

Ranger Award Ceremony

Crew #99

Huntsville, Texas

Prelude - [video show provided by _____]

1 Call to order – _____

[_____] May I have your attention please?

2 Welcome – _____

[_____] I would like to open this Court of Honor for _____. We welcome you all today who have come to celebrate this achievement and witness the bestowing of this honor upon _____. Please rise for the presentation of the colors.

3 Presentation of Flags – _____, _____, _____ (?)

4 Pledge of Allegiance – _____

5 Invocation – [*pastor* _____ ?]

6 Seating of Honoree and parents

[_____] Will the Venturer please escort the honoree and her parents to their places?

_____ escorts the _____s to their seats.

7 Opening ceremony

Lighting of candles and Venturing Oath:

[Venturer 1 (V1) stands behind candles, [_____]]

Venturer 2 (V2) stands on the left of the candles [_____]]

Venturer 3 (V3) stands on the right of the candles [_____]]

V2 As a Venturer.

(V1 lights 1st candle)

V3 We are taking freely and willingly this identity, this responsibility, and this honor of being called a Venturer,

V2 I promise.

(V1 lights 2nd candle)

V3 So we, in all honor, publicly commit ourselves to fulfill these responsibilities:

V2 To do my duty to God.

(V1 lights the white candle)

V3 We commit ourselves to establish, as the foundation for all our actions, our relationship with and obedience to God. He is the ultimate Judge of all we do, and the source of our talents, strength, and abilities.

V2 And help strengthen America.

(V1 lights 4th candle)

V3 We commit ourselves to do our part as citizens of the United States of America to do what is needed to make it strong. To face without flinching the battle for justice and truth, to make the effort to be an informed voter, and to serve with honor in any capacity in which we found ourselves serving.

V2 To help others.

(V1 lights 5th candle)

V3 We commit ourselves to be specific in service. We will keep ourselves alert to and aware of the needs of those around us, and will be willing to help them in whatever way we can. We will seek the training and skills we need to make ourselves both willing and capable servants to others.

V2 And seek truth, fairness, and adventure in our world.

(V1 lights 6th candle)

V3 We commit ourselves to work to develop the habit of searching out the truth instead of accepting appearances; the habit of seeking fairness in our personal actions, in our communities, and in our society instead of ignoring injustice; and the habit of accepting the challenges of new adventures in all realms of our lives, so that the world in which we live may be a better place because we chose to make a difference.

8 Ranger Award program

[_____]]

Outdoor/high adventure is the largest and fastest growing interest in the Boy Scouts of America. The purpose of the Ranger Award is to encourage Venturers to achieve a high level of outdoor skills proficiency; provide a path for outdoor/high adventure skills training; and establish Rangers as a highly trained leadership resource for Crews, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and the community.

The Ranger Award exemplifies a challenging high adventure skills advancement program. Once earned, it will identify a Ranger as an elite outdoorsman who is skilled at a variety of outdoor sports and interests; trained in outdoor safety, first aid and survival skills; and ready to lead or assist others in activities.

The designation of Ranger is something that has had a lot of significance throughout not only Scouting, but also American history. Would _____ please come forward to tell us about the history of the American Ranger.

/_____/

The History of the American Ranger

... [a long history _____ will tailor to suit]...

When the Boy Scouts of America introduced the Venturing program in August of 1998, it was fitting that the Ranger Award was selected to recognize those young men and women who had acquired the necessary skills to become elite outdoorsman. The Ranger Award, however, is not new to Boy Scouts of America. In the 1940s, the Explorer Scout program established a four-tier advancement program of Apprentice, Woodsman, Frontiersman, and Ranger, with Ranger as the highest award. During the period of 1944 until 1949 when this advancement program was replaced, only 2,782 Ranger medals were awarded. It is therefore an honor that today, we distinguish the very best skilled outdoor Venturers with an award that is over 50 years old and recognizes the bravery, leadership, and sacrifices of the men who have borne the title of Ranger and have been a part of our American history for over 300 years.

9 Venturing, the Ranger Award, and Leadership

/_____/ We are honored to have attending this ceremony today _____, the National Venturing President, who will come and give us some insight on Venturing, the Ranger Award, and Leadership.

- /_____/ - **National Venturing President**

10 Ranger Award requirements

/_____/ In order to earn the Ranger Award, candidates must complete 8 challenging core requirements: _____ will now explain four of those core requirements:

/_____/

The first requirement is **First Aid** - _____ fulfilled this requirement by taking the Wilderness First Aid Basics course, which also met the requirements for the First Aid elective

The second is **Emergency Preparedness** - _____ had to plan with her family for the various emergency situations with which they could be faced. She taught the Cub Scouts of Pack 199 about being prepared for emergencies, helping them on the way to their Wolf and Bear awards.

