



## **BSA VENTURE CREW 854 BYLAWS**

**Last Approved/Modified – May 2012**

**Venturing Oath:** As a Venturer, I promise to help strengthen America, to be faithful in my religious duties, to help others, and to seek truth, fairness, and adventure in our world.

**Venturing Code:** As a Venturer, I believe that America's strength lies in our trust in God and in the courage, strength, and traditions of our people. I will, therefore, be faithful in my religious duties and 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 on the frontiers of our changing world.

**Our Purpose:** To have FUN, while further increasing the skills of the Crew. In the process of having fun, we will inspire others to follow, and help guide toward career, lifetime, and Leadership goals.

### **Objectives:**

- To learn and experience scouting/camping/outdoor/high adventure skills
- To have fun as a main objective while enjoying the companionship of fellow youth members
- To always share and consider opinions and ideas to help influence the outcome of any Crew decision
- To learn to trust in one another and work as a team
- To be open, caring, honest, compassionate, and treat each other with respect

### **Responsibilities:**

1. The elected officers should be the following: Crew President, An Outdoor Coordinating Vice President, Vice President of Administration, Secretary, Treasurer, and an EVOA representative, and Activity chairs appointed per activity.
2. A member of the Crew must nominate a member for office. The nomination must then be seconded, and the candidate must AGREE to serve. The candidate must then be put on a ballot.
3. The terms for holding office shall be 12 months.
4. No officer can serve more than two consecutive terms. If no one is willing to step forward to fill a position, then the former officer will be allowed to resume this position.
5. Central Florida JLT for crew is in September, if one is trying to become Crew President they must attend; up-coming officers will also attend JLT.

### **Troop Related Responsibilities:**

1. All Crew activities and policies must comply with the established Troop Bylaws and Troop Guidebook.
2. Every Crew member has a responsibility first to the Troop, then to his Crew.
3. Positions of responsibility held in the Troop come first to Crew positions
4. The Crew is to participate in Troop events and work toward the good of the Troop.



5. As the Crew plans its calendar of activities it should make every effort to avoid conflicts with the Troop annual calendar.
6. Troop Patrol time should not be used for Crew activities which are outside of the standard Troop meetings.

#### **Crew Admission:**

1. To be a member of the Crew you must be 14 to 20 years old or 13 years old and completed the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
2. You must have held at least one position of responsibility within the Troop at any time. A scout currently holding a P.O.R. may count this as having held a position.
3. You must have earned either the Cycling, Hiking, or swimming merit badge (Swimmer rank)
4. You must have a Scoutmaster conference with both the Crew advisor and Scoutmaster before joining.
5. No more than 35 active Crew members will be allowed in the Crew at a time.
6. New Crew members will be admitted during the month of September. The SM and VC can make exceptions on a case by case basis.
7. All members must be registered as Venturers and agree to the Venture crew code and bylaws.
8. All members must have been a member or a current member of Troop 854; defined by the troop bylaws.

#### **Voting:**

1. Roberts Rules of Order will apply to decision making of the Crew.
2. A quorum must be present to make a Crew decision. (At least 60% of the Crew.)
3. A motion must be made and seconded to make a vote.
4. A discussion will be held.
5. A vote then will require a majority for approval.

#### **Expected Behavior of ALL Crew members:**

1. NO SMOKING!! Or use of tobacco products NO EXCEPTIONS!!
2. There zero tolerance for alcohol or drugs on any Venturing outing or activity.
3. All crew members must submit to the Bylaws set by the National Council and as set by the Venturing Crew.
4. All Crew members will follow any directive given to them by an officer, unless deemed inappropriate, in which case the said directive should be taken to an Advisor.
5. Follow the rules of Leave no Trace when outdoors.
6. All Venturers should be courteous to fellow Venturers and adult advisors, as should Advisors be courteous to other Advisors and Crew members.
7. No member will be forced to participate in any activity against his or her own will.
8. If another crew member asks for help, and one possesses the ability to help, one should do so.
9. On an outing, everyone is involved in camp cleanup.
10. At no time will violence, hazing or bullying be tolerated at any Venturing activity.

**Fund Raising Projects:** All fund-raising projects must be approved by a majority vote of Crew members. Fund raising must also be approved by the adult committee and advisor after ensuring the plan meets BSA requirements and standards. Monies earned will be divided among the crew members who participated in the project based upon hours worked or other pre-arranged method of distribution. Members who do not participate in a fund raising project are not entitled to any benefits of the funds earned. Crew finances and ISA accounts will be maintained by the Troop Treasurer.



**Attendance Expectations:** Crew members are encouraged to attend meetings. Crew members are also encouraged to participate in all Venturing events and activities and to take a leadership position in the planning of such events. Members are required to attend 55% of meetings or events. Failure to meet these attendance requirements will need to have a discussion with the president and crew advisor. Money that is paid up front to participate in an activity is usually not refundable after it has been committed.

**Dress Code:** Members should wear their Crew T-shirts and either scouting switchback pants or jeans as a uniform. Members should wear their Troop class A uniform to Troop meetings and may change into their Crew T-shirts for the Crew meeting. Same applies to outings and campouts with the Troop.

### **Youth Drivers:**

No Venture crew member should transport any other crew member to or from any event or outing while on an official crew event or outing.

**Valuables: Valuables:** Any valuables brought on a Venturing outing are one's OWN RESPONSIBILITY. If property turns up missing, the owner of the property should report missing items to a crew officer, who should then IMMEDIATELY discuss this information with an Advisor.

**Safety Rules and Guidelines:** As minimum, the Crew will abide by rules, regulations, and policies of the Boy Scouts of America. Particular attention will be paid to guidelines published in Guide to Safe Scouting. The buddy system will be used at all times when possible during Crew activities. Individuals desiring to tent alone must do so within easy site and sound of the Crew and advisors. Gear will be searched when necessary to ensure the safety of the Crew and its members.

**Amendments and Changes to the Bylaws:** Any Crew member may suggest changes or amendments to these bylaws. Adoption of the changes or amendments to these bylaws requires a two-thirds majority vote and approval by the Crew Committee. Adaptations or amendments may be suggested, but will not be discussed until the reelection month for Crew positions in April. There will be a meeting held, in April, to talk about possible changes and will be discussed in open forum with a quorum of Crew members present.

Crew Advancement:

1. All Crew advancement records will be maintained in Troopmaster by the Troop Advancement Coordinator.
2. All advancement will follow the guidelines of the Venture Crew handbook and awards manuals.
3. Activities completed in the Troop can be counted toward activities completion within the Crew.
4. Activities completed in Crew CANNOT be counted as activities completed in the Troop.

### **Crew Planning Conference**

The annual Crew planning conference will occur following the troop conference to plan the year's events.