

## **Journey to Excellence for Council Venturing Open House Q&A**

November 30th, 2020

### **1. How do I get a list of my council's Venturing Crew Presidents?**

If possible, reach out to your council Venturing staff Advisor (or Council Scout Executive). Request the Venturing Crew contact sheet for your Council's crews. This contact sheet may not contain the contact information of youth Venturing Crew Presidents. If it does not, reach out to the Venturing Crew Advisors to see if their Venturers would be interested to help grow Venturing within their Council. If your Council does not have a Venturing contact sheet, consider using [BeAScout.org](http://BeAScout.org) to find information about the Venturing Crews in your Council.

### **2. Has anyone started to think about how this will work when we go to these proposed territories?**

JTECV is a council-focused program and is not impacted by the implementation of territories, with the exception of Elective Requirement 2 ("Area Representation"). It is our intent to change Elective Requirement 2 to match the new territory structure (so the revised requirement would be "Territory Representation"). Otherwise, we do not anticipate a change (e.g., Territory VOAs would encourage councils to submit their progress each year).

### **3. As an Area VOA officer, it is my job to make sure our Councils fill out JTECV in an effective and timely manner. What is your recommendation for connecting with Councils that are hard to reach/unresponsive?**

The biggest thing you can do is start early and be sensitive to their time. Provide early reminders and clear instructions on how to complete the JTECV submission process. We recommend including the FAQ & Pre-Completion Checklist PDFs in your email to make the process easier for them. Be willing to make yourself available to assist them with the submission process if necessary and, most importantly, be comfortable with calling them! Phone calls are the most effective way to help a council with completion.

### **4. We have a couple of established Crews, and a couple of newer crews. How can we start a Council VOA without having all of the officers from only 1 or 2 crews?**

We are so glad that you are looking to start a VOA in your Council! Don't be afraid to expand your VOA! You have the flexibility to do whatever you want with your VOA. Consider adding additional positions for social media development, Venturing Crew support, or activity planning chairs. If the newer Crews are planning events and are open to other Crews attending as well, that is a great opportunity for the crew officers to be

Council VOA activity planning chairs -- they are already planning the event, and more people will be able to enjoy it!

Also, remember that ALL Crew Presidents are members of your Council VOA. It might also be effective to make a large group chat with all of them or to invite them to your regularly scheduled events or meetings. It's a good way to support your Council's Crews as well as to ensure your Council VOA is diverse.

**5. What would be considered service when it comes to fulfilling the ALPS model for an event? Could service be helping set up a camp?**

Like all parts of the ALPS model, there is a lot of flexibility in what qualifies as “fulfilling” the ALPS requirement (Core Requirement 5). If the Venturers are participating in a project that benefits someone other than themselves, then it likely counts as service. Remember that service doesn't necessarily have to be physical labor! Providing training opportunities or other support for non-Venturers counts as service. The following are good examples of service your Venturing event might provide: providing an Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops, merit badge classes, giving service to a camp through physical maintenance, working with cub Scouts through a local pack, collecting donations or constructing resources for a cause in need, spending time with the elderly, and supporting other civic activities (non-partisan!).

**6. If we have an event already planned for after the February 15th JTECV submission deadline, can it still count it towards the ALPS requirement if our plans indicate it will hit those points in ALPS?**

Unfortunately, no. Only events and activities from January 1st, 2020 to December 31st, 2020 can be considered in your 2020 JTECV submission. It's great that you have an event planned, and it will count for your 2021 recognition!

**7. What is considered adventure for ALPS?**

Like all parts of the ALPS model, there is a lot of flexibility in what qualifies as “fulfilling” the ALPS requirement (Core Requirement 5). For the purposes of JTECV, adventure should ideally be anything that takes Venturers outside of the meeting room and outside of their comfort zone. While many traditional activities like shooting sports, equestrian activities, rock-climbing, or hiking may count as adventure, remember that non-traditional adventures are just as valid and important. For instance, cosplaying, historical re-enactment, outdoor cooking, urban survival, and many other activities can all count as adventure!

**8. In order to receive the gold level distinction for this requirement, an event must include all four elements of the ALPS model. Has there ever been discussion about using multiple events (instead of one event) to meet all of the ALPS requirements?**

No, in order to receive the gold level distinction for this requirement, all four parts of the ALPS model must be met within a single event. We understand that this is a difficult task to accomplish, and that is why we have three recognition tiers: bronze, silver, and gold. We have set the bar for gold high – our intent is for 10% of Councils to earn gold – and we recognize the hard work required in order to earn any recognition.

**9. Was there any discussion of modifying the requirements for this year? Some Councils have completely shut down due to the COVID-19 outbreak.**

The pandemic has been disruptive, and we did look at modifying the requirements. We recognize that in-person events are difficult, if not impossible, to hold, so any requirement for in-person activities can be met by virtual activities (e.g., virtual events, virtual crew visits). Most other requirements do not require in-person activities (e.g., Venturing recruiting campaign) and can still be met. We welcome your feedback!

**10. Going forward, is the virtual component still going to count toward the requirements that say “in-person”?**

For the duration of the pandemic, all requirements can be met either through in-person means or virtual means. After the pandemic, we will evaluate which requirements should continue to have a virtual option and welcome your feedback.

**11. I don't understand how Council Venturing is different from traditional Venturing in a Venturing Crew.**

Council Venturing, usually in the form of a Council VOA, ties Venturing crews across the Council together through unique program opportunities and quality training sessions. Venturing Crews, on the other hand, provide individualistic ALPS opportunities for their Venturers while encouraging unit-based team building, fun, and socialization for the youth.

**12. How will JTECV help a Council without a VOA establish a VOA?**

JTECV helps Councils trying to build VOAs by providing a clear outline for what a successful Venturing program looks like within a Council. It helps aspiring Council VOAs determine their governance structure, plan their year, prioritize their efforts, provide engaging and impactful events, and grow Venturing Crews in their Councils. For Councils without a growing Venturing program, the JTECV helps Area and Region VOAs identify Councils where Venturing is struggling and provide support to them.

**13. What is the best way to recruit members and create new Venturing Crews?**

The best way to recruit new Venturers is to lower the engagement threshold. Create recruitment opportunities that require very little time, money, and energy. This makes it easier for prospective members to engage with your Crew. It's also incredibly important to make the event fun! Show off what your Crew is about and bond with potential recruits. Good examples of an easy, fun crew recruitment event are Crew Game Nights, Potluck Dinners, or other short day-long events.

**14. My Council and all the Crews in it are slowly dying. At present we have no VOA officers. What can my Crew and I do to grow Venturing participation in my Council?**

Thank you for your love of Venturing and for wanting to grow Venturing in your Council! We believe that engaging, fun activities grow Venturing, so we encourage your Crew to invite other Crews to your events and activities, and advertise them on social media and in Council newsletters. Fostering relationships between Venturing Crews helps strengthen both Crews as well as lays the foundation for a VOA.

If you're looking to do more, reach out to your Area VOA asking for support. Your Area VOA President and Advisor are equipped to provide program and training support, as well as provide specific guidance and hands-on assistance with growing Venturing. Fostering relationships between Venturing crews helps strengthen both crews as well as lays the foundation for a VOA.

As an individual Venturing Crew, it is really hard to single handedly create a VOA or even grow Venturing in your Council, so do what you can and don't feel frustrated if it takes longer than you'd like.