

BSA Venturing Crew 1150 Bylaws - 2011

BSA Venturing Crew 1150
Colonial District, National Capital Area Council
Membership Handbook
2011

Preamble

Venturing Oath:

As a Venturer, I promise to do my duty to God and help strengthen America, to help others, and to seek truth, fairness, and adventure in our world.

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.

Section 1

1.1 Mission Statement/Objectives

To provide training and education to our youth in the areas of gun safety, shooting sports activities, responsible hunting, wilderness and wildlife conservation.

To gain practical experience in the world of shooting sports (competitive shooting and hunting) by participating in local and national shooting sports competitions and hunting trips.

To provide community service, especially as it may relate or pertain to the world of shooting sports, hunting, or conservation.

To live by the Venturing Code and travel through life's obstacle course using team-work in such a way to allow us to grow into mature adults.

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1.2 Membership

Membership shall be open to all young adults of high school age who live in the surrounding area and either 1) are 13 years old and completed the 8th grade; or 2) are at least 14 years of age. No prospective member shall be disqualified because of race, color, creed, or sex. All members must be registered as Venturing Scouts and agree to the Crew rules and bylaws presented in this handbook, and the policies and procedures detailed in the Boy Scouts of America Guide to Safe Scouting. These bylaws shall not supercede those policies and procedures of the Guide to Safe Scouting.

As a member of the Crew you must be willing to obey all adult leaders and Crew officers, regardless of the age of the Officer.

It is expressly understood that the Crew is not required to accept any youth as a member, or having excepted him/her, to retain him/her as a member if, in the opinion of the Crew Advisor and Committee, his/her membership is not the best interest of the Crew or poses a clear and present danger to safety.

Each member must have a general permission/hold harmless form on file prior to going on any outings with the Crew. This form outlines a member's parents permission for their son or daughter to be on Crew outings; provides emergency contact information; outlines any specific medical issues the adults should be aware of; any over the counter medications which may be given to a youth member; permission to seek medical attention should the need arise; and driving and photographic permission.

Each member must have a physical examination from a licensed physician every year or as required by BSA regulations. The standard BSA Personal Health and Medical Form – Class 3, signed by the physician and parent or guardian, must be turned in following the completion of this examination. Incomplete forms cannot be accepted.

Crew Inactive status is available for those members that - because of obligations arising from Advanced Education (i.e. college), Military Service, Employment, or by approval of the Crew President and Advisor - can not fulfill the commitments required for active membership. Members seeking Inactive Status must apply to the Advisor and provide such justification as requested. The Advisor, with the approval of the President, may grant or revoke the Inactive Status.

While the member remains inactive the member is incapable of being presented awards and go on activities until they are restored to active status.

An active member is a member that attends at least 75% of crew activities.

1.2.1 Co-Ed Behavior

Rule of 3's: When co-ed groups attend a Crew activity (meeting, outing, campouts, etc.), there must be at least three (3) in the group. Co-ed groups of two, (male/female), are never permitted

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to be alone, and must always have a third person present. The third person may be an adult, provided Youth Protection Guidelines are followed.

All members, youth and adult, will be mindful of the fact that both genders may be present at any functions. We must remain respectful our chartering organization (Cameron United Methodist Church) and the Boy Scouts of America. Under this qualification only limited forms of public displays of affection (PDA's) may be observed during Crew activities. These can be defined as handholding, high fiving, and other light contact between individuals.

When on Crew outings or campouts, no youth or adult may enter the domiciles (tents, rooms, bathrooms, etc.) of the opposite sex without express permission (and then only if the Rule of 3's is maintained). The guidelines set forth in Venturing Youth Protection must be followed at all times.

When on Crew outings it is important to remember that we may be around other Boy Scout units, civic units, church groups, or the community in general, and that we must set a high standard for decorum for others to follow. In those circumstances PDA's should be limited as much as possible, or avoided all together, to maintain the Crew's and Scouting's good image.

1.2.2 Use of Social Media

Members are encouraged to use smart phones, laptops, and other communication devices, and social media at meetings and activities for the purpose of safety or for accomplishing Crew business. For example, smart phones and cell phones have been used to get time-critical input from absent members.

