

Venturing Resources For Youth and Adults

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Welcome Packet

Here is an example of a welcome packet that can be handed out at an open house or when new members join throughout the year. It has all the information the individual needs to know about the crew such as by-laws, calendar, trainings etc.



V E N T U R I N G • B S A

Welcome To Venturing Crew 1519

Introduction

Venturing is Boy Scouts of America's newest youth development program. Introduced in August of 1998, Venturing is designed for young men and women, ages 14 through 20 to learn leadership and outdoor skills through participation in high adventure activities. Venturing Crew 1519 was one of the first crews formed in the National Capital Area Council and is chartered to the Hayfield Citizen's Association as part of their family of scouting programs offered to the youth of the community. Venturing Crew 1519 is affiliated with Boy Scout Troop 1519.

Meetings

The crew meets on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 at the Coast Guard Drill Facility on Telegraph Road in Alexandria VA. Meetings are held all throughout the fall, winter, and spring, taking a break in the summer when the crew usually goes on a weeklong high adventure trek. During meetings, the crew plans activities, many of which involve earning requirements toward the Venturing Silver and Ranger awards. Typically, a number of consecutive crew meetings plus an outdoor session will be needed to cover all the necessary skills. Venturers are also required to teach the skills that they have learned before requirements can be completed.

While attendance at every meeting is not necessarily mandatory, it is wholeheartedly encouraged. Missing a meeting will often result in the Venturer missing instruction required for proficiency in a skill, making it in your best interest to show up to every meeting.

Crew Officer's meetings are usually held one Tuesday each month. These meetings allow the officers to get together and plan the upcoming month's activities. Attendance is mandatory for all officers. Non-officer members of the crew need not attend.

Officers and Elections

The crew has seven different officers, each elected by the crew as a whole. These are the President, Vice President for Administration, Vice President for Programs, Secretary, Treasurer, Quartermaster, and Website Manager.

- The Crew President serves as the leader for the youth, implementing the program, in cooperation with other officers and crew members. He or she also works closely with the Crew Advisor, Associate Advisors and other adults to maintain the spirit of partnership. The President also represents the crew at district and council Venturing meetings and events. He or she is also the representative who presents the annual report to the chartering organization. The President also assesses whether the responsibilities of the officers and youth chairs are being carried out effectively.
- The Vice President for Administration (VP Admin) serves as the administrative officer of the crew. He or she will also assume the responsibilities of the crew president if the president is not present. The VP Admin also helps develop the

crew bylaws, and leads the recruiting of new members into the crew. He or she also maintains the medical records and annual permission slips. The VP Admin also plans ceremonies to recognize the achievement of crewmembers, and conducts opening and closing ceremonies for special occasions.

- The Vice President for Program (VP Program) serves as the program officer of the crew and prepares the crew's annual program calendar. He or she also maintains the crew's activity file consisting of the Program Capability Inventory, program resources, and copies of all past program activities.
- The Secretary serves as the crew's communications officer and manages all communications and publicity for the crew. He or she also maintains the crew roster, and handles all crew correspondence. The Secretary maintains the crew's telephone and email notification network. He or she also coordinates publicity.
- The Treasurer serves as the crew's financial officer and maintains all financial records and monitors the crew's annual budget. He or she collects and disburses all crew funds, and also communicates with the officers and crew members about financial matters on a regular basis.
- The Quartermaster maintains the crew's equipment including tents, stoves, and cook wear, extra food, and fuel. He or she also ensures all equipment is signed out and signed back in for every crew outing. The quartermaster also communicates with the officers and crew members on a regular basis on all equipment matters.
- The Web Site Manager maintains the crew's website providing information on Venturing, upcoming activities, and links to other Venturing sites.

All officers are assigned an adult leader or committee member with whom they work closely to make sure they are on track. Elections are normally held every six months. All members of the crew are eligible to be elected to any position. The election is done by secret ballot with only youth crew members allowed to vote.

Outings

Outdoor activities are scheduled each month, based on the annual plan. During the summer, the crew typically does not meet, except for one “ultimate adventure”. This “ultimate adventure” is usually one week long, or even longer, and is usually not in the vicinity of Northern Virginia. An example of a large-scale activity is Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, a canoe trip to the Adirondacks, or attendance at an international scout event such as the Scouts Canada Jamboree.

