



Sam Houston Area Council
Venturing Officer's Association
By-Laws
July 15, 2011



VENTURING - BSA

SAM HOUSTON AREA COUNCIL



Table of Contents

Article I.	Name	4
Article II.	Purpose	4
Article III.	Parliamentary Authority	4
Article IV.	Venturing General Assembly	4
IV.1	Authority.....	4
IV.2	Composition.....	4
Article V.	Council Venturing Cabinet.....	5
V.1	Authority.....	5
V.2	Meetings	5
V.3	Composition.....	5
V.4	Voting.....	5
Article VI.	Officers of the Council Venturing Cabinet	5
VI.1	Council Venturing President	5
VI.2	Council Venturing Vice-President of Program.....	6
VI.3	Council Venturing Vice-President of Administration.....	6
VI.4	Fleet Boatswain	6
VI.5	Immediate Past VOA President.....	6
VI.6	Succession	6
Article VII.	Advisors of the Council Venturing Officers Association	7
VII.1	Advisor.....	7
VII.2	Associate Advisors	7
VII.3	Staff Advisor	7
Article VIII.	District Venturing Officers Association	7
VIII.1	Authority.....	7
VIII.2	Meetings	7
VIII.3	Composition.....	7
VIII.4	District VOA President.....	8
VIII.5	District VOA Vice-Presidents.....	8
VIII.6	District Venturing President & Vice-President Elections	8
VIII.7	Crew/Ship Representatives	8
VIII.7.1	Number	8
VIII.7.2	Eligibility.....	8
VIII.7.3	Selection	8
Article IX.	Appointment of Committees	8
Article X.	Election of Officers	9
X.1	Time and Place.....	9
X.2	Term of Office.....	9
X.3	Eligibility.....	9
X.4	Campaigning Procedures	10
X.5	Election Procedure	10
Article XI.	Removal from Office.....	10
XI.1	Just Cause.....	10



VENTURING - BSA

SAM HOUSTON AREA COUNCIL



XI.2	Procedure	10
Article XII.	Amendment	11
XII.1	Notice.....	11
XII.2	Authority to Amend	11
XII.3	Time of Effect.....	11



Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the Sam Houston Area Council Venturing Officers' Association, hereinafter the "VOA".

The VOA shall be affiliated with Sam Houston Area Council, hereinafter the "council", Boy Scouts of America, and shall be under the administrative authority of the Scout Executive, and the supervision of the Council Venturing Chairman and the "professional" Venturing Staff Advisor.

Article II. Purpose

The purpose of the VOA shall be to provide a forum for the youth leadership of the Venturing Crew/Ships and Sea Scout Ships of the Sam Houston Area Council. To that end the VOA shall plan, develop and promote a program of activities centered on leadership, service, social activities, fitness, the outdoors and citizenship that encourages the development of the entire person. In brief, to create a support network for assisting new Crew/Ships and growing Venturing membership in all districts, to train youth Crew/Ship leaders through VOA activities and help them gain practical experience through hands-on development and experience positive leadership from adult and youth leaders and be given opportunities to take on leadership roles.

Article III. Parliamentary Authority

To the extent they are applicable and not in conflict with these bylaws, the rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, shall govern meetings of the full association and all subsidiary bodies, except when exempt by committee rules.

Article IV. Venturing General Assembly

IV.1 Authority

The Venturing General Assembly, henceforth known as the VGA, shall vote on all policies, communications, programs, protocols, and any other miscellaneous procedures brought to the VGA for consideration by the VOA Cabinet.

IV.2 Composition

All registered Venturers in the council shall be eligible to vote at any VGA roll call. Each Venturer in attendance shall be entitled to one vote and no absentee voting is allowed.



Article V. Council Venturing Cabinet

V.1 Authority

The Council Venturing Cabinet, henceforth known as the Cabinet, shall govern the day-to-day activities, communication, and policy set by the Venturing General Assembly.

The Cabinet shall also organize training and support for District officers conducting programs within their District, and work to promote Venturing on all levels throughout the Council.

V.2 Meetings

The meetings of the Council Venturing Cabinet shall occur quarterly at a regular time and place to be set by the cabinet.

V.3 Composition

The Council Venturing Cabinet shall be composed of the Council Venturing President, Vice-President for Program, Vice-President for Administration, Fleet Boatswain, immediate past President and the District VOA Presidents. Non-voting adult members shall include the Council Venturing Committee Chair, Council Venturing Vice-Chair of Program, Council Vice-Chair of Training, Vice-Chair of Administration, Fleet Commodore and the professional Venturing Staff Advisor.

