

Introducing the Venturing How To Guides

35 Million Teenagers.... Just waiting to be asked

The teenage market is absolutely huge. Census figures show our ***Venturing age market has over 35 million teens***. Combine that huge number with survey results that say teens have no objections to joining Venturing ***and would join if asked***, and you have one great opportunity to grow and change lives.

If you are reading this, it probably means you have some role in supporting Venturing at the district or council levels. These How To guides cover organizational options, tips for success, job descriptions, program information, help based on function, planning activities/program, and resources.

BSA Mission

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

BSA Vision

- Offer young people responsible fun and adventure;
- Instill in young people lifetime values and develop in them ethical character as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law;
- Train young people in citizenship, service, and leadership;
- Serve America's communities and families with its quality, values-based program.

How do we accomplish the mission and vision? Basically we do it by offering three age-appropriate programs-Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, and Venturing. Each program shares the same mission and vision shown above, they just do it in different ways so that it is appropriate and attractive to those specific age groups.

Like Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting, Venturing does impact lives and prepare future citizens to be leaders in their community. Over and over, we hear Venturers say, "Venturing changed my life." They say

- It gave them a place to do challenging things they would never have done before.
- They could do these things with their friends.
- They could learn things from knowledgeable adults/consultants.
- They could go on cool trips.
- They learned skills they can use for a lifetime.

- They learned to teach and mentor others.
- They learned leadership skills and were able to lead in a supportive atmosphere.
- They could relate to others of the opposite sex in a safe atmosphere.
- They had caring adults to talk to.
- It gave me a place to serve others.

The Seamless Approach Includes Venturing

As mentioned above, the BSA has only one mission statement and uses three products (programs) to accomplish that mission. The basic difference between our three programs, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturing is the age-appropriate programs we have designed to attract and keep them. It should be our desire to keep every youth we keep as long as we can keep them. We do everything we can to keep a boy in Cub Scouts until he grows to Boy Scout age, then we try to transition him into Boy Scouts. Therefore we should strive to do the same for boys in the Boy Scout program-keep them in until they age out of Boy Scouting. Then we should make every effort to transition them into Venturing. Our demographic analysis shows that we are doing a pretty good job of this. Our eighteen year old category jumps dramatically as those boys who age out of a troop decide to continue as a youth in Venturing. Interviews with those boys indicates they say they want to continue to have fun in Scouting, do some more advancement beyond their Boy Scout advancement, do the challenging activities in Venturing, and be able to do it with their friends.

Another aspect to the seamless approach is that all three programs are interconnected and related. Boy Scouts can help out packs as Den Chiefs and in other ways. It is the same for Venturing. Venturers can help dens and packs as Den Aides, Den Chiefs, Pack Aides, program deliverers when making presentations related to their advancement, Day Camp staff, Roundtable presenters and helpers, and in other ways. They can assist troops as a Crew Guide, by making skill presentations related to their advancement, teaching leadership courses, and in other ways. The point is that all three programs are related-part of the Boy Scouts of America.

One of the ways your committee can help your crews live a long and healthy life is to make them part of your scouting family. This is especially key if you choose to serve Venturing with the recommended method of providing support and service via you already established support committees. It is important that the committees responsible for a certain segment like advancement serve all three programs. Remember it is our job to help units and that includes crews to succeed.

You have a great opportunity to help young people grow and change lives. What are you waiting for? This is your opportunity to make a difference so let's get started today!

But where do you start?

It is important to know where you are going when you are on the "helping districts and crews be successful and strong" trip and if you are already on the trip, reminding yourself regularly

where you are going. Visit [How To Plan for Venturing Success](#) for a simple guide many councils have proven successful. This process works well for councils and districts. It is a simple 5 steps to planning to success. It will direct you to start with a vision so you and others will know where you are going. It will suggest a commitment so you can reap the benefits of your investment. It will suggest setting goals and objectives so you can check your progress and know when you have arrived. It will encourage you to analyze your situation, and finally and very importantly to develop, write a plan of action and effectively use this set of How To Guides

What these Guides Cover

These How To guides are built on actual council experiences. Many volunteers and professionals have contributed to these guides. It is hoped that these guide are comprehensive, but if you need additional help or would like to provide input, please feel free to call the national Venturing division at 972-580-2084 or email Bill Evans at bevans@netbsa.org.

[How To support Venturing](#) gives organizational options for committee structure at the district or council level along with effective ways to use this structure to promote and support Venturers and the Crew.

[How To Plan for Venturing Success](#) provides the effective Venturing 5 Step Planning process and several strategic planning tools

[How To Recruit Venturers](#) provides information on successful Venturing youth recruiting methods.

[How To Organize New Venturing Crews](#) gives information on selling a variety of potential chartered organizations a new Crew, starting the Crew, and ensuring the Crew's success.

[How To Help Crews be Successful](#) and [How To Promote and Support Crew Advancement](#) provide information on how to help keep your crews healthy,

[How To Implement Exciting Programs and Activities](#) provides general planning information along with sample activities, programs and plans.

Effective and enthusiastic youth leadership has proven time and time again to be a key to successful Venturing in the District, Council, Area and Nation. [How To Get Your Venturers Involved / How To Help Your Venturer Become the Next National Venturing President](#) and [How To Implement and Support Teen Leadership](#) provide information on involving your youth in the District and Council along with opportunities at the Area, Region and National levels.

[How To Successfully Market Venturing](#), [How To Manage Training](#), [How To Camp Teenagers](#), and [How To Support Sea Scouting](#) round out the support Functions of the District and Council in supporting the Venturing Program.

Contained in many of these guides are the resources you can use to help ensure the success of Venturing. By all means, check out the items listed in [Venturing Highlights](#) and www.scouting.org/venturing in the Resources section.