




# Venturing 101



# ***You must think outside the box....***

- 
- **Take off your Boy Scout hat**
  - **Erase from your mind “tradition”**
  - **Don’t be obsessed with advancement**
  - **Be flexible**
  - **Empower your youth**
  - **Remove roadblocks, don’t create them**



# ***Venturing – LDS Philmont Training***

- 
- **Venturing is the activity arm of priesthood for the 16-18 year old boys. (Priest Quorum)**
  - **All Wards should have a registered and active Venturing program**
  - **Venturing was developed with help from the Church. It is designed to meet the needs of our Priest age young men.**
  - **Venturing provides excellent high adventure and leadership opportunities if the program is being run and functional.**

# ***Venturing – LDS Philmont Training continued***




- 
- **Venturing works together very well with the Duty to God Program. The bronze and gold awards tie right into Duty to God**
  - **While we do not run co-ed Venturing, Venturers are allowed to participate in Council/District events where other crews are co-ed.**
  - **Our biggest problems in Venturing are the lack of trained leaders (adults & youth) and youth who have lost all desire for any type of Scouting, mostly due to no functioning Varsity program (again we start losing our youth at age 14)**

# ***President Thomas S. Monson***



**The Aaronic Priesthood prepares boys for manhood and the weightier duties of the Melchizedek Priesthood. Scouting helps our boys to walk uprightly the priesthood path to exaltation. . . .**

# ***BSA Mission Statement***



**The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.**

# ***What is Venturing?***



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**Venturing is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are at least 14 years old (and have completed the eighth grade) through 20 years of age.**

**Local community organizations establish a Venturing Crew by matching their people and program resources to the interests of young people in the community. The result is a program of exciting and meaningful activities that helps youth pursue their special interests, to grow, to develop leadership skills, and to become good citizens.**

# ***The Venturing Oath***



**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.**



# ***Venturing Code***



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**As a Venturer, I believe that America's strength lies in our trust in God and in the courage, strength, and traditions of our people.**

**I will, therefore, be faithful in my religious duties and will maintain a personal sense of honor in my own life.**

**I will treasure my American heritage and will do all I can to preserve and enrich it.**

**I will recognize the dignity and worth of all humanity and will use fair play and goodwill in my daily life.**

**I will acquire the Venturing attitude that seeks the truth in all things and adventure on the frontiers of our changing world.**

# ***Venturing Uniform***



- No universal official uniform
- ***Recommended*** BSA Venturing uniform
  - Spruce green shirt
  - Green tabs
  - Gray shorts or casual pants

# Venturing's Unique Place



Venturing Crew	Venture Patrol	Scout Troop	Varsity Team
Stand-alone 14-20 (coed)	Optional 13-17	Stand-alone 11-17	Stand-alone 14-17
Venturing Oath & Code	Boy Scout Oath, Law, Motto, Slogan		
President, VP Secy, Treas, Activity Chairs	Venture PL Venture APL	SPL, ASPL, PL, APL, Scr Instr., QM.	Captain, Squad leader, Prog manager
Bronze, Gold, Silver, Ranger,	Eagle, Life, Star, 1st, 2nd, Tenderfoot, Scout		+Letter

# ***Venturing Crew***



- **Youth led organization**
- **Based on program inventory**
  - **Recruits**
  - **Elects officer**
  - **Plans programs**
- **Adult Advisors provide training and guidance for crew's elected officers**



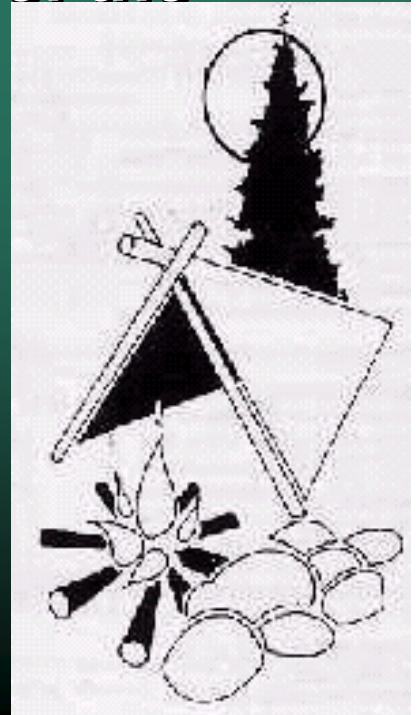
# ***Venturing Methods***

- **Adult association**
- **Leadership**
- **Recognition**
- **Ideals**
- **Group activities**
- **High adventure**
- **Teaching others**

