

Venturer Quality Program Standards

As adult volunteers, we have made a commitment to deliver a quality program to our members. Scouts Canada is pleased to provide volunteers with this checklist to ensure the program that is being delivered meets quality standards.

Program Planning

Companies have:

- short-range (one month),
- medium-range (three months) and
- long-range (one year) program plans which reflect the program goals as outlined in *B.P.&P.*
- Weekly programs are typically conducted as described in the *Venturer Advisor's Handbook*, and incorporate appropriate safety precautions.

Outdoors

Opportunities are provided for Venturers to participate in outdoor activities as often as possible. Venturer minimum standards require:

- One regular meeting per month outdoors
- One weekend outing every two months
- Six nights at camp annually in a wide variety of settings
- All activities follow Policies and Accepted Practices, as outlined by *Camping/Outdoor Activities, Section 10000, B.P.&P.*

Youth Input

- Venturers actively plan and operate the company program, incorporating the skills and abilities of all youth members.
- The youth seek the advisor's input.
- Youth are actively engaged in the creation of their section's Code of Conduct.

Badge/Award Program

The program provides individual Venturers with regular opportunities to engage in and complete requirements of the Venturer badge/award system, including the Queen's Venturer Award, the Amory Adventure Award, and the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Environmental Awareness

Opportunities are provided (as often as possible) for Venturers to participate in activities which increase their understanding and awareness of their role in preserving the environment.

- Minimum standard: one project annually.
- All activities are conducted in a manner which reflects appropriate environmental awareness and practices.

Spiritual Emphasis

Spiritual emphasis is regularly incorporated throughout the program. Examples may include, but are not limited to:

- Opening and Closing Prayers
- Use of Promise, Law and Motto
- Scouts Own and Scouter's Five
- Religion in Life Award program

Community Service

Opportunities are provided for Venturers to participate in community service projects/events as often as possible.

- Minimum standard: three projects annually.

Membership/Retention/Growth

- No youth who is willing to subscribe to the Promise and Law is denied membership (i.e. Scouts Canada does not want any waiting lists).
- Venturers are personally invited back at the beginning of each year.
- Those not returning at any time are contacted by the company to determine the reasons why.
- One activity per year focuses on increasing membership.

Linking

Opportunities are provided for Venturers to interact with Scouts and Rovers as often as possible. Minimum standard:

- One regular meeting and one other activity with a Scout troop annually.
- One regular meeting and one other activity with a Rover crew annually.
- Senior Venturers of advancement age have at least one other opportunity to interact with a Rover crew.

Family/Parental Involvement

Scouts Canada encourages parental involvement at all times.

- Regular communication occurs to inform parents of program plans through contacts such as newsletters.

Training/Leadership

- Scouts Canada expects all advisors to achieve Woodbadge Basic during the first year.
- Scouts Canada expects at least one advisor to have Woodbadge Advanced (Venturers).
- At least one member of the leadership team or member of the Venturer company should hold a current, recognized first aid qualification.
- The leadership team has obtained the necessary attitude, skills, knowledge and/or training required to conduct outdoor programs, or has recruited a skilled resource person(s) with such knowledge to attend the outing/activity.

Administration

The following are performed to administer the company:

- Maintain current and accurate company records.
- Submit a plan and related budget to the group committee for a year's activities.
- Maintain appropriate financial records and submit proper financial statements to the group committee.
- Provide an annual inventory of all equipment and property to the group committee.
- Ensure a representative of the section leadership team, including youth, attends at least 90 percent of group committee meetings.
- Participate in Scouts Canada's official fundraisers.