

**VENTURING LEADERS' COUNCIL
BYLAWS
VENTURING DISTRICT
DES PLAINES VALLEY COUNCIL
August 2001 Approved Edition**

Article I Name and Affiliation of Organization

Section A: The name of this organization of the district sub-committee for youth Venturers will be the Venturing Leaders' Council.

Section B: This Venturing Leaders' Council will be in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Des Plaines Valley Council #147, Boy Scouts of America, and will be under the supervision of the Venturing/ Exploring/ Learning for Life District Executive and the administrative authority of the Scout Executive.

Section C: The Venturing Leaders' Council will become a registered Venturing Crew.

Section D: Youth members of the Venturing Leaders' Council register with the Venturing Leaders' Council Crew #147.

Article II Membership Requirements

Section A: Membership Requirements
Members must reside by the Venturing Code:
As a Venturer-

I believe that America's strength lies in God and in the courage, strength, and traditions of our people.

I will, therefore, be faithful in my religious duties and will maintain a personal sense of honor in my own life.

I will treasure my American heritage and will do all I can to preserve and enrich it.

I will recognize the dignity and worth of all humanity and will use fair play and goodwill in my daily life.

I will acquire the Venturing attitude that seeks the truth in all things and adventure in the frontier of our changing world.

Section B: A registered active member of a Venturing Crew in the Des Plaines Valley Council, and an elected officer of the Venturing Leaders' Council, appointed committee chairman, or outside Crew Officer. All members of the Venturing Leaders' Council must be registered the Venturing Leaders' Council Crew #147.

Section C: Procedures for the Venturing Leaders' Council will be in accordance with the current Venturing Handbook, Venturing Leader Manual, Venturing Leaders' Council Bylaws, and the BSA Guide to Safe Scouting.

Article III Officers of the Venturing Leaders' Council

Section A: Executive Board Officers:

President: Shall preside at all meetings of the Venturing Leaders' Council. He/she is directly responsible for the operation of the Venturing Leaders' Council and reports to the Venturing District Committee, the District Executive. He/she is also responsible for leading the meetings, and represents the Venturing Leaders' Council at Council, Regional, and National Venturing Events.

Vice President of Administration: He/she will be the acting President, in his or hers absence in any of their duties written in as above. This Vice President will also represent the Venturing Leadership Council to the Youth Leadership Conference Planning Committee, be in charge of internal correspondence, and legal paperwork. The Vice President of Administration reports to the President.

Vice President of Program: He/she is responsible for the annual program of the Venturing Leaders' Council, while working with chairmen for the Philanthropy Committee, Awards and Recognition Committee, Fall Kick-off gathering Committee, Executive Board Elections Committee, Fall Activity Committee, Winter Activity Committee, and Spring Recognition Event Committee. In relation to the events, they are to appoint a chairman for each event with the approval of the President and District Executive. They are also in charge of Publicity of each event. The Vice President of Program reports to the President.

Secretary: He/she is responsible for the recording of minutes at the Venturing Roundtable meetings, reading the minutes of meetings, Roundtable meeting publicity, and the Venturing Leaders' Council newsletter and website. The secretary will take attendance at Roundtable meetings and make a phone tree for the Venturing Leaders' Council. The Secretary reports to the President.

Treasurer: He/she is responsible for the Annual Budget of the Venturing Leaders' Council. The Treasurer will report the monthly budget at the Venturing Leaders' Council Roundtable meetings, and oversee the fundraising and merchandising of the Venturing Leadership Council. He/she will teach how-to-budget to the Venturing Leadership Council and will accept, and reject their budgets with District Executive approval. The Treasurer reports to the President.

Section B: Election of Officers

1. Venturing Leaders' Council officers shall be elected by simple majority vote of the Venturing Crews or Sea Scout Ships present at a location with the council boundaries on a date in early fall. Date and time is to be decided by the Venturing Leaders' Council, Adviser, and District Executive.
2. Each Crew or Ship has 2 votes in the election.
3. Each Crew or ship may not have more than two members as an officer of the Venturing Leaders Council.

