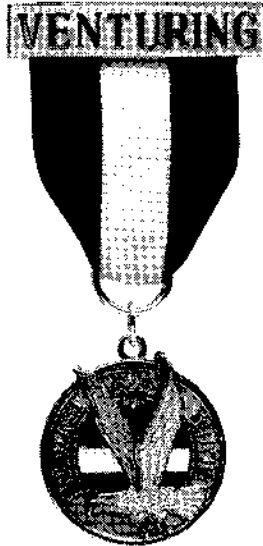


Venturing Silver Award*



Introduction

The Venturing Silver Award is available to all youth Venturing members of the Boy Scouts of America. The purpose of the Venturing Silver Award is to:

- ◆ Provide a pathway for personal development.
- ◆ Encourage Venturers to learn, grow, and serve.
- ◆ Recognize the high level of achievement of Venturers who acquire Venturing skills.
- ◆ Identify trained and highly motivated Venturers who will be a training, leadership, and program resource for other Venturers, Scouts, organizations, and the community.
- ◆ Help define Venturing.

Background

Even though your crew's program may be different from another crew's, you share some similarities with other Venturers. First is your age, since all Venturers must be at least 14 years old and not yet 21. Next is your curiosity and desire to learn more about life and the things around you. You probably like exciting,

informative programs and activities at your crew meetings. You want to acquire new, usable skills that make you feel like you are really growing in your life. You like a challenge. And, you like to be recognized for your hard work and achievement.

Venturing should be an exciting, advanced-level program where you learn and use advanced skills for your own enjoyment and growth, as well as to benefit others. Life is a series of experiences, and the Venturing Silver Award is similar. It will lead you on a pathway of exciting life experiences that will guide you to become a skilled Venturing leader.

Earning the Venturing Silver Award will identify you as a Venturer who:

- ◆ *has direction in his or her life,*
- ◆ *knows how to plan and accomplish goals,*
- ◆ *is skilled,*
- ◆ *lives the Venturing Oath,*
- ◆ *is a leader,*
- ◆ *is willing to serve others, and*
- ◆ *is one of the proud few to wear the Venturing Silver Award.*

*See *Venturing Silver Award Guidebook*, No. 25-015

How to Earn the Silver Award

Like any high, worthwhile recognition, the Venturing Silver Award will be challenging and will take time to earn. It will take you at least 12 months, but there is no limitation on the maximum amount of time other than you will need to complete all work before your 21st birthday.

- ◆ **Requirements (Overview).** These are requirements that all Venturing Silver Award candidates must complete:
 1. The Venturing Gold Award requires earning one Venturing Bronze Award.
 2. Earn the Venturing Gold Award, which includes knowing and living the Venturing Oath, service, personal development, and 12 months' tenure.
 3. Be proficient in emergency preparedness, including earning Standard First Aid and CPR certification, and knowing and using BSA Safe Swim Defense.
 4. Demonstrate leadership, including successfully completing the Venturing Leadership Skills Course.
 5. Participate in the Ethics in Action program, including Ethical Controversies activities and an Ethics Forum.
 6. Show a crew review committee you have met the requirements for the Venturing Silver Award.

First, sit down with your Advisor to make a plan of action on how you will earn the Venturing Silver Award. On many of the requirements you will work on your own, while some

you will work on with other Venturers. Many requirements will require contacting and working with a specialty consultant, someone who has extensive knowledge and skill in a particular area.

You will learn a skill from this person, and the specialty consultant will determine your proficiency in that skill. You might find it more convenient to work with several other Venturers at the same time with this specialty consultant. Many requirements involve a **time element**, such as working as a volunteer for three months. Take this into consideration when you are planning. You should probably work on several requirements at the same time, such as serving as a crew leader while working on a Bronze Award requirement.

You can receive **dual credit** for work required in different places. Examples: If you get certified in Standard First Aid, you can use this credit toward Silver Award requirement No. 2, Ranger Award core requirement No. 1, and Youth Ministries requirement No. 8.

When you have completed a requirement have either an Advisor or a specialty consultant initial and date your track sheet to confirm your completion of that requirement.

When you have completed all Silver Award requirements, ask your Advisor or crew president for a Silver Award review. The review committee will be made up of Venturers and adults. They will determine if you have successfully completed all requirements, and then recommend to your BSA local council that the council, representing the National Court of Honor, present you the highest Venturing award a Venturer can earn—the **Venturing Silver Award**.

