

VENTURING ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

Background and Purpose

One of the strengths of the Venturing program is its ability to meet the interests of all Venturers. Sometimes Venturers like to investigate new, different areas. Variety in a crew always seems to make it more fun to go to meetings and outings. Also, Venturers probably have many interests or would like to have more. Because of that desire, and to provide a pathway to many different experiences, the Venturing awards program is offered.

Advancement has been an important part of the Boy Scouts of America since the issuance of the first 12 merit badges in 1911. In 1950, the Silver Award program was also released as the advancement program for older Boy Scouts. From 1950 through 1966, 18,256 Silver Award medals were earned.

The Venturing awards program is available to all Venturing youth members of the Boy Scouts of America. Its purpose 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.

Bronze Award

Background and Purpose

Venturers can earn their crew's specialty Bronze Award of all five Bronze Awards. The five different Venturing Bronze Awards include: Arts and Hobbies, Outdoor, Sea Scout, Sports, and Youth Ministries. All five Bronze Awards contain the common elements of experience, learning a skill, and sharing your experiences and skills with others. Earning at least one Bronze Award is required for the Venturing Gold Award. The Bronze Award is designed as the entry-level award for Venturers so they can acquire usable skills that will carry them along the trail to the Venturing Silver Award.

Requirements

For Arts and Hobbies, Sports, or Youth Ministries, a Venturer must complete at least nine of 12 requirements for each of those three areas. For Outdoor, Venturers must complete at least four core requirements and two electives that are found in the Ranger Award requirements. For Sea Scout, Venturers must complete half the requirements for Sea Scouting's Quartermaster Award (Ordinary rank). Below are sample requirements:

Sports: Demonstrate by means of a presentation at a crew meeting or a Cub Scout or Boy Scout meeting that you know first aid for injuries or illnesses that could occur while playing sports.

Youth Ministries: Produce or be a cast member in some type of entertainment production with a religious or ethical theme, such as play, a puppet show or a concert. Do this for a children's group, retirement home, homeless shelter, or Cub Scout or Boy Scout group.

Procedure

Bronze candidates may have their Crew Advisor or a specialty consultant approve or sign off on that completed requirement. Requirements for the Arts and Hobbies, Sports, and Youth Ministries Bronze Awards as well as the Gold Award can be found in Chapter 10. Requirements for the Sea Scout Bronze can be found in the *Sea Exploring Manual*. The requirements for the Outdoor Bronze Award can be found in the *Ranger Guidebook*. There is no committee review for Venturing Bronze Awards.

Recognition

The actual Bronze Award is a colorful, campaign-style ribbon that may be worn on the Sea Scouting or Venturing uniform. If all five are earned, all five may be worn on the uniform. The Bronze ribbon has an icon representing the area it was earned in superimposed on the ribbon. A certificate is also available.

Gold Award

The Venturing Gold Award Program was developed to recognize the significant accomplishment in a Venturer's program was developed to recognize the significant accomplishment in a Venturer's life as he or she has proven outstanding performance in the broad spectrum of activities. These activities relate to Venturing's six experience areas of leadership, citizenship, social, outdoor, service, and fitness. It will challenge and motivate Venturers over an extended period.

It provides a favorable image of the Venturing program among youth, parents, schools, and our communities. It offers challenging and stimulating opportunities for Venturers to develop and achieve personal goals in the areas of leadership, character development, and personal fitness.

Requirements

Venturing Gold Award candidates must be active and registered Venturers for at least 12 months before final qualification. They must serve in a leadership role within the 12 months before final qualification. They must participate in a district, council, or national Venturing event or activity. They must set and accomplish one personal goal related to each of the six experience areas. They must plan and lead at least two crew activities built around the six experience areas. They must recite the Venturing Oath. Three letters of recommendation from adults outside the crew are required, and the candidate must make an oral presentation to a crew review committee. Finally, they must be approved and recommended by their crew committee.

Procedure

Venturing Gold Award candidates must submit a written petition to their Crew Advisor in which they outline their plans and ambitions for their projects to achieve the award. Advisors are encouraged to have a conference with each candidate to ensure that the Venturer has developed a well-conceived plan, and that he or she has specific goals in mind. The Advisor approves the plan. After council approval, the council issues the award.

Recognition

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 that is worn around the neck. A certificate is also available.

Silver Award

The Venturing Silver Award is the highest award a Venturer can earn. It represents substantial growth and experience as the Venturer earned the Venturing Bronze and Gold awards along the trail to silver. Earning the Venturing Silver Award says a Venturer is a leader, serves others, is personally fit, is prepared for emergencies, and has honor. Earning the coveted Venturing Silver Award will have meaning for a lifetime!

Requirements

Venturers must be proficient in emergency preparedness (including standard 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.

Procedure

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 as in a crew activity. Venturers can work on requirements in the Bronze Award program, Gold Award program, and Silver Award program 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 Silver candidate will go through a formal review with Venturers and adults from the crew.

