

Venturing Guide

For LDS Leaders



VENTURING • BSA

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What is Venturing?

In February of 1998 the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America announced the creation of a new program called Venturing. This program was designed to help the BSA expand its traditional program and broaden its capacity to influence the character and ethical behavior of teenagers.

On August 1, 1998, 12,626 Explorer Posts with a religious, outdoor, hobby or sports emphasis became Venturing Crews. Many of the successful strategies and programs from Exploring were adopted by Venturing.

Since 1998, Venturing has focused on creating resources for teenagers that meet their needs and interests. As one LDS Crew Advisor in Illinois put it;

“The young men like Venturing better than Exploring because it is focused and provides so many program ideas and outlines. Adopting Venturing resources have improved the activity level and enthusiasm of the young men in our Priests Quorum.”

When leaders of 16-18 year-old young men think of “Venturing” some may mistakenly correlate it with “Scouts” (merit badges, knots, basic first aid, uniforms, etc.). Then unfortunately, they dismiss this exciting program as not being in tune with their older boy needs or interests.

Venturing is a totally different activity program, tailored exactly to the needs and interests of your high school age young men—preparing them for missions and adult life; how to get a job, college preparation and scholarships, career exploration, tips on buying a car, fitness and athletics, co-ed activities, leadership and high adventure.

It is designed to meet the needs of Priest-age young men while achieving the purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood. Venturing is a set of focused resources that are wholesome, flexible and challenging for 16-18 year old young men.

A nine-teen year old, recently ordained Elder from Utah:

“I gained advanced skills in leadership and practical skills including CPR, lifeguard certification and firearms safety. I had many opportunities to offer meaningful service. Skills I learned in Venturing will be particularly useful in serving my mission in Korea. “

Venturing Methods

Venturing's methods or strategies have been developed with the 16-18 year old young man in mind. They provide a foundation to help the Boy Scouts of America achieve its aims of developing citizenship, fitness and character in youth.

Adult Association

The young men lead the crew, but work in cooperation with adult leaders. The adults serve in a "shadow" leader capacity.

Leadership

All young men are given opportunities to learn and apply proven leadership skills. Young men are taught the leadership skills of vision, communication, listening, problem solving, teamwork, planning and delegation in the Venturing Leadership Skills Course.

Recognition

A new advancement program has been developed only for Venturers. It challenges young men and provides recognition and status.

Ideals

Young men are expected to know and live by the Venturing Oath and Code. They promise to do their duty to God, help strengthen America, to help others, and to seek truth and fairness.

Group Activities

Learning by doing in a group setting provides opportunities for developing new skills.

High Adventure

The emphasis on high adventure helps provide team building in an outdoor setting and lifelong memories which help keep young men closer to their quorum members, advisors and priesthood leaders.

Teaching Others

All the Venturing awards require young men to teach what they have learned to others. When they teach, they are better able to retain the skill or knowledge and gain confidence in their ability to speak and relate to others. This is hands-on training for teaching in the mission field.

Venturing Resources Available to a Priests Quorum (And where to find them)

- Access to local and national BSA Camping facilities (your council office)
- Local events/activities tailored for 16-18 year old young men (your council office)
- Expertise and program helps for:
 - 25 outdoor disciplines (Ranger Guidebook & Venturing Leader Manual)
 - 124 meeting plans (Venturing Leader Manual)
 - 14 super activity suggestions (Venturing Leader Manual)
- Ten nationally recognized awards for young men
 - Five Bronze awards, Gold award, Silver Award (Venturer/Ranger Handbook)
 - Ranger Award (Venturer/Ranger Handbook)
 - Quest Award (Quest Handbook)
 - T.R.U.S.T. Award (T.R.U.S.T. Handbook)
- Venturing Fast Start- go to www.scouting.org/venturing adult leaders/training/venturing fast start
- Five-hour training for all adult leaders, which includes Youth Protection training (administered by your local council)
- 8 –session Youth Leadership Skills Training Course (administered on a ward level)
 - Vision
 - Communication
 - Listening
 - Planning
 - How to conduct a reflection.
(Venturing Leadership Skills Course)
 - Delegation
 - Teamwork
 - Problem Solving
 - Styles of Leadership
- The following can be found in the Venturing Leader Manual
 - 26 Ethical Controversies modules
 - Module on how to use the parliamentary procedure
 - Module on how to introduce a speaker
 - Module on how to make a speech
 - Instruction on how to conduct a crew officer’s seminar (annual planning retreat).
- Guide to Safe Scouting- which includes section on “Unauthorized Activities” (www.scouting.org, search, “Guide to Safe Scouting”).
- Resource Manuals from the BSA – Venturer/Ranger Handbook, No. 33494C, Venturing Leadership Skills Course, No. 34340C, Venturing Leaders Manual, No. 34655E