In the event a member will not be able to attend a meeting, that member should ensure one of the Crew officers or adult leaders is aware of the absence (ideally, using social media to post a message on the Crew Facebook page, or sending a text message). The objective is to ensure the people that care about you, know your status. If that member's verbal input is needed, they should phone a member of the Crew who is attending the meeting and request to be put on speaker (e.g., during elections).

When posting messages on the wall of the Crew's Facebook page, always remember that your words reflect on you and on the Crew. Please promote, not complain. Winners see challenges as opportunities to get stronger, faster, better. The idiot you bash might one day be in a position to hire you. How would you like to be remembered?

Section 2

2.1 Officers

The elected officers shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The President, with the approval of the Advisor, shall appoint Activity Chairs and make other assignments as needed. The duties of the officers shall be as described in the Venturing Leader Manual. Officers

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may not hold two positions concurrently. Additional duties may be assigned and additional positions may be created at any time by the President with the approval of the Advisor.

The President in conjunction with the Advisors may appoint a nominating committee, which shall consist of three members. The nominating committee shall interview nominees and present a complete slate of eligible candidates who have agreed, if elected, to serve to the best of their abilities. Nominations will be held on the first meeting in November.

On the night of the elections, nominations may be presented from the floor by any member. If the nominee is eligible and the nomination is seconded and the candidate agrees to serve, he or she must be included on the ballot ("eligible" as described in the Venturing Leader Manual).

No member shall serve more than two successive terms in the same office.

Elections will normally be held twice a year, at the first meeting in March and the first meeting September. The normal terms of office shall be March through August, September through February. The standing president will transition to the position of vice president and serve as vice president for the next term.

All contested ballots shall be secret. For example, if a member cannot be physically present during an election, they should arrange to send text messages to the Crew Advisor or President who will relay the vote without revealing the sender.

In order to be nominated for an elected position you must be an active member.

In the event an officer is absent for two meetings consecutively the officer has until the fourth meeting to provide a reason for being absent; if not there will be an election to find a temporary replacement.

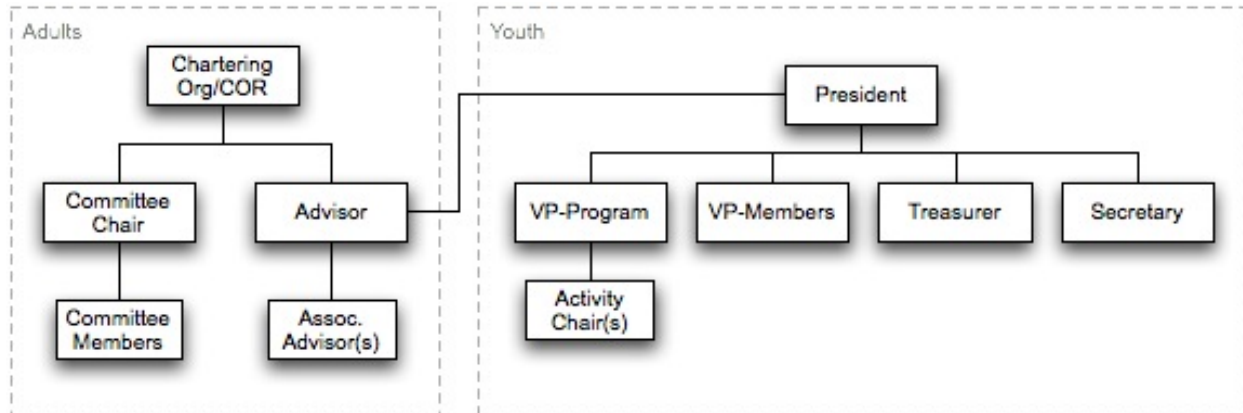
Officers are expected to set the example for the rest of the members in appearance, attitude, punctuality, participation, conduct and proper wear of the uniform. The jobs that are performed by officers are vital to the smooth operation of the Crew. Officers unwilling or unable, for any reason, to properly perform their duties will not be permitted to remain an officer.