The Medal

The Venturing Silver Award medal features an eagle superimposed over a compass dial. It also has a red, white, and blue background behind the eagle. The medal is worn suspended from a green and white ribbon, which is suspended from a silver Venturing bar. A cloth knot and certificate are also available.

RANGER AWARD PROGRAM

Background and Purpose

High adventure and the outdoors have always been of interest to young Americans as well as an important part of the BSA program. Because of the attraction of high adventure, the Ranger Award is available to Venturing youth members of the Boys Scouts of America.

The purpose of the award is to encourage Venturers to achieve a high level of outdoor skills 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 an elite outdoorsman who is 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.

Requirements

Ranger candidates must complete eight challenging core requirements:

First Aid	Wilderness Survival
Emergency Preparedness	Communications
Leave No Trace	Cooking
Land Navigation	Conservation

And four of eighteen challenging electives:

Backpacking	Mountaineering
Cave Exploring	Outdoor Living History
Cycling/Mountain Biking	Physical Fitness
Ecology	Plants and Wildlife
Equestrian	Project COPE
First Aid	Scuba
Fishing	Shooting Sports
Hunting	Watercraft
Lifesaver	Winter Sports

NOTE: Venturers who have received the Outdoor Bronze Award need complete only four more of the core requirements and two more electives to qualify for the Ranger Award.

Procedure

Ranger candidates may work on their own or with other Venturers. A crew may also work together. Candidates may work with outside consultants such as scuba diving instructors. Advisors and consultants must sign a Ranger candidate's record sheet found in the *Ranger Guidebook*. No crew review is required.

The Ranger Award

After months of experiencing and acquiring skills on a wide variety of outdoor/high-adventure interests and sharing those skills with others, the Ranger will receive a sterling silver medal featuring a powder horn superimposed over a compass dial. The medal is worn suspended from a green and white ribbon attached to a silver Ranger bar. A silver Ranger bar is also available for wear on the field uniform. A certificate is available too.

The Venturing Uniform

The recommended uniform is the spruce green Venturing shirt with green epaulette tabs and gray backpacking-style shorts or gray casual pants. However, the uniform, if any, is the choice of the crew. Sea Scouts may wear the Sea Scout uniform. For those crews that choose to have the Venturing uniform, it is recommended to wear it when traveling, at crew meetings, at other Scout meetings, when serving the public, and at other appropriate times. When doing field activities such as sports, water activities, mountaineering, etc., your crew might want to wear something more appropriate to the activity.

On dress-up occasions such as a parents' night, firstnighter, or awards ceremony, it is appropriate to wear awards such as the Eagle Scout, Bronze, Gold, Silver, Ranger, and Quartermaster awards.

The green Venturing shirt and tabs are available through the BSA Supply Division.

Venturing Leadership Skills Course

It can be said that leadership development is one of the most important aspects of Venturing. To assist all Venturers whether a crew officer or not, the Venturing Leadership Skills Course will help Venturers become better leaders. This course has three parts. First is a session that discusses traits and skills that a good leader must develop. This opening session sets the stage for the second session, which is a series of fun leadership-opportunity challenges, or scenarios. A Venturing group will be given a scenario and one Venturer will be made the leader. The leader will lead the group in accomplishing or attempting to accomplish the task. Then the group will reflect on the leader's efforts-what went well and what could have been done differently. After a number of different scenarios, the group will have a final summary session to reinforce leadership skills they learned. The result will be better crew leaders and better crew teamwork.

Completion of this course is required for the Venturing Silver Award and for the Venturing Advisor Award of Merit. The course can be run over a weekend or at several night meetings. It can be run by one crew, several crews together, or even by a district or council.

Advisor Award of Merit

One of the unique attributes of the Venturing program is the relationship between Venturers and the crew Advisor. The ability to work effectively with young adults as they themselves plan and run the program is a true test of leadership skills. To recognize those adult crew Advisors who do this well, the Venturing Advisor Award of Merit is offered.

Requirements

1. Be a currently registered Venturing Advisor who has served in that position for at least 18 months.
2. Complete Venturing Fast Start and Venturing Advisor Basic Training.
3. Achieve the Quality Unit Award at least once while service as crew advisor.
4. Demonstrate the use of the Venturing Silver Award program.
5. Develop youth leadership by effective use of crew officers.
6. use the crew officer orientation and program planning process.
7. Have a proven positive relationship with the chartered organization and associated Boy Scout troop and Cub Scout pack, if any.
8. Project a positive image of Venturing in the community.
9. Attract and hold Venturers with crew program and operation.
10. Lead crew in completion of the Venturing Leadership Skills Course.

Nomination Procedure

The crew president in conjunction with the crew officers nominated the Advisor. The nomination is approved by the crew committee chairman.

The nomination is then certified by the unit commissioner and submitted to the council service center.

The nomination is then approved by the Scout executive and council commissioner, who should then forward it to the Venturing Division.

Award

The award is a color certificate with the recipient's name. It will be sent to the council at no charge.

Venturing Hand Salute

If a Venturer finds himself or herself in uniform at an occasion where a hand salute is required, Venturers should use the full-hand salute.