

**Silver Award Court of Honor**

Lighting the Silver Trail

Provided by: BSA Venturing Crew 330

Astoria, Oregon

Ft. Clatsop District, Cascade Pacific Council

**OPENING PERIOD (Estimate 10 minutes)**

*(A member of the installation team lights the "Spirit of Scouting" candle prior to the ceremony beginning)  
(Turn on podium reading light)*

MC: Will the audience please rise for the presentation of the colors.

*(Presentation of the colors by the Color Guard)*

MC: Please remain standing. It is my pleasure to introduce \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ who will give the invocation.

*(Invocation: Let us pray. Dear God, We are gathered here tonight to celebrate the achievements of our friend (Candidate's name). We simply ask for your presence and blessing here. Amen.)*

MC: You may be seated. Good evening and welcome. I am \_\_\_\_\_, Crew Committee Chairman, serving as the master of ceremonies this evening. At this time, on behalf of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, I hereby convene this Court of Honor for the purpose of presenting the Silver Award to Venturing Scout [Scout's name]. We are privileged to have some very special guests joining us tonight. Would you please stand to be recognized as you are introduced. It is my privilege to introduce to you:

*(Introduces each dignitary by name and title, including his/her spouse if present, and any other special guests)*

(Special Presentations, if any)

**CEREMONY (Estimate 10-20 minutes)**

MC: To earn the highest Venturing award in Scouting, a Venturing Scout has to spend a great deal of time and effort. Therefore, the occasion that recognizes their accomplishments should be something special. Tonight we will follow "Lighting The Silver Trail."

*(House lights are turned off.)*

MC: When a youth becomes a Scout there is instilled within them something that we call the spirit of Scouting. The lighted candle before you represents that spirit. Because the spirit of Scouting embodies the principles of the Scout Oath and Law, it is a shining beacon of inspiration. Alone, this light may seem feeble, but when multiplied by more than three million youth in Scouting, it becomes very powerful indeed. Here to tell us more about Lighting The Silver Trail, is Mr. \_ (#1)\_\_\_\_\_.

*(MC is seated and Mr. #1 takes the podium)*

Mr. #1: Far away, looms the hazy outline of the lofty Silver Summit, covered in snow. Yes, to the newcomer it is a long way ahead, but it comes a lot closer as the light from the Spirit of Scouting spreads. We remember well when she came to the base of the Venturing Mountain and how she looked up and took the challenge to take the journey, join the few and soar with the Eagle. Once inspired by the Spirit of Scouting she works on the Bronze Award. Putting a few achievements behind her, she quickly climbs on. Even though the requirements stiffen a bit, she keeps climbing until finally she tops the mountain ridge along the Silver trail where she receives her \_\_\_\_\_ Bronze Award.

*(Bronze Award Venturing Scout lights the Bronze candle)*

Mr. #1: This is no place to rest on the Silver trail, for now she clearly sees the peak ahead.

Mr. #1: There is a broad mountain meadow with many pathways which lead to other Venturing Awards such as other Bronze Awards, the Ranger, or the Gold to challenge her. The one that beckons her on is the Gold Award. She must participate in a district, council, area, region or National Venturing event. She is farther along the Silver trail than she realized she would ever be, and she is proud of her progress. She realizes benefits that she has gained from her training for leadership and for service. Our hiker rushes on, working, serving, and leading. And as she goes she sets one personal growth goal related to each of the following areas: citizenship, leadership, service to others, community/family, outdoor experience, and total fitness. The farther she climbs, the fewer companions she meets who are with her along the trail, and the more effort she expends. She must plan, prepare for, and lead to completion two crew activity projects that relate to two of the following areas: citizenship, leadership, service to others, community/family, outdoor experience, or total fitness.

*(Gold Award Venturing Scout lights the Gold candle)*

Mr. #1: Moving on our traveler attains the Gold Award. To guide us up the final ascent is Mr. \_\_\_(#2)\_\_\_\_\_.