Trips that are taken by the crew are organized and executed by the youth. The primary person in charge of setting up an activity is the Activity Chair. Every event has an Activity Chair, who is a member of the crew going on the outing. The Activity Chair maintains an activity folder containing all pertinent information. This includes unique consent forms, directions, maps, and phone numbers for the place of the activity. The activity folder makes the process of setting up an identical or similar activity, in the

future, easier. The Activity Chair is also be the primary point of contact, and should be able to answer anyone's questions concerning the outing, such as time of departure, date, cost, and other important information. When teaching a skill following a training session is required, it is the Activity Chair's duty to set this up. The Activity Chair also collects payment for the activity and when all money is collected, turns the money over to the appropriate person. The Activity Chair's final duty is to organize transportation to the activity. This usually takes the form of carpooling, and the drivers are usually parents of crew members, or the Crew Advisors, but occasionally youth drivers are needed. Youth drivers must have had their license for more than 6 months, and must also have consent from all the parents of the other youth riding in the car.

The crew members going on the outing usually provide their own personal equipment. This is usually only basic camping gear, such as a sleeping bag or backpack. However, some more specialized outings require different kinds of equipment. For example, a dry bag might be needed on a canoe trip to protect the sleeping bag in case the canoe tips over. However, other types of equipment, including tents, stoves, and pots, are provided by the crew. This equipment is maintained by the Crew Quartermaster, when not being used on an outing.

Costs

To cover expenses, the crew collects yearly dues, or \$36. These dues are collected as part of the crew's annual re-chartering process. This, coupled with the revenue from selling The Philmont Advisor's Guide, provides enough assets to cover the running of the crew. This means there are no scheduled annual fundraisers. However, there may be special fundraisers for expensive activities, such as weeklong summer activities. Each individual Venturer, however, is still expected to cover the costs for activities in which they take part. Occasionally, for expensive activities, the crew will fund a part of the costs.

Awards and Recognition

The crew members are encouraged to work on the Venturing Awards while in the crew. These awards include the Bronze, Gold, Silver, and Ranger Awards. The Bronze and the Gold Awards are the first two steps to the Silver Award. To achieve the Silver Award, the Venturer must complete a variety of requirements including serving in a crew officer position, completing the Venturing Leadership Skills Training course, being trained in Emergency Preparedness, and taking part in two Ethical Controversies. To earn the Ranger Award, the Venturer must complete eight core and four Elective Ranger Requirements. If the crew member had attained the Boy Scout Rank of First Class before entering the crew, then he is permitted to continue work on achieving Eagle.

Courts of Honor are usually held 3 times a year for the purpose of recognizing those Venturers who have earned awards since the previous Court of Honor. There is also a slideshow of recent crew activities. There are also refreshments served after the Court of Honor.

Public Interaction

The crew does a number of service projects. One of the major one of these is that the crew sorts and packages food collected by other scouts for Scouting for Food every year. The crew also teaches other organizations, usually Boy Scout Troops, outdoor skills to complete requirements for the Ranger Award. The crew also participates in a variety of other service projects, including Eagle Projects.

Brain Book

The “brain book” is the term given to the white binder you will receive when you enter the crew. This book contains much to help you get off to a good start with the crew. You should bring the “brain book” to all crew meetings, and to all outings where they are deemed necessary.

In addition you will find 3 forms to be filled out by your parents. These include the Personal Capabilities Inventory, which indicates what your family can do to help the crew; a general consent form, which assists the crew’s adult advisors in obtaining medical aid while on a crew activity should you become ill or get injured; and finally an insurance form, which concerns drivers and other insurance related matters. These forms need to be returned promptly to the Vice President for Administration. In each brain book you will find a copy of the Crew Bylaws, an annual calendar, as well as a crew roster.

There are the two other books that are necessary for advancement, namely the Ranger Guidebook and the Venturer Handbook. Each new Venturer should purchase both these references at the NCAC Scout Shop and bring them to each crew meeting.

Crew Rules

The crew is run by its youth members with minimal adult input. The crew is governed by the Crew Bylaws, which were written when the crew was formed. These rules describe how the crew is run, and also address such things as co-ed behavior and dress code. A copy is included with this packet for reference.

Dress Code

The dress code is the traditional Venturing spruce green shirt with green shoulder loops and khaki pants or shorts. Blue jeans are not part of the uniform. The uniform is worn to all events, except those that are primarily outdoors and involve strenuous activity. The purpose of this is to reflect a good light on the crew to outsiders who still are unsure of the Venturing concept and to those who have no idea what a Venturing crew is.

Co-Ed Behavior

As was previously mentioned, the crew is co-ed. This requires some special consideration to avoid any potentially compromising situations. It is essential that a sense of respect and consideration be held for the opposite sex. Other than that, common sense is the best protection against a harmful situation. More detailed rules concerning campsites and other business are given in the youth-developed Crew Bylaws.

Flyers

See attached Power Point titled Flyer.

Ideas/Testimonies

“This past summer, our troop sent 7 scouts to BSA Camp Emerald Bay on Catalina Island for a deep water scuba high adventure.

The group included my 16-year old son, Joe.

All the scouts had a fantastic time and look forward to more Scuba activities.

