



VENTURING

Lead the Adventure!



BSA has steadily expanded the reach of its value-based programs

- 1910 Boy Scouting
- 1912 Sea Scouting
- 1935 Cub Scouting
- 1935 Exploring for young men 14-20 who wanted senior Scouting
- 1971 Coed Exploring- Young women aged 14-20 joined now more career oriented posts
- 1991 Learning For Life - BSA Subsidiary
- 1998 Venturing - Coed ages 14-20 - Outdoor oriented senior scouting
- 2019 Cubs & Scouts BSA admits girls 5-18

Here's Venturing

- The young adult program of the BSA for men and women 14 (who have completed the 8th grade) through 20 years of age (21st birthday).
- Youth member is a “Venturer”
- Venturing units are “Crews”
- Venturing adults are “Advisors”
- Youth leader is the “President”
- Same membership fee - same chartering process

Venturing/Exploring

Venturing

--Application

--Members

--Leadership Standards
determined by BSA

--Oath and Law

--Advancement --
Ranks & Awards

--High Adventure &
Leadership

Exploring

--Rosters

--Participants

--Leadership Standards
determined by
Participating
Organization

--None

--Awards and
Recognition

--Career
Education

Venturing Structure

Venturing Crew

- Stand Alone Unit
- Coed, all male, or all female
- Ages 14-20
- 4 Ranks: Venturing, Discovery, Pathfinder & Summit
- 5 Awards: Ranger Award (High Adventure), TRUST Award (Culture), Quest Award (Health), Nova/Supernova Awards (STEM), World Conservation Award
- Can continue ScoutsBSA advancement to Eagle (if already 1st class in ScoutsBSA)
- Officers: President, three VP positions (VP Admin, VP Program, VP Communication), Activity chairs

Does Venturing Have a Required 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.

Venturing Oath (old)

As a Venturer, I promise to do my duty to God and help strengthen America, to help others, and to seek truth, fairness, and adventure in our world.

(Venturers currently use the Scout Oath.)

The following literature is available at your Scout Shop

- *Venturing Leader Manual*
- *Ranger Guidebook*
- *Venturer Handbook*
- *Venturing Leadership Skills Course*
- *Venturing Roundtable Guide*
- *Here's Venturing - Operations Guide*
- *Recognition Certificates and Awards*
- *Venturing Advancement Chart*
- *Venturing Leader Specific Training*
- *Sea Scout Manual*

Venturing Videos

1. *Selling Venturing to the Head of an Organization*
2. *Briefing the Organizing Committee*
3. *New Crew Fast Start*
4. *Venturing For Scoutmasters*
5. *Venturing Professional Orientation*
6. *Venturing For Religious Youth Groups*
7. *Sea Scouts: Chart a Course for Life*

Youth Protection Videos

- *Youth Protection - Personal Safety Awareness (for Youth)*
- *Youth Protection Training for Adult Venturing Leaders*

Venturing Training

- Fast Start
- New Leader Essentials
- Venturing Adult Leader Basic Training
- Powder Horn (High adventure resource management training now in councils.)

Venturing Recognition

- Council, Territory & National Venturing Leadership Awards (VLAs) for youth and adults
- Venturing Advisor Award of Merit

Venturing Advancement

Eagle



**Ranger
Award**



**Quest
Award**



**TRUST
Award**



**Nova
Award**

Life



**Summit
Rank**



**Pathfinder
Rank**



**Discovery
Rank**



**Venturing
Rank**

Star



**1st
Class**

**earned in
ScoutsBSA**

**JOIN
Venturing**

The Ranger Program

- Rangers are elite outdoorsmen
- Rangers are required to teach what they've learned to others
- Rangers work with their Advisor and consultants



Ranger Core Requirements

1. Standard First Aid plus *When Help is Delayed*
2. Communications
3. Cooking
4. Emergency Preparedness
5. Land Navigation
6. Leave No Trace
7. Wilderness Survival
8. Conservation

Ranger Electives

(Must earn 4 of 18)

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

Scout Troops



Venturing Crews

Character, Citizenship, Fitness

The aims of the BSA's 3 Programs

ScoutBSA Methods

Patrol Method

Adult Association

Leadership

Scouting Ideals

Outdoors

Advancement

Personal Growth

Uniform

Venturing Methods

Group Activities

Adult Association

Leadership

Scouting Ideals

High Adventure

Advancement & Recognition

Teaching Others

Service

Why Should a Troop Consider a Venturing Crew?