V.4 Voting

The voting members shall include the elected officers and the immediate past President. The presiding officer shall not vote, except in a tie.

Article VI. Officers of the Council Venturing Cabinet

VI.1 Council Venturing President

The Council Venturing President shall serve as the spokesperson and a representative of the Council Venturing Cabinet, the Venturing General Assembly, the Association, and all Venturers within the Council.

The Council Venturing President shall preside at all meetings of the Venturing General Assembly and the Council Venturing Cabinet.

The President of the Venturing Officers Association shall be endowed with executive powers to act in situations where it is not specifically stated as a course of action in these bylaws. The executive powers to act do not include the ability to infringe upon another officers stated duty in these bylaws. Any executive decision can be revoked by majority of the Cabinet.



VI.2 Council Venturing Vice-President of Program

The Council Venturing Vice-President for Program is responsible for the oversight and support of program events and committees. The Council Venturing Vice-President for Program is responsible for the general selection, advertisement, program of council-wide events.

VI.3 Council Venturing Vice-President of Administration

The Council Venturing Vice-President of Program shall record all minutes at meetings of the Council Venturing Cabinet and General Assembly, work with Committees to promote Venturing events, and publish a regular electronic newsletter for the Association to be distributed to Venturers in the Council.

The Council Venturing Vice-President of Administration shall distribute other notices and announcements to the council Venturing membership using other electronic and/or printed media methods as deemed necessary by the VOA.

The Council Venturing Vice-President for Administration is responsible for the oversight and support of all standing and ad hoc Administrative committees.

VI.4 Fleet Boatswain

The Fleet Boatswain is responsible for the oversight and support of Sea Scout program events and committees. The Fleet Boatswain is responsible for the general selection, advertisement, program of council-wide Sea Scout events.

The Boatswain of the Council Flagship shall also become the Fleet Boatswain, with the approval of the Fleet Commodore.

VI.5 Immediate Past VOA President

The Past VOA shall serve as an advisor and mentor for the current VOA President.

VI.6 Succession

In the event of a vacancy of the VOA President, this line of succession shall take effect:

The VOA Vice-President of Program shall become the VOA President. In the event that there is not a VOA Vice-President of Program, the VOA Vice-President of Administration shall be installed as the VOA President.

The VOA President shall have the ability to fill vacancies in the Cabinet, for that particular year with the approval of the Council Venturing Chairman, and Council Venturing Staff Advisor.



Article VII. Advisors of the Council Venturing Officers Association

VII.1 Advisor

The overall Advisor for the Venturing Officers Association is the Council Venturing Committee Chairman. The Chair is appointed by the Council Vice-President for Membership. The Advisor works with the Venturing Officers Association President to conduct a quality program.

VII.2 Associate Advisors

The VOA Associate Advisors are responsible for the coaching and supporting of the Vice-Presidents, and in that role support the advisors for all of the formal and specialized divisions.

Associate Advisors for the VOA shall be members of the Venturing Council Committee under the direction of the Council Venturing Chairman.

VII.3 Staff Advisor

The Staff Advisor is a professional Scouter appointed by the Council Scout Executive to provide direction and support for the VOA.

Article VIII. District Venturing Officers Association

VIII.1 Authority

The District Venturing Officers Association shall organize the planning and implementation of venturing events and training at the district level within their respective districts, as well as work to provide program support for units in the district when requested, in support of the various venturing programs, and also offer support to the district roundtable commissioner and staff.

VIII.2 Meetings

The District Venturing Officers Association shall meet regularly at a time and place set by each Cabinet.

VIII.3 Composition

Each district in the Council shall have a District Venturing Cabinet that shall be composed of the District Venturing President, the District Venturing Vice-President of Program, and the District Venturing Vice-President of Administration. In addition, the District VOA will include all crew/ship representatives from their district.



VIII.4 District VOA President

The District VOA President shall serve as the spokesman and representative of their respective District Venturing Cabinets and all Venturers within their District.

The District Venturing Presidents shall preside at all meetings of their respective District Venturing Cabinet.

VIII.5 District VOA Vice-Presidents

The District Venturing Vice-Presidents shall assist the District Venturing President in the performance of that officer's official duties.

