

- ◆ A feeling exists that this crew is being well run. When people say they're going to do something, they do it. Meetings start and end on time. Members are regularly attending business meetings and activity meetings. This feeling is a result of people caring, of having their word count, and of discipline, taking care of things they have committed to.
- ◆ Crew members are volunteering for leadership roles, especially for activities and special projects. They sense that you, as officers, want them to lead as well.
- ◆ Members are being recognized for achievements that go beyond an award or special honor. In the true spirit of Venturing, you recognize members for community service work, for making someone's life have more meaning and value, for helping your crew cross a frontier and live up to the Venturing Oath.
- ◆ You are working as a team, each officer using his or her own strengths and encouraging the use of one another's strengths and abilities.

Crew Code and Bylaws

The crew president should appoint a committee chaired by the administrative vice president to draft the crew bylaws if you don't already have them. The draft is to be reviewed and approved by the officers, then approved by the crew members. Subsequent additions and revisions can be made at a regular officers' meeting and presented for approval at the next crew business meeting.

The elected crew officers are expected to live by and enforce the crew code and bylaws. New members should be given a copy and asked to

sign or otherwise indicate that they understand and agree to the crew code and bylaws.

The Venturing Code should be the preamble to your crew code and bylaws.

Regular Crew Meetings

It is up to each individual crew to determine how many regular meetings it holds in a month. Most crews have a minimum of two meetings.

At a crew meeting, you need to take some time to discuss important business, but the rest of the time should be reserved for the planned activity.

The president leads the crew meeting. Develop a detailed, written agenda for each meeting, and give a copy to those on the program. The program vice president and activity chair prepare the room, program materials, and equipment. The activity chair makes reminder phone calls to program presenters or consultants. The president should ensure that all crew meetings start on time. All meetings should have an opening and closing, using the Pledge of Allegiance, the Venturing Oath, or a prayer. Introduce guests and make them feel welcome.

In a crew meeting, the report and business items should be handled efficiently to be sure that the members know the issues and understand what is going to happen. Give activity chairs for upcoming events time to briefly explain and promote their activity. Ask crew officers to make regular, but brief, reports. The administrative vice president or secretary follows up with members who missed a meeting to inform them of any business or announcements.

A sample agenda for a regular crew meeting is provided on page 38.

SUGGESTED CREW CODE AND BYLAWS

I. Preamble—Venturing Code (should *not* be changed)

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 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 on the frontiers of our changing world.

II. Crew Bylaws (Each crew or ship can revise to suit its needs.)

A. Objectives

The objectives of Crew/Ship No. _____ are

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

B. Membership

Membership shall be open to all young adults of high school age who live in the surrounding area and have completed the eighth grade or are at least 14 years of age. No prospective member shall be disqualified because of race, color, creed, or sex. All members must be registered as Venturers and agree to the crew/ship code and bylaws.

C. Officers

1. The elected officers shall be president, two vice presidents, secretary, and treasurer. The president, with the approval of the Advisor, shall appoint activity chairs and make other assignments as needed. The duties of the officers shall be as prescribed in the *Venturing Leader Manual*.
2. The normal term of office shall be for one year starting on February 1. Elections shall be held in January.
3. No member shall serve more than two successive terms in the same office.
4. The president shall appoint a nominating committee, which shall consist of three members. The committee shall interview and present a complete slate of candidates who have agreed, if elected, to serve to the best of their abilities.

5. On the night of the election, nominations may be presented from the floor by any member. If the nomination is seconded and the candidate agrees to serve, he or she must be included on the ballot.
6. All contested ballots shall be secret.

D. Crew business

Crew business will be conducted under the principles outlined in *Robert's Rules of Order*. Voting on all issues will be by simple majority, with the exception of changes or amendments to the bylaws, which will require a two-thirds vote of the total membership. A quorum shall consist of one more than the majority of members for votes on routine business.

E. General meetings

General meetings will be held during the first and third weeks of each month. The day will be decided by the membership at the beginning of each school year.

F. Officers' meetings

Officers' meetings will be held at least once a month, prior to and at a time and place different from the first crew meeting of that month.

G. Newsletter

The crew will publish a newsletter every other month, which shall include all meeting dates and other information of interest to the membership. The newsletter will serve as the historical record of the crew.

H. Dues

Dues will be \$_____ per month, payable quarterly or at any time within the quarter. Members delinquent in dues payments for six months or more will be dropped from the crew roster.

I. Money-earning projects

All money-earning projects must be approved by a majority vote of crew members. Members who do not participate in a project are not entitled to any benefits of the funds earned. All money-earning projects must be approved by the Advisor and meet Boy Scouts of America requirements.

J. (Additional bylaws may be added by the crew.)
