

## Silver Award Ceremony

Crew #99

Huntsville, Texas

### Welcome –

We are pleased to welcome you to this Court of Honor for \_\_\_\_\_. Will the audience please rise for the presentation of the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance?

### Presentation of Flags & Pledge -

*Presentation and Pledge*

– Please remain standing for our invocation by \_\_\_\_\_.

### Invocation –

#### Seating of Honoree and parents –

- Will the escort please seat the honoree and her parents?

[\_\_\_\_\_ leads \_\_\_\_\_ and Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ to their seats]

- Members of Crew 99 will now lead us in the Venturing Oath:

*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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> candle)*

V3 We commit ourselves 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.

[Mr. \_\_\_\_\_]

## God and Life Award

The Boy Scouts of America believes that no one can grow to their full potential without a belief in God – and has spent millions of dollars fighting for this belief in the courts of our land against those to whom a belief in God is anathema.

However, the Boy Scouts of America also believe that one's duty to God is best taught in the homes and churches of the Scouts and Venturers. Accordingly, they recognize the awards programs developed by the churches, but do not administer those programs themselves.

The program for Venturing age youth in many of the Protestant churches, including the Baptist and Presbyterian denominations, is called "God and Life". It is the last of four discipleship programs designed to lead young men and women to a closer walk with Christ and a deeper understanding of the requirements of discipleship. Very few people ever earn this award. In 2003, only 1,015 God and Life Awards were earned by young men and women in the US – including all Protestant denominations represented in the BSA, Girl Scouts USA, and Camp Fire. Compare that with the 13,500 God and Me Awards, the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> grade-level award for the same period and group; 10,366 God and Life Awards (5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade level); and 3,322 God and Church awards (7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grad level).

The God and Life Award is not easy. It is a reflective type of curriculum: students study the lives of men and women in the Bible and discover what their lives teach them about God. The young people are then challenged to integrate their faith into their daily lives.

The outline for the God and Life curriculum is based on the life of the Apostle Paul as recorded in Acts 9:1-31. This is a brief account that describes how Paul became a Christian. Five chronological "events" out of this story are highlighted and used as the focus for the five different sections in this program. Each section illustrates a key element in learning how to live one's life for Christ:

1. Before his conversion, Paul persecuted Christians.

Theme: God calls all kinds of people.

2. Paul was helped by Ananias and Barnabas.

Theme: God doesn't expect us to do it on our own.

3. Paul was baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit. Theme: Each of us must make a personal response to the call of God.

4. Paul led a difficult life: many people wanted him dead.

Theme: God gives strength to face adversities.

5. Because of Paul, the church was strengthened and it grew in numbers.

Theme: God can accomplish great things through those who are willing to do God's will.

Each of the five sections requires the students to STUDY, REFLECT, and SERVE. Students STUDY the examples of other men and women of the Bible who have had experiences similar to Paul's, and study scripture passages on a related theme. They REFLECT on the lessons and relate them to their own lives. And then they SERVE by choosing a project that will help put into action what they have just learned.

As part of the study portion of each section, students are asked to integrate their faith into their daily lives. For example, they are required to develop plans to read the Bible every day for a month, take sermon notes for a month, memorize scripture verses for a month, and pray for a person for a month. These required activities are related to the Bible lessons in that section and to its overall theme.

\_\_\_\_\_ dedicated herself to meet this challenge, and has completed her work. Her work was reviewed by myself, her counselor, and then by Dr. Richard Rogers, the pastor of

University Heights Baptist Church. It is our belief that \_\_\_\_\_ has met or exceeded all the requirements of the God and Life Award, has grown as a disciple of Jesus Christ, and will continue as she has begun.

Therefore, on behalf of University Heights Baptist Church, it is my great honor to present to \_\_\_\_\_ the God and Life Award.

### **Trail to Silver**

– The Silver Award is the highest award in Venturing. It honors those who make the determined effort to grow as leaders and as citizens through the Venturing program. In order that you may understand the significance of this award, we would like to take this time to review for you the trail \_\_\_\_\_ has taken to reach this point.

#### **Outdoors Bronze –**

The first requirement that a Venturer must meet in order to receive the Silver Award is to earn one of the five Venturing Bronze Awards. \_\_\_\_\_ chose to earn the Outdoors Bronze and the Religious Life Bronze. To do this, she had to complete 4 of the 8 Core Ranger Requirements and 2 of the Electives. She was certified as a Leave No Trace Trainer, too first aid and CPR training, learned wilderness survival, became SCUBA certified and developed a presentation on how to become SCUBA certified for those interested.

\_\_\_\_\_ completed her Outdoors Bronze award on \_\_\_\_\_ 2004 .

#### **Religious Life Bronze –**

\_\_\_\_\_ also chose to earn the Religious Life Bronze. To do this, she earned her God and Life Award, learned about cultureal diversity and helped others learn about cultural diversity as the Human Relations NCO at the US Air Force Academy, worked with Hbitat for Humanity, took part in a religious play presented at University Heights Baptist Church and First Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, and learned what is required to become a minister in both the Baptist and Presbyterian churches.

\_\_\_\_\_ completed her Religious Life Bronze award on \_\_\_\_\_ 2004 .

#### **Gold Award -**

[ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

The second requirement that a Venturer must meet in order to receive the Silver Award is to earn the Venturing Gold Award. This is a more challenging award, with a number of requirements:

First, The Venturer must have 12 months of tenure in order to earn the Gold Award.

\_\_\_\_\_ has been a member of Venturing Crew 99 since 1998.

