

How To Support Venturing at the District and Council Levels

Committee Structure

Introduction

There is an old saying that goes, “Where there’s a will, there’s way.” You might ask what this has to do with district or council committee structure. The message here is that having *a desire* to help Venturing crews to be strong and successful is the key, not necessarily the committee structure. If you are passionate about supporting crews, you will be successful no matter what approach you take and there could be many approaches to how your committee organizes. In this section, you will find recommended approaches, not a required approach.

As mentioned above, the basic purpose of a council or district committee is to help our units whether a pack, troop, or crew to be successful. That should always be foremost in our minds and should drive every committee that supports packs, troops, and crews.

Council-level Venturing Support

There are two basic options to supporting Venturing at the council level:

1. Incorporating Venturing into existing operating committees.
2. A stand alone Venturing committee that handles all functions.

Option 1: Incorporating Venturing Into Existing Operating Committees

In other guidebooks designed for council and district committees, the recommendation is to organize based on function. We have advancement committees to handle all advancement related activities. We have activities committees to plan and run council or district activities to help supplement what our units offer. And of course we have other committees for other functions. The point is that we have committees that handle all functions for all three programs.

This is the recommended approach for district committees, but can work well at the council level as well. Using this approach, you would need to insure there are volunteers with Venturing knowledge on each of the following committees:

1. Advancement and Recognition
2. Camping and activities
3. Marketing
4. Commissioner service
5. Training
6. Finance
7. Membership

There are pros and cons for this option. A pro could be that each program supports the others. Here is an example: While at a training committee meeting, the Cub Scout person reports on plans for an upcoming Cub Scout Leader Pow Wow and Den Chief training. After the report, the Venturing person offers the help of Venturers to run the den chief training. The Cub Scout person gladly accepts the offer and the Venturing person then carries the information on the opportunity back to the Venturing crews. A win, win deal! A con could be that all the attention is given to either Cub Scouting or Boy Scouting leaving Venturing out. Therefore those who you have recruited for Venturing could get discouraged and quit. A pro could be that by having all three programs working closely together at all levels, we keep youth as they progress through all three programs. Wouldn't that be nice to keep our youth until they decide to become adult volunteers?

(Note for chairmen) Remembering that the basic purpose of program related council committees is to help make your districts and units strong, you need to recruit members who can affectively support each of our three programs. You might have individuals who know all three programs or you might have individuals who know mostly one or two programs. As chairman you must personally give attention to all three programs. Can you imagine how discouraging it would be to that individual you recruited to work with Venturing if all you ever talked about or gave resources and attention to was Boy Scouting? What would be the results? Most likely strong troops, weak crews, and a resignation from your committee member. Be balanced.

Option 2: Stand Alone Council Venturing Committee

This approach is very similar to option number one where Venturing was incorporated into functions along with Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. The basic difference here is that at your committee meeting, you only discuss Venturing.

Many councils have found this method attractive for council level support. In this approach, the committee only covers one program-Venturing handling all functions specific to Venturing. Councils who have chosen this option usually cover all the functions of other council committees except unit service. Unit service is best covered by our commissioner service.

Like option one, there are pros and cons for this option too. A pro is that you are dealing with only one subject with volunteers submersed in just Venturing. They can concentrate on just one program. One report or action easily leads into another-continuity. A con is that Venturing is then thought of as a program separate and different from Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting. As a result there could be no interaction between the programs. The best way to overcome the cons, is to address them. If you use this approach, spend some time discussing what could be the challenges or road blocks to supporting all three programs.

Amazingly the functions that a committee organized based on this option are basically the same as in option one:

1. Advancement and Recognition

2. Camping and activities
3. Marketing
4. Commissioner service
5. Training
6. Finance
7. Membership

The size of your Venturing committee depends on the number of districts and Venturing crews you support, your council size, availability of volunteers, and other factors. You could have sub-committees for each function with a chairman for each sub-committee or you might have just one person in some functions. You will have to determine how many people you need and develop a plan to recruit them. Committee members need not come from within scouting, such as consultants for your Powder Horn Course. New grads from the Powder Horn Course and Venturing training at Philmont or Florida Sea Base are ideal candidates.

Option 3: Council Vice President of Venturing With No Specific Venturing Committees

Some councils choose to integrate Venturing into their council and district operating committees, but at the same time appoint a board level council Vice President of Venturing. The primary purpose of this approach is to put emphasis on Venturing. This Vice President keeps Venturing on the front burner when considering council activity plans, council resources, meetings, and finances and gives Venturing reports at the board and executive meetings.

