

How To Involve Venturers at the District and Council Levels

And

How Your Local Venturer Can Become the Next National Venturing President

Venturers and especially older Venturers can be amazing people. Many of them have a strong desire to achieve, to serve, and to work alongside of adults. Many have extensive experience as trainers, leaders, researchers, planners, and explorers. They have acquired these skills through their Scouting/Venturing experiences. Many have served in all of the youth leadership positions at the unit level and are ready to serve on a higher level. You can take advantage of their skills, enthusiasm, and willingness to learn and serve by recruiting them to serve on your committee.

There are a variety of places they can serve and serve well. Here are a few examples:

1. They could call each crew vice president of administration each month to see how their recruiting is coming along and if they need help.
2. They could call each crew president each month to see how the crew is coming along and if they need any help and remind them of upcoming deadlines and events.
3. They could help plan and run activities, trips, and events.
4. They could help plan and run the Venturing Forum.
5. They could assist in making sales calls telling of their own experiences as a Venturer.
6. They can market Venturing in a variety of ways such as making presentations to service clubs, troops, youth groups, United Ways, and others, writing articles, or working on your website.
7. They can assist with fundraising campaigns.
8. They can assist with Open House training and coaching. You could assign one of your district or council Venturers to each crew to coach and assist. They could support crews by providing materials and could even pick up the applications after the Open Houses.
9. You could assign one or more Venturers to coordinate the use of other Venturers in support of Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting. Since many Venturers must make presentations as a part of their advancement, some need help coordinating with dens, packs, and troops. Additionally, some district and council events can use Venturer support like Cub Scout Day Camps, Pow Wows, Camporees, dinners, and training. Your Venturing coordinator could be the conduit when help is needed.
10. They can find and recruit resources. If you are building a district or council "Where to go and what to do" resource list for Venturing, Venturers can help find, recruit, and maintain relationships with organizations like scuba shops, parks, canoe rental companies, and others.
11. They can assist with training courses.

12. They can assist with or be facilitators for Kodiak and Kodiak X courses.

Examples of what they can do:

Example 1: Several years ago in a large council in the mid west, a group of Venturers wanted to put on a weekend, council-wide activity. A small group of Venturers got together to create a vision of what that activity would look like. They saw it as a weekend filled with fun things to do like rock climbing, CPR training, orienteering, dances, games, canoeing, and much more. They wanted to open it up to Venturers, Senior Girl Scouts, and older Boy Scouts. In addition to having fun, they saw Venturers actually accomplishing facets of the Venturing advancement program while having all that fun. They recognized that while the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts were having fun, they were learning about Venturing, therefore they would be doing marketing. They had a plan listing all the committees they would need, who would be serving as chairmen and advisors, a schedule, promotional materials, and even a budget.

When ready, they made a presentation to the Scout Executive who said he was so impressed he couldn't say no. However, privately he stated that before the presentation he was dubious that a group of teens could plan and run such an event and he worried about extending council financial resources. After the event was an overwhelming success and has been for many years, it proved that a group of sharp, smart, motivated young people can indeed plan and run large council events. This particular event is so successful, these young people actually grow their future leadership by establishing who will be this chairman or that for each of the next three years. So you always have leaders in training and ready to take over. Most all-adult committees don't even take this approach.

Example 2: A district executive in the northern mid-west needed some help with her Cub Scout Day Camp. Where did she turn? That's right, a group of Venturers. She started out small with only a few Venturers helping out, but after a couple of years, she had the whole Day Camp planned and run by her district's Venturers. And Cub Scout attendance at the Day Camp increased. Do you think those 7, 8, and 9 year old boys would rather have 16, 17, 18, and 19 year old Day Camp counselors or moms and dads? It works!

Of course this is just a sampling of the things Venturers can do. Your imagination is the only limit. First you just need to believe that these valuable young people can do these things, then it is just a matter of giving them the right job, right tools, and motivation. They can be a source of manpower, renewed enthusiasm for existing committee members, and can provide a unique point of view. Use them.

A Teen Leadership Council can help provide you the energetic, enthusiastic and motivated youth and their youth leadership to help make this happen. See [How To](#)

[Implement And Support Teen Leadership](#) for further information on Teen Leadership Councils and Venturing Officer's Associations.

How Your Local Venturer Can Become the Next National Venturing President

Each year 5 young men and women are selected to serve as National Venturing president or Regional Venturing president. The National Venturing president serves on the National Executive Board while the regional Venturing presidents serve on their respective regional executive boards. Additionally, these young people help develop national and regional Venturing programs, travel as BSA representatives, and promote Venturing across the country.

How can your Venturer become the National Venturing president or Regional Venturing president? First, find and develop a sharp Venturer. Next, get a National Venturing president nomination form from your scout executive (nomination forms arrive in councils in December), or get a nomination form from the BSA website at www.scouting.org. Then assist your Venturer in completing the nomination form and have your district or council committee nominate your Venturer to your council executive board who will then select your council's nominee. Your council's nomination will then go to your region. Your region will then select its regional Venturing president. The National Venturing President will then be selected from regional Venturing presidents. Terms run from June 1 through May 31.

The new Regional presidents and National president along with the new national Sea Scout Boatswain come together for a three-day orientation where they learn everything from etiquette to how to represent the BSA.

There are some qualifications such as proven crew, district, council, and/or area leadership, age, and references to qualify so see the nomination form for details. The key is to plan ahead and develop a cadre of qualified young people who might decide they would like to serve Venturing at the area, region, or national levels.