



Gold Award

Growth Opportunities in Leadership

Development for Venturers

Introduction

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

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.



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- (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)

Venturing Gold Award Application

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

Part I—Personal Data:

Name _____ Nickname _____
Address _____ P.O. Box _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ Birthdate _____
School/College _____ Grade _____
Church or Religious Affiliation _____
Date Entered Venturing _____ Date Bronze earned _____

Part II—Requirements (as they pertain to the requirements for the Gold Award; attach additional sheets as necessary):

A. Tenure: _____ months Qualified: _____
(Advisor—sign/date)

B. Leadership: _____

Qualified: _____
(Advisor—sign/date)

C. Participation (district, council, area, regional, national events):

Qualified: _____
(Advisor—sign/date)

D. Personal Growth (describe briefly at 1–6 below):
1. _____ 4. _____
2. _____ 5. _____
3. _____ 6. _____
Approved: _____ Completed: _____
(Advisor/crew committee—sign) (Venturer—sign/date)
Qualified: _____
(Advisor—sign/date)

E. Crew/Ship Activities (describe briefly at 1 and 2 below):
1. _____
Approved: _____ Completed: _____
(Advisor/crew committee—sign) (Venturer—sign/date)
2. _____
Approved: _____ Completed: _____
(Advisor/crew committee—sign) (Venturer—sign/date)

F. Oral Presentation:

Made before Venturing crew on _____
(Date)

Completed: _____
(Venturer—sign/date)

Qualified: _____
(Advisor—sign/date)

G. Letters of Recommendation/Statements of Venturer's Conduct:

_____ School/Church _____ Employer/Community Leader _____ Neighbor/Acquaintance

Qualified: _____
(Advisor—sign/date)

H. Presentation (orally and in writing):

Made before Venturing crew review committee on _____
(Date)

Qualified: _____
(Review committee chairman—sign/date)

I. Qualified before 21st birthday? YES/NO _____
(Advisor—sign/date)

Part III—Certification of Candidate:

Since becoming a candidate for the Gold Award, I have planned, developed, and completed the activities and projects required for qualification for the award. I subscribe to the Venturing Oath, and I consider my conduct to be in keeping with the principles of the Boy Scouts of America.

(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 Gold Award, that he/she has fulfilled the requirements for the award, and that he/she has my/our complete recommendation for recognition of this significant achievement.

Advisor _____ Date _____

Crew committee chairman _____ Date _____

Part V—Council Certification/Recognition:

Region _____ Area _____ Council _____
(Name) (Number)

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

Scout executive _____ Date _____

Part VI—Presentation:

The Gold Award was presented to _____

on _____ in ceremonies at _____

Advisor/crew officer _____