Requirements

1. Venturing Bronze Award

Introduction

One of the strengths of the Venturing program is its ability to meet the interests of all Venturers. Sometimes, Venturers like to investigate new, different areas, such as an arts and hobbies crew going whitewater rafting or learning first aid. Variety in a crew always seems to make it more fun to go to meetings and weekend outings.

Also, you as an individual Venturer probably have many interests or would like to have more. Because of that desire on your part and to give you a pathway to many different experiences, the Venturing Bronze Award is wide open to you. You can earn your crew specialty's Bronze Award, pick out a different one you like, or even earn them all. It's up to you!

The Venturing Bronze Awards are

- ◆ Sports
- ◆ Youth Ministries

- ◆ Arts and Hobbies
- ◆ Outdoor (Half of Ranger Award is needed for Silver Award credit.)
- ◆ Ordinary (Half of Sea Scouting Quartermaster Award is needed for Silver Award credit.)

Requirement

Earn at least one of the five Venturing Bronze Awards.

Bronze Award Device

When you complete the requirements for a particular Bronze Award, you will earn a Bronze Award device similar to a military campaign ribbon that you may wear on your uniform. Earning the whole Sea Scouting Quartermaster or Venturing Ranger Award requires a greater challenge; each has a distinctive award of its own. For more information on these two challenging awards, check out the *Sea Exploring Manual* and the *Ranger Guidebook*. You can earn all five Bronze Awards as well as the Quartermaster and Ranger awards.

2. Venturing Gold Award

Introduction

The Gold is available to all Venturer members of the Boy Scouts of America.

The purpose of the Gold Award program is to

- ◆ Recognize achievement by young adults.
- ◆ Encourage personal growth through exposure to activities related to the six experience areas of Venturing.
- ◆ Offer challenging and stimulating opportunities for young adults to develop and achieve personal goals in leadership, character development, and personal fitness.
- ◆ Provide a favorable image of Venturing among youth, parents, schools, and communities.

Background

Venturers should have the opportunity to work toward tangible, challenging goals, and to be recognized for their efforts.

The Gold Award program has been developed to recognize a significant accomplishment in a young person's life; it requires outstanding performance in a broad spectrum of activities related to Venturing's six experience areas (citizenship, service, fitness, social, leadership, and outdoor). The program was developed to challenge and to motivate young people over an extended period of time.

Qualification

Candidates for the Venturing Gold Award must submit a written petition to their crew Advisor, in which they should outline their plans and ambitions for their projects to achieve the award. Advisors are encouraged to have a conference with each candidate to ensure that the Venturer has developed a well-conceived plan, and that he or she has specific goals in mind.

The program is designed to challenge young men and young women with interests that cover a wide variety of Venturing activities. Several require-

ments must be met to qualify for the Gold Award; the requirements are listed separately.

The Gold Award will be presented only to young adults whose personal conduct is in keeping with the principles of the Venturing Oath and the Boy Scouts of America.

Requirements

The Venturing Gold Award program is designed to permit adaptation of certain phases of the program so that *all* Venturers may work for and achieve the award. In order to offer a challenge to youth, and in the interest of maintaining a standard of qualification, *minimum* requirements have been established that must be met before the Gold Award can be presented to a Venturer. These requirements are:

- (a) The candidate must have at least 12 months' **tenure** as an active, registered Venturer before final qualification.
- (b) The candidate must have been an active member of the Venturing crew, and served in one or a combination of **leadership roles** within the past 12 months (roles may be concurrent) as follows.

For leadership roles within the crew, a candidate might be:

- 1) A crew officer.
- 2) A Venturing officers' association member or committee member.
- 3) An activities chairman for one of the crew's two-day activities or superactivity.

For leadership roles outside the crew, a candidate might be:

- 1) An elected youth officer of a church or school organization.
 - 2) An elected or appointed team leader.
- (c) The candidate must have **participated** in a district/Venturing division, council, area, region, or national Venturing event.

- (d) The candidate must, in consultation with the crew Advisor or a member of the crew committee, set one **personal growth** goal related to each of the six experience areas of Venturing, in which the Venturer certifies completion of the goals.