Being an activity chair or an officer is an outward and visible sign of a major trust being placed in a member by the Crew. Every member should strive to be worthy of this distinction and, if so assigned, is expected to work hard as a part of the Crew's leadership team for everyone's benefit.

Subject to the approval of the Advisor, the officers are collectively responsible for the program and activities of the Crew during their program year. As such they are required to attend Leadership training and expected to plan and manage the Crew schedule.

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2.2 Crew Organizational Structure



Section 3

3.1 Crew Business

Crew business will be conducted under the principles outlined in Robert's Rules of Order. Voting on all issues will be by simple majority, with the exception of changes or amendments to the bylaws or important decisions, which require a two-thirds vote of the total membership. A quorum shall consist of one more than half of the active members for votes on routine business.

In order to be able to vote you must be an active member.

3.2 General Meetings

General meetings will be held on the first, third, and fifth (when applicable) Monday of each month at 7:00pm. Class A uniforms are required to be worn at all crew meetings unless otherwise designated by the President.

3.3 Officers' Meetings

Officers' meetings will be held at least once a calendar quarter. The time and date of Officer's meetings will be determined a month in advance. Casual meeting; no uniform required to be worn.

3.4 Uniforms

All members are encouraged to have a formal/field (Class A) and an activity (Class B) uniform. Uniforms will be made readily available on a yearly basis. Formal inspections will be scheduled at various times by the President or Advisor.

The formal uniform (aka "field" or Class A) consists of the following:

Any dark green, BSA Venturing Polo style shirt

Khaki or Grey, Pants or Shorts (BDUs, Dickies, slacks, Capri, etc.)

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Any solid color leather belt or Boy Scout belt with appropriate buckle

The activity uniform (aka Class B) consists of the following:
Oxford/slate gray T shirt with the Venturing logo or the Crew logo
Pants or shorts appropriate to the venue

Section 4

4.1 Awards

Members of the Crew have the opportunity to earn awards in several advancement programs. The awards represent skills learned and accomplishments completed. They are the main indication of what a member receives from his or her activity. All members are expected to take part in these programs unless specifically excused by the Advisor.

Crew 1150 has several of its own awards which may be earned in addition to the other awards that are available.

From time to time training from other organizations is necessary. Though we have many counselors/instructors within our crew, on occasion a member may have to contact an outside counselor/instructor to complete certain requirements.

4.2 Scout Advancement Program (if eligible)

As outlined in the Boy Scout Handbook; the awards available are divided into seven progress ranks and over 125 merit badges. A member must have earned the Boy Scout rank of First Class before joining the Crew in order to advance to the rank of Eagle Scout. This advancement may be worked on until a member's 18th birthday. In a similar way, Venturing supports a Girl Scout who is working toward her Silver Trefoil and/or Gold Award.

4.3 Venturing Advancement

As outlined in the Venturing Manual; it consists of three progressive ranks: Bronze, Gold, and Silver. The highest of which is the Silver Award, and may be worked on until a member's 21st birthday. The Silver Award is the Venturing equivalent of the Eagle Scout award (BSA) and the Gold Award (GSA).

The Ranger award is outlined in the Ranger Handbook. It consists of eight core requirements and four of eighteen elective outdoor activities. The Ranger Award represents outstanding achievement in high adventure disciplines and may be worked on until a member's 21st birthday.

Other awards are available through the Venturing Program.

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4.4 Court of Honor

Throughout the year the Crew will hold a Court of Honor. The Court of Honor is an awards ceremony at which all of the Crew's major awards are presented. Parents, relatives and friends are invited and encouraged to attend.

Section 5

5.1 Activities

Activity Chairs shall be appointed by the President with the consent of the Advisor. No one may hold more than one chair at a time.

The Crew regularly takes part in service activities of various types. Member participation in these activities is the key to making them a success.

Notice of Crew activities are usually announced in advance with the issuance of printed activity plans. These will give all the information about the activity including the date(s), cost, uniform to be worn, and necessary equipment. Activity plans will be provided at Crew meetings.

