mainly made up of young men and a woman of about Venturing age. In a two year trip, only one man died due to illness, and many of the Native Americans they found in their travels simply did not think the party was important enough to attack since they were so young and they traveled with a woman and her child.

Our modern Venturers each practice a variety of programs, but they generally fit the same mold -- young men and women who are willing to explore and take the chance for the future.

In addition, Lewis and Clark may well have asked the grandfather of Lucien Maxwell (who later controlled the property in New Mexico that is now Philmont) for information before beginning their trip. Maxwell's grandfather was Pierre Menard of Kaskaskia, Illinois. Pierre had already spent a year on the Missouri as a partner of the Saint Louis Missouri Fur Company, and may well have been one of the men in the St. Louis/Southern Illinois area that Lewis met with before starting the expedition for information and help.



This program gives them the chance to prove Venturing is indeed Scouting's next step, a group that will allow them to work together, not worrying about race, creed, nationality, or sex, and to provide service to their community and the scouting community. These are the youth who have the chance to become Scouting's ultimate outdoors people through the Ranger program, the ultimate in trained leaders through the Silver program, and they are the youth who can turn Venturing's story into a program of success and development.

The program developed using several youth and adults who had an interest and who seemed excited by the idea of having recognition for their outstanding members. All those who helped, in the writing, testing, and re-testing, are listed at the end of this site for you to refer to. Also you will find a page listing those people who have been elected as members of the Corps of Discovery across the country during this testing process. When you have held an election, you can add their names to the list by completing the election report and sending the names to the VOA Advisor.

Eagle River District Corps of Discovery Standards of Operation

I. MISSION STATEMENT

- A. "The Eagle River District Corps of Discovery is a youth-led and youth guided recognition with the express goal of recognizing those youth of the Crew or Ship who are willing to go above and beyond normal membership activities to prove themselves as people who have helped the unit grow. The goal of the organization is to provide a group of youth with minimal adult members who would be available to provide community service through their unit."

II. RECOGNITION OVERSIGHT & ADMINISTRATION

- A. The Eagle River District Venturing Officers Association (VOA) oversees the Corps of Discovery recognitions and the process for selection.
- B. All elected and nominated Venturers and Venturing adult leaders must submit a Corps of Discovery Nomination Form for recognition. An Election Report is to be included with all the nomination forms and forwarded to the District VOA Advisor.
- C. All procedures for election and nomination are determined by the Eagle River District VOA and final approval is provided by vote at the Eagle River Spring Venturing Rendezvous by the District's Venturing Assembly.

III. ELECTION/NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS

- A. Completed the Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews (ILSC) course and shown Service to Scouting through personal leadership development.
- B. Provided Service to Scouting and leadership above the Venturing Recognition Program.
- C. Provided Service to the Community and leadership above the Venturing Recognition Program.
- D. Exhibited the desire, tendency, or potential to continue to provide Service to Scouting and the community in the future.

III. ELECTIONS

- A. Youth will elect youth and up to two adults on a yearly basis from their unit using the current election procedures. "Youth" is defined as any youth member of the Unit (Crew or Ship) holding the election. Those eligible are any youth who is not already a member of the Corps of Discovery and have been an active member of the Crew or Ship for at least 1 year.
- B. Any youth or adult receiving more than 50% of the vote will be elected to the Corps of Discovery.

- C. If no youth are chosen to join the Corps of Discovery on the first ballot, the unit has the option of trying one more time within that same meeting. If no youth are chosen, no adults may be chosen for that year.

IV. **NOMINATIONS**

- A. Nominations (*not by unit election*) to the Corps of Discovery may be done by the District VOA Cabinet and the District VOA Advisors.

V. **MEMBERSHIP**

- B. Once elected, you are a member of the Corps of Discovery as long as you are a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America.
- C. There are no membership dues or membership joining procedures beyond the nomination and election by the Crew or Ship.

VI. **ACTIVITIES**

- A. The program is Unit-oriented. Most activities outside of the Rendezvous should be done by the Corps of Discovery individuals with their Unit. This is not to discourage them from doing activities on a larger scale, but to encourage the program to support the unit.
- B. The announcement of selected new Corps of Discovery recognitions is done at the Eagle River District Recognition Dinner. Induction and recognition awarding is done at the Eagle River District Spring Venturing Rendezvous.
- C. All ceremonies are public, none will contain any additional mysteries, and none will involve any form of initiation or hazing.

VII. **ADULT ROLE**

- A. Adults are included in this recognition program to recognize their ability to develop leaders within Venturing. This is not an opportunity to become a source of guidance or leadership to the program, but instead should be looked at as a need for a support role, helping the Crew/Ship make sure that the Corps of Discovery members it chooses actually go out and complete their charge to do community service.

VIII. **AMENDING THE STANDARDS OF OPERATIONS**

- A. Recommended changes to the Standard of Operations may be submitted by any member to the Eagle River District Venturing Officers Association for review. The proposed changes will be submitted to the Venturing Assembly and voted on. A majority vote must be obtained for the approved change. The Venturing Assembly is all Eagle River Venturers present at the Eagle River Spring Venturing Rendezvous. Voting is conducted by the Eagle River VOA President.