For personal growth, a candidate might

- 1) Complete a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) course or an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course.
 - 2) Plan and carry out a personal exercise program over a four-month period, i.e., jogging, running, swimming, weight reduction, or physical conditioning.
 - 3) Practice for, and attain, the Presidential Physical Fitness Award.
 - 4) Complete a reading program of the scriptures, classic literature, historical series, etc.
 - 5) Serve for six months as a reading counselor for a child with reading problems.
 - 6) Visit a nursing home, on a regular basis, over a four-month period, to help write letters or to read to patients or provide personalized services.
- (e) The candidate must plan, prepare for, and lead to completion two or more **crew activity projects** that relate to at least *two of the six* experience areas; suggested crew activity projects are listed separately below.

For crew/ship activities, the action should involve at least five Venturers, and it should require a minimum of four to six months from inception to completion; the project should be approved and the goals of the project set by the crew Advisor and/or a member of the crew committee and the Venturer candidate. Both parties should certify the completion of the project(s). Activities should be arranged to fit into normal crew programming. Qualifying crew/ship activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1) Plan and, with the help of at least four other Venturers, carry out a conservation project that is approved by an agency of the federal, state, or local government, such as the National Park Service, the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Land Management, state division of parks and recreation, city or county parks department, etc.
 - 2) Plan and chair a committee that stages a major social activity involving crew members and their parents, or crew members and their entire families.
 - 3) Plan and carry out a series of crew activities over a four- to six-month period, related to an interest of crew members. Professional or volunteer consultants could be asked to present information regarding their specialty, profession, or occupation.
 - 4) Help organize a new Venturing crew, or revitalize an inactive crew; coordinate activity with BSA local council staff members.
 - 5) Organize a recruitment drive to add members to your own crew or to other crews in the district/council. The drive should last at least one month, and the recruitment plan should include specific activities oriented toward recruiting new members, goals, methods of publicity, etc.
- (f) The candidate must be able to **recite the Venturing Oath**.
- (g) The candidate must submit three **letters of recommendation** to the crew Advisor that confirm he or she lives in accordance with the principles of the Venturing Oath. The letters should come from adults outside the crew, such as school or church leaders, employers, or community leaders.
- (h) After completing all other requirements, the candidate should prepare evidence of completion of the work and submit it to the crew Advisor. The crew president, in conjunction

with the crew Advisor, should then appoint a review committee of four to six people including Venturers and adults. The committee should review the candidate's **written presentation and interview** the candidate to determine whether that person grew as a result of the pursuit of the Gold Award.

- (i) Finally, the candidate must have qualified for the Gold Award before his or her **21st birthday**.

Suggested Qualifying Activities

Because of the designed, flexible nature of the program, crew Advisors and crew committee members are permitted a reasonable degree of latitude in approving activities that serve to meet the qualifying requirements for the Gold Award in the areas of leadership, personal growth, and crew activity projects. Likewise, crew Advisors, crew committee members, and Venturers are encouraged to seek out additional appropriate activities, bearing in mind the purpose of the Gold Award program.

NOTE: The Gold Award is recognized nationally; however, the program is administered and approved, and recognition is made, at the local council level.

Supply Information

Councils (only) may order the Gold Award from the BSA National Distribution Center:
Ribbon Medal Award, No. 04178 (for civilian wear)
Certificate, No. 25-322 (order from Bin Storage, \$500)

3. Emergency Preparedness

Introduction

Being prepared has always been one of the key tenets of Scouting. Being prepared continues to be important for today's action-oriented, can-do-anything Venturers. Venturers must be prepared to take care of themselves as well as be ready to serve

others when called. When faced with an emergency situation, people react in various ways. Some people leave, some panic, some do nothing at all, and some respond. Venturers should be prepared to respond!

Requirements

- (a) **Become certified in Standard First Aid or equivalent course.** If you choose the American Red Cross Standard First Aid version of the course, the curriculum includes how to recognize an emergency and overcome the reluctance to act; how to recognize and care for breathing and cardiac emergencies in adults (training to care for infants and children is optional); and how to identify and care for life-threatening bleeding, sudden illness, and injury. The course is approximately 6 1/2 hours. Your Standard First Aid certification will expire three years from the date of issue. Your CPR certification will expire one year from the date of issue.

If you hold an unexpired certification in this or a higher course, you can receive credit for this requirement. However, you must be currently certified at the time of your Silver Award crew review. You are encouraged to get certified as soon as possible and stay certified. For this requirement you are not required to seek a higher certification, but you are encouraged to get certifications in higher-level courses such as First Aid—Responding to Emergencies or Emergency Response. You will be even more prepared.