- The Venturing program complements the Scout troop. It adds exciting new advancement and leadership opportunities for your older scouts.
- It allows flexibility, so scouts can participate in both programs.
- Venturing can help solve many of the Scoutmaster's challenges.
- It meets the wants and needs of 14 to 21 year old young adults.
- It provides a coed scouting program for daughters of scouting families.

Scoutmaster Challenges

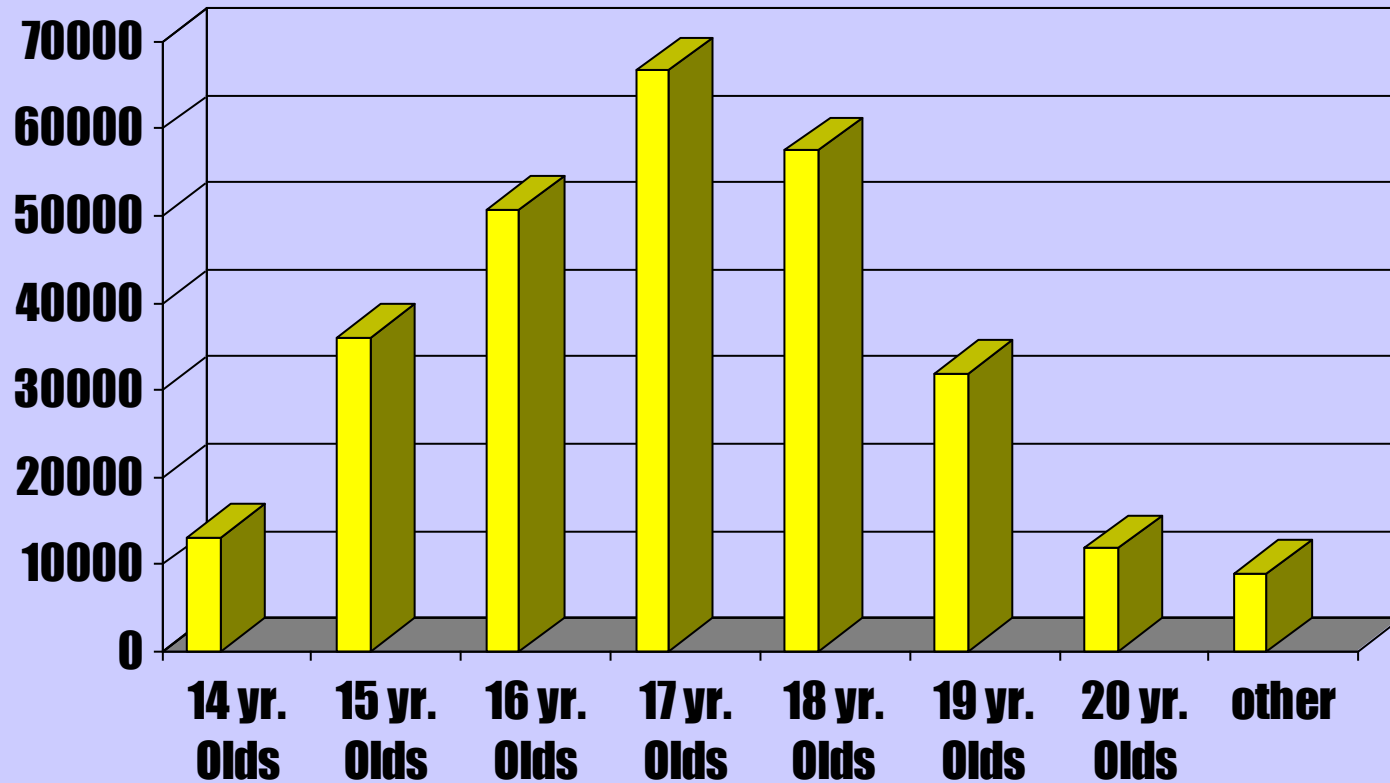
- Keeping 14 to 18 year old Scouts “engaged” in the troop.
- Challenging older Scouts, while at the same time, trying to attract and retain younger Scouts.
- Competing with older Scouts’ interests; cars, dating, high school.
- Providing leadership/role model opportunities to all older Scouts.
- Giving younger Scouts something to anticipate beyond the troop
- Consistently offering exciting program.