Council Vice President of Venturing Job Description

1. Know Venturing.
2. Be committed to Venturing and demonstrate that commitment.
3. Be responsible for the Venturing part of the council's strategic plan.
4. Develop your own committee's Venturing vision and goals and be able to motivate others to attain these.
5. Encourage all operating committees to incorporate Venturing and serve Venturing.
6. Give reports to the executive committee, executive board, council president, and scout executive.
7. Get people enthused about growing and serving Venturing.
8. Recruit Venturers to do things regularly at board meetings.
9. If you don't already have a council Venturing marketing plan, develop one ([Venturing Marketing Guide](#) and [How To Successfully Market Venturing](#)). If you have one, see that it is used and regularly updated.
10. Visit council operating committees and district committees to check on the progress of Venturing.
11. Work closely with the council commissioner to check on the health of your crews.
12. Participate in or visit Venturing activities.
13. Work closely with your council Venturing youth (such as Teen Leader Council president) elected to your board.

The Basic Purpose of the Council Venturing Committee

“To grow Venturing and to help districts to help crews be successful and strong.”

The result will be...

- districts with balanced membership
- districts better able to grow and support Venturing
- quality council and district Venturing activities
- stronger Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting
- an emphasis on Venturing
- teens who have had a positive affect on their lives
- a positive impact on our communities
- a more successful relationship with our chartered partners
- a better community image
- more units and members
- and, we will accomplish our mission

As a council committee that supports Venturing, keep this in your mind as you plan, implement, visit, and train. Is what you are doing going to make your districts and crews more successful and stronger? Let it be your guide.

Notes for Council Venturing Committee Chairmen

History shows us that organizational success usually starts with good leadership-that's you, Council Venturing Chairman. Here are a few suggestions that may help you lead successfully:

1. Be committed yourself and demonstrate that commitment. Some demonstrations of that commitment can be found in some of the following suggestions.
2. Be enthusiastic to the point that it rubs off on others.
3. Develop your own committee's Venturing vision of your own and share it with others.
4. Wear your Venturing uniform.
5. Do the "[5-Steps to Growing and Supporting Venturing](#)" and share your plan with the executive board and other council committee chairmen. Review it regularly-make it a tool you use at each meeting.
6. Educate yourself about Venturing. Take Venturing training.
7. Develop outcome measures and track and market your successes. (On your website, in your newsletters, in your council service center, at your camps, etc.)
8. Recruit quality people to work with you. Insure they get trained, oriented, and motivated to serve crews.
9. Make your committee meetings concise, productive, and fun- and not excessively long.
10. Recognize those who work with you regularly including crews that help and do good things.

11. Insure that advisors and crews who do significant programs, services, advancement and other things are formally recognized annually by your committee and/or executive board.
12. Involve Venturers on your committee.
13. Don't be afraid to ask for some help.
14. Keep your professional staff advisor, the Scout Executive, the Council President, and whatever chairman you report to informed and involved.
15. Promote the importance of training for everyone. Training usually solves most challenges.
16. Show and tell your executive board how Venturing helps teens.
17. Integrate Venturing into your council's programs. Venturers can help Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting become stronger.
18. Seek opportunities for liaison/ambassadorship with other council committees and the region Venturing committee, either by yourself or your committee members.
19. Insure that the Venturing Youth Cabinet President becomes a member of the Council Executive Board, and when appropriate serves as an ambassador for Venturing.

Council Venturing Committee Job Descriptions

Council Venturing Committee Chairman

1. Be committed to Venturing and demonstrate your commitment. Be enthusiastic about Venturing to the point that it rubs off on others.
2. Have a Venturing vision and goals and share them with others.
3. Recruit, train, and motivate your sub-committee chairmen. Help them be successful.
4. Do the "[5-Steps to Growing and Supporting Venturing](#)" with your committee and share your plan with the your chartered organization heads and others. Review it regularly- make it a tool you use at each meeting.
5. Educate yourself about Venturing. Take Venturing training.
6. Track and market your successes.
7. Recruit quality people to work with you. Insure they get trained, oriented, and motivated to serve crews. Recognize them regularly for their good work.
8. Plan and run committee meetings that are concise, productive, and fun.
9. Recognize those who work with you regularly including crews that help and do good things.
10. Involve some Venturers on your committee.
11. Work well with your council staff advisor.
12. Keep your executive board and council president informed and involved.