# ***Nationwide Interests***



- 85% outdoor oriented
- 11% sports and hobbies focus
- In the Cascade Pacific Council over 60% of the Venturing crews are LDS



# *The Advisor / Your Job*



## **The Advisor's responsibilities include:**

- **Fostering a sense of community within the crew**
- **Helping youth lead, plan, make decisions, and carry out a long term program of activities**
- **Encourage participation and support for your crew**
- **Uphold standards and policies of sponsoring organization and the Boy Scouts of America**

# *The Advisor*



- **Protect young people in your Venturing crew from abuse or neglect and uphold the standards of the BSA Youth Protection emphasis**
- **Ensure the activities are conducted within safety guidelines and requirements**
- **Cultivate the Venturing spirit within your crew — *have fun***



# ***Leadership Styles for Advisors***



- 
- **Be a mentor**
  - **Be a coach**
  - **Walk your talk**
  - **Be understanding of the teenage years and their search for autonomy**
  - **Be able to relate**
  - **Show mutual respect as a team member**
  - **Develop and demonstrate conflict management skills**

# *What is the purpose of Venturing?*



You might think that Venturing is specialty information, learning leadership skills, a community service, or a good social experience. Venturing is all of these things and more, **but the primary purpose is “forming responsible and caring adults”**. --- In the Church this also means responsible Priesthood Holders & Missionaries



# **16 to 18 year old young men need!**

- 
- **Positive Melchizedek Priesthood Role Models**
  - **Consistent leaders that “walk their talk”**
  - **Tenured leaders- (average tenure is 7 months)**
  - **Leadership opportunities and training**
  - **Well planned, but flexible activities with other young men and young women**
  - **Life skills training and spiritual experiences outside the classroom**
  - **Opportunities to become proficient at something, it builds self-esteem**



# **16 to 18 year old young men want:**

- 
- **Challenging physical activities with young men their own age**
  - **Recognition of their “older” status**
  - **Activities with young women**
  - **Independence**
  - **To explore and experience their world**
  - **A sense of belonging and acceptance from their peer group**