The scouts were certified in basic Scuba before going, so they could focus on more advanced dives.

This would be an excellent Venturing opportunity.

Another suggestion is Gardner Dam Scout Camp in Wisconsin. (Bay Lakes Council) 2 of my sons – Sam (21) and Joe (16) AND my wife Jeannine have participated in their High Adventure White Water Kayaking program.

Gardner Dam has an EXCELLENT High Adventure program that features many different programs

including mountain biking, canoeing and kayaking.

Over the years, our troop has attended Gardner Dam many times and all scouts & parents

that have participated have had an excellent time

We have photos of both events, if you are interested.

For fundraising, we run a SCRIP program through Great Lakes Scrip.

For families that participate fully, nearly all scouting costs are covered with very little out-of-pocket.

ON a totally different note:

We are also involved in a Venture Crew (LaSalle Council Crew 1031) that runs an elaborate Haunted Trail each year.

This raises money for our local scout camp, Camp Topenebee.

It is a ton of fun for all involved.

Good luck!”

David Larimer
Troop 929 Scoutmaster
Chesterton, Indiana

“1) Local Community-wide marketing Scouting each level to a Community-wide recruitment with activities each program level age Scouts would be interested in. There is one Pack, Troop, and Crew in this small town, by marketing and letting the community know that the National Guard and the County Sheriff's Department would be onsite. Recruitment numbers went from 10 to 59 this year.

2) Using Public Access as another method to get the word out about Open Houses. While the first try was only an announcement posting, next year may include something beyond the announcement posting.

Has this helped? Yes. For Venturing, we added two new Crews sooner than the two new Crews last year with three more in the works and each Crew looking at 10-12 new members each.”

Todd Tingblad
District Venturing Officers Association Advisor

Conservation Project Ideas-

- Cave conservation projects to keep them around
 - River clean ups
 - Flag retirements
 - Clean beaches
 - Trail Building/repair
 - Maintained for house non living
 - Adopt a road
 - Giving back to community
 - Adopt a stream
 - Habitat for humanity
 - Community Gardens
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Fundraising-

- Baby sitting
- Pancake Breakfast
- Walking dogs
- Car wash
- Festivals
- Pine straw
- Christmas trees
- Spaghetti dinner
- Craft show
- Auctions
- Donuts

- Concessions (sports games/NASCAR)
- Pine wood derby for girl scouts
- Mouse trap car race
- Pie eating contest
- Dunking booth
- Fun run/ 5k
- Garage sale
- Camp cards
- Cleaning services
- Moving into dorm rooms
- Raffles
- Cookie dough
- Hike-a-thon
- Barbeque sale
- Sponsor sport tournament
- Car demolition
- Selling t-shirts
- Card board city (living homeless for as long as you can)
- Mirror maze
- Corn maze

Activities-

- Cumberland caverns/Island
- Snow trips
- Bouldering
- Go see a play, cultural event
- Fencing
- aquarium lock-in
- Ice skating
- Canoe trip
- Ski trip
- Curling
- Tennis
- Geocaching
- Shooting sports
- Hunting
- Disc sports
- Dragon boating
- Water activities (skiing, wake boarding)
- Spare Pole climbing

- Martial arts (limited to guide of safe scouting)
- Hamster balls (roll down hills in)
- Zip lining
- Mud bogging
- World of Coca-Cola
- Field day
- Winterfest
- Haunted house
- Mountain biking
- Ice skating
- Bowling
- Sailing
- Caving
- Hiking
- Beach party
- Climbing
- Rafting
- Fishing
- City trip
- Fair
- Museum
- Canopy tours
- Zip line
- Scuba
- Bike trek
- Snorkeling
- Tubing
- Farm visit
- Kayaking
- Cope
- Camping
- Wilderness First Aid
- Leave No Trace
- Wilderness survival
- NAYLE
- High adventure bases
- NYLT
- Kodiak
- ILSC
- Mile swim
- Audience for a TV show

- Going to sport games
 - Horseback riding
 - Visiting children hospitals
 - Community garden
 - Talent show
 - Monster truck rally
 - Motor cross
 - Teach to troop
 - Orienteering course at night
 - Service corps
 - Concert
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Websites

Crews, Districts, Councils-

<http://www.crew572.org/>

<http://www.v27.org/>

<http://www.vcrew1716.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Grand-Canyon-Council-VOA/10150110736995043>

<http://venturing.gslac.org/>

<http://www.nfcvoa.org/>

<http://www.gec-bsa.org/program/venturing/officers>

<http://www.shacventuring.org/>

Regional and National-

<http://srventuring-bsa.org/wordpress/>

<http://nerventuring-bsa.org/>

<http://www.wrventuring-bsa.org/>

<http://www.crventuring.org/Home/Welcome/>

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsorce/Venturing.aspx>