

Charles Holmes

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, VENTURING!

During this, the week of Venturing's 8th birthday, I can think of no one better to highlight as our Featured Mentor than our own National Director of Venturing, Charles Holmes.



Charles J. Holmes was appointed National Director of the Venturing Division, Boy Scouts of America on December 1, 1998. Holmes, who had been serving as Scout Executive in the Long Beach Council, Long Beach, California since 1994, was appointed by retired Chief Executive Scout Jere B. Ratcliffe.

Charles Holmes was given the task of working with staff and volunteers to develop Venturing, the first new program within the Boy Scouts of America in over 35 years. Since 1998, Venturing has become the fastest growing program in the country for young adults, male and female, ages 14 through 20. As of December 31, 2004, over 280,584 co-ed young adults have joined the program. Over 21,135 chartering organizations use the Venturing program to help serve their youth.

During his 34 years of professional service to Scouting, Charles Holmes has held a wide range of positions. He began his professional career with the BSA in 1971 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. His Scouting career includes service in the following cities: Indianapolis, Indiana; Cleveland, Ohio; Columbus, Ohio; and Flint, Michigan. He has served on many Boy Scout steering committees, task forces and national professional conferences.

Charles Holmes has maintained an active role in business, social, civic and fraternal organizations and has served as an officer and director in most. He is an ordained deacon in his church and has chaired many church committees.

A graduate of the University of Arkansas, Charles Holmes holds a bachelor's degree in history and sociology. He is an avid sailor and golfer. Currently, he is a board member of the Boat US magazine and the Long Beach Yacht club in Long Beach, California.

Sharon and Charles Holmes have two adult sons.