

Crew 69 By Laws

- 1. Preamble: 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.
- 2. Crew Objectives:** Have fun, develop leadership skills, and conduct service activities
- 3. Crew Orientation:** The Crew program is intended to be one that focuses on exploring many diverse opportunities to learn and develop as individuals. Specifically this crew has a High Adventure and outdoor orientation. Annually the Crew will conduct a High Adventure Super outing.
- 4. Crew Affiliations:** The Crew is chartered out of Traders Point Christian Church, Whitestown, IN. The crew holds its monthly business meetings at Bethel United Methodist Church – 5252 West 52nd street, Indianapolis Indiana. The Crew has affiliation and association with BSA Troop 69 also chartered out of TPCC. See section regarding relationship with Troop 69.
- 5. Crew Membership:** Membership shall be open to all young adults of high school age who live in the surrounding area and have completed the eighth grade or 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 Venturers and agree to the crew code and bylaws. The behavior and actions of all members shall be consistent with policies and procedures of the Boy Scouts of America.
- 6. Crew visitor provision:** Temporary membership will be granted on a guest basis for those who are interested but uncertain about joining and/or do not yet meet the joining criteria but will do so in the near future.
- 7. Officers:** The elected officers shall be president, two vice presidents - (administrative VP and Program VP), and secretary/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 prescribed in the *Venturing Leader Manual*. In the event a full slate of officers cannot be secured, a minimum slate of officers shall be president, vice president and secretary/treasurer. The vice president shall perform the jobs of the two regular vice presidents. The president shall appoint a nominating committee to secure candidates to fill the vacant positions. The incumbents may choose which one of the dual offices they wish to retain.
- 8. Term of Office:** The normal term of office shall be for one year starting on the date of election, or as soon thereafter as each officer's successor shall be elected and qualified. Annual elections shall be held in September. No member shall serve more than two successive terms in the same office.
- 9. Elections:** The president shall appoint a nominating committee to select candidates for offices. The nominating committee shall interview and present a complete slate of candidates who have agreed, if elected, to serve to the best of their abilities. On the day of the election, any member may present additional nominations from the floor.

If a nomination from the floor is seconded and the candidate agrees to serve, he or she must be included on the ballot. All contested ballots shall be secret.

10. **Crew Business:** Crew business shall be conducted under the principles outlined in Roberts Rules of Order Revised. Voting on all issues will be by simple majority, with the exception of changes or amendments to these bylaws, which shall require a two-thirds vote of the total membership. A quorum shall consist of one - third of total membership for votes on routine matters and one-half of total membership for officer elections. Under no circumstances may a quorum consist of fewer than four members. Bylaw amendments and officer elections may utilize mail-in ballots.
11. **General Meetings:** General business meetings will be held once a month at Bethel United Methodist church from 6pm to 7:30 pm every 2nd Sunday of each month unless otherwise scheduled. The crew will also conduct monthly event/activities that may or may not occur with the business meetings and will be scheduled and decided upon by the membership at the business meetings.. Also the monthly business meetings may be held in conjunction with monthly events/activities. The location of the General Meetings and events shall be confirmed and announced in advance via the Crew newsletter, email announcements and on the Crew's web page. <http://www.tpcc-bsa-t69.org/Crew69>
12. **Special Meetings:** In the event business of a priority nature must be conducted, the officers may call a Special Meeting. The place, date and time must be announced via the most practical ways to all members at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Officers' meetings will be held on a date and time as determined by the officers and Crew Advisor. In addition on an annual basis an officers briefing will be held with the newly elected officers and the Crew Advisor ~ in October after elections. Also the crew Advisor will conduct at least once every other year a Venturing Leadership Skills course. Finally the Crew will also conduct an annual planning conference (potentially as part of the officers briefing or Leadership skills course) to develop an outline of an annual program. The Advisor will establish with the committee chair, Adult committee meetings on an as needed basis. Committee meetings will be targeted at least quarterly and to the extent possible conducted separately but at the same timing of Crew business meeting.
13. **Newsletter:** The crew will publish a newsletter every month, which will include all meeting dates and other information of interest to the membership. The newsletter will serve as the historical record of the crew. Publication of the required information to the crew's web site, currently <http://www.tpcc-bsa-t69.org/Crew69> along email distribution to the crew membership shall constitute compliance with this article.
14. **Dues:** Dues will be as set by the Boy Scouts of America for Venturing registration with the addition of local crew monies to cover costs such as tee shirts/activities/awards fees as the crew sees fit – currently BSA registration plus tee shirt cost plus ten dollars (dues structure to be reviewed at the annual program meeting). Dues will be payable annually on or by the General Meeting in January. Members who are in arrears in payment of their dues are ineligible to vote on matters of crew business or for officers until their dues are brought current, and members whose dues are delinquent for 45 days or more shall be dropped from the crew roster. No member who resigns from the crew shall be permitted to a refund of dues paid by said member unless approved as a specific item. Dues shall be prorated for new members based on the number of months remaining in the Crew's chartering year. Membership fees will differ between those with primary registration in the crew and those that are also registered with a troop (those with troop affiliation will have a lower registration fee from BSA since they also pay for the troop).