Second, the Venturer must have served the Crew, their church, or their community in one or more Leadership Positions – \_\_\_\_\_ has served as Vice-President Crew 99, President Crew 99, Recondo Officer and Human Resources NCO at the US Air Force Academy,

Third, the Venturer must attend one or more District, Council, Regional or National Venturing Events – \_\_\_\_\_ has attended the leave No Trace Trainer's Training for Venturers from Crew 99 and Scout leaders from the Sam Houston Area Council and the Capitol Area Council in the Spring of 2000.

[ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

Fourth, the Venturer must set and achieve some personal growth goals.

\_\_\_\_\_ set and met the following goals for her personal growth:

*Personal Growth Goals -*

leadership – \_\_\_\_\_ has served, as mentioned, as Recondo NCO at the Air Force Academy where, to quote a letter of recommendation, “she led those who were struggling athletically through intense workouts, and was lauded by the active duty officer-in-charge for the superb job she was doing with her charges.” She also served as second-in-command leading work on a Habitat for Humanity house-building project over Spring Break 2004.

service to others – \_\_\_\_\_ has twice volunteered to spend her Spring Break working on a Habitat for Humanity House.

community/family – \_\_\_\_\_ undertook to work through the devotional book The Purpose-Driven Life to grow as a member of her family and community

outdoor experience – \_\_\_\_\_ worked to excel at Combat Survival Training at the US Air Force Academy

total fitness – As Recondo Instructor, \_\_\_\_\_ set out to be an example of one who is physically fit

citizenship – \_\_\_\_\_ studied the the Gospel of Luke to better understand her responsibilities as a Christian citizen.

Fifth, the Venturer must lead the Crew, or in \_\_\_\_\_’s case her fellow AFA Cadets in two or more activity projects. \_\_\_\_\_’s work helping lead the Habitat for Humanity Spring Break Project has been mentioned. \_\_\_\_\_ has also worked on a proposal, and motivated other cadets to help her develop the proposal, for a new military course for inclusion in the Academy’s curriculum. This proposal for a Military Heroes’ course to teach ethical decision-making is currently making its way to the highest echelons of the Academy’s leadership for approval and inclusion in the Academy’s program.

Sixth, the Venturer must recite from memory the Venturing Oath before the Crew.

Finally, the Venturer must present three Letters of Recommendation and appear before a Crew Review Board comprised of members of the Crew and adults. \_\_\_\_\_’s review was held on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004. We are proud to report that the Board unanimously concurred that \_\_\_\_\_ has fulfilled the requirements for her Gold Award.

**Presentation of the Gold Award**

[ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

\_\_\_\_\_, on behalf of Crew 99, and all Venturers, I am proud to present to you to your Venturing Gold Award.

[*Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ hands Gold Award to Mr. & Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_, who pin it to \_\_\_\_\_’s left shirt pocket*]

We would also like to present you with this certificate and this pocket card certifying that you have received your Venturing Gold Award.

\_\_\_\_\_, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ and Mr. & Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ take their seats.

**Silver Award -**

[ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

First, as part of being a prepared leader, the Boy Scouts of America feels that one should be prepared to render aid in the case of an emergency, and to learn how to take steps to prevent an accident. So \_\_\_\_\_ had to take a First Aid Class, learn CPR, become certified in the BSA Safe Swim Defense, and then lead or participate in a group swim utilizing the Safe Swim Defense. \_\_\_\_\_ has met these requirements.

Second, leadership is a skill to be learned. Normally Venturers must take the Venturing Leadership Skills Course. In \_\_\_\_\_’s case, we substituted for the VLSC leadership training offered by the USAFA. \_\_\_\_\_ has learned skills that help her motivate

others, help develop and define a mission and a vision for those she leads, help her develop those who she leads to themselves become better leaders and better people, as well as communication skills, barriers to effective communication, and methods for overcoming those barriers. She has learned that leadership is not a static thing, but one that requires different skills and methods at different times and stages of the group's life.

Third, leadership always involves ethical values. Therefore, \_\_\_\_\_ had to organize two Ethical Controversies, where her fellow Cadets discussed the ethics of specified actions in given circumstances, and to organize and lead an Ethical Forum, where community members discuss ethical decision making in their lives with the Cadets. In the process of working on the Military Heroes curriculum \_\_\_\_\_ most naturally incorporated these discussions with her fellow cadets who helped her develop the proposal.

Finally, having completed these requirements, \_\_\_\_\_ had to undergo a Crew Review by her peers. She did this – during final exams – on May 18, 2004. The Board unanimously approved \_\_\_\_\_ for the Venturing Silver Award.

#### **Presentation of Silver Award**

[\_\_\_\_\_, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ and Mr. & Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ come forward]

[Mr. \_\_\_\_\_]

\_\_\_\_\_, on behalf of Crew 99, and all Venturers, I am proud to present to you to your Venturing Silver Award.

[Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ hands Silver Award to Mr. & Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_, who pin it to \_\_\_\_\_'s left shirt pocket]

We would also like to present you with this certificate and this pocket card certifying that you have received your Venturing Silver Award.

\_\_\_\_\_, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ and Mr. & Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ take their seats.

– \_\_\_\_\_, now that you have received Venturing's highest award, several of your Advisors have a little more to say to you:

#### **Words of Encouragement**

#### **Words of Inspiration**

#### **Silver Sayings -**

\_\_\_\_\_

– \_\_\_\_\_ will now lead us in our Benediction, after which we will retire the flags. Will the audience please rise?

#### **Benediction –**

#### **Retire the Flags**

*Retire the colors*

#### **Invitation to Reception**

– \_\_\_\_\_, her parents, and Crew 99 would like to invite you to stay for refreshments and reception of Venturing's newest Silver recipient. This Court of Honor is officially closed.