Activity fees should be collected no later than one Crew meeting before the event; or at the departure point of the day of the event.

5.1.1 Cancellation Policy

In the event a youth or adult has to cancel their participation in an event they have previously signed up for, the following guidelines regarding activity fee refunds will be used.

- If the participant cancels before any reservation fees, materials, food, etc. have been purchased, there is no penalty. If cancellation occurs after reservation fees, materials, food, etc. have been purchased, the participant is responsible for that cost. Food is generally purchased the Thursday or Friday before a weekend campout. Other fees may have to be paid well in advance of the activity (site reservations, boat rentals, etc.).
- If the cancellation is due to an extreme situation or circumstance (severe illness, death in the family, etc.), the participant will not be held responsible for activity fees. Those fees will be covered by the Crew general fund. All cancellations of this nature will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

5.1.2 Travel (to/from activities)

On any Crew outing that involves an overnight event, the Crew will stop at Sheetz for food and gas at least once during the trip (assuming Sheetz has a presence enroute or at/near the destination). This applies in particular to trips to Camp Big Mac. Friday dinner, for example, will be at Sheetz unless overruled on a case-by-case basis by the travelling members of Crew 1150.

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5.2 Enrolment and Rechartering Fee

An enrolment fee of \$30.00 may be charged on a one time basis as each individual joins. This fee covers initial member registration and any uniform patches issued by the Crew. Money and paperwork must be received in time for registration to be processed before the member is able to go on activities.

Once a year the Crew must renew its Charter with the Boy Scouts of America. Currently this fee is \$11 (not including Boy's Life magazine).

All enrolment/recharter fees are non-refundable.

5.3 Dues

At the present time the Crew does not charge monthly or annual dues above the annual mandatory rechartering fee listed in 5.2.

All activity fees are currently 'out of pocket' expenses. While the Crew will do its best to keep activity expenses as low as possible, due to the nature of our focus (shooting sports), activity fees can vary widely depending on activity and venue. See 5.4 Scouter Fund and 5.5 Money-earning Projects for additional information.

5.4 Scouter Fund

The Scouter Fund (also referred to as a Scout Account) is an account in which every member is entitled. The member may access their account through the Treasurer and the President. The Scouter Fund is for the use of Uniforms, Super Activity fees, Crew Activity fees, or for any other purpose within the Crew's program.

If a member leaves the unit, any money in his/her account reverts to the Crew treasury. If he/she later re-joins this money does not go back to the individual's account.

If a member has available funds in his/her Scouter Fund then the Crew is capable of pulling recharter payments or activity fees from the individual's fund.

It is important to note that Scouter Funds may go into the negatives, meaning that a member may own the Crew money that will have to be repaid. Repayment can take the form of financial reimbursement or any earned credit (from fundraising, etc.) may be used against this negative balance.

5.5 Money-earning Projects

All members of the Crew have an obligation to help raise the funds necessary to keep the Crew functioning. It is unfair for an individual not to participate in raising these funds and then benefit from the efforts of others.

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All money-earning projects must be approved by a majority vote of the Crew members, the Crew Advisor, the Crew Committee and the Chartered Organization.

Members who do not participate in a project are not entitled to any benefits of the funds earned and those who do not support Crew dedicated fundraisers forfeit their profits from fundraisers dedicated to individual scouter funds.

The percentage of the funds raised which will be credited to the Scouter Fund will be announced at the beginning of each drive. The percentage will be determined by the Advisor based on the needs of the Crew.

Section 6

6.1 Discipline

Crew 1150 does not allow any form of hazing, initiation or physical punishment. Violence or threat of violence (either expressed or implied) from youth or adult members will not be tolerated.

Failure to act within the bounds of these bylaws, the Venturing Code, Scout Oath and Law (if the member is also a Boy Scout or Girl Scout), or violate any practice or principle in the Guide to Safe Scouting will require some form of disciplinary action. The extent of that action will be fair and reasonable.

All Exceptional situations shall be taken on a case by case basis by the Advisor and Officers.