Note: If you need help finding an American Red Cross instructor in your area, call your local Red Cross chapter. For literature, call toll-free 1-800-667-2968.

- (b) **Become certified in CPR.** You can take a stand-alone CPR course or take it as part of another course such as Standard First Aid. Please remember that CPR certification lasts for only one year, at which time you will need

- 4) Understanding other people's perspectives
 - 5) Working toward a solution that the group involved will support and implement
- (b) **Either organize and lead, or help organize and lead, an Ethics Forum for your crew, another crew, school class, or other youth group.** An Ethics Forum is simply another, more formal, way of gathering information about ethics. You will invite two or more adults to form a panel for your crew or group to ask questions about ethics in their personal or professional lives. You can even invite adults related to your crew's specialty; if you are in a sports crew, you could invite a sports doctor, a coach, and a professional athlete. You can even invite guests such as family members and friends to join you. You can even use the information gathered from the Ethics Forum to develop your own Ethical Controversies activities.

6. Silver Award Review

After completing all requirements, the candidate should prepare evidence of completion of work. It should be submitted to the crew Advisor along with the completed and personally signed Silver Award Progress Record and Application. The crew president, in conjunction with the crew Advisor, should then appoint a review committee of four to six people including Venturers and adults. The review committee should review the candidate's written documentation and interview the candidate to determine whether the candidate completed all work and grew as a result of the pursuit of the Silver Award. The application is then approved by the crew Advisor and crew committee chairman and submitted to your council service center.

Venturing Silver Award Progress Record and Application

Please print or type all information. Give month, day, and year for all dates.

Part I—Personal Data:

Name _____ Nickname _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Birthday _____

School or college _____ Grade or year in college _____

Church or religious affiliation _____

Date entered Venturing _____

Part II—Requirements:

(Requirements are listed in no particular order)

1. Venturing Bronze Awards (Earn at least one.):

mm/dd/yy Advisor approval

Sports

mm/dd/yy Advisor approval

Youth Ministries

mm/dd/yy Advisor approval

Arts and Hobbies

mm/dd/yy Advisor approval

Ordinary (Half of Quartermaster)

mm/dd/yy Advisor approval

Outdoor (Half of Ranger)

2. Emergency Preparedness:

mm/dd/yy Advisor approval

Completed Standard First Aid or equivalent course

mm/dd/yy Advisor approval

Completed CPR certification

mm/dd/yy Advisor approval

Completed the BSA Safe Swim Defense training course

mm/dd/yy Advisor approval

Led or participated in a group swim using the BSA Safe Swim Defense

3. Leadership:

mm/dd/yy Advisor approval

Completed the Venturing Leadership Skills Course

mm/dd/yy Advisor approval

Served for at least six months in an elected or appointed crew, district, or council leadership position

4. Ethics in Action:

 Participated in at least two Ethical Controversies
mm/dd/yy Advisor approval

 Organized and led or helped organize and lead an
mm/dd/yy Advisor approval Ethics Forum

5. Completed Venturing Gold Award
mm/dd/yy Advisor approval

Part III—Personal Certification of Silver Award Candidate:

Since becoming a candidate for the Silver Award, I have personally planned, developed, and completed the activities and projects required for qualification for the award. I subscribe to the Venturing Oath and consider my conduct in keeping with the principles of the Boy Scouts of America. I completed all work on this award before my 21st birthday.

Candidate's signature

Crew No. _____ Chartered organization: _____

Part IV—Endorsement of Crew Advisor/Crew Committee Chairman:

I/we certify that the candidate is well qualified for the Silver Award, that he/she has to our satisfaction fulfilled the requirements for the many facets of the award, and that he/she has our complete recommendation for recognition of this significant achievement.

Advisor _____ Date _____

Crew committee chairman _____ Date _____

Part V—Council Certification/Recognition:

Council _____ Region _____ Area _____
Name Number

This Silver Award candidate is a currently registered Venturer. Having completed the requirements for the Silver Award, he/she is to be congratulated for the time, energy, and perseverance required to achieve this recognition. Presentation of the Silver Award is authorized.

Scout executive _____ Date _____

Part VI—Presentation:

The Silver Award was presented to _____
Name

on _____ in ceremonies at _____
Date Location