How does a Ward utilize Venturing resources to meet the needs of Priest-age young men?

Many Priest Quorum's struggle with quality mutual night activities. Especially if most of the young men have attained Eagle, they feel that mutual is less important because they are no longer pursuing Scouting ranks. Many Priest-age young men tell their parents and Priesthood leaders that they are not interested in Scouting. Their view of "Scouting" is, merit badges, wearing the uniform, pressure from parents to earn Eagle, etc. These perceptions are very real and often negatively affect the success of Priest Quorum activities and mutual.

Venturing resources are tailored for 16-18 year old young men. Experience has shown that when utilized, Venturing resources help strengthen Priest Quorum mutual activities.

Venturing resources blended with Duty To God requirements can provide the structure and focus to help 16-18 year-old young men prepare for missions.

Flexibility

Every Priest Quorum is unique. Venturing is flexible; it can be tailored to each quorum's needs. A Venturing unit is called a crew. Each crew is expected to have youth leaders. They can be the same as the quorum leaders or different young men. These positions can be changed or combined to meet the individual needs of the quorum. See the Division of Responsibilities grid on page 12 as an example of a Priest Quorum in Texas.

The young men in the quorum/crew decide if they want to wear a uniform. Venturing does not have a required uniform. The recommended uniform is a spruce-green shirt with charcoal gray pants. However, the uniform, if any is the choice of the crew. Many crews choose a polo shirt of their own design.

A Crew in Arizona: "Our young men designed a maroon golf shirt with a small Venturing logo on it. They wear it with pride to school."

A Crew in New Jersey: "Our young men adopted the recommended spruce-green shirt. They also created a tee shirt to wear on activities."

A Crew in Virginia: "The crew decided on polo shirts with the Venturing logo as our uniform."

Recognition

One strength of Venturing is its ability to meet the interests of all young men. Young men like to investigate new, different areas. Variety in a crew always makes it more fun to go to mutual and outings. To help provide a pathway to many different experiences, the Venturing advancement program was developed. Young men can decide if they want to work on Venturing awards individually, collectively, or decide not to work on the awards at all. Don't automatically assume that your young men are excited about earning badges and awards.

The Venturing awards program includes five Bronze awards, Gold award, Silver award, Ranger award, Quest award and T.R.U.S.T. award (see chart on page 21). Many requirements for the Venturing awards can fulfill goals and requirements of the Aaronic Priesthood Duty to God program. (see pages 13-14)

The five different Venturing Bronze awards are Arts and Hobbies, Outdoor, Sea Scouting, Sports and Religious Life. All five Bronze awards contain the common elements of experience, learning a skill, and sharing the experience and skill with others (see Religious Life Bronze for LDS Crews on pages 15-16). The Silver and Gold awards require a crew review (similar to a board of review). Requirements for the five Bronze Awards, Gold Award and Silver Award can be found in the Venturing Leader Manual and Venturer/Ranger Handbook.

The Venturing Gold award requires earning at least one Bronze award and accomplishing a personal growth goal in leadership, citizenship, service to others, community/family, outdoor experience and fitness.

The Venturing Silver award is the highest award a young man can earn. A young man must have completed the Gold award, fulfill requirements in emergency preparedness, complete the Venturing Leadership Skills Course and hold a leadership position.

The Venturing Ranger award encourages young men to achieve a high level of outdoor skill proficiency. They must complete eight core requirements and four of 18 electives. The Outdoor Bronze Award is half of the requirements. Once earned, the Ranger award identifies a young man as skilled in the outdoors, experienced in teaching, and ready to lead and assist others.