*(Mr. #1 is seated and Mr. #2 takes the podium)*

Mr. #2: Our Venturing Scout has completed many accomplishments, but looking up, the Venturing Scout beholds the Silver Summit about which she has heard so many stories. The trail leads on and upward. Now the pathway narrows and there are even fewer Venturing Scouts on it. Toward the summit the path steepens considerably and winds along narrow ledges. Many tough spots will need to be overcome to conquer the last few miles.

Being prepared has always been one of the key tenets of Scouting. Venturing Scouts must be prepared to take care of themselves as well as be ready to serve others when called. She must earn Standard First Aid and CPR certification, and to know and use BSA Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat.

Leadership is one cornerstone of the Venturing Silver Award. She concentrates on developing leadership skills, and implementing those skills as a leader. She successfully completes the Venturing Leadership Skills Course.

Another cornerstone of the Venturing Silver Award is learning through experience. Experience can be a powerful learning tool. She has many experiences interacting with her peers and learning decision-making skills. She participates in the Ethics in Action program including Ethical Controversies, and an Ethics Forum.

As she goes about these tasks, she is busy giving leadership to other Venturing Scouts who seek to climb the Venturing Mountain. She is continually giving service to those who cannot enjoy the trail, but need a helping hand. Only those with real persistence and courage are able to gain the thrill of Silver Summit.

Before continuing up the trail to your goal, which is now very apparent. Let me remind you that there are more mishaps in mountain climbing after reaching the top than there are on the trail upward. One who achieves the highest goal of Venturing should never forget the rigor of the training she has endured and the responsibilities of leadership and service that were a part of her success. Listen now to the wisdom of the winds.

*(The installation team will light the twelve candles' one at a time, as the twelve points of the Scout Law are stated by the "wind speaker" starting at stage right side of the mountain. The wind speakers should stand at the respective compass points)*

(East wind speaker): I am the spirit of the East Wind. I represent the common law, your duty to God and to country. **Trustworthy, loyal, and helpful**, are the qualities which a person must possess who lives by the laws and rules of this land. See that we do not lose this great blessing of a lawful land.

(West wind speaker): I am the spirit of the West Wind. I represent the law of equity, your duty to country and to others. **Friendly, courteous, and kind** are the laws that breathe of conscience. They create the atmosphere that comes from within your heart. The desire for you always to be a friend to those of all ages, young and old alike. Courteous to those who pass along your trail. Cast away the harmful spirit of unfriendliness and selfishness.

(South wind speaker): I am the spirit of the South Wind. I represent the civil law, your duty to others and to self. **Obedient, cheerful, and thrifty** are the characteristics of civility. A life of cheerful obedience is necessary for the development of a true citizen. Obedience is something everyone has to learn—to take orders and carry them out cheerfully. Real thrift means earning, spending wisely and saving, and sharing with those less fortunate.

(North wind speaker): I am the spirit of the North Wind, the most powerful of all, I represent the divine law. **Brave, clean, and reverent**. To be brave is to be unselfish. To be clean in body and soul is to be pure in heart. Cast from your mind and body any evil spirit that tries to weaken or destroy the divine law, live a life of reverence. Be brave and clean.

Mr. #2: Finally, the three parts of the Venturing Oath are promises that will carry you safely and securely as you travel down unknown paths in the future.

*(A Venturing Scout lights the three candles as the Speaker reads the Venturing Oath.)*

As a Venturer,  
I promise to do my duty to God and to help strengthen America, *(Light white candle in center)*  
to help others, and *(Light red candle)*  
to seek truth, fairness, and adventure in our world *(Light blue candle)*

*(Mr. #2 is seated and MC takes over the podium.)*

### **Presentation of the Silver Award (Estimate 15-20 minutes)**

*(Turn on stage lights)*

MC: The Silver Award candidate [Scout's name ] will be escorted to the stage by members of Venturing Crew 330 represented by the Crew President \_\_\_\_\_ and Program Vice President \_\_\_\_\_.

*(To Silver Award candidate)*

You are almost at the summit that you have been diligently seeking to reach. Please take the candle representing the Spirit of Scouting, and light the candle at the Silver Summit that signifies you have reached the very top.