National BSA Statistics

- Average Scout is 14 years and 1 month old
- Average Eagle Scout is 16 years and 2 months old
- Average Scout attendance at summer camp is 2.8 years

Ages of Venturers

Year 2001



14 to 18 Year Old Boys Want:

- Challenging physical activities with boys their own age.
- Recognition of their “older” status.
- Activities with girls.
- Control of their environment.
- Independence.
- To explore and experience their world.
- A sense of belonging and acceptance from their peer group, inclusion in a “gang.”

14 to 18 Year Old Youth Need:

- Consistent adults that “Walk their talk.”
- Character and ethical education outside the classroom.
- Positive adult role models, male and female.
- Opportunities to become proficient at something.
- Leadership opportunities.



Venturers May Continue To Work Toward Eagle

- Must be at least a First Class earned as a Scout.
- Requirements remain the same.
- Board of review can be conducted by the troop or crew.
- If registered in both the troop and crew, can receive multiple credit for many Ranger requirements.
- May use crew leadership positions and participation.

What Does Venturing Offer Older Scouts In Your Troop?

- New advancement opportunities for scouts interested in progressing beyond Eagle.
- New, exciting awards and recognition for scouts out of the advancement loop.
- Activities with boys and girls their own age.
- New leadership skills training for all members.
- Venturers give leadership to the troop through the Ranger program, etc.

How Does a Troop and a Crew Work Together?

- Scouts ages 14 to 18 and adult leaders can be members of both units; primary registration in the troop and multiple in the crew.
- The crew meets separately from the troop twice each month and has occasional activities with the troop and many on their own.
- Venturers in the troop, (especially troop leaders) are expected to participate in both units.
- Venturers teach and provide program.

Continued...

- Recruit an Assistant Scoutmaster or committee member to serve as Crew Advisor.
- Utilize existing merit badge counselors as consultants for the Ranger Award.
- Utilize troop advancement chair to help conduct crew reviews for the Venturing Ranks.
- Venturers can wear distinctive uniforming and maintain the same unit #.
- Younger Scouts think of the crew as extension of the troop.

Kemblesville, Pennsylvania

Gary Schroeder-Scoutmaster, Troop 62

Advisor – Crew 62

- SM of troop with 75 boys
- Normally boys get Eagle and disappear
- Took 4 years to get a youth-run troop, with new Crew it happened on the first camp-out
- Older boys wanted more challenge, they asked SM to help them start a crew. Crew began June 2001 with 26 members, 13 girls, all Juniors in High School.
- How Crew has strengthened Troop 62:
 - 1.Keeps older boys semi-active vs inactive
 - 2.Boys are energized to do Eagle Projects
 - 3.Boys get seal of approval from girls
 - 4.Gives 14-15 year olds something to anticipate

- “Our experience in keeping older Scouts active with the troop has been to offer them the age appropriate opportunities of Venturing.
- The reality is that if your older boys are not given high adventure opportunities, they will simply leave Scouting all together. One troop in our area lost nearly all their teens from lack of interest, started a Venturing crew and they all came back with renewed enthusiasm, many finished their Eagle awards.
- The fumes (gasoline and perfume) and other competitions for teen interests take their toll and relatively few older Scouts remain active with troops, especially if they have attained Eagle and feel that there is nothing more for them to do in the troop.” Bob Amick - Boulder, Colorado

Lincoln, Nebraska

Marge Klein, Associate Advisor, Crew 316

“Crew 316 started in October 1998. We have 15 boys and 6 girls.

We have a list of 13 year old boys and girls wanting to join our crew when they get old enough.

Our crew rule for Boy Scouts wishing to join is they must maintain registration and leadership in our troop. Twelve of our boys earned Eagle in January 2000.

Since we started our crew, we explored caves with the University of Missouri caving club, went rappelling with the University of Nebraska climbing club, did whitewater rafting, snow skiing, and scuba diving.

Our boys sit down with the girls when they join and teach them “basic scouting” from the Boy Scout Handbook.

We have made presentations for the Ranger program to packs, troops, Girl Scout Troops, and at roundtables.”

Michael Brown - Crew 1838

- “Adults need to understand what we are here for. We are here for the boys, not the other way around. The Troops exist FOR the boys, not the other way around. If the troop does not have a program that interests the older boys, why deny them the chance to go to a program that will interest them? “
- “As a Scoutmaster I understood the reasons for having both the programs and that the troop could not do the same job for older boys as either Venturing or Sea Scouting.”

