



A Venture Crew Consultant

A consultant is a person, 21 years of age or older, who has a special skill, talent, or expertise, possibly for facilities or contacts, in a particular area or areas related to a venture crew's specialty or program. A consultant can be called upon to help develop a program, provide further information on a program, or to advise a crew in the operations of their own specialty or program.

Consultants may be members of the chartered organization, parents or other adults in the community. Consultants are the best resource to introduce a crew to an activity or program that they have little to no knowledge about. A consultant is not only a resource, but also a friend to support new and exciting activities in a crew!

Consultants can be found from a variety of sources, such as from within a venture crew, *when conducting the annual PCI - Program Capability & Inventory*, by searching out information on various web sites, or by using the local business directory of a Chamber of Commerce or the phone book.

Consultants can be a great asset to an activity, but may not know much about a crew or the Boy Scouts of America. Once contacted, the youth activity chair should explain the proposed activity to the prospective consultant and find out how the consultant's expertise can be helpful for the activity. In addition, the youth activity chair should review with the consultant what is expected of him or her and what equipment or supplies are needed, if any. After this discussion, the activity chair should follow up with a letter to the consultant, summarizing their discussion, so that there is no misunderstanding. Also, be sure to thank the consultant after the activity is over. *Please remember though, the consultant is there to help, not to chair or run the activity.*

There is currently no formal registration in the BSA requirement to be a consultant however; they are very similar to that of a Merit Badge Counselor for a Boy Scout Troop. Utilization of a "Consultant Personal Profile Sheet", included with this page, would greatly enhance, for the consultant, an understanding of the relationship between a crew's youth & adult members and the consultant. Additionally, it would provide details of the consultant for future consideration and use by the crew.

{Above material taken & added to from page 21 of the Venturing Leader Handbook.}

