

VENTURING MAGAZINE

Venturing Viewpoints

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The Adult View:



To me one of the largest challenges Venturing faces right now is what I like to call Robinson Crusoe Syndrome. Often times Crews will "bunker" like they were on an

island and very rarely ever meet the outside world. This actually hurts everybody including the Crew in the long run.

I don't blame leaders for this because often times there isn't a lot of support to be found locally for Venturing which means the leaders have to search for help on their own. It's getting better, and the inclusion of VOA's are a big key in this.

In some councils, a district may only have one or two crews, and starting a VOA at that level can be as easy as having youth leaders from your Crews talk collectively to create a plan to present to your District Committee, indicating that you have a plan to start building up a district Venturing program. Having an adult Advisor in mind wouldn't be a bad idea either so that the committee knows you'll have the resources you'll need.

For councils this may be a bit more work, but the key to begin is to get crews talking. Planning and carrying out a joint crew event can be a huge step towards moving forward. And I'm sure Gene will appreciate my giving a plug to your Area VOA. Their job partially is to help you learn about what a VOA is and help you foster and grow your own. Don't be afraid to reach out to them for help and support!

Rob Hoitt is a District Venturing Committee Chairman, and a 34 year veteran of the BSA. He is an Eagle Scout, and Explorer Achievement Award holder as well as a recipient of his council's Venturing Leadership Award.

Send us your ideas! Do you have a topic you'd like us to share our viewpoints on? Send your topics to advisor@crew617.org and we'll put them before Rob & Gene!

The Youth View:



VOA's have a great purpose. They help to bring us together and work together to make some exciting program for our members!

One thing that I believe is that every Crew does some really exciting things, but I also believe that keeping that excitement to yourself is really a waste, so having a way to share some of the cool things you get to do helps more people get excited about them.

In addition, a VOA can also help bring other members of the Scouting family together. An example in my District is through our Camporees.

We've started to work together to give the Scouts a great event, which means we are showing a ton of Scouts how cool Venturing really is.

But more than that, while we allow Venturers to participate in all the program, our VOA helps to also feature some Venturing specific program too!

The best part is that our District understands that Venturing works best when the youth come up with ideas and carry them out, so they've allowed us to lead neat ideas into reality. This year we've had an awesome catapult competition, and will be having an "Outlaw" Pinewood Derby race that really are a lot of fun to help get everyone excited about Venturing, and VOA's are the key to make it happen.

Gene Hoitt is the NE Area 6 Vice President of Communications, as well as his District VOA President. Gene is an Eagle Scout and Silver Award recipient.