NOTE: Section B: 2. The District Executive suspended this rule upon vote of the Youth Officer Cabinet and his approval. Annually the Cabinet and District Executive will decide if rule is active based on youth availability for the district. Effective August 23, 2001.

4. Nominations:
 - a. Any active youth member of the Venturing Leaders' Council may secure a place on the ballot by presenting a petition signed by ten active youth members of the Venturing Leaders' Council. Petitions may be obtained from the Secretary. Petitions will be available four weeks prior to the election, and must be returned to the District Executive at least one week - to the election date.
 - b. There shall be no write-ins, without the approval of the District Executive.
 - c. After the election, the newly elected officers shall have an opportunity to train and prepare for the administration of Venturing Leaders' Council business. The newly elected officers are installed at the next Venturing Leaders' Council Roundtable meeting. The term of office shall run from fall elections to the following fall elections.
 - d. No youth member may serve in the same officer position for more than two consecutive terms.
 - e. The elections will run in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order.
 - f. A youth member not running for office with support and guidance by the District Executive leads the elections.

Article IV Executive Board and Operating Committees

Section A: Executive Board

1. The Venturing Leaders' Council will be composed of the elected Venturing Leaders' Council officers, Venturing Leaders' Council operating committee chairmen, the Venturing Leaders' Council Adviser, the Venturing District Executive, Associate Venturing Leaders' Council Advisers.
2. The Executive Board of this Venturing Leaders' Council shall hold monthly meetings, one week before the Venturing Leaders' Council Roundtable. They will not meet in the month of July.
3. The Venturing Leaders' Council President, Venturing Leaders' Council Adviser, and District Executive in agreement, may call special meetings of the Venturing Leaders' Council or Executive Board at any time.
4. The voting members of the Venturing Leaders' Council Executive Board shall be all elected youth officers, currently active committee chairmen. The Venturing Leaders' Council President shall only vote in the event of a tie.
5. A quorum of three of four elected voting members other than the President will be required for the Executive Board and the Venturing Leaders' Council to conduct business.
6. Approval of the Venturing Leaders' Council is a simple majority of the voting members present consenting.
7. In the event of the removal of any officer by the Executive Board, the decision must be by simple majority of the entire voting membership of the Venturing Leaders' Council, excluding the officer in question. The Venturing Leaders' Council President may not vote. In the event that the Venturing Leaders' Council President is being removed, the Acting President has no vote, unless in the event of a tie. The District Executive retains the authority to remove any officer.
8. In the event of death, resignation, or removal of any officer, the Venturing Leaders' Council President shall appoint a replacement with the approval of the Venturing Leaders' Council Adviser and District Executive. In the event that the Venturing

Leaders' Council President leaves office, the Vice President of Administration would replace him/her. The other officers have the choice to promote themselves to a higher-ranking position or maintain their current position. In that situation, the Vice President of Program would have first choice, followed by the Secretary and then by the Treasurer. The vacant position filled by a youth Venturer will require a simple majority vote of the Venturing Leaders' Council. The new officer would need approval by the District Executive.

9. Youth members serving in elected Officer positions may have three total excused absences from Venturing Leaders Roundtable and Executive Board meetings. The committee chairmen positions may have three excused absences from Venturing Leaders' Council Roundtable meetings and events. An excused absence consists of the following:
 1. The loss of a loved one or family emergency.
 2. Too much homework/ or make-up schoolwork.
 3. Parents will not allow Venturer to attend due to discipline.
 4. A mandatory school/church/work activity with coach/teacher/clergy/boss written note or phone call to the District Executive.
 5. Illness/ or sicknesses with a parent note or phone call to the District Executive.
 6. A notification of an emergency is given when possible after the meeting to the Venturing Leaders' Council President or District Executive.Of the above excused absences, with the exception of the sixth absence, all should be reported before the Executive Board or Venture Leaders Council Roundtable by 24-hours to the District Executive or Venture Leaders Council President.