The Quest award encourages a wide variety of sports-related activities to help develop the whole person. It gives Venturers the opportunity to pursue a specific sports interest in a new way and provides a variety of hands-on sports experiences while promoting fitness and sportsmanship. The Sports Bronze Award is half of the requirements. Venturers must complete five core requirements and choose one of five electives.

The TRUST: Religious and Community Life Award helps Venturers learn about their religion, gives them the opportunity to pursue understanding and knowledge of cultures other than their own, and promotes understanding and tolerance. The award offers five areas of requirements; tending, respecting, understanding, serving and transforming. In addition, the TRUST award requires earning the Religious and Community Life Bronze Award and the religious emblem of the participants' faith.

A crew in Utah: “We have completed all of the core requirements for the Ranger Award. Now we are working on the electives; winter sports, wilderness survival, first aid and shooting sports. The reason we are doing Venturing is to train our young men in those things that will help them to prepare for their missions, teach them leadership, and give them the skills to help them throughout their lives.”

Program Planning Tools

Two resources that can help a ward implement a quality program for Priest-age young men are the Program Capability Inventory and the Venturing Activity Interest Survey.

The Program Capability Inventory, PCI (see page 10), should be copied and given to each adult in the ward by the young men. Take a few minutes in Priesthood Meeting opening exercises and Relief Society to have each person complete the form. This simple exercise will reveal many and varied resources that the crew can utilize in program planning.

The Venturing Activity Interest Survey, (AIS -see page 11), is given to each young man to complete. This reveals what the young men want to do.

The magic of this process is to then match the resources obtained from the PCI with the interests obtained from the youth survey. Using the results of the PCI and the AIS, the crew leadership creates an annual calendar. Young men are assigned as activity chairs to lead specific activities. Adults with specialized skills (revealed from the PCI) are asked to be consultants to work with the activity chairs to give leadership to each activity planned by the crew. A Priest Quorum in Nevada when compiling the results of the PCI discovered a brother in the ward that was a certified rock climbing instructor. He was more than willing to share his hobby with the young men. This crew has gone rappelling and rock climbing several times at no cost.

Packaged Programs

Ethical Controversies, located in the Venturing Leader Manual, No. 34655E, contains fun modules designed to help young men learn and understand both sides of a divisive issue. Divided into debate-style groups, they learn their position, present it, discuss the issue, reverse positions and try to reach consensus. This exercise encourages thought and discussion about ethical questions and empathy to opposing viewpoints. An Advisor in Utah speaks of bringing the editorial page of the newspaper on campouts and creating their own ethical controversies around the campfire.

A crew in Arizona: “The ethical controversies is a wonderful coaching tool to help the young men decide now how they will respond when choices come up in their lives that might lead them to destructive choices. The

“reflection” that we held after each activity before the closing prayer became the highlight of each event.”

Specific information on how to teach young men how to introduce a speaker, how to use the parliamentary procedure, and how to make a speech or presentations are also located in the Venturing Leader Manual.

The Venturing Leadership Skills Course, No. 34340C can be conducted by the youth crew officers to help teach leadership to the entire crew. It is a series of modules that contain team building activities, instruction and suggested reflection questions.

A recent letter from a crew advisor: “The Venturing Leadership Skills Course is one of the many things we have done within the Venturing program that has helped our Priest-age youth become well prepared for their missions. This last year we sent six out of seven former Priest Quorum members to missions around the world. All six were participants in the first full year of Venturing in our ward.”

How to Get Started

Experience tells us:

Don't announce in Priesthood Meeting or Mutual that there is a new program called Venturing and we're going to do it.

Do meet with one of the young men that is a leader. Without a sales pitch let him borrow a Venturer/Ranger Handbook. Ask him to look at it and report back in a week what he thinks.

Don't assume the young men want to earn Venturing awards.

Do assume that the young men want to have fun with their friends.

Don't say, do you want to work on the Outdoor Bronze Award?

Do ask them to choose from a list of over twenty outdoor activities the 4-6 they would like to do.