Venturing Advancement Committee Chairman

1. Be committed to Venturing and demonstrate your commitment. Be enthusiastic about Venturing to the point that it rubs off on others.
2. Recruit motivated committee members to assist you and see that they are trained and motivated.
3. Be committed to help crews do advancement.
4. Educate yourself about Venturing advancement.
5. Help crews get started on Venturing advancement by training advisors and officers if needed. You could also give them ideas about how to do crew level advancement making it fun.
6. Share with the Venturing Marketing Committee high level achievements such as Silver, Gold, Ranger, Quest, Trust, and Quartermaster awards so they can put articles in your local newspapers and send letters to principals.
7. Recognize crews who do well with advancement.
8. Offer fun Venturing advancement days or even long weekend camps.
9. Share consultant resources with crews.
10. Develop advancement related presentations that district Venturing Roundtable Commissioners can use at Venturing Monthly Program Forums.
11. Maintain council Venturing advancement records and report at the Venturing Committee meeting and board meetings.
12. Insure the council staff person responsible for imputing Venturing advancement is doing it correctly and accurately.
13. Promote and manage other recognitions like the Venturing Leadership Award, the Venturing Advisor Award of Merit, etc.
14. Insure adequate Venturing resources that support advancement are available from the council scout shop.

Venturing Training Committee Chairman

1. Be committed to Venturing and demonstrate your commitment. Be enthusiastic about Venturing to the point that it rubs off on others.
2. Recruit motivated committee members to assist you and see that they are trained and motivated.
3. Be committed to train every advisor and person needing training.
4. Be familiar with all Venturing training and training resources.
5. Maintain current training resources for Venturing courses.
6. Insure new advisors get Faststart Orientation within 48hours of joining the district committee or a crew. Make sure there is a link on your council website for Venturing Fast Start and Venturing Advisor Youth Protection training.
7. Offer regular Venturing Leader Basic Training at the council level or see that districts offer it.
8. Maintain and report statistics on who is trained and who needs training.
9. Offer specialized courses.
10. Support crew advisors as they plan and run New Officer Orientation and their annual program planning seminars.
11. Offer crew youth training as needed.

12. Attend and support Powder Horn courses. Offer your own Powder Horn courses regularly.
13. Attend a regional Kodiak Course Directors' Conference and then regularly offer Kodiak and Kodiak X courses often.
14. Recognize advisors and Venturers who attend training courses on your council website and in your newsletter.

Venturing Activities Committee Chairman

1. Be committed to Venturing and demonstrate your commitment. Be enthusiastic about Venturing to the point that it rubs off on others.
2. Recruit motivated committee members to assist you and see that they are trained and motivated.
3. Be committed to supporting crews to camp and do activities to help them be strong and deliver the promise we make to teens.
4. Help crews plan and run camping and other outdoor activities and trips. Be creative!
5. Maintain a history file of successful activities the council, districts, and crews have run.
6. Plan and run regular council Venturing activities (see the Activities section of this book for more details.)
7. If you have enough crews, develop and run a Council Teen Leader Council. If your council by-laws offer it, elect your Teen Leader Council to the executive board.
8. Work with district activity committee when possible.
9. Share successes with the Marketing committee so they can put articles in the newspaper, your websites, etc.
10. Promote camping and activities to all of your crews.
11. Put on "How to" courses or work with the Training Committee training crews related to camping and activities.
12. Maintain crew camping and activity reports to give at the council Venturing committee meetings.
13. Develop a "Things to do" or "Places to go" resource list for crews.
14. Recognize crews for their creative programs, activities, and trips and share those with other crews.

Venturing Marketing Committee Chairman

1. Be committed to Venturing and demonstrate your commitment. Be enthusiastic about Venturing to the point that it rubs off on others.
2. Recruit motivated committee members to assist you and see that they are trained and motivated.
3. Be committed to market Venturing.
4. Be familiar with the [Venturing Marketing Guide](#) and [How To Successfully Market Venturing](#).
5. Be Venturing marketing minded which means to constantly look for Venturing marketing opportunities.
6. Develop a council Venturing marketing plan and share with everyone you can.
7. Work with the district marketing committees if there are any.

8. Regularly show *Hangin' Out* on your high schools' channel one, at movie theaters, at church youth groups, and other places teen hang out.
9. Regularly put articles about the cool things happening in Venturing in your newspapers and school newsletters.
10. Regularly put articles about Venturing on your council website and in your council newsletter.
11. Make presentations to service clubs, etc. on Venturing.
12. Coordinate with other committees.
13. Report on marketing successes to the Council Venturing Committee and executive board.
14. Maintain a council marketing scrapbook.
15. Train your crews on how to do marketing.

