

# Comparison of Boy Scouting and Venturing

PROGRAM DIVISION	BOY SCOUTING			VENTURING	
Symbol					
Unit Type	Boy Scout Troop	Venture Patrol within a Troop	Varsity Scout Team	Sea Scout Ship	Venturing Crew
Membership	Boys ages 11* through 17	Boys ages 13 through 17	Boys ages 14 through 17	Young men and women ages 14 (and completed 8 <sup>th</sup> grade) through 20	
Members are	Boy Scouts	Boy Scouts	Varsity Scouts	Sea Scouts	Venturers
Activity Area	Boy Scout Outdoor Program	Boy Scout outdoor program with emphasis on high adventure & sports activities		Sailing/Boating, Seamanship	Determined by Crew and/or Charter Organization
Uniform	Boy Scout tan uniform shirt with olive trousers or shorts			white jumper and trousers ship may select full dress and work uniforms	optional; crew defines**, if any BSA offers green uniform shirt worn with green shoulder loops and gray trousers or shorts
	red shoulder loops		orange loops		
		Venture strip	Varsity strip		
Adult Leader	Scoutmaster	Asst SM Venture	Coach	Skipper	Advisor
Youth Leader	SPL	Venture PL	Captain	Boatswain	President
Training	Troop Leadership Training National Youth Leadership Training			SEAL	VLSC, Kodiak, Kodiak-X
Advancement Program	Ranks: <i>Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, Eagle</i>  Eagle Palms: <i>Bronze, Gold, Silver</i>  Merit Badge Program: <i>121 Merit Badges covering a wide variety of fields of skills, knowledge, hobbies and vocations</i>			Ranks: <i>Apprentice, Ordinary, Able, Quartermaster</i>	No Ranks, No Merit Badges
				Venturing Bronze Awards (five areas): <i>Sports, Outdoor, Arts &amp; Hobbies, Religious &amp; Community Life, Sea Scout</i> Expert Level Skill Awards: <i>Quest, Trust, Ranger</i> Leadership/Growth Awards: <i>Venturing Gold, Venturing Silver</i> Provision for continuing Boy Scout Advancement***	
Recognition	National Honor Patrol	Venture Letter & activity pins	Varsity Letter & activity pins Denali Award	Sea Scout Recognitions incl. Small Boat Handler, Qualified Seaman, Long Cruise	Crew determines
	Firem'n Chit, Totin' Chip, Paul Bunyan Woodsman			Any significant achievement in the life of a Venturer (e.g. school, sports, arts, community, church); Venturing Leadership Award.	
	religious, camping (National Camping Award), aquatic (Lifeguard, Snorkeling, Mile-Swim, Boardsailing), meritorious action (Lifesaving), conservation (World Conservation, Hornaday), physical fitness, emergency preparedness, Young American, trail awards (Fifty-Miler, Historic Trails), High Adventure, Recruiter, Interpreter, Den Chief Service, Training, council authorized and others				
OA	First Class with camping requirements - eligible for election			Not eligible for election, but can maintain existing membership	
National Jamboree	Age 12+ and First Class Rank or above may participate			Cannot participate. Age 16+ may serve as youth staff	

\* A boy may join a Boy Scout Troop at age 10 if he has either graduated the 5<sup>th</sup> grade or has earned Arrow of Light.

\*\* While a crew may define its uniform, it may not select the Boy Scout tan shirt or olive pants. Green loops are never worn on the tan Boy Scout uniform shirt.

\*\*\* A boy under age 18 who has previously earned First Class rank (in a troop or team) may pursue Boy Scout advancement as a member of a crew or ship.