- 15. Money-earning Projects:** All money-earning projects must be approved by a majority vote of the crew members. Members who do not participate in the project are not entitled to any benefits of the funds earned. All money-earning projects must be approved by the Crew Advisor and meet the applicable requirements of the Boy Scouts of America. Purpose and distribution of Money earning projects shall be reviewed and voted upon prior to initiation of project. Individually oriented fund raisers may result in crew members being able to establish a credit or account of funds within the crew – that is set aside solely for their use only for crew activities. However, should the member resign membership any balance in the account will revert to the crew. (Current individual fund raisers are set at 80% to member account and 20% to Crew account)
- 16. Uniforms:** The Crews official uniform is currently the tee shirt (class B) with Crew 69/Venturing logo. It is not a requirement to wear the tee shirts to general meetings however crew members are encouraged to wear this on outside activities and while traveling on super outings. The Class A Venturing uniform is not required and the venturing activity shirt is optional. A review of uniforming will be conducted on an annual basis and will be subjected to a majority vote.
- 17. Annual Open House:** The crew will advertise and conduct an annual open house for the recruitment of membership every year. This will typically be held at the beginning of the school year in September.
- 18. Advancement:** Advancement opportunities toward Venturing ranks and awards such as the Ranger award is available and encouraged in the Crew. Boy Scout rank advancement is not an objective of the crew and is not specifically conducted during meetings and activities. Although a qualified and registered leader of the crew may be able to sign off on a BSA advancement based on a qualified crew activity, the individual crew member should alert his BSA troop advancement chair and/or scoutmaster to confirm approval. The Crew's intent is to encourage those members who are also troop members to conduct BSA advancements through their respective troops.
- 19. Relationship with Troop 69:** The crew being sponsored by the same chartered organization and historically derived from troop 69 and actively pursues membership from Troop 69 works to maintain a relationship with Troop 69. Crew 69 is an independent entity, but since there is some common membership crew 69 will try to avoid scheduling conflicts with troop activities when possible. In developing the Crew program for the year and on an ongoing basis, the crew consults with the Troop 69 calendar and actively tries to avoid meeting/event conflicts. In addition as the Crew is relatively poor in camping equipment ownership the Crew works with the Troop to borrow their equipment based on availability and Troop outings. All equipment borrowed is to be returned in proper shape back to the troop or replaced in kind. Individual crew members responsible for damaging troop gear due to negligence will be responsible for the cost of equipment replacement. Also the Crew is expected to provide service to the Troop and will try to accommodate to the extent possible requests from the Troop and/or provide member resources to assist in Troop service projects.
- 20. Manuals:** Crew members are encouraged to purchase the Venturing and Ranger Handbook.
- 21. Theme:** The Crew will establish an annual theme as part of programming that will in part help the crew prepare for the annual super outing. The super outing is only one aspect of the Crew and inability to participate on the super outing will not preclude members from joining in and enjoying the other activities.

- 22. CAC clause: “Desperate times call for Desperate measures”. If required to conduct crew business of an urgent or critical nature to its operation, the Crew president will adjourn a business meetings to review by laws.**
- 23. Behavior: The Crew members will act in accordance with The Venturing Code and guide lines set by the Crew Committee. All Crew members will follow the Crew Bylaws. There shall be no physical display of affection at any Crew activity. There shall be no alcohol at any Crew activity. There shall be no tobacco, including smokeless, at any Crew activity. Grounds for removal include: Breaking the Crew’s code of conduct, disrespecting other crewmembers, religious institution, or Advisors, or the possession of Alcohol, tobacco (of any kind) or illegal drugs all are grounds for expulsion from the program.**