IX. **ELECTION PROCEDURES**

As described in the Eagle River Corps of Discovery Standards of Operations, any youth member may participate in the voting. It is suggested the unit youth leader inform the unit of the date of the election, that they are to choose youth that have gone out of their way to help the unit, whether they are officers of the unit or not. **Those who have done the most to help the unit grow and develop, and have helped the youth in the discovery of Places, People, Skills, Ideas, and Self are those who should be selected.** In addition, they may vote for up to two of the unit's adults. Any individual receiving more than 50% of the votes will be elected to the Venturing Corps of Discovery.

NUMBER OF YOUTH IN UNIT	5 - 8	9 - 12	13 - 16	17 - 20	21 - 24	25 - 28	29 - 32	33 - 36	37 or more
NUMBER OF NAMES ON BALLOT (plus 2 adults)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	ratio of 1 to 4 (round up if the number of members is odd)

All youth who are members of the Crew or Ship are eligible for election provided they have not previously been elected as members of the Corps of Discovery and meet the election requirements.

Only those youth who are present at the time of the election meeting can vote. Individuals, both youth and adult, receiving more than 50% of the ballots cast will be this year's inductees into the Corps of Discovery.

Once the ballots have been written, it would be best for them to be counted in private by the two Crew or Ship leaders, youth and adult. If no youth are elected on the first ballot, the unit can hold a second ballot to try to place a youth member in the Corps of Discovery. No more than two attempts can be held within any one calendar year, and they must be held the same meeting. No adult members may join unless there is a youth member elected.

Once the selection has been completed, all individuals chosen must complete a Corps of Discovery Nomination Form. The Nomination Forms and an Election Report is to be forwarded to the Eagle River District VOA Advisor for final VOA Cabinet review. Recognitions will then be ordered and prepared. Please forward an election report even if no one is elected for the unit.

Selected new Corps of Discovery individuals will be announced at the Eagle River District Recognition Dinner. The awarding of the Corps of Discovery recognition will be done at the Eagle River District Spring Venturing Rendezvous.

Recognition Items

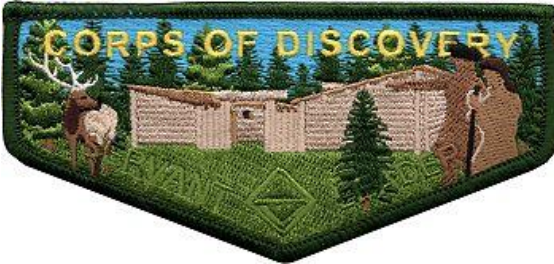
There are two items used during the ceremony that provide the recognition for the recipient.

1. Certificate
2. Pocket flap – worn on the right pocket.

The first item is a certificate suitable for framing.



The second item is a pocket flap to be worn on the right hand breast pocket. The pocket flap is below.



Eagle River District Corps of Discovery

ELECTION REPORT

*Please send report in hard copy to:
Eagle River District VOA Advisor*

Please Print

Crew	City/State
Date of Election	

Youth recipients (alphabetical order,) Continue on back if necessary

Last	First	Middle In.

Adult recipients (alphabetical order)

Last	First	Mid. In.

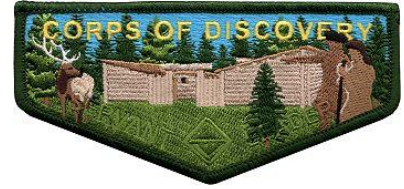
Certified by:

Crew President/Ship Boatswain	Date
Crew Advisor/Ship Skipper	Date

Election Report and Nomination Form(s) due: April 1st.

Venturing Corps of Discovery Application

The primary purpose of the Corps of Discovery is to promote Venturing and its ideals through servant service.



Nomination Requirements

A Venturer has:

1. Completed the Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews (ILSC) course and shown Service to Scouting through personal leadership development.
2. Provided Service to Scouting and leadership above the Venturing Recognition Program.
3. Provided Service to the Community and leadership above the Venturing Recognition Program.
4. Exhibited the desire, tendency, or potential to continue to provide Service to Scouting and the community in the future.

Please fill out the following information and mail or email this form to the Eagle River District Venturing Advisor by **April 1st**. Applications will be reviewed by the VOA and new members will be announced at the District Recognition Dinner and inducted into the Corps of Discovery at the District's Venturing Spring Rendezvous.

Full Name (Type or Print)		
Home Address		
City	State	Zip
Crew #	Service To The Venturing Program	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Crew Officer/Positions Held and Service Dates	
<input type="checkbox"/>	VOA Officer/Positions Held and Service Dates	

Approval Signatures

Nominee	Date
Crew Advisor/Ship Skipper	Date
District VOA Advisor	Date Received

Mail to: Todd Tingblad,
Email: ttingblad@hotmail.com

WI 54016

SAMPLE