Venturing Membership Committee Chairman

1. Be committed to Venturing and demonstrate your commitment. Be enthusiastic about Venturing to the point that it rubs off on others.
2. Recruit motivated committee members to assist you and see that they are trained and motivated.
3. Be committed to growing Venturing.
4. Be familiar with Venturing membership requirements.
5. Work with advisors and crew Vice-presidents on monthly recruiting efforts.
6. Promote and manage the crew open house program. Train and motivate every crew open house chairman and adult advisor to run the absolute best crew open house possible. (See [How To Recruit Venturers](#))
7. Recognize crews for successful open house and monthly recruiting.
8. Maintain membership track records by crew to identify crews that may need help and report regularly at district committee meetings.
9. Maintain a supply of Venturing recruiting materials to support your efforts.
10. Plan and run *Together We Organize* new unit organizing efforts. (See [How To Organize New Venturing Crews](#))
11. Have a plan to organize new crews on a monthly basis.
12. Plan and run a Boy Scout to Venturing transition plan annually.
13. Recognize crews for good recruiting.
14. Welcome new crews appropriately.
15. See that the other committees responsible for the health and welfare of crews support your new crews.

Venturing Finance Committee Chairman

1. Be committed to Venturing and demonstrate your commitment. Be enthusiastic about Venturing to the point that it rubs off on others.
2. Recruit motivated committee members to assist you and see that they are trained and motivated.
3. Be committed to helping with the council's and districts' fundraising and to helping crews related to finance matters.

4. Educate and motivate crews to support the council's and district's Friends of Scouting campaign. Venturers can really help the overall effort such as working at breakfast, delivering and picking up campaign cards and materials, be speakers, etc.
5. Help crews with their money earning projects and project requests.
6. Educate and motivate crews to support the council's and district's pop corn sales campaign. Many councils have proven that Venturers can be BIG salesmen and can help with the logistics.
7. Involve Venturers in United Way presentations. One council had an intercity crew that did mentoring for other intercity youth groups do their presentation and got a huge increase. Venturers can tell a different story and give you more credibility and community value.
8. Support crew treasures do their job.

Council Venturing Commissioner (If you have one.)

1. Be committed to Venturing and demonstrate your commitment. Be enthusiastic about Venturing to the point that it rubs off on others.
2. Recruit motivated committee members to assist you and see that they are trained and motivated.
3. Be committed to serve crews and help them be strong so they can deliver a quality program.
4. Make sure district commissioner teams are serving crews and that they know Venturing.
5. Insure that the Council and District Venturing Roundtable Commissioners offer high quality Venturing Monthly Program Forums. Many councils have found this is a key to their overall Venturing success. Quality Forums give training, new ideas, become a sounding board/forum, and you can motivate people.
6. Know your crews and report on their health status so other committees can offer help where needed. Report on this at council commissioner meetings and council Venturing committee meetings.
7. Help crews re-charter on time.
8. Insure that crew advisors are trained to put on quality crew program planning seminars annually. You might even offer to facilitate this for your crews.
9. Help connect crews to dens, packs, and troops. Many Venturers while working on advancement will need to identify dens, packs, and troops to make presentations to. Examples: One Venturer making a presentation from Horsemanship (From the Ranger Award) to a Cub Scouting den, or a couple of Venturers working on Silver facilitating a Ethical Controversies presentation to a troop, or a group of Venturers working on Quest doing a sports day for a pack. There is so much Venturers can do for the other two programs, they might need your help making the connection.
10. Help crews design a plan to earn the Centennial Award then help them as needed.

Sample Monthly Council Venturing Committee Agenda

1. Welcome and motivation element Chairman
(Remind your committee chairmen that you will ask each reporting chairman, "What has your committee done to help our Venturing program become stronger.")

 2. Review successes since your last meeting Chairman, staff advisor, or designee

 3. Committee Reports
- Advancement and Recognition Advancement Chairman
 - Review major awards such as Bronze, Gold, Silver, Ranger, Quest, Trust, Quartermaster, etc. earned since the last meeting.
 - Report on any efforts the committee might have done help individual crews do advancement.
 - Review overall advancement by district or crew.
 - Plan advancement helps like Venturing advancement days
 - Courts of Honors
 - Update special awards like Venturing Leadership Award or Advisor Award of Merit
 - Hot spots that need our help
 - Updated on scholarship opportunities

 - Training Training Chairman
 - Review training activities status by district
 - Update on training opportunities and coordination of district training planning to maximize opportunities throughout the council.
 - Review new additions or changes to Venturing training curriculum
 - Hot spots that need our help
 - Review promotion efforts for National Venturing Philmont and Sea Base courses.
 - Training courses offered report
 - Training courses offered report, Faststart, Leader Specific, New Crew Officer Orientation, Powder Horn, VLSC, Kodiak, specialty courses

 - Camping and Activities Camping and Activities Chairman
 - Review events that happened since your last meeting

or are coming up.

