



# **Venturing Leadership Award SOPs**

**National Venturing Committee, November 2020**

# Venturing Leadership Award (VLA)

In order to recognize Venturers and Venturing Advisors who have made exceptional contributions to Venturing and who exemplify the Scout Oath and Law, councils, areas, regions, and the BSA National Venturing Committee may present individuals with the Venturing Leadership Award.

The Venturing leadership award (VLA) is administered on each tier of Venturing Officer Associations; council, area, region and national. Awards are selected by committee at their respective levels via nominations submitted by the public. Once the committee makes their selection the Venturing Leadership Award is reported to the National Office via the VLA approval form. The certificate, medal, and knot are to be purchased from the National Service Center and presented by the appropriate tier.

Nominations for both the National and Region Venturing Leadership Awards are due on the date stated on the nomination form found on [scouting.org](http://scouting.org). Qualifications and other information about nominations can be found on [scouting.org](http://scouting.org).

## Award Guidelines

- Council and Area Venturing Committees must inform the Venturers and Advisors in their respective area of their nomination deadline.
- Nominations should be sent directly to the appropriate tier advisor that the nomination is for. If someone is nominated for the VLA at multiple tiers, the nominations should be submitted separately to each tier's advisor. The advisor contact information can be found on their tier's website or the respective region's website.
- Once the selection has occurred, only the current Venturing Leadership Award Nomination Approval form may be used when submitting Award recipients' names to the National Office. The form is available on [Scouting.org](http://Scouting.org).

## VLA Selection Committee Chair

- The selection committee chair serves at the request of the Venturing Awards and Recognition Committee and is also approved by the Venturing Committee Chair and the staff advisor. If the Venturing Advisor for that tier also serves as Venturing Chair, the VLA Selection Committee Chair will serve at their request and must also be approved by the Venturing staff advisor for that tier. The chair may be a youth or adult who is a recipient of the Venturing Leadership Award for the level of the award committee they are chairing (council, area, region, national).

- In absence of a functioning council Venturing Committee or advisor, the council Scout Executive or their designee appoints the Council VLA Selection Committee Chair. In absence of a functioning Area Venturing Committee or advisor the Area Director or their designee appoints the Area VLA Selection Chair. In absence of a functioning Regional Venturing Committee or advisor the Regional Director or their designee appoints the Regional VLA Selection Chair. In absence of a functioning National Venturing Committee the Venturing Director or Chief Scout Executive appoints the National VLA Selection Chair.

## **VLA Selection Committee**

- The selection committee is appointed by the VLA Committee Chair and approved by the Venturing Chair (or Venturing advisor) and staff advisor.
- The selection committee should consist of past Venturing Leadership Award Recipients for the award level being selected (council, area, region and national).
- The selection committee shall consist of no less than 5 members and no more than 10 members.
- The selection committee shall consist of diverse representation from within the level of the award. For a council this means multiple districts represented, for an area this means multiple councils represented, for a region this means multiple areas represented, for national it means each of the regions must be represented.
- No family members of nominees can sit on the tier's VLA selection committee. Family is defined as any person by blood or marriage.

## **Voting**

- All members of the selection committee shall have a vote, including the chair.
- Secret ballot is the preferred method of voting. The committee chair and staff advisor should both be able to see the votes and verify the results.
- Committee members will decide whether each nomination shall be a recipient by a simple majority vote.
- If there are more nominations than available awards, the candidates with the greatest number of votes over majority shall be selected. If a tie still exists, the selection committee shall vote amongst the candidates who tied to determine the selection.
- After the selection process is completed, the chair will submit the VLA Approval Form to their council or the appropriate department at the National Service Center of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Presentation of the VLA Award should be made at an appropriate level such as Council Annual Banquet, Area and Regional meetings and the National Annual Meeting.

<b>Venturing Leadership Award level</b>	<b>Nomination deadline</b>	<b>Selection deadline</b>	<b>Quota</b>
Council VLA	Set by council Venturing Committee or Awards Committee.	June 1 of nominating year.	Councils may award however many Council VLAs they choose to all qualified candidates. However, a council may only conduct one selection per year.
Area VLA	Set by Area Venturing Committee or Awards Committee.	June 1 of nominating year.	Up to twelve awards may be presented.
Region VLA	January 31	June 1 of nominating year.	Up to twelve awards may be presented.
National VLA	January 15	June 1 of nominating year.	Up to twelve awards may be presented.

