

TOPIC: Crew Boards of Review

Participants will be able to answer the following questions by the end of the session:

- Explain the purpose of a crew Board of Review
- Explain the outcomes of a crew Board of Review
- Describe how a Board of Review can serve as a tool for personal growth
- Describe the difference between a Summit Board of Review and a crew Board of Review

Presentation Method

In planning the presentation, you should review the latest materials posted at <http://www.venturing.org/>. The most recent program updates and resources are posted there are ready for your use.

Use the discussion outline below to help you prepare your remarks. PowerPoint presentation slides were not prepared for use during this session. If you wish to use one, the content below will be helpful in constructing your presentation.

Resources

- Boy Scouts of America (2014). *Handbook for Venturers*. Irving, TX: Boy Scouts of America (BSA No. 619088)
- Boy Scouts of America (2014). *Venturing Advisors Guide*. Irving, TX: Boy Scouts of America (BSA No. 618768)
- Boy Scouts of America (2015). *Venturing Board of Review Guide*. Irving, TX: Boy Scouts of America (BSA No. 512-940)

OVERVIEW The Venturing awards program hinges on the execution of correct Boards of Review. This session will discuss methods and rationale for administering proper Boards of Review.

INTRODUCTION After their adventures, it is natural for young people to want to tell the world about what they have done. A board of review gives Venturers an opportunity to relive the thrills, their accomplishments, and the lessons they have learned—and to get excited about them all over again! In listening to these stories, the board of review will learn how the candidate achieved the award requirements, and gain insight not only into the participant’s progress and growth, but also the unit’s program.

OUTCOMES The purpose of a Board of Review is to provide a forum for a Venturer to reflect on their experiences in earning an award and share their attitudes, accomplishments, and ideals with their peers. The goal of any Board of Review should be to encourage introspection within the Venturer and instill a desire to continue their efforts towards self-improvement.

**DISCOVERY +
PATHFINDER** Boards of Review at the Discovery and Pathfinder Award levels should be conducted in a relaxed and positive environment, striving for a rewarding experience for everyone involved.
The crew Board of Review for the Discovery and Pathfinder awards should be

conducted by the youth of the crew. The Board Chair should be the Crew President (or Vice President, if the President is the subject of the Board of Review). During the Board of Review process, the panel of youth will discuss with the Venturer some of the activities and adventures that formed the basis for their accomplishments leading to the award.

Boards of Review can be used as a chance to reevaluate the crew's program and tailor activities and adventures to the interests of the Venturers in the crew. It is an opportunity to build a stronger and more cohesive unit, and to generally get youth excited for the Venturing program.

SUMMIT

The Summit Award Board of Review is slightly different from a traditional crew Board of Review due to the stature of the award. The organization of the board is different, however the overarching goal of the Board is still to provide an opportunity for reflection and its accompanying personal growth.

The Board of Review should discuss how the ALPS Model has influenced the Venturer's journey through the program, and especially how the Summit Award project reflects some of the Venturer's experiences. The atmosphere should remain relaxed with an intention of providing the Venturer with a new perspective on the Venturing program.

The key difference between a crew Board of Review for Discovery or Pathfinder and a Summit Award Board of Review is the level of crew involvement. A Summit Board of Review expands the panel composition to include representatives of the community and broader Scouting organization, empowering the Venturer to share their experiences with more people. These two processes also differ in their emphasis on the experiences of the youth. A crew Board of Review may focus more on individual adventures, whereas a Summit Board of Review may be more specific to the project or other more abstract concepts.

ALPS MODEL CONNECTION

In the course of the Board's discussions with the Venturer, they should try to ask questions or lead the discussion onto each point of the ALPS Model. The goal of this line of discussion is to promote an awareness among crew members of the possibilities for growth provided by crew program and activities.

The reflections and stories that are the foundation of any Venturing Board of Review complement the ALPS Model's focus on Personal Growth. Through reflection and discussion, Venturers are able to understand ways to improve the program of the crew and their own conduct or attitudes. This potential for growth should not be underestimated, especially as a Board of Review should be an experience that Venturers look forward to.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use the discussion questions to provide advisors an opportunity to process and analyze the information presented during this session. As a general suggestion, keep the discussion positive and constructive, in keeping with the values of Scouting and of

Venturing as a youth development program.

To keep the discussion moving in a positive direction, ask, “how does [comment] promote a youth-designed and youth-led program?”

- What role can advisors play in encouraging youth to honestly evaluate their peers?
- How can youth promote the awards program amongst themselves through the Board of Review process?
- Do Boards of Review encourage competition between youth? Can this be positive?
- What is the difference between Boy Scout advancement and Venturing recognition?

CLOSURE

Wrap up conversation. Close by asking participants how they will use what they learned during this evening’s roundtable to support their crew’s program.

ASSESSMENT

Look for participant answers to the following questions by the end of the session:

- What is the purpose and outcome of a crew Board of Review?
- How does the Board of Review process incorporate the ALPS Model?
- In which ways is a Summit Board of Review different from a crew Board of Review? In which ways are they similar?