The third is **Leave No Trace** - _____ had to learn the seven principles of the Leave No Trace ethic, participate in three separate camping/backpacking trips demonstrating the knowledge and use of Leave No Trace principles, and teach the Leave No Trace principles to others.

The fourth is **Navigation** - _____ had to learn how to navigate using map and compass, how to read a topographical map, and how to use a GPS, including finding a fixed coordinate at night using a GPS receiver. _____ utilized her skills by navigating the Crew through the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and Quetico Provincial Park this past July.

_____, Associate Advisor for Crew 99, will now come and explain the next four Core requirements.

/_____/

The fifth core requirement is **Wilderness Survival** - _____ had to write a risk management plan - which she did for the Crew's 2003 Boundary Waters Canoe Area/Quetico Provincial Park trip, learn and list from memory the survival priorities, learn about and teach others about emergency signals, search and rescue patterns, evacuation procedures, environmental exposure hazards and their treatment, learn different fire lays, know how to gather weather information from different sources, know 10 different knots and lashings, prepare and eat a meal with food found in the outdoors (where she learned that palmetto root is very bitter, cattail root is tasty, and yaupon tea is delicious). She had to set up and live in a wilderness survival camp for 3 days and 2 nights (where she learned that mosquitoes can interfere with one's ability to study for Spanish). And she had to make presentations about Wilderness Survival to the Crew.

The sixth is **Communications** - where she studied how to be effective when trying to share ideas and knowledge with others, and taking a 15 hour communications course to improve her skills. She also worked with her church drama team to develop short productions to help communicate the Gospel.

The seventh is **Cooking** - where she had to learn how to cook on an open fire or coals, on a backpacking stove (including the preparation of backpacking food - which she did a lot on our high-adventure trip) and how to cook without using any cooking utensils.

And the last core requirement is **Conservation** - which _____ fulfilled by leading Crews 1772 and 99 to undertake a project to help provide nesting areas for the red cockaded woodpecker in the Jones State Forest.

_____ will now come and explain the electives that _____ chose in order to complete her Ranger Award.

[_____]

In addition to these core requirements, the Ranger candidate must complete 4 electives out of the following challenging skill areas: Backpacking, Project COPE, Ecology, Fishing, Hunting, Mountaineering, Physical Fitness, Scuba, Watercraft, Cave Exploring, Cycling/Mountain Biking, First Aid, Equestrian, Lifesaver, Outdoor Living History, Plants and Wildlife, Shooting Sports, and Winter Sports. The electives _____ chose were

1st **COPE** - which _____ fulfilled by becoming a Project COPE instructor; she has helped many Scouts and a number of adults through Project COPE - including the participants in the 2003 Powder Horn Course for SHAC,

2nd **Mountaineering** - which she fulfilled by attending BSA National Camp School and becoming a BSA Climbing Instructor; again she has put this knowledge to use by guiding Boy Scouts and Venturers on climbing trips, and was a consultant at the 2003 Powder Horn course,

3rd **First Aid** - which, as was mentioned earlier, she did by taking the Wilderness First Aid Basics,

and 4th **Watercraft** - _____ had taken the American Red Cross Fundamentals of Canoeing, Fundamentals of Kayaking, and training to become an American Red Cross Fundamentals of Canoeing Instructor. She led the Crew on a 50-mile canoeing trip through the BWCA and QPP, and took a trip of more than 8 miles down the San Marcos River.

11 Presentation of Ranger Award –

[_____], would you and your parents please come forward? [_____, _____ and Linda _____ come forward.]

_____, on behalf of the Boy Scouts of America, Venturing Crews 1772 and 99, and Venturers everywhere, we are proud to present you with the Venturing Ranger Award.

[_____ hands the award to _____, who pins it on _____'s left shirt pocket.]

We are proud to also present you with this Certificate and pocket card.

[time for applause, they are all seated.]

12 Comments from selected guests -

[_____]

_____, you have now been awarded the Venturing Ranger Award. Now there are some people who would like to say a few words to you.

13 Comments from The Ranger

[_____] _____ – is there anything you would like to say to us?

[_____] –

14 Benediction – [pastor _____?]

15 Retire the Flags – _____, _____, _____?

16 Invitation to Reception

[_____] This Ranger Court of Honor for _____ is now officially closed. The _____s would like to invite you now to a reception for _____.