

TOPIC: Crew Induction Ceremony

Participants will answer the following questions by the end of the session:

- What is the purpose of an induction ceremony for a crew?
- What should be included in a crew induction ceremony?

Presentation Method

In planning the presentation, you should review the latest materials posted at <http://www.venturing.org/> The most recent program information is posted there and is 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 (2014). *Venturing Awards and Requirements*. Irving, TX: Boy Scouts of America (BSA No. 618767)

OVERVIEW The first level of recognition in Venturing is the Venturing Award. The focus of this recognition is helping to orient a Venturer to a crew and the program it delivers.

INTRODUCTION Requirement 4 for the Venturing Award:

 “State your intention to join the crew by participating in an induction ceremony during which you repeat and commit to live by the Scout Oath and Scout Law and the Venturing motto: Lead the Adventure.”

BACKGROUND An induction ceremony is sometimes called an investiture ceremony. In its original meaning, an *investiture* was the clothing of a new officeholder in garments that symbolized power. In Scouting, an investiture is a time where a new member of the movement more symbolically takes on the vestments (clothing) related to their new role – or arrival – as a member of the world Scout movement.

EXPLANATION **What is the purpose of an induction ceremony?**¹
 The investiture ceremony is the time when a Venturer, by means of the words of the Scout Promise, publicly announces their commitment to the Scout Law. At the ceremony, the Venturer makes the Promise to the Scouts and Scouters of their troop and to all the Scouts of the world. It is once the candidate has made the promise that they is a Scout.

¹ Adapted from Scout Investiture Ceremony. Retrieved on 2018 March 8 from https://scoutdocs.ca/Documents/Scout_Investiture.php

The investiture is the beginning of a special time in a young adult’s life. Venturers are entering the stage of life when they desire to break away from their parents, find out about the world, and try to shape their own identity in it. It is Scouting's desire that a major part of the identity that these young people form is that of being a Scout.

For most Scouts, making the Scout Promise means making a commitment that their parents have not. Because of this, the point of making the Promise is an act of breaking away from their parents; of asserting a separate identity. If young people have the opportunity to safely break away from their parents, they will not feel the need to break away in other, less-safe ways, such as by joining teen gangs or by the use of drugs. In support of this, parents should not be present at the investiture ceremony.

What should be included in an induction ceremony?

The requirement as stated is fairly straightforward: “State your intention to join the crew by participating in an induction ceremony during which you repeat and commit to live by the Scout Oath and Scout Law and the Venturing motto: Lead the Adventure.”

There is no requirement that the words of the Scout Oath and Law be memorized. For current or former members of the movement, they are probably already familiar with them. The words can be posted, or the Venturing award candidate can repeat them after the crew president leads them through them, a line at a time.

There is value in crafting an induction ceremony so that it expresses the interests of the crew.

- An outdoor oriented crew might want to carry this out at the end of a campfire program
- A crew with an interest in exploring their faith may find it appropriate to carry out a ceremony in a chapel or sanctuary.
- It is permissible to adapt existing induction and investiture ceremonies to meet the needs of a crew. As the crew’s customs and interests evolve, it is acceptable to revise the investiture to meet new needs and interests.

**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.

A helpful comment to use to keep the discussion moving in a positive direction might be, “how does [comment] promote a youth-designed and youth-led program?”

- How can an induction ceremony be adjusted to meet the needs of a crew?
- An induction ceremony: a time for somber reflection or a time for an enthusiastic welcome? Discuss. [there is no right answer]
- What is the value in making the ceremony meaningful to all present rather than a check-box to endure?

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 of an induction ceremony for a crew?
- What should be included in a crew induction ceremony?