Getting Started:

- Purchase, or have the ward or stake purchase all or a portion of the following:
 - Venturing Leader Manual, No. 34655E
 - Venturing Leadership Skills Course, No. 34340C
 - Venturer/Ranger Handbook, No 33494C
- Elect or select crew leadership. Conduct crew officer briefing. (see Venturing Leader Manual). The Church Handbook of Instructions states that two Priests be called to be assistants to the Bishop. You have the latitude to give specific job descriptions to each. One may be the program

assistant; the other could be the administrative assistant. (see sample division of responsibilities grid on page 12.)

- Conduct the Program Capability Inventory with the adults in the ward
- Conduct the Venturing Activity Interest Survey with the Priests
- Hold brainstorming session with the Priests (see the Venturing Leader Manual)
- Schedule a retreat for an annual planning conference (see attached sample agenda on page 17)
- Create a draft document of annual calendar and present it to the parents (see sample annual calendar on pages 18-19)
(See Defining Success in a Priests Quorum/Venturing Crew on page 20.)
- Conduct the Venturing Leadership Skills Course

A crew advisor in Utah: “Our Venturers have learned to cook, communicate and find their way using a GPS. They know they can learn new and difficult skills and be proficient in them. They have learned to work together as a team and have helped to buoy one another up when times get tough. They have learned not to fear the unknown but to prepare for it. They have camped in the rain, sleet, snow, mud and absolutely freezing temperatures. They can cook without utensils and find food to eat off of the land.

If they can do all of that, they can learn to communicate with our Heavenly Father, feel the promptings of the Holy Ghost, teach by the Spirit, memorize the discussions, learn another language, introduce themselves to people from different cultures and backgrounds, read the Book of Mormon, eat strange food from distant lands, wash their clothes, and get along with a companion that might be totally different than themselves.

The scriptures teach us that ‘if ye are prepared, ye shall not fear’. These young men are prepared and when they hit the mission field they will hit it running... and have fun doing it!”

* * * * *

Letter from a missionary in the New Jersey Newark Mission to his Crew Advisor: “...Venturing is a perfect stepping stone to missionary work. The best thing it teaches that helps in missionary work is self-accountability...We are out here responsible for ourselves. Nobody sets appointments for us. Nobody plans our days for us. Nobody checks our obedience. We our responsible for all of this ourselves....Thanks you for all that you taught me while we were together.”

Program Capability Inventory

Instructions

Each year the Priests in our Venturing crew ask adults to help them create an exciting, balanced program. We would like to know in which areas of interests, hobbies, or contacts you would be willing to help. You are not signing up to be a leader in Venturing, you are making us aware of special skills and talents you have that might assist us in creating a fun, varied program. This survey will help us know and use the resources available.

Thank you for your willingness to assist us. Please complete this form and return to:

(Please complete)

Date: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home) _____ (business) _____ e-mail _____

Occupation _____ Position _____

Returned Missionary? _____ Mission/Language _____

Yes! I would be willing to help in the areas designated below:

Hobbies and Skills

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Archery___ | Caving___ | Hunting___ | Rock Climbing___ |
| Auto Mechanics___ | Canoeing___ | Kayaking___ | Rowing___ |
| Backpacking___ | Computers___ | Orienteering___ | Sailing___ |
| Baseball___ | Cross Country___ | Outdoor Living | Scuba Diving___ |
| Basketball___ | Diving___ | History___ | Shooting___ |
| Bicycling___ | Downhill Skiing___ | Photography___ | Snowboarding___ |
| Black Powder___ | Equestrian___ | Public Speaking___ | Snowmobiling___ |
| Bowling___ | First Aid___ | Rafting___ | Swimming___ |
| Camping___ | Fishing___ | Rappelling___ | Water Skiing___ |

Special Program Assistance

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| I have a station wagon___van___truck___ | I have a global positioning system___ |
| I have a workshop___ | I can teach music conducting___ |
| I have family camping gear___RV___ | I can help with family history___ |
| I have access to a cottage___camping property___ | I can help teach leadership skills___ |
| I have access to a boat___airplane___ | I can help with_____ |