VIII.6 District Venturing President & Vice-President Elections

The Crew/Ship Representatives sent by Crew/Ships in their respective Districts may elect the District Venturing Presidents and District Venturing Vice-Presidents at either the annual assembly or at the next district gathering; or may be appointed by the District Venturing Chairman.

VIII.7 Crew/Ship Representatives

VIII.7.1 Number

Each Venturing Crew/Ship (and Ship) in the Sam Houston Area Council shall have the right to send one representative to be a member of the District Venturing Association, although all Venturers may attend the meetings.

VIII.7.2 Eligibility

Any currently registered youth member in the Crew/Ship is eligible to be selected as a Crew/Ship representative. If the youth ceases to be a registered youth member of the Crew/Ship, then they are no longer eligible to serve as a Crew/Ship representative from that Crew/Ship to the Association. No person may be a Crew/Ship representative from more than one Crew/Ship at a time.

VIII.7.3 Selection

The duration and method of the selection of Crew/Ship Representatives is left to the discretion of the Crew/Ship, subject to the eligibility provisions above.

Article IX. Appointment of Committees

The Council Venturing Vice-Presidents of Program and Administration are authorized to appoint Committees with the approval of the President to report to the Council Venturing Cabinet or General Assembly.

The District Venturing Presidents are authorized to appoint Committees to report to their respective District Venturing Cabinets.



Article X. Election of Officers

X.1 Time and Place

Association Officers shall be elected by the General Assembly at the annual Venturing Meeting held in August of each year.

X.2 Term of Office

Newly elected officers shall take office at the installation ceremony in August and shall continue to serve until the following inauguration ceremony, so long as they remain eligible to hold office. Outgoing officers are required to train incoming officers.

X.3 Eligibility

Any registered youth member of any Crew/Ship in the council shall be eligible to run for any office of the Association, so long as the following conditions are met:

- Not reached the age of 20 years at the time of the election
- No individual may hold more than one District or Council Office. Any candidate, who runs and is elected to a second office, must resign from the first office within 30 days.
- Must reside within the geographical boundaries of SHAC during their entire term of office, including time at post-high school educational institutions, but excluding time spent at any long-term Scouting program (eg. Summer camp @ Sea Base, Northern Tier, Philmont, Summit, etc.)
- Must have approval from registered home crew advisor or ship skipper
- Must be a registered Venturer in the SHAC Venturing program for a minimum of six (6) months prior to the election.
- Must agree to attend a council Venturing Cabinet Seminar within two (2) months after the election
- Term Limits:
 - 3 years total (consecutive or non-consecutive)
 - Cannot hold the same office more than twice within the 3 year limit

X.4 Campaigning Procedures

All campaigning shall remain positive in nature. Negative campaigning may result in disqualification of a candidate as determined by the Council Venturing Chairman and the Staff Advisor.

Only youth can campaign for themselves or other youth. Adults must remain neutral in all aspects of the campaign process. Furthermore, any official communication tools of the Council Venturing program shall not be used for campaigning purposes.

X.5 Election Procedure

The Council Venturing President, Council Venturing Vice-President for Program, and Council Venturing Vice-President for Administration shall be elected by the General Assembly as a whole.

All elections shall be conducted using some type of secret voting method.

The Venturing Cabinet will present to the General Assembly as a whole, the specific election procedures, approved by the Council Venturing Committee Chair and Staff Advisor, before the scheduled election.

After all nominations have been received and before votes are cast, candidates shall be permitted the opportunity to speak briefly.

Article XI. Removal from Office

XI.1 Just Cause

Before the removal from office process can begin, facts related to the non-performance of duties or behavior in a manner contrary to the Scout Oath & Law and Venturing Oath & Code, must be reported to the professional Staff Advisor and the Venturing Committee Chair.

XI.2 Procedure

Notice of intent to remove an officer must be given in writing to that officer by the Staff Advisor along with a time and place for an in-person interview. This interview must take place within 30 days of any reported incident for cause.

The Staff Advisor can remove either council or district VOA members.

Removal arguments must be documented and follow BSA removal policies.



Article XII. Amendment

XII.1 Notice

All future amendments to this document must be posted to the Council Website or other appropriate media at least 2 weeks prior to the beginning of the annual meeting at which they will be considered.

XII.2 Authority to Amend

The General Assembly may adopt proposed amendments by a 2/3 vote at the annual Meeting.

XII.3 Time of Effect

Unless stated otherwise in the amendment, all amendments shall take effect immediately upon their adoption.