*(Candidate lights the candle)*

MC: Will Crew Advisor \_\_\_\_\_ review the candidate's Scout history.

Crew Advisor: *(Presentation of candidate's scout history and also introduce the 2 Gold Project agency representatives for the presentation of the Gold Projects-identify the area each of the crew activity projects fell into. Crew Advisor needs to introduce each Gold Project representative.)*

*Gold Project #1 representative presentation  
Gold Project #2 representative presentation*

MC: *(Addressing Crew Advancement Chairman):* Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, Crew 330 Advancement Chairman, has Venturing Scout [ Scout's name ] conducted herself in a manner that exemplifies the meaning of Venturing?

CHAIRMAN: All records and interviews have indicated that the candidate for the Silver Award has exemplified the meaning of Venturing.

MC: Thank you Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, for your report. Will Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ District Top Award Chairman, representing the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, come forward and administer the Venturing Code.

*(MC is seated and BSA Rep takes the podium)*

BSA REP: Silver Award candidate [ Scout's name ], will reaffirm the Venturing Code. Will all Venturing Scouts and Venturing leaders please stand and reaffirm the Code. Venturing sign.

Recite with me the Venturing Code:

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 truth in all things  
and adventure on the frontiers of our changing world.

BSA Rep: Two.

Please be seated.

BSA Rep: You are now a Silver Award Venturing Scout. It means that you have  
! demonstrated the ability to be a leader – a leader of like-minded individuals that uphold a creed, a sacred oath.  
! A passion for life and the principles that founded the United States of America.

BSA Rep: The Silver is not a medal, an award or certificate to hang on the wall. It is a way to live your life. Although the trail to Silver is hard work and fun, it is much more. The Silver Award is an education. Each bronze and gold is a chapter. The conclusion is that by earning the Silver Award, one has the tools to be a responsible, conscientious citizen who would gladly advance the group before the individual.

*(BSA Rep is seated and MC takes the podium)*

MC: As a Silver Award Venturing Scout, [ Scout's name ], the eyes of all Scouting -- yes, the eyes of the world will be upon you. May your life always be guided by the Spirit of Scouting, represented by the blazing candles before you. The Silver medal that you are about to receive is symbolic of this Spirit of Scouting.

Would the Crew President and Program Vice President escort the candidate's parents to the stage. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, Crew Advisor, please join me to present the Silver award to Venturing Scout [Scout's name ].

*(Escort candidate's parents to the stage)*

*(Crew Advisor goes to the stage)*

MC: Your mother will now have the honor of presenting her daughter with the Silver Award Medal.

*(Crew Advisor hands the Silver Medal to the mother for pinning)*

MC: Your father will now have the honor of presenting his daughter with the Silver Award Certificate.

*(Crew Advisor hands the Silver Certificate to the father for presentation)*

MC: In recognition of your achievement, Venturing Crew 330 wishes to present you with this \_\_\_\_\_.

*(Crew rep presents the gift and candidate opens it)*

MC: (addressing Candidate): Would you like to say a few words.

*(Candidate says a few words)*

### **Closing (estimate 5 minutes)**

MC: I would like to join (Candidate)'s family in thanking all those you have helped make this celebration such a success. I would now like to ask \_\_\_\_\_ to come forward for the Benediction.

*(Benediction: Let us pray. As we conclude this Court of Honor, we would pray that (Candidate) continues to grow in service and leadership. And that others may be inspired to follow her path. Amen.)*

MC: Will the Crew President and Program Vice President escort Silver Award Venturing Scout \_\_\_\_\_ and her parents to the reception.

*(Escort candidate to the reception)  
(Escort candidate's parents to the reception)*

(To all) Immediately after the retirement of the colors, everyone is invited to the reception where you may congratulate Silver Award Venturing Scout [ Scout's name ] and have refreshments

On behalf of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, I hereby declare this Silver Award Court of Honor closed. Thank you for attending this Court of Honor. It is your support that enables young people to develop skills, experience emotional growth and friendships through Venturing Crew 330, Boy Scouts of America.

MC: Will the audience please stand. Color guard, please retire the colors.

*(Retire the colors).*