Venturing Activity Interest Survey

Name _____ Date _____

Please check those activities that you would like the crew to plan as part of its program for the year.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Activities with Young Women | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Airplane ride | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice-Skating Party |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Airport Tour | <input type="checkbox"/> Job interviewing skills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archery | <input type="checkbox"/> Kayaking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Astronomy | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership skills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auto dealership | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifesaving, swimming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auto mechanics | <input type="checkbox"/> Military base trip |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backpacking | <input type="checkbox"/> Mission preparation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball/Softball | <input type="checkbox"/> Movies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beach party | <input type="checkbox"/> Music listening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling/Mountain Biking | <input type="checkbox"/> Orienteering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bike Hike | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor living history |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Powder rifles | <input type="checkbox"/> Pancake breakfast |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bowling | <input type="checkbox"/> Part-time jobs clinic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buy a car, how to | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camping trip | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical fitness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing | <input type="checkbox"/> Pizza party |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Car Wash | <input type="checkbox"/> Play, produce a |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Career clinic | <input type="checkbox"/> Progressive dinner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cave Exploring | <input type="checkbox"/> Project COPE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church historical site | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> College visit | <input type="checkbox"/> Returned missionary visits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computers | <input type="checkbox"/> Road Rally |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation project | <input type="checkbox"/> Rock climbing/Rappelling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking | <input type="checkbox"/> Rowing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Court session | <input type="checkbox"/> Sailing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cross Country skiing | <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships night |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dating tips | <input type="checkbox"/> Scuba diving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dancing | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior citizens, assistance to |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Debate training | <input type="checkbox"/> Skating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diet and nutrition | <input type="checkbox"/> Slide show, create a PowerPoint |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled citizens, assistance to | <input type="checkbox"/> Snorkeling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diving | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowboarding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Downhill Skiing | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drug abuse prevention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports tournament |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency preparedness | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming party |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family History | <input type="checkbox"/> Television station |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis clinic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First aid training | <input type="checkbox"/> Train trip |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing/Fly Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Skiing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Global Positioning System | <input type="checkbox"/> Weather Bureau |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ham radio | <input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness Survival |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking trail clean-up | <input type="checkbox"/> Winter camping trip |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horseback riding | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

**Priest Quorum/Venturing Crew
Division of Responsibilities**

Bishop	Young Men President Quorum & Crew Advisor	Administrative Assistant (Youth)	Assistant Quorum and Crew Advisor	Program Assistant (Youth) (Crew President)	Secretary (Youth)
President of Quorum	Responsible for Aaronic Priesthood	Schedules Presidency meetings	Responsible for mutual night	Maintains 3 month calendar – in charge of mutual	Keeps minutes of Presidency meetings
Conducts semi-annual interviews	Shadow Leader to youth leaders	Sacrament Coordinator	Shadow leader to youth leaders	Attends BYC	Service Coordinator
Conducts Bishops Youth Council (BYC)	Works closely with Administrative Assistant	Attends Presidency meetings	Works closely with Program Assistant	Attends Presidency meetings	Attends Presidency meetings
Conducts Aaronic Priesthood Committee Meeting (APCM)	Attends BYC, APCM, Presidency meeting	Activation Coordinator	Attends BYC, APCM, & Presidency meeting	Reports for the quorum in opening exercises	Takes roll in quorum meetings
Attends ward Scouting committee meeting	Attends ward Scouting committee meeting	Attends APCM	Attends ward Scouting committee meeting	Correlates with Young Women on joint activities	Maintains active quorum roster
Presides at Presidency meeting	Gives direction to quorum instruction	Rotates conducting quorum & presidency meetings	Helps with quorum instruction	Rotates conducting quorum & presidency meetings	Rotates conducting quorum & presidency meetings
		Coordinates missionary splits		Surveys adults for resources and youth for interests	

Duty to God – Venturing Requirements

Examples of dual credit as shown in the
Aaronic Priesthood Priest Guidebook and the Venturing Literature

