

VENTURING MAGAZINE

Inner Workings of a Successful Venturing Crew by Katlyn Cass

July 2012

With a Crew of over 23 active members planning and organization is very vital to our success. As with any Crew, we have a chain of commanding officers President, Vice President and so on so forth. The thing that we have found that helps more than anything is communication and A LOT of it. We have created a group on Facebook for all members (and parents) and post everything from minutes from meetings to suggestions for future trips. While we have a very large and very active Crew we also have very active adult leaders our Advisor, Sid May, gives us all we need to make sure our activities go as planned without his guidance our activities would be a lot more stressful and a lot less fun.



A great thing about our Crew is our openness to new members, no cliques no groups just one big family. In our Crew even outside of the meetings, every member of our Crew are friends. At any given time you can find the whole gang just hanging out without even planning it. The way our group works is beyond amazing, yeah we have our squirmishes but the way we deal with them is what is most important. Whenever we go somewhere as a Crew our advisor constantly gets asked how he got so lucky to have a Crew like this. We take pride in being a Venturing Crew and every member is there because they have an interest in

the outdoors.

The most important part about being in a Venturing Crew is to have fun but why not advance in awards along the way? In my Crew, we plan things we know are needed in order for us to reach our goals. The members of Crew 402 from Ellijay, Georgia have earned multiple Bronze awards; Zach Harter-Ray has earned a Sports Bronze, Hudson May earned a Sports Bronze and an Outdoor Bronze, Olivia Burnett with a Outdoor Bronze and myself with a Sports Bronze, Outdoor Bronze and a Venturing Gold Award. We also have had many members go through courses such as Powder Horn, Kodiak, NYLT, VLSC, and multiple members are BSA rock climbing certified. Two of our members are officers on the council VOA. We also have two members of our Crew, Taylor Jones and Hudson May, who have also earned the rank of Eagle Scout.



As everyone knows Venturing advancement is no easy task, we have found that if you work with another member or two things are a lot easier to accomplish. While advancement is not for everyone, sometimes they can earn requirements and not even realize it. Every few months at a meeting or an activity, our leader sits down with each member and talks about activities and how they can be counted towards awards. Most of our members got their Bronze award by just writing down things they have done recently with the Crew. It can be a little overwhelming at first but once you understand how to read the book it gets a lot easier!

If anyone asked me about my Crew I could stand there and brag about them for hours. It's what we do when we're together that makes me so excited when Tuesday nights come around. It's putting on that green button up shirt and showing the world just what we are capable of. Being able to experience things I never would have done and go places I never would have gone makes all the hard work worth every second. I know even as I age out I will pay forward all of my experiences that I had so that the members in the future can have just as many memories as I have already.

