



VENTURING • BSA

CREW

7

INFORMATION HANDBOOK

CREW 7's WEB PAGE

[www:geocities.com/Yosemite/Cabin/1592](http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Cabin/1592)

Parents of Venturing Crew 7:

The Committee of Troop 7 and the Christ Lutheran Church, East Lyme, are please to announce the formation of a new Venturing Crew in our community.

The Boy Scouts of America have established this new and exciting program in recognition of the unique needs and challenges that face our young adults today.

Young adults involved in Venturing will:

- **Learn to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling the values in the Venturing Oath and Code.**
- **Experience a program that is fun and full of challenge and adventure.**
- **Become a skilled training and program resource for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and other groups.**
- **Acquire skills in the areas of high adventure...**
- **Experience positive leadership from adult and youth leaders and be given opportunities to take on leadership roles.**
- **Have a chance to learn and grow in a supportive, caring, and fun environment.**

Unique Characteristics of VENTURING CREW 7

- **Venturing Crew 7 will be a coed unit open to all young adults in the East Lyme community age 14 – 20.**
- **Our area of expertise will be in the High Adventure programs, developing mastery in outdoor skills i.e. Camping, Backpacking, Hiking, Aquatics.**
- **Be an extension of Troop 7.**
- **Provide additional opportunities to local Girl Scouts.**
- **Allow those scouts who have made 1st Class or higher to continue on their road to EAGLE.**
- **Encourage all Venturers to obtain the long standing and proud tradition of obtaining the advancement of BSA RANGER.**

VENTURING and TROOP 7.

Venturing will be available to all scouts in the area once they reached the age of 14. Venturing will be the next level in scouting just like Cub Scouts advancing to Boy Scouts. The intent is to give all Boy Scouts in Troop 7 and other troops, the opportunity to join Venturing Crew 7 once they graduated from 8th grade and have reached the age of 14.

There are several advantages to this approach. They are but not limited to the following:

- Allow high school age participants to more actively interact with their peer group.
- Give long-standing scouts another motive to stick to scouting at a time when we lose a number of our scouts due to boredom.
- Provide additional resources, more specialized training, to the Troop.
- COED!!!
- Allow other high school age students to join Boy Scouts who may not be interested, or too late, in participating in the traditional BSA advancements.
- Allow those scouts who have obtained the rank of 1st Class or higher, to continue on their road to EAGLE.
- Have meetings geared towards the issues facing our young adults today.
- Open up more leadership positions to the Scouts and Ventures.

Note to parents of Troop 7 and its Leaders:

I am very comfortable with this two-tier system since I participated in one when I was a scout. Our charter organization sponsored a BSA Troop and an Explorer Post. Every scout in our troop who reached high school age automatically transferred to the Explorer Post. For me personally, I can attest that this approach kept me in scouting for the long haul, which led to my obtaining the rank of Eagle. As we all know, the interests of a 15 – 18 year olds are quite different than 11 – 13 year olds. This program recognizes those important differences and uses them to create a program geared towards the young adults.

Having surveyed the scouts in our troop, the overwhelming percentage are very excited over the concept and have expressed a strong desire to see a Venturing Crew be developed to augment Troop 7. If a high school age scout prefers to stay a Boy Scout, we will certainly honor that. Also, any scout may dual register with the Venturing Crew and Troop 7. Keep in mind that the members of Crew 7 will remain active as expert resources for the troop.

Note to Parents of Girl Scouts and their Leaders:

Girl Scouting is an exciting opportunity for young girls. My own daughter is very active in a local Girl Scout troop and enjoys all of the activities offered to her. She does express the desire to do more outdoor activities and often asks if she could join her brother and me on some of our camping trips. She is very excited about Venturing and has expressed a strong desire to join once she reaches high school age. Again, my intention is to augment the Girl Scout program and provide an excellent resource for the local Girl Scout Troops. Girls are eligible to earn the

ranks in Venturing and participate in Boy Scout functions. Several young ladies provide Staff support to Boy Scout Reservations and Camps during the summer. Our own troop had a young lady counselor at Cederlands Scout Reservation located in the Andirondiks of New York. She supported the older scouts who went on a High Adventure outing involving several days of hiking and canoeing. As with Boy Scouts, any girl may dual register with the Venturing Crew and a Girl Scout Troop.

I am very excited about this new program and will be having Parent and new member information meetings in September 1999. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me at 739-7176.

**Matt Green
Crew Advisor**