Duty to God Certificate Requirements

Family activities #1 – pg.12

Family activities #4 - pg.12

Family activities #8 – pg.13

Family activities #9 – pg.13

Quorum activities #5 – pg.14

Quorum activities #6 – pg.14

Quorum activities #7 – pg.14

Spiritual Development #2 –pg.16

Spiritual Development #3 – pg.16

Spiritual Development #4 – pg.16

Spiritual Development #5 – pg.16

Spiritual Development #9 – pg.17

Physical Development #1 – pg.19

Physical Development #2 – pg.19

Physical Development #3 – pg.19

Physical Development #4 – pg.19

Physical Development #5 – pg.19

Venturing Award Requirements

Gold Award-Personal Growth goal
Venturer Handbook, pg.44

Gold Award Personal Growth goal
Venturer Handbook, pg.44

Gold Award Citizenship goal
Venturer Handbook, pg. 44

Outdoor Living History elective #1
Ranger Guidebook, pg. 43

Gold Award Leadership goal
Venturer Handbook, pg.44

Gold Award Leadership goal
Venturer Handbook, pg.44

Religious Life Bronze #3A
Venturer Handbook, pg.31

Gold Award Family goal
Venturer Handbook, pg.44

Gold Award Service goal
Venturer Handbook, pg.44

Religious Life Bronze #3A
Venturer Handbook, pg.31

Gold Award Personal Growth goal
Venturer Handbook, pg.44

Gold Award Service goal
Venturer Handbook, pg.44

Gold Award Fitness goal
Venturer Handbook, pg. 44

Backpacking elective #6B,C,D,E,F
Ranger Guidebook, pg. 23

Backpacking elective #1
Ranger Guidebook, pg. 22

Backpacking elective #1
Ranger Guidebook, pg.22

Arts & Hobbies Bronze #4D
Venturer Handbook, pg.34

Physical Development #6 – pg.19	Religious Life Bronze #6 Venturer Handbook, pg.32
Physical Development #7 – pg.19	Sports Bronze #3 Venturer Handbook, pg.28
Physical Development #9 – pg.19	Sports Bronze #7 Venturer Handbook, pg.29
Physical Development #10 –pg.19	Leave No Trace elective, #b Ranger Guidebook, pg.18
Physical Development #11 – pg.20	Gold Award Service goal Venturer Handbook, pg.44 and Arts & Hobbies Bronze #9 Venturer Handbook, pg.36
Physical Development #12 – pg.20	Gold Award Leadership goal Venturer Handbook, pg.44
Educational, Personal, Career #5 – pg.21	Venturing Fast Start, addendum L On BSA website – go to Venturing
Educational, Personal, Career #7 – pg.21	Gold Award Family goal Venturer Handbook, pg.44
Educational, Personal, Career #8 – pg.22	Gold Award Personal Growth goal Venturer Handbook, pg.44
Educational, Personal, Career #9 – pg.22	Religious Life Bronze #6 Venturer Handbook, pg.32
Educational, Personal, Career #10 – pg.22	Arts & Hobbies Bronze #10 Venturer Handbook, pg.36
Educational, Personal, Career #11 – pg.22	Religious Life Bronze #4a Venturer Handbook, pg.31
Educational, Personal, Career #12 – pg.22	Gold Award Personal Growth goal Venturer Handbook, pg.44
Citizenship & Social Development #1 – pg.23	Gold Award Leadership activity Venturer Handbook, pg.45
Citizenship & Social Development #4 – pg.24	Silver Award #5b Venturer Handbook, pg.58
Citizenship & Social Development #6 – pg.24	Gold Award Service goal Venturer Handbook, pg.44
Citizenship & Social Development #7 – pg.24	Gold Award Citizenship goal Venturer Handbook, pg.44
Citizenship & Social Development #8 – pg.25	Gold Award Citizenship goal Venturer Handbook, pg.44

Venturing
Religious and Community Life Bronze Award
For LDS Venturing Crews
Blend with standard requirements in Venturer Handbook

1. Earn the Duty to God Award or the On My Honor Award.

- 2c. Invite returned missionaries to give a presentation on a culture different than yours. Properly introduce your guests.
 - d. Participate in a discussion about what you learned from the returned missionaries with your crew, Sunday school class, seminary or other group.