Alexandria, Virginia

Cooper Wright- Crew Advisor

“Our crew continues to grow. We recently awarded our fourth Eagle this year, and have already presented two Bronze awards and one Gold award. I expect that we will award two more Bronzes, three more Golds, one Silver and one Ranger in January. During November, the crew participated in Scouting for Food and sorted 9,000 lbs. of food.

You got to think outside the box. The folks that fail are the rule bound, advancement bound, uniform bound Scouters who have taken their office management style and applied it to youth. It doesn't work.”

Hartford, Connecticut

Michael Sobol, Advisor of Crew 57

- “I am the Scoutmaster of Troop 57. My 18 year old son approached me about organizing a Venturing crew. Apparently he had been down to the council service center and picked up some information about Venturing. He handed me a new unit application and seven completed youth applications.
- I agreed to be the Advisor of a new Crew 57. My son wants to earn everything Venturing has created. He had already earned everything Boy Scouting had to offer.
- His girlfriend also joined the crew. My crew consists of 7 boys and one girl currently.
- My Venturers have been teaching the Ranger skills to the troop. It has benefited both the troop and the crew.”

Girls just want to have fun...

- Female Venturers successfully participate in all high adventure activities (60 mile bike rides, backpacking, Mile Swim in the Pacific Ocean, and winter snowboarding).
- Venturers, male and female, assist the troop's Leadership Corps in preparing and teaching the younger boys.
- The crew provides older scouts (who otherwise become disinterested in scouting at the age of driving and dating) with a program that retains their interest by allowing them to pursue higher adventure with female peers and friends. Co-education fosters mature, responsible and respectful relationships.
- **C.T. Zacharczuk, Advisor- Crew 3712, Van Nuys, CA**

What Are Venturers Saying?

- Sean Luther - 17 year old in Crew 28 and Troop 28, Pittsburgh, PA. serves as Senior Patrol Leader in Troop 28 and Crew President in Crew 28. Sean believes that the leadership skills learned in Venturing have helped him be a better Senior Patrol Leader. Venturing has also provided new experiences that he would not have experienced if he was only in the troop.
- Adrian Johnson - 16 year old in Crew 414, Philadelphia, PA. Before joining Venturing she was thinking about joining the Air Force after high school. She has served as a leader in Venturing for the past 12 months. She believes that the leadership skills learned in Venturing and the increased confidence gained has helped her set new goals. She has now applied to the Air Force Academy.

What Are Venturers Saying?

- “All of our crew has the Outdoor Bronze Award and three have earned Ranger. Three of us girls are former Girl Scouts who love the leadership and high adventure of Venturing. Having the influence of girls does help, not only because we tend to be more mature at the same age, but because we aren’t about ‘Macho’. The boys don’t feel that they have to compete against us, so they participate with us.”
- Jamie Soetaert, President, Crew 2000, Monterey, CA

North Olmsted, Ohio

Erica Sheehan, Venturer, Secretary, Crew 630

“My crew has been in existence for about a year and I can honestly tell you it has been one of the best experiences of my life.

I am the sister of a Star Scout and have been surrounded by Scouting’s morals and values for years.

On our first campout in March it went down to 10 degrees. We learned from experience how to pack for winter camping.

In June we went on our first ten mile canoe trip, we had a blast.

In all our outdoor activities I have learned how important it is to work together and that if there is one person not working to their ability the rest of the crew can’t function to it’s potential.

The COPE experience was THE bonding experience of my life and I was on a natural high for days.

We’re all now motivated to work as hard as possible in everything we do, in Venturing, at home or in school.”

Fullerton, California

Amanda Delaney and Christina Canino, Crew 214

- Crew 214 was organized in June of 1998, it has 15 boys and 15 girls, chartered to a Presbyterian Church in Fullerton, California.
- Activities include backpacking, rock climbing, snowboarding, skiing, and COPE.
- Our members adopted the spruce green shirt as our formal uniform. We designated a navy blue t-shirt with our own logo as an activity uniform.
- “We’re all like brothers and sisters, we trust each other.”
- “We set our own rules; no boy/girl buddy system, go in threes in mixed company.”
- “Venturing is more than we expected.”
- “The guys have seen me on campouts without my makeup on and they still like me.”