# ***Guide to Safe Scouting***

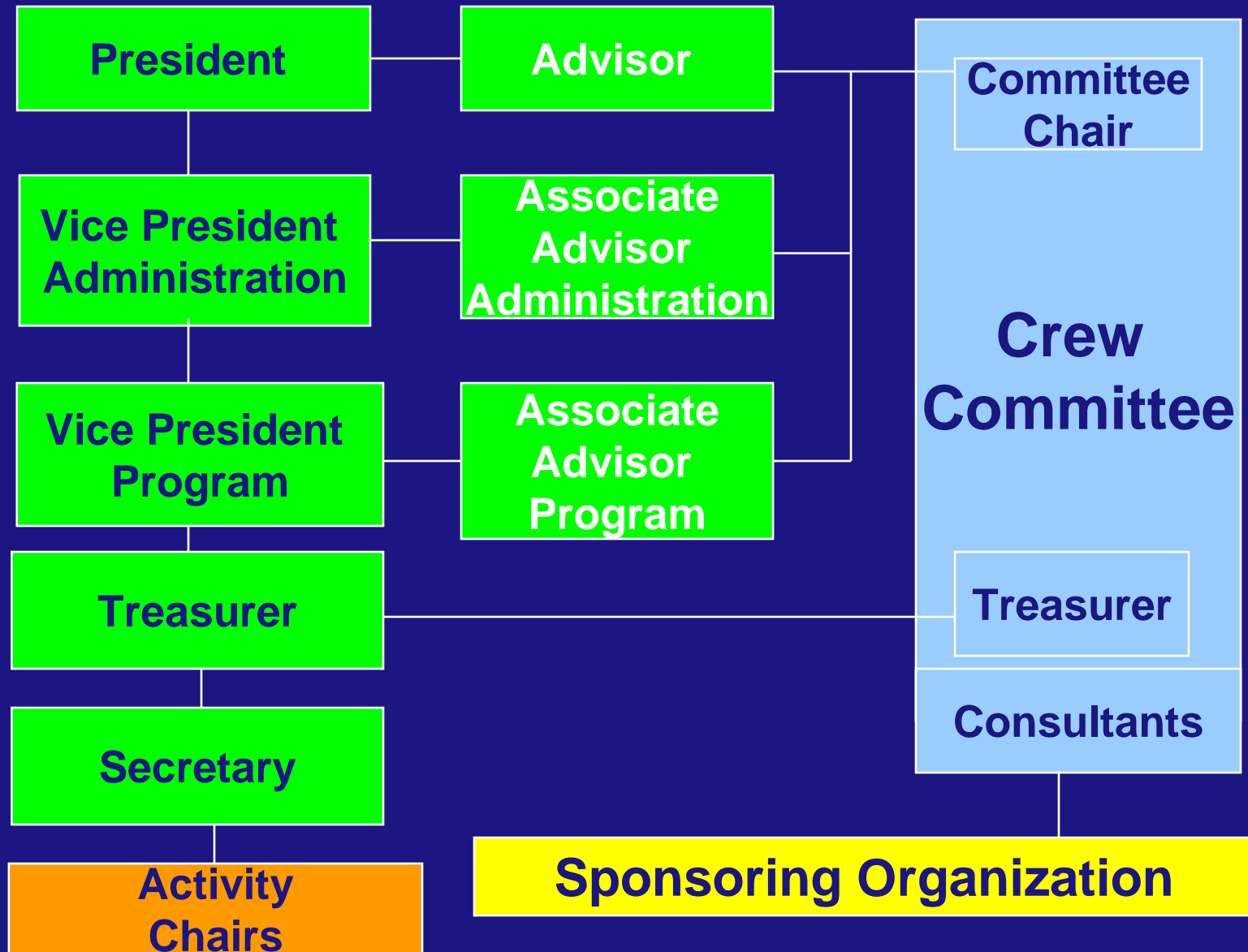


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- Leadership requirements for trips and outings
  - Safe Swim Defense
  - Safety Afloat
  - Scuba
  - Camping
  - Guns and firearms
  - Cave exploring
  - Climbing & rappelling
  - Unauthorized and restricted activities
  - Medical information
  - Transportation
  - Tour permits



# Leadership and Organization

# Venturing Crew Organization



# *Elected Crew Officers*



• **President**



• **Vice Presidents**



• **Secretary**



• **Treasurer**

• **Activity Chairs (appointed)**



# ***Adults & the Venturing Crew***



**The elected Venturer officers work hand-in-hand with the adult Advisors and committee members.**

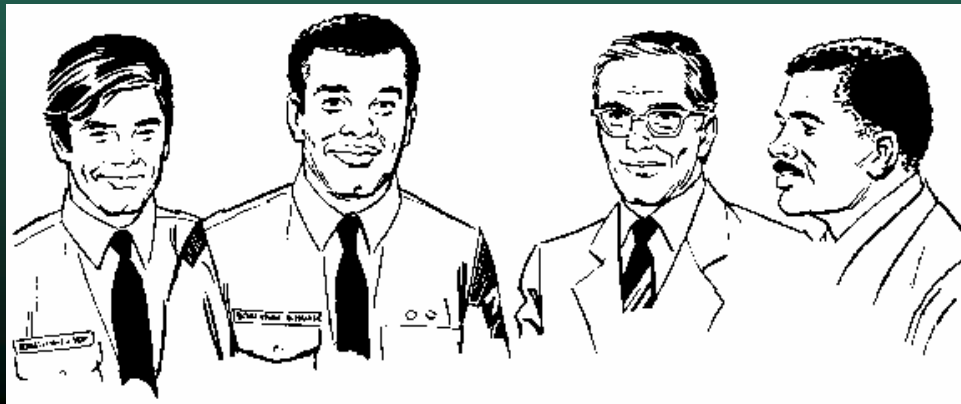
**Activity chairs work with adult consultants (from crew committee, parents or other qualified adults)**

**Cooperation and teamwork between adults and young adults are essential to the success of Venturing**

# Consultants



- Play a key role in Venturing
- Advisors should seek them out
- Have special skills or resources
- Should be registered
- No one-on-one involvement