3. Plan and lead a service project
 - 4a. Serve as a volunteer in your ward (such as serve in a church calling, sing in the choir, go on splits with the missionaries, go home teaching as a companion, be an assistant librarian, etc.) or another non-profit organization (tutoring, community food bank, hospital, rest home, community youth group, Boys Club, summer recreation volunteer, Cub Scout Day Camp, Red Cross, YMCA, Order of the Arrow, community sports program assistant coach, etc.) for at least three months.
 - b. Keep a personal journal or your experiences each time you worked as a volunteer.
 - c. After you have served for three months, share your experiences and how you feel about your service with others.

5. Attend one of the following: Youth conference, Especially For Youth (EFY), Education Week Classes, Mini-Mission, or religious historical site trek (such as Hill Cumorah Pageant or visit to Church History or Mormon Trail sites) or other similar religious retreat or religious trek lasting at least two days.

6. Produce or be a cast member in a road show, Christmas or Easter service or play, Priesthood Restoration Service participating as a speaker, choir member, or presenter. This could also be a play or puppet show put on by the Priest Quorum for the Primary or a Primary class to help teach a lesson with a religious theme.

7. Serve as an Assistant or Secretary to the Bishop in the Priests Quorum, or an officer in the Venturing Crew, Sunday school class, Seminary class, or other youth group in or out of the Church (to include the Order of the Arrow).

8. Complete a Standard First Aid course or higher course or its equivalent.

- 9a. Participate in at least two Ethical Controversies (pgs. 197-228 in Venturing Leader Manual) activities as a participant.

9b. Be a facilitator for at least two Ethical Controversies activities for your crew, another crew, your school class, a Boy Scout troop or Varsity Team, or another group.

9c. Lead or be a staff member in putting on an Ethics Forum (page 197 in Venturing Leader Manual) in the quorum, at mutual, your school class, a Boy Scout troop or Varsity Team, or another group.

10. Serve as an assistant Primary teacher for three months during Sunday School time. This would not necessarily be a calling, but simply an assignment coordinated with the Primary Presidency. During these three months, the assistant should be given opportunities to teach the class under the guidance of the regular Primary teacher. This is great preparation for a full-time mission.

11. Meet with your bishop or branch president to discuss: (a) the duties and responsibilities of the Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthoods; (b) the ward/branch organization—how it functions, how callings are made, how setting apart is done, and how people are provided training, materials, and help to do their callings; and (c) how the bishopric/branch presidency works, their duties and responsibilities.

Aaronic Priesthood Venturing Annual Planning Retreat Agenda

(This event is best held in a retreat setting)

Presiding:	Bishop- President of the Priests Quorum
Conducting:	Crew President (young man appointed by the Bishop or elected by peers)
In Attendance:	Bishop, Young Mens President, Venturing crew advisor, Crew president, other Priests Quorum assistant(s), Quorum secretary
Materials Needed:	Results from <i>Program Capability Inventory</i> (adult survey). Results from <i>Activity Interest Survey</i> (young men survey). 12 months calendar for each participant (preferably with church, school, community and vacation dates already inserted). Maps, brochures, material, from nearby campgrounds, attractions, etc. Priest Duty to God book, Venturer/Ranger Handbook, Venturing Leader Manual, Venturing Leadership Skills Course.

I. Discuss program planning process

1. Determine the activity(what is to be accomplished)
2. Identify resources(equipment, costs, manpower)
3. Consider alternatives (brainstorm how to accomplish)
4. Reach a decision (what, when, where, make assignments)
5. Conduct the activity
6. Evaluate the activity

II. Annual planning

- Review *Program Capability Inventory* and *Venturing Activity Interest Survey*
- Match the *Venturing Activity Interest Survey* results with the *Program Capability Inventory* (PCI). Where a suggested activity from the young men matches a resource from the PCI, you have a program
- Put 12 monthly calendars on the wall or hand-out calendars and write in dates of suggested activities. Avoid conflicts with church, school, vacations, etc.
- Appoint a Priest to chair each event. Select an adult consultant from the PCI to assist the Priest.
- Create a “draft” document to share with other quorum members and parents

Aaronic Priesthood Venturing Sample Annual Plan

Blending the Duty to God program with Venturing resources into mutual night activities

