



# VENTURING CREW 176

NARBERTH, PENNSYLVANIA

## Awards FAQ



Silver Award



Gold Award



Bronze Award



Ranger Award



Trust Award



Quest Award

# ***Frequently Asked Questions about Venturing Awards and Recognition***

## **How will earning awards in Venturing help me?**

There are at least three good reasons to try to earn awards in Venturing:

1. Setting and achieving goals for awards will bring you personal pride and help you gain valuable skills.
2. An award looks *great on a resume or college application!*
3. Some awards can qualify you for a college scholarship given only to people who have earned those awards.

## **Do I need to earn awards in order to be in Venturing?**

No, you don't need to earn awards to have fun and be part of Venturing. Venturing is whatever you want to make of it!

## **What awards can I earn in Venturing?**

Venturing offers many opportunities for you to be recognized for what you do in Venturing and in the other things you do in school and extracurricular activities.

There are the *general* Venturing awards, starting with a *Bronze Award* and moving up to the *Gold Award* and then to the *Silver Award*, the highest award in Venturing (equivalent to the Eagle Scout Award).

There are also *specialty* Venturing awards. They also start with a Bronze Award, which can be earned for *outdoor skills*, or *sports*, or *religious life*, or *arts and hobbies*, or *Sea Scouts*. After finishing a Bronze, you can go on to earn the highest awards in three of the four specialties: the *Ranger Award* (outdoors), *Quest Award* (sports), or *Trust Award* (religious life).

There are lots of other awards and recognition too. Examples include the Leave No Trace Award, the National Camping Award (for camping in a tent for more than 100 nights), the Mile Swim Award (yes, for swimming a mile!), the William T. Hornaday Awards (for distinguished service in conservation), and so forth.

Finally, Venturers can be recognized for their dedication and commitment to leadership in Venturing. The Scouting organization for the Philadelphia area -- the Cradle of Liberty Council -- awards annual Venturing Leadership Awards. The national Boy Scouts of America also has a National Youth Leadership Society for Venturers who complete leadership training and serve in leadership roles.

## **What is the highest award in Venturing?**

The Venturing Silver Award is the highest *overall award* in Venturing. Venturers who complete this award will have it presented in a special Court of Honor just for them. They will also be invited to attend the Cradle of Liberty Council's annual banquet honoring recipients of the Silver Award and the Eagle Scout Award, and they can also compete for a college scholarship from the Council.

The Ranger, Quest, and Trust Awards are the *highest awards in their specialty areas*, and are also a true distinction to receive.

## **How do I earn awards in Venturing?**

Each award has a set of requirements you must complete, although usually you have some choice in which requirements you do. By participating actively in Venturing meetings and outings, you will often complete some requirements for awards without even thinking about it. However, to complete most awards you will need a plan.

Your Crew Advisor can help you come up with a plan of action. For some requirements, you will need to work on your own and then bring evidence of what you have done to the Advisor. For others, you may need to meet with another adult who has specialized knowledge – also known as a consultant. For example, you may need to work with your church leader to complete requirements for the Religious Life Bronze Award.

Your Advisor will help you identify who to work with to finish requirements. That person -- whether a consultant, another Venturer's parent, an Associate Advisor in the Crew, or your Crew Advisor -- will need to sign off that you have finished the requirements. Just ask that person to initial and date your book or write a note you can give your Advisor when you are done with a requirement.

## **Can I turn in a note from a parent or other adult family member or have them sign off that I have finished a Venturing award requirement?**

No, family members cannot sign off on your award requirements. The only exception is if a parent or adult family member teaches a skill at a Crew meeting or leads a Crew activity that completes a requirement and you were one of a group of Venturers involved in that meeting or activity. Even then, you should try to see your Crew Advisor to get your requirement signed off.

## **Can I work on more than one requirement at the same time?**

Most certainly – yes!

## **How do I find out what the requirements are for Venturing awards?**

The best thing to do is ask your Crew Advisor who can get you a copy of the requirements. You can also find the requirements online following links at the Crew 176 website ([crew176.org](http://crew176.org)). Or you can buy a Venturer/Ranger Handbook from the Scout Store in Wayne or Philadelphia. The Crew also has a Ranger Award resource book that has the outdoor award requirements as well as resources to help you complete them.

## **Do I have to follow the requirements exactly as they are written?**

For the Outdoor Bronze Award, Ranger Award, Gold Award, and Silver Award, you must complete the requirements exactly as written in the Venturer/Ranger Handbook, no more and no less. For other Bronze Awards, you and your Advisor may agree *in advance* to modified or alternative requirements if appropriate for your interests.

## **Who keeps track of what I have done toward Venturing awards?**

You should always try to keep track yourself. One way to do so is to get a copy of the Venturer/Ranger Handbook and have your Advisor or consultant sign off on requirements in the book. You can also simply make a photocopy of the requirements. In addition, the Crew has an Associate Advisor for Awards and Recognition who keeps records. You can ask to see the Crew's Awards Progress Book to see where you stand on finishing different awards.

## **Can activities or work I do for one Venturing award requirement count toward another Venturing award requirement?**

Yes, unless the requirement says otherwise, you can count work done for one requirement toward another identical requirement. The Venturer Handbook gives an example: "If you get certified in Standard First Aid, you can use this credit toward the first aid requirement for the Silver Award, Ranger Award, and Youth Ministries Bronze Award."

If you are working toward the Ranger Award, please note that the Ranger Handbook states that "you cannot receive multiple credit ... when you are required to do a tabletop display or presentation. If a core requirement or elective requires you to do a tabletop display or presentation on a particular subject, then it must be done just on that subject, not two or more at a time."

## **Can activities or work I did before becoming a Venturer count toward fulfilling a Venturing award requirement?**

Ordinarily, no. The awards are, after all, Venturing Awards. However, if you feel you have a special circumstance, you can discuss the situation with your Crew Advisor. For example, for requirements that call for some kind of certification – like Standard First Aid or Lifeguard certification – you can use any current certification to meet that requirement, no matter when your first completed it.

For the Outdoor Bronze and Ranger Awards, the Ranger Handbook states that “[a]ll core requirements and electives require you to do work as a Venturer. As an example, you may have earned the Backpacking merit badge as a Boy Scout, but you must do all that is required in the Ranger backpacking elective as a Venturer.”

## **How long does it take to earn an award?**

The amount of time is entirely up to you, depending on how quickly you complete requirements. According to the Ranger Handbook, “it will probably take over a year to complete all the requirements” for the Ranger Award. The same thing might be said for the Quest, Trust, Gold, and Silver Awards. But ultimately, it is up to you and you can go at whatever pace you set.

## **As a Venturer, can I work on Boy Scout awards?**

If you have already achieved First Class as a Boy Scout in a troop, then you may keep working toward the ranks of Star, Life and Eagle as a Venturer, up to the point you turn 18 years of age. The normal rank requirements apply, although you can use service as a Crew President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer to fulfill your leadership requirements and your Crew Advisor can conduct your Scoutmaster conferences.

## **What is Sea Scouting and does it have awards too?**

Sea Scouting is a part of Venturing that is dedicated to boating and water activities. Instead of meeting as Crews, Sea Scouts meet in units called Ships. Sea Scouts can earn any of the Venturing Awards, and can also earn a series of special Sea Scouting Awards as well. The Sea Scout Awards include the Sea Scouting Bronze Award as well as a progression of awards: (1) Apprentice, (2) Ordinary, (3) Able, (4) Quartermaster (the highest award in Sea Scouting).