- Plan new events and activities
- Review crew camping and activity report by district
- Report on interesting crew successes
- Teen Leader Council report

Council Venturing
President (Youth)

- Venturing resource list status and updates. Scuba shops, where to camp, climbing places, fly tying instruction, etc.
- Camp planning and reports

-Teen Leader Council Report

- Report of status of recent or upcoming Venturing events and activities.
- Report on plans for future events.
- Report on contacts with crews
- Request for committee support for assistance.

Council Venturing
(Youth)

-Marketing

- Report on what marketing success since your last meeting
- Report on your marketing efforts to other committees and to districts
- Plans for marketing within the upcoming two months
- Report on changes on council website and web-based communications
- Success stories
- Gather potential marketing opportunities from other committees
- Report on your monthly review of the council website and newsletter for Venturing emphasis

Marketing Chairman

-Membership

- Membership report by district, up, down?
- Status of training each crew on fall Open Houses
- Boy Scout to Venturing transition plans and status
- Membership efforts
- Hot spots that need our help
- Crews that are having problems or are growing
- New crew status for other committees call to arms
- Special recognition for adults and youth for recruiting efforts
- Surveys and other research

Membership
Chairman

-Finance

Finance Chairman

- Money Earning report status
- Friends of Scouting status
- How we are helping units with finance matters
- Popcorn sales
- Other fundraising plans and reports
- Areas that might need financial support such as activities, training, trips

-Commissioner Service Health report by district Commissioner or representative to the Commissioner team

- Centennial Award status

- Other quality control issues.

- Units that need help

- Rechartering status

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 4. Review 5-Step Plan progress | Chairman |
| 5. Major projects status reports | Appropriate Chairmen |
| 6. Staff advisor's report | Staff Advisor |
| 7. Review next month's plan of action | Chairman |
| 8. Closing and motivation element | Chairman or designee |

Council Venturing Committee Worksheet

Month _____

Place _____ Date _____ Time _____

1. Welcome and call to order, etc. Presiding _____

2. Motivation element _____

3. Report on what's happened since our last meeting _____

4. Committee Reports

Advancement

Training

Camping and Activities

Marketing

Membership

Finance

Commissioner Service

5. Progress report on our 5-Step plan

6. Major projects status report

7. Action Assignments (for next month)

8. Advisor's Report and comments

9. Closing and motivation element

Next meeting Place _____ Date _____ Time _____



District-level Venturing Support

As pointed out in the previous section, there are two basic options for growing and supporting Venturing at the district level and that the recommended approach for districts is option 2 which is to support Venturing through your normal district operations. That is to support Venturing through your committees such as training, advancement, unit service, and others. The reason this option is recommended is that Venturing is one of the three programs that need to be offered and supported equally so that can accomplish our mission. All three programs need to relate. Another good reason to use this approach is numbers. Most districts don't have enough available manpower or energy to run two separate district level committees. If you are going to have a separate Cub Scouting committee, Boy Scouting committee, finance committee, or others, then it would make sense to have a separate Venturing committee. However, few districts take this approach.

The Basic Purpose of the District Committee related to Venturing is...

“To grow Venturing and help crews be successful and strong.”

The result will be...

- balanced membership growth
- quality district Venturing activities
- stronger Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting program
- an enhanced community image of Venturing
- an emphasis on Venturing
- teens who have had a positive affect on their lives
- a positive impact on your communities
- a more successful relationship with our chartered partners
- a better community image
- more units and members
- successful Boy Scout to Venturing transition
- longer tenure of youth and adults
- and, we will accomplish our mission

As a district committee that supports Venturing, keep this in your mind as you plan, implement, visit, and train. Is what you are doing going to make your crews more successful and stronger? Let it be your guide.

Notes for District Committee Chairmen

History shows us that organizational success usually starts with good leadership-that's you, the District Chairman. Here are a few suggestions that may help you lead successfully:

1. Be committed yourself and demonstrate that commitment. Some demonstrations of that commitment can be found in some of the following suggestions.