Section B: Operating Committees

1. The Venturing Leaders' Council President shall appoint such Venturing Leaders' Council operating committees that may be required for the operation of the Venturing Leaders' Council with the approval of the Venturing Leaders' Council Executive Adviser and District Executive. All committee chairmen must be under twenty-one years of age.

2. The Venturing Leaders' Council President may remove a committee chairman with the approval of both the Venturing Leaders' Council Adviser and the District Executive.

Article V Venturing Leaders' Council Meetings

Section A: There will be a minimum of four Venturing Leaders' Council events scheduled by the Venturing Leaders' Council. These events will be the Fall Kick-off, Fall Officer Lock-in, Winter Activity, and the Spring Recognition event.

Section B: Each meeting will begin with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Venturing Oath.

Section C: Voting of Venturing Leaders' Council matters is restricted to registered youth members, defined as Venturing Leaders' Council members under twenty one years of age. In the result of a tie, the Venturing Leaders' Council President casts the final vote.

Article VI Finances

Section A: Dues

1. Dues of the Venturing Leaders' Council, in the amount set by the Executive Board and approved by the Venturing Leaders' Council membership. Shall be collected by the Venturing Leaders' Council Secretary and forwarded to the Venturing Leaders' Council Treasurer for immediate deposit in the Council office. Dues shall be accounted on a fall-to-fall year schedule: September-to-September.
2. Annual Venturing Leaders' Council dues are due no later than September 31. Dues for a fall-to-fall year can be paid during the months of June through August of the previous year.
3. Dues paid after September 31, are subject to a late payment charge set by the Executive Board.
4. If a member's dues lapse for more than one year. The member will be inactive.

5. Inactive members may not participate in any Venturing Leaders' Council activities or voting members.
6. Inactive members may reinstate his/herself after paying the current years dues.
7. The District Executive shall be exempt from paying annual dues.

Article VII Amendments to the Operational Policies

Section A: All proposed amendments will be submitted in writing to the Venturing Leaders' Council President for submission and debate at the next meeting of the Venturing Leaders' Council Roundtable meeting. Copies of the proposed changes must be distributed to the Venturing Leaders' Council members at least thirty days before the next Venturing Leaders' Council Roundtable meeting for reading, consideration, and debate.

Section B: The Venturing Leaders' Council at the next Roundtable meeting of the Venturing Leaders' Council will vote upon the proposed changes and amendments to the Operational Policies. In order for the change to be approved, it must receive at least two-thirds (2/3) approval of those present and voting, and District Executive approval.



VENTURING LEADERS' COUNCIL POLICIES



1. All Venturing Leaders' Council Roundtables and Executive Board meetings should be under the procedures outlined in Roberts Rides of Order.
2. All active youth Venturers are encouraged to participate in the work of the Venturing Leaders' Council through service on one or more Venturing Leaders' Council committees.
3. Each Venturing Leaders' Council operating committee will meet on their own to decide what they will do and make procedures to accomplish their goals. After a committee arrives at a decision, the chairman will make a progress report (written and verbal) at the next Venturing Leaders' Council Roundtable meeting.
4. When a committee completes its particular project, it will make a complete report (including financial summary) and turn in the written report to the Venturing Leaders' Council at the next Venturing Leaders' Council Roundtable meeting.
5. All committees will recruit the manpower needed to execute their duties. These Venturers will be the working committee members.
6. All committee chairmen are responsible for organizing and maintaining a Committee Operations Manual, which includes rosters, goals, projects, budgets, evaluations, and suggestions for Improvements. These manuals are the property of the Venturing Leaders' Council and must return to the Venturing Leaders' Council upon completion of service as committee chairman.
7. Some or all committees will have Advisers appointed at the discretion of the Venturing Leaders' Council Adviser. If a committee adviser is not appointed, the Venturing Leaders' Council Adviser will be the adviser to that committee.
8. Venturing Leaders' Council meetings can be no longer than ninety minutes in length, unless voted on by the youth present at the meeting.