# ***Officer's Briefing***



- 
- Done quickly, get officers started
  - Advisor and new president brief new officers on current program
  - Explain Program Capability Inventory and Activity Interest Survey
  - Schedule PCI, AIS, and Planning Seminar
  - Explain officers' responsibility
  - Provide Advisor's expectations



# Awards and Recognitions



# Recognition Map



Previous  
Boy Scout or  
Varsity Scout

Ranger  
Award



Trust  
Award



Silver  
Award



Gold  
Award



Quarter  
master  
Award



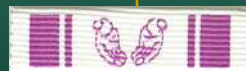
Quest  
Award



Outdoor  
Bronze



Religious  
Life  
Bronze



Arts and  
Hobbies  
Bronze



Sports  
Bronze



Sea  
Scout  
Bronze



JOIN  
Venturing

Not on the slide is the  
"Trust Award"

# ***Eagle Scout***



- **Eligibility**
  - **First Class Scout**
  - **Earned as a Boy Scout or Varsity Scout**
- **Requirements remain the same**
  - **Leadership position in the crew**

# ***Making it Work***



## **Resources and Program Planning**

***PLAN!***



**If you fail to plan,  
you plan to fail.**



# ***Crew's Program Planning Process***



- **Program Capability Inventory**
- **Venturing Activity Interest Survey**
- **Brainstorm**
- **Match Venturing activity interests with resources**
- **Fill in the gaps**
- **Schedule the activities**
- **Select Venturing chairpersons and adult consultants**
- **Follow-up is vital! Assume nothing!**

# **LET THE YOUTH LEAD**



- 
- **The largest disservice we do to our Venturing (Priest age) youth is NOT LETTING THEM LEAD!**
  - **Adult shadow leadership**
  - **Hold periodic planning sessions to fine tune the annual plan**
  - **Always have a three month calendar**
  - **Hold regular presidency meetings**
  - **Train the youth about leadership**
  - **Meet in advance with the Crew President**
  - **Ranger and Silver Awards require a Venturer to share what he's learned with others**

# ***Most Frequent Excuses***



- 
- **“My boys aren’t interested in Scouting”**
    - When you describe Venturing, they will quickly see that this is not “Scouting” as they view it
  - **“Not enough boys in the Priests Quorum”**
    - Recruit non-members, if it is fun, they will come
    - Combine occasional activities with the Varsity Team
  - **“The budget guidelines prohibit us from doing all these fun things”**
    - Plan ahead- get \$\$ budgeted for Venturing in advance
    - Use community resources for little or no cost activities
    - Raise \$\$ for the annual camp/High Adventure, just like the Deacons. The annual High Adventure can include scuba, mountain biking, COPE, horses, shooting sports, etc.

# ***If we could read the thoughts of a 17 year old young man....***



- 
- Scouting is...merit badges
  - Scouting is...Dad & Mom bugging me about getting Eagle... and I can't drive
  - Scouting is...wearing the uniform in my closet
  - I have my Eagle...why is Brother Jones bugging me about earning another award
  - No wonder most of our Priest-age young men want little to do with "Scouting"



# **Pres. Dalquist Philmont Discussions**

- 
- This is a Boys program. We are to demonstrate Shadow leadership. How close is the shadow to the boy?
  - Use BSA (Venturing) Youth Protection videos-policy letter of 2001 is still in force.
  - Use Guide to Safe Scouting and Sweet 16 of BSA Safety.
  - LDS represents 50% of BSA fatalities, while we are 17% of registered boys.
  - Accidents-result of lack of training, lack of tenure, and lack of common sense.
  - Don't allow your leaders to do stupid things. Be the watchman!

# ***Little Philmont Wrap Up***



- 
- **Venturing is not Scouting. Don't Treat It As Such.**
  - **Learn The Venturing Program, Train Your Youth Leaders, Then Let Them Run The Program**
  - **Let the YOUTH LEAD! Be a Real Advisor/Shadow Leader. Don't Stand in the Way of the Youth**
  - **Use the Venturer Handbook, Venturing Leader Manual, Ranger Guidebook and Priest Duty to God Book Together**

# *Presidesnt Thomas S Monson*



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**"I commend you leaders of boys,  
for you demonstrate by your lives  
that the greatest gift a man can  
give a boy is his 'willingness to  
share a part of his life with him.'"**



# Venturing 101

*Now it up to you to become fully trained and make this excellent Venturing program work in your Ward. Your youth need and deserve this program*