VLA Level	Medallion	Description	VLA Award Knot For all VLA levels (youth and adult)	VLA Certificate Available through National Service Center, Venturing
Council		Purchase Supply item #4220  Blue and white ribbon	Supply item #14220  	 VLA Certificate available only through BSA National Service Center (#622116)
Area		Purchase Supply item #614296  Silver and white ribbon		
Region		Purchase Supply item #606782  Green and white ribbon		
National		Provided Supply item #4222  Red and white ribbon		

## Venturing Leadership Award FAQs:

- Question: Who do I submit my nomination form to?
  - Answer: This is a NEW process for 2021 selections. The form should be submitted to the tier's VOA advisor that the nomination is form. Example, if someone is being nominated for an Area VLA, the form should be sent to that respective Area VOA Advisor who will then share it with the VLA Selection Chair. If someone is being nominated for a Council VLA, the nomination should be sent to the Council VOA Advisor who will then share with the VLA Selection Chair. Please note the contact information for the respective advisor can be found on the tier's website or the region website can also help to direct you. If a candidate is being nominated for a VLA at more than one tier, the form should be submitted to each VOA Advisor at each tier the nomination is for.
  
- Question: The VLA Approval form does not include the council VLA for reporting. How do I report Council VLA recipients?
  - Answer: Councils no longer need to report their selection to the National Office. It is recommended that the local council office create their own tracking for the award recipients on a yearly basis.
  
- Question: With the new Territory structure pending, will Area and Region VLAs still be awarded?
  - Answer: Area and Region VLAs will be discontinued after the 2021 selection. These awards will then be replaced with the Territory VLA. Additional details relating to the Territory VLA will be presented next year.
  
- Question: Is the candidate's selection based on performance only during the current year that the selection was for or the candidate's performance during their entire Venturing career?
  - Answer: A candidate should be evaluated on the performance during their entire Venturing career and performance at the specific tier that the selection is for.
  
- Question: Who qualifies to receive the award?
  - Answer: A Venturer, youth or adult, who holds a leadership position or office at the tier that the selection is for and is currently registered in the Venturing program for at least one year. The Venturer should show exceptional dedication and give outstanding leadership and service to Venturing and to Venturers at the tier the selection is for. The award is not a participation award for serving in a position but is an award for those who go above and beyond the call of duty.
  
- Question: Can more than one selection be held each year if the quota is not met at a specific tier?
  - Answer: Only one selection may take place per calendar year for each tier presenting the award.

- Question: Which governing body is this award from (The Venturing committee or the Venturing Officer Association)?
- Answer: The Venturing Committee at each tier presents the award annually. The Venturing Committee Chair represents the Venturing at that tier's Program Committee and the VOA reports to the Venturing Committee Chair. In most cases, Area and Region VOA Advisors serve as the Venturing Committee Chair unless someone else has been appointed to serve separately in each of these positions. See the Council Venturing Administration Guide for more details about the Council Venturing Committee.
  
- Question: What is a typical structure of a selection for the VLAs?
- Answer: The typical structure of a VLA is either done by call or in person meeting. The meeting starts out with an opening, overview of the selection and brief description about what the VLA means and what makes a person worthy, also a reminder that the selection is confidential. The selection then moves into a discussion about each person, about their strengths, their roles, what they bring to the program and if they are worthy of the award. After all the candidates are discussed you vote on each person. Remember not to compare one person to another. The Committee Chair then reviews the results and determines who has received a majority vote. If the quota for the award is exceeded, the candidates with the highest amount of votes should be selected. If a tie still exists, an additional round of discussion and voting should occur amongst the candidates who had tied. The selection ends with thanking everyone for their time.
  
- Question: Does the National Office still send out the certificates, medals, or knots for each award?
- Answer: Unfortunately the National Office no longer sends out the certificates, medals, or knots for VLA recipients. Each tier is responsible for purchasing the award presentation materials through their local scout shop or council. They cannot be ordered online at this time. The product supply #s are included in the chart above.
  
- Question: Is there a template for filling/printing out the certificates?
- Answer: There is one on Scouting.org under the Venturing Leadership Award section.
  
- Question: What does a presentation of the awards look like and what if we can't present our awards publicly?
- Answer: The Presentation of the VLA's is very important as you are recognizing the awardees for their dedication to Venturing. The presentation is based on the time and setting. If you are presenting at a Venturing event, you may read a bio of the person and why they were selected. If you are presenting at a council banquet you may only be able to call them up to the stage. If you are unable to present in person you need to get creative and make a video or share something special on social media to recognize the Venturer's accomplishments.