

Need Help Selecting Council Venturing Leadership Award Recipients?

Purpose of Recognizing Youth with the Venturing Leadership Award

The purpose of the Council Venturing Leadership Award is to recognize youth for dedicated service to the unit, district, or council level. Recognizing youth for their service works to both motivate others to be servant leaders within the council, and recognize youth members already serving as leaders in your council.

“Receiving the Council Venturing Leadership Award gave me a sense of recognition from my peers for all of my work, and made me feel like I made a true difference in my community. It challenged me to work harder.”
~ Christina Vogt, New Horizon District VOA President (June 2010)

Locating the Official Nomination Form

The nomination form for the Venturing Leadership Award is available at the following link: <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsorce/Venturing/Awards/leadership.aspx>

All levels of the Venturing Leadership Award are nominated on the same form.



Council



Area



Region



National



Setting Up the Selection Process

First, your council must set a nomination deadline for turning in the forms to your council office. Once the date is set you must promote award nominations throughout your council. From that point you should set up a selection committee, and figure out the maximum number of awards your council can present according to the national guidelines.

Once the recipients are selected, your council should let all nominators know if their nominee was selected. At this time, you should also let the nominators know if they can tell the award recipients they are being presented the award, or if it should be kept a secret. Then, finalize the award presentations and prepare to celebrate the recipients' achievements.

Setting a Nomination Deadline

When picking a date for the deadline for the Council Venturing Leadership Award Nomination Forms, your council should pick a date approximately one to two months prior to the award ceremony. This will allow time for the nominators and/or recipients to be informed whether or not they received the award. It also gives your council time to order the awards and create any programs for the award ceremony.

Promoting Nominations

Several mediums should be used when promoting nominations for the Council Venturing Leadership Award. The goal is to make sure all Crews and Ships within the council know about the submission process and your council's deadline for submission. Easy mediums to use are your council's Venturing Facebook group, inclusion in your council's newsletter, a mailing to units, a posted message on your council's website, and calls to unit leaders.

The nomination form for the Venturing Leadership Award is available at the following link: <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Venturing/Awards/leadership.aspx>



Photo: Sarah Downey (Northeast Region Area 4 Venturing President) and Mark Milliron (Juniata Valley Council)



Setting Up the Selection Committee

In deciding how to set up the selection committee for the VLA recipients, there are several choices to choose from. The first option is to have past Council VLA recipients form the selection committee. The second option is to have a mixture of your Council VOA Officers and Advisors form the selection committee. If following this option make sure that there are more youth than adults on the committee, or have the adults serve in an advisory component without a voice in the decision. The third option is to choose a group of people that best represent the different crews in your council to form the selection committee.

In terms of how to run the selection committee, you will need to make a copy of each nomination packet for every member of the selection committee. The easy method for choosing is to have the entire selection committee meet in person to make the decision. However, if you are spread out geographically then you can meet via Skype, or a conference call.

Council Membership Quota Restrictions

Councils may present two awards for youth members (per year) for up to 50 crews/ships, and one additional youth recognition (per year) for each fraction of 25 crews/ships above 50.

Examples: 51 crews/ships, a total of three youth awards may be presented

76 crews/ships, four youth awards may be presented

99 crews/ships, four youth awards may be presented

100 crews/ships, five youth award may be presented

Presenting the Award

In setting up the presentation of the award (s) it is up to each council to set the tone of importance in receiving this award. They can be presented at your Council's Annual Dinner, or at a separate Venturing/Sea Scouting reception with other Venturing/Sea Scouting awards and ranks. Another alternative is to present them at a Venturing camping trip, training, or other event such as a VOA meeting. The overall objective is to recognize the youth for their outstanding dedication to the Venturing Program.

Hannah Bisch and Rachel Bisch
(Past Greater St. Louis Area Council
Venturing Presidents)



Suggested Promotional Messages for the VLA

Promoting Award Nominations

- Do you have a youth member in your crew that has gone above and beyond their responsibilities this year? We are in the process of collecting nominations for this year's presentation of our Council Venturing Leadership Awards. View our council website for more details at: (INSERT LINK).
- We need your help to recognize our Venturers for their leadership to the Venturing program in our crews, districts, and within our council. We are collecting nominations to recognize our youth with the Council Venturing Leadership Award. For more information visit (INSERT LINK).
- The Council Venturing Leadership Award is going to be presented this year to (INSERT NUMBER) of our outstanding youth leaders. If you have a youth member deserving of this recognition please visit this link to submit the nomination form by (INSERT DATE): (INSERT LINK).

Promoting Presentation Event

- Please join us on (INSERT DATE) at the (INSERT EVENT NAME) as we recognize a few of our outstanding youth leaders in the Venturing program with the Council Venturing Leadership Award.
- The (INSERT COUNCIL NAME) will be presenting several dedicated youth with the Council Venturing Leadership Award on (INSERT EVENT DATE) at the (INSERT EVENT NAME). We would like to invite all Venturers and Advisors to join us. More Information and registration forms can be found at: (INSERT LNK).

Publicly Recognizing Recipients

- The (INSERT COUNCIL NAME) would like to recognize the following youth for receiving the Council Venturing Leadership Award: (INSERT NAMES/POSITIONS). If you have a youth member that shows outstanding dedication and leadership to the Venturing program, we will be accepting nominations once again for next year's recipients around (INSERT TIME OF YEAR).



Suggestions for Filling Out the Nomination Form

The following are suggestions to include in nomination packets when you submit them to your council office, that came from previous selection committees:

- Multiple letters of recommendation (2-4) from different areas of the youth's life give a more well rounded view of the nominee. Suggestions of who should submit a letter:
 - School (favorite teacher or coach)
 - Crew Advisor/Top Crew Officer
 - Church/Community
- Make sure to write up the reason for nominating that particular youth. Where did they go above and beyond?
- List all of their Scouting positions (specifically list all Venturing positions and year held). Even if they didn't have a position title, being an activity chair for a large project should be listed.
- Include a photograph of the nominee. Selection committee members are more likely to remember someone's face than their name and crew.
- List any involvement outside of the Scouting program (sports, community groups, etc.) .
- List awards received in Scouting.
- Write about anything else that shows they are a good candidate.
- Nominations can hold more value if a youth peer submits the nomination form.

Quotes From Past Recipients

*"The Venturing Leadership Award is presented to youth by other youth in the Venturing program." ~Nick Tuley
District President*



*"Everything I did was just what I was supposed to do or part of the job description [of my office]. But to think that someone saw me beyond that: saw me as a leader, means more to me than I could ever put into words." ~ Emily Mausshardt
District President*