2. Be enthusiastic about Venturing to the point that it rubs off on others.
3. Have a Venturing vision of your own and share it with others.
4. Wear your Venturing uniform.
5. Do the "[5-Steps to Growing and Supporting Venturing](#)" and share your plan with the your chartered organization heads and others. Review it regularly-make it a tool you use at each meeting.
6. Educate yourself about Venturing. Take Venturing training.
7. Track and market your successes.
8. Recruit quality people to work with you. Insure they get trained, oriented, and motivated to serve crews.
9. Make your committee meetings concise, productive, and fun.
10. Recognize those who work with you regularly including crews that help and do good things.
11. Involve some Venturers on your committee.
12. Don't be afraid to ask for some help.
13. Keep your district executive, executive board, the Council President, or whatever chairman you report to informed and involved.
14. Remember how important training (of everyone) is. Training usually solves most challenges.
15. Incorporate Venturing into your district's programs. Venturers can help Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting become stronger.
16. As you run district committee meetings, remember to incorporate Venturing. Remember it can be discouraging to those you've recruited for Venturing if you don't include it or allow others to say exclusive things like, "Let's do it for the boys."

Notes to the District Executive

History shows us that organizational success usually starts with good leadership-that's you and your Key 3. Here are a few suggestions that may help you lead successfully:

1. Be committed yourself and demonstrate that commitment. Some demonstrations of that commitment can be found in some of the following suggestions.
2. Be enthusiastic about Venturing to the point that it rubs off on others.
3. Have a Venturing vision of your own and share it with others.
4. Wear your Venturing uniform. An occasional "wearing the green" is good.
5. Understand how Venturing uniform policy is different than Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting where the uniform is a method.
6. Do the "[5-Steps to Growing and Supporting Venturing](#)" and share your vision and plan with your chartered organization heads and others. Review it regularly-make it a tool you use at each meeting.
7. Maintain a good working relationship with your high schools.
8. Educate yourself about Venturing. Take Venturing training. Help teach and/or visit training sessions. Be the expert, but don't be afraid to say you don't know the answer to the question, but you will get it.
9. Know and use your Venturing resources.

10. Insure your District Commissioner and other commissioners have an excellent comprehension of the Venturing program and are committed to serve Venturing.
11. Track and market your successes.
12. Commit to the concept of a full scout family at each of your chartered partners.
13. Recruit quality people to work with you. Insure they get trained, oriented, and motivated to serve crews. Insure your Key 3 is as committed and motivated as you are.
14. Know the leadership of every crew, this includes the youth officers.
15. Recognize those who work with you regularly including crews that help and do good things.
16. Promote district nominations of worthy youth and adults for the Venturing Leadership Award. Advisors Award of Merit, etc.
17. Involve your Venturers.
18. Don't be afraid to ask for some help. Call you council, region, or national.
19. Keep your Key 3, management, and district committee members informed and involved. Discuss Venturing in your Key 3 meetings.
20. Remember how important training (of everyone) is. Training usually solves most challenges.
21. Go to and promote area, regional, and national Venturing training opportunities.
22. Incorporate Venturing into your district's programs. Venturers can help Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting become stronger.
23. Be creative when looking for new crew opportunities.
24. Be traditional when looking for new members like doing a Boy Scout to Venturer transition plan just like you do for Webelos to Boy Scout transition.
25. Insure Venturing is incorporated into your district committee meetings. Remember it can be discouraging to those you've recruited for Venturing if you don't include it or allow others to say exclusive things like, "Let's do it for the boys."

Venturing Related Things for District Operating Committees to do (Job Descriptions)

District Advancement Committee

1. Be committed to help crews do advancement.
2. Educate yourself about Venturing advancement.
3. Help crews get started on Venturing advancement by training advisors and officers if needed. You could also give them ideas about how to do crew level advancement making it fun.
4. Share with the Marketing Committee high level achievements such as Silver, Gold, Ranger, Quest, Trust, and Quartermaster awards so they can put articles in your local newspapers and send letters to principals.
5. Recognize crews who do well with advancement.
6. Promote and manage other recognitions like the Venturing Leadership Award, the Venturing Advisor Award of Merit, etc.
7. Offer fun Venturing advancement days or even long weekend camps.
8. Share consultant resources with crews.
9. Put on advancement related presentations at Venturing Monthly Forums.

10. Maintain Venturing advancement records and report at District Committee meetings.
11. If you do district Eagle Boards of Review, insure the board fully understands the process to earning Eagle as a Venturer or Sea Scout or offer to have someone knowledgeable sit on the board as a resource.

District Training Committee

1. Be committed to train every advisor and person needing training.
2. Be familiar with all Venturing training and training resources.
3. Maintain current resources for Venturing courses including hardcopy syllabus, DVDs, and CDs.
4. Insure new advisors get Faststart Orientation within 48hours of joining the district committee or a crew.
5. Offer regular Venturing Leader Basic Training
6. Maintain and report statistics on who is trained and who needs training.
7. Offer specialized courses.
8. Support crew advisors as they plan and run New Officer Orientation and their annual program planning seminars.
9. Offer and promote crew youth training as needed.
10. Promote attendance at area, regional, and national Venturing training courses.
11. Attend, promote, and support Powder Horn courses.
12. Attend a regional Kodiak Course Directors' Conference and then regularly offer Kodiak and Kodiak X courses.
13. Encourage your crew leadership as well as your fellow district volunteers to regularly visit Venturing websites to gather current program and training information.

