



VENTURING CREW 115

So you have heard about our Crew and want to learn a little more about us. Let's start with the basics...
"What is a venturing Crew?"

Venturing is a part of the Boy Scouts of America but there are some significant differences between Boy Scout Troops and Venture Crews.

- The first difference you will see is that Venturing is open to girls as well as boys. Our Crew started in 2014 with several sisters of Boy Scouts and, to date, has remained an all-female Crew.
- The age range is different as well. You can join a Crew if you are at least 14 years old or have completed the 8th grade, and you can stay in until you turn 21.
- Venturing traditionally has a focus on the activities rather than the advancement. The founding members of our Crew still wanted to have advancement be a part of our program so we will work with those who wish to work towards the advancement awards.

We started Crew 115 in September of 2014. Our Charter Organization is the Blackridge Civic Association located at 1020 Beulah Road. We hold most of our meetings there. As most of our girls are busy with activities during the week, we have gone outside of the box and typically meet on Sundays.

Our founding members liked doing outdoor things and that is our main area of focus. Count on a couple of camping trips in the year. Cabin camping in December and a canoeing trip on the Youghiogheny River or a hiking trip on the Allegheny Trail in the spring, are regular trips and others will be planned.

The founding members also wanted to make a commitment to community service... particularly for the Blackridge Civic Association (BCA) and Blackridge Swim Club (BSC). The two organizations support each other. We do service for other organizations with a relationship to our Crew Members as well.

The B.S.A. Venturing program has a very heavy emphasis on leadership. A goal of Crew 115 is to be a *member lead / member driven* Crew. In the winter, when the outdoor portion of our program is at somewhat of a lull, the founding members wanted to work into our schedule: leadership orientation: safety, and other requirements for the Venturing awards.

Participation in the Crew 115 will allow you many of the same opportunities as being a member of a Boy Scout Troop. We can provide you with opportunities to experience new adventures and increase your confidence and leadership skills through our Crew Member designed program of adventures.

The Crew Advisor is Dirk Page. He is an Eagle Scout and has been a registered Boy Scout leader since 2000. He has been through trainings for multiple scouting leadership positions and has been an active member of the Boy Scouts for over 25 years. Feel free to contact him if you have any questions about the Crew and our activities. His contact information is at the end of the next page.

Following are the Crew Expectations

Participation:

Meetings: We meet at least once a month during the school year and as needed for activities during the summer. Though not required to attend, we expect you to attend the meetings unless you have a conflicting obligation. At our meetings, we will be working out details of our adventures and/or participating in training programs/activities. Even if you have sat through a particular training or activity before, you can help teach new members the skills (reinforcing the *member driven* aspect of our group) and... reinforcement of the knowledge is never a bad thing.

Participation:

Adventures: As the Crew will plan our schedule based on member interest and availability, we hope you would attend as many as possible. We call any activity other than a meeting an “adventure.” Adventures could be Tier 1 - as simple as going to see one of our members perform in a musical, or Tier 3 - as complicated as a week-long stay in a High Adventure Camp. Adventures are meant to be fun and often have you venture outside of your comfort zone to try something new.

There is not a strict attendance policy for attending meetings and participating adventures, but, that is what we are here for. Take advantage of it and join in to the best of your ability!

Financials:

The Required Stuff:

- The uniform insignia and book totals about **\$85** at the Scout Shop (uniform pants and belt are optional for the first year and then required, cost an additional **\$57**)
- Registration with the BSA is \$2 / month remaining in the calendar year, so registration for a full year is **\$24** whereas joining in April is **\$18** for 9 months...
- Dues are set at **\$22.50** per year. This covers awards, campsite rentals and insurance...
- Annual registration and dues are required in November after the popcorn sale.

Financials:

The Fun Stuff - Adventures to expect:

- Summer Camp \$335 in 2015 (goes up each year) payments due in April and May
- Canoe Trip with Boy Scout Troop 115 (weekend after Memorial Day) \$41 - \$45 per person, (on this trip, Parents are encouraged to come and siblings are welcome if a parent attends...)
- Cabin Camping weekend, first weekend in December (right after Thanksgiving)
- Weekend Camping Trips, 2 or 3 per year \$15 - \$20 depending on menu planned.

Financials:

Fund Raising:

Participation is completely voluntary. The Boy Scouts of America have a popcorn sale in the fall. The fund raiser is already organized and so it is easy for us to participate. With a minimal effort, a Scout's dues and registration can be covered. Any additional sales will earn credit that can be applied to any of the **Fun Stuff** above. If one of the Crew Members would want to run an additional fund raiser in addition to or instead of the popcorn sale, we are open to ideas. It is the only one we have done in the past as no one has volunteered to run another fundraising activity.

If you have any questions about Crew 115, send an email to our Advisor dirk.page@ymail.com or call 412-243-4584.

Yours in Scouting,
The members and leaders of

VENTURING CREW 115 