



# **A Year in the Life of a Venturer**

## ***A Survey of Six Critical Elements for Healthy Youth Development***



The Boy Scouts of America in 2008 invited the Louis Harris and Associates, Inc. organization to conduct a poll to scientifically answer the question, "What is it about the BSA programs that leads to positive outcomes?" The poll results as they relate to high school-age youth (Venturers) are as follows:

1. **Strong personal values and character**

79% of Venturers said Venturing gave them opportunities to practice ethical decision making.

2. **A positive sense of self-worth and usefulness**

89% of Venturers agreed that being a Venturer has taught them to have more confidence in themselves and their abilities.

89% also agreed, "The activities in Venturing help you prepare for the future."

3. **Caring, nurturing relationship with parents, other adults, and peers**

91% of Venturers agreed that they can talk to their Advisors about important issues.

96% agreed that they have made new friends in Venturing.

4. **A desire to learn**

65% of Venturers agreed that Venturing gives them a chance to do things and go places that they would not otherwise experience.

5. **Productive & creative use of time**

56% of Venturers agreed during a typical 3-month period, they participated in a service project.

6. **Social adeptness**

92% agreed with the statements, "You learned to get along with people who are different from yourself," and, "You learned something about how to be a team player and work in a group."

**In a typical three-month period, Venturers responded:**

87% participated in a group vote or decision.

83% resolved conflicts with peers.

68% participated in a Venturing outdoor activity.

42% have talked with professionals or experts in a specialized field.

41% have learned about a potential career field.