District Camping and Activities Committee

1. Be committed to supporting crews to camp and do activities to help them be strong and deliver the promise we make to teens.
2. Help crews plan and run camping and other outdoor activities and trips.
3. Maintain a history file of successful activities the district and crews have run.
4. Plan and run a balanced calendar of Venturing activities based on crew officer or Teen Leaders Council input (see the Activities section of this book for more details.)
5. Develop and run a district Teen Leader Council even if you must run it with an adjacent district.
6. Work with the council level committees that offer council wide Venturing activities.
7. Share successes with the Marketing committee so they can put articles in the newspaper, your websites, etc.
8. Work with the council committee responsible for Venturer specific camp programs.
9. Promote camping and activities to all of your crews.
10. Put on "How to" courses or work with the Training Committee training crews related to camping and activities.
11. Maintain crew camping and activity reports and give at District Committee meetings.
12. Be familiar with subject matter/expertise related to Venturing only programs such as pistol shooting or technical rock climbing.

District Marketing Committee

1. Be committed to market Venturing.
2. Be familiar with the the [Venturing Marketing Guide](#) and [How To Successfully Market Venturing](#).
3. Be Venturing marketing minded which means to constantly look for Venturing marketing opportunities.
4. Develop a district Venturing marketing plan and share with the district.
5. Work with the Council Marketing committee if there is one.
6. Regularly show *Hangin' Out* on your high schools' channel one, at movie theaters, at church youth groups, and other places teen hang out.
7. Regularly put articles about the cool things happening in Venturing in your newspapers and school newsletters.
8. Make presentations to service clubs, etc. on Venturing.
9. Coordinate with other committees.
10. Report on marketing successes to the District Committee
11. Train and work with crew marketing personnel.
12. Maintain a district marketing scrapbook.
13. Remember that the greatest untapped reservoir for Venturing membership is outside of Venturing and that if teens know about Venturing and are asked to join, they most likely will.

District Membership Committee

1. Be committed to growing Venturing.
2. Be familiar with Venturing age membership requirements.
3. Work with advisors and crew Vice-presidents on monthly recruiting efforts.
4. Promote and manage the district's crew open house program. Train and motivate every crew open house chairman and adult advisor to run the absolute best crew open house possible. (See [How To Recruit Venturers](#))
5. Recognize crews for successful open house and monthly recruiting.
6. Maintain membership track records by crew to identify crews that may need help and report regularly at district committee meetings.
7. Maintain a supply of Venturing recruiting materials to support your efforts.
8. Plan and run *Together We Organize new unit* organizing efforts. (See [How To Organize New Venturing Crews](#))
9. Have a plan to organize one new crew a month.
10. Plan and run a Boy Scout to Venturing transition plan annually.

District Finance Committee

1. Be committed to helping with the district's fundraising and to helping crews related to finance matters.
2. Educate and motivate crews and parents to support the council's and district's Friends of Scouting campaign. Venturers can really help the overall effort such as working at breakfast, delivering and picking up campaign cards and materials, be speakers, etc.

3. Help crews with their money earning projects and project requests.
4. Educate and motivate crews to support the council's and district's pop corn sales campaign. Many districts have proven that Venturers (coed) can be BIG salesmen and can help with your district campaigns.
5. Involve Venturers in United Way presentations. One council had an intercity crew that did mentoring for other intercity youth groups do their presentation and got a huge increase. Venturers can tell a different story and give you more credibility and community value.
6. Support crew treasurer's efforts to do their job.

