

Age Change Information

- ⇒ Begins: March 1, 2015
- ⇒ 18-21 year old Venturers will register as adults, but become adult participants
- ⇒ Adult Participants:
 - ~ Register as adults, follow adult membership standards, take Youth Protection, have background check completed
 - ~ Participate in Venturing like youth, can earn awards, hold leadership positions
 - ~ Tent, shower, use bathroom facilities with adults
 - ~ Can not date adults
 - ~ Do NOT count as adult leadership/part of 2 deep leadership
- ⇒ The change will happen over 3 years as a phase out. All Venturers 18-21 years old registered before March 1st will not have to submit an adult application until they turn 21, attend a high adventure base, or serve on a staff, such as camp staff. See the matrix below for full details.
- ⇒ Youth Protection Training and the background check will be completed at the time the adult application is submitted.

Status	Age	Action	Enforcement
Currently registered Venturer or Sea Scout on March 1, 2015.	18 years old or older (Born before March 1, 1997 and, therefore, turns 18 PRIOR TO March 1, 2015)	No action necessary so long as the Venturer/Sea Scout is continually registered in the same unit.	The member must meet all adult membership standards but does not require a background check now Youth Protection Training.
Currently registered Venturer or Sea Scout on March 1, 2015.	Younger than 18 years old (Born on or after March 1, 1997 and, therefore, turns 18 ON OR AFTER March 1, 2015.	No action necessary until the youth turns 18 at which point he/she registers as an adult and meets all requirements of an adult; enters the adult participant phase (still coded as a Venturer/Sea Scout.	Youth Protection Training and background check will be enforced when the adult application is turned in at the next time of charter renewal. If the member turns 18 within 30 days of the charter renewal, enforcement will take place at the next charter renewal.
New Venturer or Sea Scout on or after March 1, 2015.	18 years old or older and less than 21 years old (Born before March 1, 1997)	Registers as an adult and meets all requirements of an adult, but is an adult participant (still coded as a Venturer/Sea Scout)	Youth Protection Training and criminal background check are enforced at the time of application. Member must meet all adult membership standards.
New Venturer or Sea Scout on or after March 1, 2015.	Younger than 18 years old (Born on or after March 1, 1997).	Registers as a youth Venturer/Sea Scout (as usual—no change)	No enforcement required.
Venturer or Sea Scout (current or new) who applies for an adult leadership position, such as camp staff.	18 years old or older (Born before March 1, 1997 and, therefore, turns 18 PRIOR TO) March 1, 2015.	Registers as an adult and meets the same requirements as adult leaders as part of the leader application process.	Youth Protection Training and criminal background check are enforced at the time of application. Member must meet all adult membership standards.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Just to clarify, if you are a Venturer on/before MARCH 1st, 2015, you will NOT have to fill out an adult application or have a background check (unless you attend a high adventure base, turn 21, or serve on a staff such as camp staff), as long as you continue to be registered in the same unit?

A: Correct.

Q: While BSA Adult Standards would be active, how soon would a youth turning 18 be required to take youth Protection Training (YPT)?

A: Youth Protection Training will be required to turn in with the adult application.

Q: For sleeping and bathroom arrangements, would units now have 6 classification zones? (Under 18 male, under 18 female, 18-20 male, 18-20 female, over 21 male, and over 21 female)

A: There will just be 4 zones, under 18 male, under 18 female, over 18 male, over 18 female.

Q: How do these new membership rules apply to driving?

A: Follow the same policies as over 21 adults.

Q: After March 1st, what will the new rules be regarding fraternization? For example, right now a 19 year old and a 22 year old in Venturing should not be in a relationship. After March 1st, can a 19 year old and a 22 year old date? What about an 18 year old and a 17 year old?

A: The policy will not change.

The roles of volunteer adult leaders in the Venturing program require that clear boundaries be established between adult leaders and youth members. For this reason, fraternization—the formation of peer-based, social relationships between adult and youth members—is not permitted. This prohibition extends to Venturing crew members who register as adults after their twenty-first birthday.

Q: Will adult/youth age requirements change within Boy Scout Troops? For example, a 19 year old is an adult leader in a troop and counts for 2 deep leadership. Will this change after March 1st?

A: Two deep leadership in a Boy Scout Troop will not change. An 18 year old Venturer who fills out an adult applications for the Crew will not be permitted to serve as a leader for two deep leadership.

Q: For co-ed leadership: If you have only boys under 18 and female 18-21 year olds, will two 21+ males be sufficient adult leadership since the females are adult participants? Since the adult participants have had youth protection, is it necessary to have 2 adult females with youth protection protecting the adult participants who have also had youth protection? Since the 2 adult males are present, there is adequate leadership, except in gender.

A: The leadership requirements have not changed even though 18-20 year old Venturers have to fill out an adult application. So you will still have to have a female leader in the scenario.

Q: For driving in general (not one on one), after March 1st, can an adult participant drive youth? Can adults drive adult participants without parental consent? Since adult participants will register as adults (thus, not needing a parent/guardian signature), do they need parental consent to be driven by an adult?

A: Nothing has really changed here. Youth riding with 18-20 year olds should have their parents consent and should follow all YPT guidelines. Its recommended that 18-20 year olds at least let their parent know that they are participating in an activity which they will be riding with an adult advisor. They don't have to have a signed consent form unless the crew wants all participants to have one.

Q: With the age changes, will Youth Protection Training change at all?

A: Youth Protection Training is being evaluated. More details will be coming soon.

