

## **Sharon Aycock - AKA "Mom"**

We continue our Mother's Day celebration with our National Venturing Cabinet's "Mother", Sharon Aycock, the Secretary of the Venturing Division and Secretary to Director of Venturing Charles Holmes. Sharon serves as the National Venturing Youth Cabinet "mom", preparing us for our responsibilities and providing us with support as we meet challenges. We know, no matter how early in the morning we call, Sharon will answer the Venturing phone and have a fast answer for our many questions, along with a quick dose of southern humor. She keeps track of our friends, asks about our family, and lets us know our importance within the program. While she is quick to tell us if we are off track, her mantra, "Don't mess with my kids", echoes in our ears, as we know someone is always in our corner, there to help if we ask.

Sharon began working for Boy Scouts in 1988, in the Cub Scouting Division. Known for her quick sense of humor, Sharon wrote, "That was perfect because I 'grew' with the BSA". After two years, she was given the opportunity to transfer to Council Services (Health & Safety and National Court of Honor). Sharon remained in that division for seven years, before growing into maturity, and transferring to the Exploring Division.

One year after she moved into Exploring, the Division split. Career interest Exploring went to Learning for Life and the Outdoor Program became the Venturing Division. Sharon remained with Exploring, but served as back-up for one of her best friends, Robin, the Division Secretary for Venturing. When Robin transferred to work with computers, Sharon was offered the position of Division Secretary for the new Director of Venturing, Charles Holmes.

Having saved the best division until last, this year Sharon will celebrate her eighth year in Venturing.

When I asked Sharon for a photo, she firmly declined. Members of the Cabinet know better than to argue with "Mom" Aycock, so she will remain my one un-photographed mentor. (I hope Sharon does not mind my sharing with you that she is often mistaken for an un-pregnant Angelina Jolie.) Happy Mother's Day, Sharon. I hope you enjoy the See's candy I sent (See's cream centers covered in milk chocolate, in case anyone wants to know her favorite!) You have been a dear friend, mentor, and advisor these past two years. You are truly a Venturing treasure. -- Amy