



## *The Dulaney District Advancement Committee Venturing News*

12 December 2014

### Venture Crew Leaders of Dulaney District:

#### A. Venturing Advancement Changes:

There are four new awards replacing the current Bronze, Gold and Silver are: **Venturing, Discovery, Pathfinder and Summit** awards.

The new program was released in full at the National Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tenn., May 21–23, 2014, is built around progressive experiences in the focus areas of **Adventure, Leadership, Service, and Personal Growth**.

- **Bronze, Gold, and Silver awards:**

- Venturers may continue working on them until December 31, 2014.
- Venturers must start working on the new awards beginning on January 1, 2015.



Venturing Award



Pathfinder Award



Discovery Award



Summit Award



- **Venturing, Discovery, Pathfinder and Summit awards:**

- **All Venturers** may begin working on them in **May 2014**.
- **Current Venturers** would skip the Venturing Award and begin with working on the **Discovery Award** (previously known by the temporary title Level II), regardless of whether they've earned the Bronze, Gold and/or Silver awards.
- **New Venturers** would begin with the **Venturing Award** (previously known by the temporary title Level I).
- **All Venturers** must begin using the new awards beginning on **Jan. 1, 2015**.

**B. The Venturing Award—What Is It?**

The first award is appropriately named the Venturing award. Its purpose is to introduce Venturers to the program and its values. The award encourages prospective members to become active and to participate in various crew events outside crew meetings.



Experienced and older Venturers can play a large part in recruiting and welcoming new members who are working toward this first step in the Venturing advancement program. For example, the crew president and crew Advisor will conduct a relaxed interview or conference with the candidate to provide guidance for joining. Once a new member officially joins, the crew puts together an investiture ceremony at which the Venturing award is presented. The ceremony may be formal or informal, depending on the culture of the crew.

Venturers may then begin to discover the adventures that lie ahead as they work toward the next award in the sequence: the Discovery award.

**C. Discovery Award—Second Step on the Trail to the Summit:**

After earning the Venturing award, the next step along the trail to the Summit is the Discovery award. Once a new member is oriented to Venturing, the Discovery award documents his or her preparation for adventure, leadership, personal growth, and service. Venturers who achieve the Discovery award will have taken part in two activities with their crew, allowing them to experience the fun and adventure that is at the heart of Venturing.



The Discovery award, like all of the awards in the new Venturing program, is designed to encourage members to design and lead an active program of continuous adventure with their crew. Venturers, both with the crew and individually, prepare service projects that contribute toward meeting the needs of their community and help to develop the youth as participating citizens. Developing leadership skills is also part of the recognition system. Venturers who understand and can apply essential leadership skills will be better able to lead their crew programs.

**D. The Pathfinder Award—Third Step on the Trail to the Summit:**

The path from program orientation to basic skills in Venturing pretty well captures the first two steps in the new Venturing recognition system, which will be fully implemented after December 31, 2014. Appropriately, the next award stage along a Venturer's path to the Summit Award will be that of Pathfinder.



In earning the Pathfinder Award, a Venturer should begin to establish a reputation as a skilled leader. The award seeks to engage Venturers more deeply into the program by enhancing their skills in adventure, leadership, service, and personal growth. One of the key elements of earning the Pathfinder Award will involve leading the crew on an adventure. The type of adventure—whether it is an extended bicycle ride or canoe trip, or even 10 days visiting the museums of Washington, D.C.—is up to the award candidate and the crew. The value in the adventure comes from learning how to lead and demonstrate skills through action.

Detailed requirements for this and all of the other new Venturing awards, including the Summit Award— are available in the new *Handbook for Venturers*, No. 33494

### **E. The Summit Award: Venturing’s Capstone Achievement:**

Finally, Venturing crew members can earn the Summit Award, which is the capstone achievement.

As is the case with the Venturing, Discovery, and Pathfinder awards, when it comes to the Summit Award, what a Venturing crew does is not as important as how it does it. A crew’s program should be built upon a program of continuous, youth-led adventure with focus areas in adventure, leadership, service, and personal growth. Each award level challenges Venturers to dig deeper into the question of who they are in order to truly develop and enhance their skills and confidence to complete the requirements.



While the Pathfinder Award requires a member to lead an adventure, the Summit Award moves a Venturer into the role of a servant leader. Servant leadership and community service are the cornerstones of the Summit Award. Candidates are challenged to design and lead a significant community service project, the requirements of which are available now in the new *Handbook for Venturers*, No. 33494.

### **F. District Advancement Committee Needs:**

With the advent of the new Summit Award, the Dulaney District Advancement Committee will require the addition of at least one, and possibly two new members concerned specifically with Venturer Advancement. The Summit Award will require a final review process similar to what is now used for the Eagle Scout Award. Thus, we will need someone specifically knowledgeable with the Venturing program and the requirements of the Summit Award to organize and conduct the final advancement review process. Volunteers are requested to contact Rick Shaw, information below.



### **G. Venturing Service Hour Requirements:**

Questions have arisen about service requirements in the new Venturing recognition program. Both the Discover and Pathfinder awards state: “Up to half of the service may be delivered personally; the rest must be delivered through crew service activities.”