District Commissioner Service

1. Be committed to serve crews and help them be strong so they can deliver a quality program with the same knowledge and vigor extended other Scouting programs.
2. Make sure those serving crews, know Venturing. Train new commissioners (and old ones too) on Venturing.
3. Appoint a trained and motivated District Venturing Roundtable Commissioner to offer high quality Venturing Monthly Forums. Many councils have found this is a key to their overall Venturing success. Quality Forums give training, new ideas, become a sounding board/forum, and you can motivate people.
4. Know your crews and report on their health status so other committees can offer help where needed. Report on this at district commissioner meetings and district committee meetings.
5. Include Venturing training modules in your monthly commissioner meetings.
6. Help crews re-charter on time.
7. Assist advisor put on the crew program planning seminar annually. You might even offer to facilitate this for your crews.
8. Help connect crews to dens, packs, and troops. Many Venturers while working on advancement will need to identify dens, packs, and troops to make presentations to. Examples: One Venturer making a presentation from Horsemanship (From the Ranger Award) to a Cub Scouting den, or a couple of Venturers working on Silver facilitating a Ethical Controversies presentation to a troop, or a group of Venturers working on Quest doing a sports day for a pack. There is so much Venturers can do for the other two programs, they might need your help making the connection.
9. Help crews design a plan to earn the Centennial Award then help them as needed.
10. Promote training, advancement, recognition, and quality program for crews.
11. Have commissioners offer to help advisors with the Crew Officer Seminar and other crew events.

Note to all committees:

One of Venturing's attributes is its diversity of program options.

- A crew at a faith-based organization can be successful putting on ethic based plays to elementary school aged kids.

- A crew at a scuba shop can be successful helping to teach others scuba, making presentations to other youth groups about scuba, or doing water related conservation and clean-up work.
- Another crew that works in conjunction with a longstanding Boy Scouting troop might be successful keeping old boys involved until their 21st birthday, teaching outdoor skills and leadership skills to Boy Scouts, or expanding their members' leadership skills training and leadership opportunities.

District Committee members must understand that even though each crew may have a different program emphasis from time to time, Venturing is basically the same at each crew, especially their needs.

All advisors and crew officers need training, many might need help planning an exciting annual program, some might need help identifying and using resources, some might need help with advancement, and some will need help with recruiting and Open House planning.

However, you must be able to understand the slight differences and nuances for different crews too. As an example, if you are working with the crew at a faith-based organization that does ethic based plays, you might ask yourself, what kind of help can I offer them? What kind of district activities could we put on the help this crew be stronger? What aspect of Venturing advancement has the most appeal to them?

On the other hand, there are commonalities among crews too. All adults and crew officers need training; They might need help planning their annual program; They might need help identifying and gathering resources; They might need help planning and running their open houses; They might need help with advancement.

Just be prepared to be flexible, but remember all crews are an equal part of scouting and your district. Help them be strong and successful no matter what they do.

Sample District Venturing Activity Calendar

Activity	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Venturing Monthly Forum	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Open House District Training						✓						
Crew Open Houses									✓	✓		
Boy Scout to Venturer Transition				✓	✓				✓	✓		
Kodiak Course							✓					
Kodiak X Course									✓			
District Trip							✓					
District Activity					✓					✓		
Council Activity			✓					✓			✓	
Teen Leaders Council	✓			✓			✓			✓		
Semi-annual crew health review						✓						✓
Specialized Training	✓			✓				✓				
Basic Training		✓				✓				✓		

Recruiting New Committee Members to Support Venturing

The key to accomplishment is passion. In our case, it would be passion to grow and support Venturing. So how do you get passionate people on your committee. First, you the chairman or committee member need to be passionate about what you are doing. That passion can and will rub off on others. Enthusiasm and passion are contagious. Plus one of the side benefits is that you will appear to be having fun and others will want to do that too. So, enthusiasm, passion, and fun will attract and keep committee members. That means as a chairman, you have to make your meetings and activities fun and meaningful. You might not believe this, but if your committee appears to be a fun group, highly motivated, enthusiastic, passionate, and busy you will actually attract people.

Fun! Motivated! Enthusiastic! Passionate! Busy!

Another advantage we have in Venturing is that it is new and somewhat different. Sometimes volunteers are looking for new challenges. You might find an experienced trainer who has done Cub Scout training for several years and would like a change. You might find a volunteer who has a special interest that can be put to special use in Venturing like someone who likes high adventure sports could be the person who heads up the committee to find and gather high adventure resources for crews. Maybe someone has an expertise for mentoring who could help crews develop mentoring programs.

You might also find someone with little Venturing knowledge, but high motivation like a mother of a young lady who is having a good experience in Venturing. We recruit new Cub Scout leaders all the time who have no background or knowledge of the program. They just need some training, coaching, and experience.

Where to find new Venturing support committee members:

1. Existing crews. Parents. Advisors looking for a change.
2. Committee members from other committees looking for a change.
3. Employees of organizations who have an interest in Venturing such as a church, a scuba shop, a U. S. Power Squadron, etc.
4. Service club members. Go make a presentation on Venturing leadership opportunities.
5. Venturers who are looking for more responsibility.
6. Venturing alumni.
7. Boy Scout leaders looking for a change.
8. College students.
9. Teachers.
10. Powder Horn participants.

Additional resources:

District Committee Guide