Note: Venturing resources are **bold**

August

1 **Conduct Program Capability Inventory (PCI) with adult ward members and other adults in the community**

4 **Conduct Venturing Activity Interest Survey (AIS) with young men**

7 15 mile hike

8 Presidency meeting

11 Assist two elderly couples

18 Missionary splits

25 Joint Activity

September

1 **Leadership Skills Course- Vision**

3-4 **Advisors, Bishop and youth leaders conduct annual planning session in a retreat setting- (survey results from young men and resources found from PCI resulted in the young men deciding on the following activities; rock climbing, snorkeling, backpacking, bike hike, outdoor living history and shooting sports).Share draft calendar with parents. Appoint activity chairs(young men) to each activity on annual calendar**

8 **How to find a job, prepare resume**

12 Presidency meeting

15 Learn to conduct music

22 Joint Activity

29 **Snorkeling instruction at city pool**

October

6 Quorum service project

10 Presidency meeting

13 Auto Insurance discussion at Insurance Office

20 Visit car dealership

27 Joint activity

November

3 **Ethical Controversies & Youth Protection video (Personal Safety Awareness)**

10 **Rock climbing at indoor gym**

14 Presidency meeting

17 Visit Court House and Judge's chambers

24 Joint Activity

December

1 **Ethical Controversies with Laurels**

8 Visit care center

12 Presidency meeting

15 **Snorkeling II**

22 Joint Activity

29 No Mutual

January

- 5 Learn greetings in 5 languages from returned missionaries
- 9 Presidency meeting
- 12 Visit Emergency Room
- 19 **How to introduce a speaker and learn parliamentary procedure**
- 26 Joint Activity

February

- 2 Panel discussion with newly married couples
- 4-5 Winter camp-out
- 9 **Leadership Skills Course – Communication**
- 13 Presidency meeting
- 16 Basketball
- 23 Joint Activity

March

- 2 Personal History night at Family History Center
- 9 **Rock Climbing II**
- 13 Presidency meeting
- 16 **Leadership Skills Course – Organization**
- 23 Joint Activity
- 30 Meal manners night with Laurels

April

- 6 Quorum Service Project
- 10 Presidency meeting
- 13 **Outdoor Living History – Pioneer night**
- 20 **Ethical Controversies**
- 23 Ten mile bike activity
- 27 Joint Activity

May

- 4 Sports night-learn to officiate
- 8 Presidency meeting
- 11 **Leadership Skills Course - Synergism**
- 18 **Gun safety instruction**
- 25 Joint Activity

June

- 1 Quorum Service Project
- 8 **Shooting at outdoor range**
- 11 **Snorkeling at lake**
- 12 Presidency meeting
- 15 Missionary splits
- 22 Joint Activity
- 29 Video games and smoothies

July

- 6 Softball with Laurels
- 10 Presidency meeting
- 13 Tour County Jail
- 15-16 30 mile bike activity
- 20 Pioneer celebration and barbecue
- 27 Joint Activity

Defining Success in a Aaronic Priesthood Venturing Crew

- Young men have completed the activity interest survey.
- Adults in the ward have completed the Program Capability Inventory.
- Quorum/Crew has a “draft” annual calendar and a working three-month calendar which includes activities chosen by the young men and utilizes consultants from the ward.
- Mutual night activities are lead by youth activity chairs.
- Young men have opportunities to teach others.
- The Venturing Leadership Skills Course has been conducted by the youth.
- The Quorum/Crew presidency has defined duties and meets as needed to plan and administer the program. Boys lead with adult shadow leaders.

As a result of implementing these Venturing resources we have noticed the following:

- Mutual night attendance has increased.
- Attendance at Quorum meeting on Sunday has increased.
- Quorum unity has improved.
- Young men feel empowered and take more ownership in the quorum/crew.

Ultimate “Success” means:

- Young men have been drawn closer to Christ as a result of implementing Venturing in the Priest Quorum
- Young men are worthy to make and keep sacred covenants
 - Ordination to the Melchizedek Priesthood
 - Endowment in the temple
- Young men have committed to serve a full-time mission

Awards Available to LDS Venturers