What is meant by the phrase “Up to half of the service may be delivered personally”? A Venturer, acting as an individual, or otherwise apart from the crew, may perform up to 50 percent of the required hours—12 for the Discovery Award and 18 for the Pathfinder Award. Therefore, for example, service hours performed as part of a school or religious youth group effort could be counted. Service at a Scouting event, like a district service project, may be counted as well, even if the entire crew decides to participate in the event. Similarly, a Venturer may assist with a Boy Scout’s Eagle service project, or even help on a service project planned by another crew. In each of these cases, the hours would “count” as service rendered on an individual basis, since the event was not planned and scheduled as an activity for the Venturer’s own crew.

What is meant by the phrase “The rest must be delivered through crew service activities”? For service to count as a “crew service activity,” the service event must be planned by the Venturer’s own crew with an expectation for crew participation. In addition, if a Venturer plans that service activity, he or she also can count those planning hours as service hours within the crew.

The *Handbook for Venturers* defines service as the following:

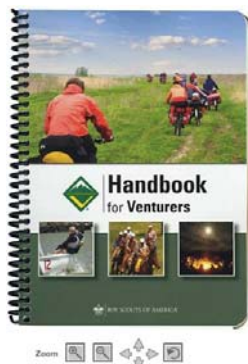
*“A service is a valuable action, deed, or effort carried out to meet a need of an individual, a group of people, or an organization. An act must be both valuable and address a need of the recipient to qualify as an act of service. The variety of service project ideas is boundless. And, with your capabilities as a young adult it becomes your responsibility to choose those opportunities which best fit with your personal and crew values and to bring about significant positive change for the individual or organization that you serve. Service is a great place to stretch your leadership muscles.”*

## H. Program Updates –2014 and Beyond:

Stay on top of the latest changes to Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, and Venturing by visiting [www.scouting.org/scoutsources/programupdates.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/scoutsources/programupdates.aspx)

- Venturing award requirements and program overview
- Updated Venturing Frequently Asked Questions

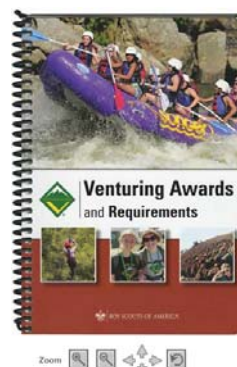
## I. New Venturing Publications Released:



No. 33494



No. 34655



No. 34784

The *Handbook for Venturers*, No. 33494, was released in mid-September, 2014. Completely re-written, the new handbook is divided into five chapters:

**Chapter 1**, “Venturing Essentials,” describes where Venturing fits in the BSA organization and provides an overview of the program. It also covers leadership in Venturing, Venturing officers associations, and the new Venturing awards.

**Chapter 2** explores what Venturers do. It describes the ALPS model—the four areas of program emphasis: **Adventure, Leadership, Personal Growth, and Service**—and how the model guides the program that the Venturers develop. It also covers topics such as, the three tiers of Venturing adventures, crafting the crew’s visions, setting goals, facing ethical controversies, and the benefits of service.

**Chapter 3**, for more experienced Venturers, focuses on how to plan and lead the crew’s adventures. It includes detailed information on planning activities, which not only serves to organize exciting adventures and significant service projects, but also provides a laboratory for developing essential life skills.

**Chapter 4** is a resource section. It includes information on planning, leadership, and adventure, and also program resources such as the BSA’s high adventure bases and the specialty awards.

The book closes with **Chapter 5**, “My Venturing Trail,” which helps members record adventure and service experiences and track progress on award requirements.



Two companion volumes are also available. *Venturing Awards and Requirements, No. 34784*; presents specific detailed requirements for Venturing's awards; details the requirements for the TRUST, Quest, and Ranger awards; and describes other opportunities for Venturers. The *Venturing Advisor Guidebook, No. 34655*, presents practical advice on everything from how to set up a crew, to how to support Venturers in their next great adventures.

## J. Record Keeping for Youth Member Transfers:

Topic 6.0.0.4 of the *Guide to Advancement*, "Scout Transfers," informs us that member identification numbers are unique only within each **local council**. **They are not yet nationally universal**. If a transfer is between units in the same council, a boy's advancement records will follow him by his member ID number. When a Scout transfers to a unit in a different council, however, his membership number and related information from the previous council cannot be accessed by the new council.

When preparing to move to another council a parent or guardian may request a report called a "Person Listing" that shows the youth member's advancement record. This report may be attached to the membership application for the new council. Alternatively the previous unit can provide an "**Individual History Report**" from any third-party advancement tracking software or an "**Advancement Summary Report**" from **Internet Advancement**.

Our founder made it clear that Scouting is different from schools where teachers maintain test and grade records. One way to maintain individual advancement records is in the Scout's handbook, his signed "blue cards," and collection of rank and merit badge presentation cards. This is also a good practice for any Scout, whether moving or not.

Yours in Scouting;

Rick Shaw  
Dulaney District Advancement Chairman  
410-823-8522  
[ricncork@erols.com](mailto:ricncork@erols.com)

