

VENTURING

Venturing is a youth-development program for young men and women who are 14 (and have completed the eighth grade) through 20 years of age. It is:

- Designed to help meet the needs, wants, and problems of this young adult generation.
- A novel program that includes emphasis on outdoor, high adventure activities while providing members with community service, fitness, and social activities under the guidance of experienced adults.
- A great way for young men and women to learn leadership and problem-solving skills that will help them to mature into confident, successful adults.

PURPOSE: Venturing is an effective coed young-adult program designed to improve character, citizenship, and fitness through positive experiences and activities which prepare them to become responsible and caring adults.

PROGRAM: Venturing is based on a unique and dynamic relationship between youth and adult advisers serving as resources and mentors. The resulting program is filled with exciting and meaningful activities that help youth pursue their special interests; to grow; to develop personal, social, and leadership skills; and to become good citizens.

METHODS: The Venturing program has been carefully designed to achieve the aims of the Boy Scouts of America and meet the needs of young adults. Included in the methods of Venturing are:

- **Leadership**—Opportunities to apply proven leadership skills are provided to the Venturers.

- **Group Activities**—Venturers enjoy interdependent group experiences in which success is dependent on the cooperation of all.
- **Adult Association**—Working closely with adult advisors and other adult leaders, the youth officers lead the crew. The adults serve in a “shadow” leader capacity.
- **Recognition**—Venturers’ achievements are recognized through the Venturing advancement program and through the acknowledgement of a youth’s competence and ability by peers and adults.
- **Ideals**—Venturers are expected to know and live by the Venturing Oath and Code. They promise to be faithful in their religious duties, to treasure their American heritage, to help others, and to seek truth and fairness.
- **High Adventure**—Venturing’s emphasis on high adventure helps provide team-building opportunities, new meaningful experiences, practical leadership application, and life-long memories to young adults.
- **Teaching Others**—All of the Venturing Awards require Venturers to teach what they have learned to others. In so doing, they strengthen their knowledge, gain confidence, and acquire skills that can benefit them for the rest of their lives.
- The president appoints a chartered organization representative.
- The chartered organization representative appoints an organizing committee of club members and other interested adults.
- The organizing committee identifies and recruits unit leaders and committee members.
- The leaders are trained in program planning (Fast Start training).
- The program is planned for at least the first six months.
- An orientation session is held with prospective Scouts and their parents.
- Youth are registered.
- Unit meetings begin.
- Unit is installed and the charter is presented at a formal ceremony held at a meeting of the club.

ORGANIZING A SCOUTING UNIT

- The Optimist Club leadership and Board are informed about Scouting.
- The Club officially adopts Scouting and agrees to organize a unit or units.



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Optimist International AND SCOUTING

Character-Building

Service To Country

Service To Others

Service To Self



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

OPTIMISM AND THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA (BSA) have been serving youth together since the mid-1920s. The longest-tenured Optimist unit is Scout Troop 3, chartered to the Optimist Club of North Hollywood, California; Troop 3 has been delivering its high-quality program to youth since 1926. As an organization endorsed by the Board of Directors of Optimist International, the BSA has been able to actively support local Optimist Clubs in serving the youth of their communities through the use of Scouting programs. Optimist International ranks in the top 10 among all civic organizations in the sponsorship of Scout units.

The partnership between Optimist International and the Boy Scouts of America is mutually beneficial, as it:

- provides an opportunity for the club to serve youth through time-tested, high-quality programs—Cub Scouting for boys in first through fifth grades, Boy Scouting for boys who are 11 through 17 years of age, and Venturing for young men and women who are 14 through 20 years of age.
- presents the club with a program that is owned and operated by the local club.
- provides liability insurance for the club and its officers and directors, along with access to low-cost accident insurance for the adult and youth members of the Scouting program.
- presents greater opportunity for positive publicity for the club as club members and Scouts interact on activities.
- exposes the parents of Scouts to the philosophy, objectives, and programs of Optimism. The parents in turn are prospective Optimists.

WHY SCOUTING?

Our future lies with our children and the challenges and problems they face can often seem insurmountable. Today, more than ever before, our young people need the guidance and mentoring of positive adult role models. By chartering a Scouting unit, an Optimist Club can provide a positive alternative to the youth of their community.

Optimist Clubs in many countries have joined with their national Scouting associations to assure young people a Scouting opportunity. For more than 80 years, Scouting and Optimist Clubs have worked together. The positive expression of values in the Scout Oath, Law, slogan, and motto mirror the Optimist Creed and the objective of “Bringing out the Best in Kids.”

Optimists have long served as role models and mentors, demonstrating by example the skills of leadership and character, as well as the value of positive selfless service to the community. Optimist Clubs in the United States charter more than 300 units (Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, and Venturing crews) and serve more than 13,000 youth.

CUB SCOUTING

Cub Scouting has distinct, age-appropriate program levels. Tiger Cubs is a one-year program for first grade (or 7-year old) boys and their adult partners. The Cub Scout program is for boys who are in the second through fifth grades (or 8, 9, and 10 years old). It is:

- Home-centered and family building.
- Filled with fun, action, and adventure to help build fitness, character, and good citizenship traits in boys through family emphasis.



- A boy's first experience in growing up as a member of a group.

PURPOSE: The Boy Scouts of America created Cub Scouting in 1930 to help advance the character development and spiritual growth of young boys. This central mission of Cub Scouting might be even more important to boys growing up in the 21st century than it was for those early Cub Scouts more than 70 years ago.

PROGRAM: Local Cub Scouting activities involve parents, adult leaders, and friends of Cub Scouts in home-centered programs that teach life skills, habits, values, and attitudes consistent with the interests of their faith and community. Millions of boys and their families participate in Cub Scouting, the largest of the three Boy Scouts of America membership divisions.

METHODS: Cub Scouting encourages each boy to strive for his personal best, a lesson that will help him achieve success as he enters Boy Scouting—and throughout his adult life. Cub Scout activities encourage character development, physical coordination, family unity, and enthusiasm for learning. Cub Scouting helps boys develop a sense of teamwork, achievement, self-confidence, and respect for others. Learning to master new skills helps the Cub Scout realize his own abilities and discover that his can-do attitude is the first sign of success in any endeavor. In fact, that's the Cub Scout motto: DO YOUR BEST.

BOY SCOUTING

Boy Scouting is for boys who are at least 10½ years old and have completed the fifth grade or are 11 through 17 years old. It is:

- Filled with troop and patrol activities designed to help build personal skills, teamwork, and leadership.

- An action-packed way to teach leadership, service, and respect for others.
- Adventure and fun outdoor experiences under the guidance of adult leaders.
- A program that provides plenty of opportunity for individual growth at a boy's own pace.

PURPOSE: Boy Scouting encourages boys to develop physical, mental, and emotional fitness and to adopt and live by meaningful personal standards as a cornerstone for success in life. These values include the basic principles found in the Scout Oath and Law.

PROGRAM: Boy Scouts learn to develop personal strengths by example and through hands-on experience. Activities include fitness and leadership training, wilderness adventures, and merit badge incentives for boys mastering hobby and career skills. Scouting encourages boys to expand and test their personal initiative, courage, and resourcefulness.

METHODS: Boy Scouts learn some of life's more serious lessons while having fun. Boys learn about important values, such as helping oneself by helping others and honoring the basic rights of others. Boy Scouting's active learning experiences include hiking, camping, and other outdoor expeditions; competitive individual and team sports activities; and community or religious service projects. Many Boy Scouts first practice basic leadership, self-government, and citizenship skills during regular troop meetings and campouts.