






Similarities and Differences between Boy Scouting and Venturing

PROGRAM	BOY SCOUTING			VENTURING	
					
Unit Type	Boy Scout troop	Venture Patrols within troop	Varsity Scout team	Sea Scout ship	Venturing crew
Uniform	Boy Scout tan uniform shirt with red shoulder loops	Boy Scout tan shirt with Venture strip above pocket, red loops	Boy Scout tan uniform shirt with orange shoulder loops & Varsity strip	Sea Scout uniform	Crew decides uniform, recommended uniform forest green shirt and green shoulder loops
Members are Called	Boy Scouts	Boy Scouts	Varsity Scouts	Sea Scouts	Venturers
Membership	Boys 11-18*	Boys 13-18	Boys 14-18	Boys & Girls 14-21**	Boys and Girls 14-21**
Adult Leader	Scoutmaster	ASM-Venture	Coach	Skipper	Advisor
Youth Leader	Senior Patrol Leader	Venture Patrol Leader	Captain	Boatswain	President
Activity Area	Boy Scout Program	Boy Scout program with emphasis on high adventure & sports activities		Sailing, Boating, Seamanship	Crew determines
Youth Training	JLT & JLTC (Youth Leader Training)			VLSC, SEAL	VLSC, Kodiak, Kodiak X
Advancement	Tenderfoot thru Eagle Ranks, Merit Badges & Palms			Ranks: Apprentice, Ordinary, Able, Quartermaster	No Ranks***
				Bronze, Gold, Silver, Ranger, Quest, and Trust. Merit Badges, Star, Life, Eagle & Palms***	
Recognition	All Boy Scout recognitions	All Boy Scout recognitions plus Venture Letter & activity pins	All Boy Scout recognitions plus Varsity Letter & activity pins, Denali Award	Sea Scout recognitions incl. Small Boat Handler, Qualified Seaman	Venturing Leadership Award. Any significant achievement in the life of a Venturer (e.g. school, sports, community, church)
	Religious, Lifesaving, Meritorious Action, Hornaday, Council Achievement, BSA Lifeguard, Snorkeling, Mile-Swim, Fifty-Miler, Historic Trails, World Conservation, Interpreter, Fire'n Chit, Totin' Chip, Paul Bunyan Woodsman, Den Chief Service Award				
Order of the Arrow	Members eligible for election			Not eligible for election, can participate in program if already elected in a troop or team.	
National Jamboree	Can participate			Age 16 and over may function as youth staff	

* or have graduated the 5th grade or have Arrow of Light.

**or 14 and have graduated the 8th grade

*** Per BSA's National Bylaws, Sea Scouts are the only program within Venturing to have ranks per se. Only boys under 18 who have earned First Class rank in a Troop or Team may earn Eagle in a Crew. The term "Venture Crew" is no longer valid. That group is now called a "Venture Patrol." The term "Venture Scout" is not valid for any program of the BSA. Members of a Venture Patrol are "Boy Scouts". Members of a Venturing Crew are "Venturers". The term "Varsity Team" as used by in-troop programs is no longer valid. That function has now been taken over by the Venture Patrol. No one can wear green shoulder loops on a khaki Boy Scout shirt. Venture Patrol Scouts wear red shoulder loops and Venturers do not wear a Boy Scout shirt. This chart was created by Bill Nelson based upon one supplied by Michael R. Brown. Last updated: 5/19/04