

Do you have a top notch Venturing program in your Council? If you don't know or aren't sure, here are some ways to see how you "measure up"! Check out the 2011 Council Standards of Venturing Excellence Award at www.crventuring.org/document2.php?s=1&id=514 which include all of the following:

- **Positive growth in Venturing membership and crews** – if you're program's not growing, it's dying. Growth cannot occur without active promotion of the fun and opportunities in Venturing!
- **Council adoption of the minimum structure outlined in the standard operating procedures released by the National Venturing Youth Cabinet approved by your Scout Executive** (follow www.crventuring.org/document2.php?s=1&id=521 or submit structure and procedures if using another format than the recommended VOA)
- **The council presented at least one youth and one adult Venturing Leadership Award.** Every council has talented and vibrant youth and adult volunteers that would appreciate being recognized.
- **At least one council wide Venturing event was planned and held by the council VOA.** Plan and promote a fun VOA activity to help you achieve positive growth in membership and crews...it's that easy!
- **Substantial effort was made to recognize recipients of the highest level Venturing awards (Quest, TRUST, Ranger, Silver, and Quartermaster) and the Venturing Leadership Awards.** Through the VOA, encourage all crews to provide award opportunities to their youth!
- **The Venturing Key 3 communicated at least six times during the year to discuss the progress of Venturing.** Meetings, teleconferences or web conferences every other month between the VOA President, volunteer VOA Advisor, and a Professional staff member appointed by the Scout Executive is all it takes.
- **The VOA President submitted a written annual report to the Council Executive Board, personally if possible.** The VOA President is one of the positions that can be elected as a youth representative on the Council Executive Board. They should make it a priority to attend board meetings and provide an annual report.

- **Council's website & newsletter promoted Venturing training & activities, and a link to www.crventuring.org** Don't miss the opportunity to include this information in periodic newsletters and the Venturing section of the Council's website.
- **The council VOA met at least four times during the calendar year at pre-arranged, published dates.** Plan and invite all Crew Presidents to quarterly meetings to provide support to their crews and share ideas of what's working in your Council.
- **A representative from the council participated in an area Venturing meeting and/or training (to include teleconferences).** The Area 6 Summit is right around the corner, September 10-11, 2011 at Camp Kikthawenund near Franklin, IN. It kicks off at 10:00 am Saturday and finishes at noon on Sunday
- **The council VOA actively utilizes and administers one or more social networks** (Facebook groups are the most popular venue to communicate between Venturers and adult volunteers for upcoming announcements, meetings, activities, and best practices).

Five additional accomplishments are outlined as "electives" that are needed for your Council to achieve the Standards of Venturing Excellence Award. I challenge every Council in Area 6 to strive to meet these standards!

Area 6

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