



FAQ's to *the* VENTURING, BSA ADVANCEMENT UPDATES

Q1: Regarding the recent change to the Venturing program allowing prior credit for work completed while a registered Scout or Sea Scout, what sections of the 2019 Guide to Advancement will be revised?

Topic 4.3.1.2 of the 2019 edition of the Guide to Advancement contains the following provision:

The requirements for all Venturing awards require the work to be done as Venturers. For example, even though a young person earned the Backpacking merit badge as a Scout, before becoming a Venturer, he or she must pass the Ranger backpacking elective once registered as a Venturer. Some requirements may call for certification such as Scuba Open-Water Diver, American Red Cross Standard First Aid, or BSA Lifeguard. Current certifications such as these may be used regardless of when they were earned.

Although the revisions to the next edition of the Guide to Advancement have not been finalized, the requirement that “all Venturing awards require the work to be done as Venturers” will be deleted and will not be in the next edition of the Guide to Advancement.

Q2: Can a Venturer receive credit toward his Summit service project based on completion of the Eagle Scout project or the Quartermaster service project?

No, the change to topic 4.3.1.2 in the Guide to Advancement is not intended to and does not change or revise the Summit Award service project requirement.

Topic 4.3.1.4 in the current Guide to Advancement contains the following provision which remains unchanged: “The Eagle rank and Summit Award service projects must be separate and distinct from each other.”

Venturing Summit Award requirement 8 states clearly and unambiguously that the Summit Award Service Project “must be different from the one carried out for the Eagle Scout rank or the Sea Scout Quartermaster rank.” This reference is also found in topic 4.3.2.0 in the Guide to Advancement.

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Finally, in the current edition of the Guide to Advancement. Similarly, topic 4.4.1.4 describes the requirements for the Sea Scout Quartermaster Rank and includes the following provision: "A youth's Quartermaster, Eagle, or Venturing Summit Award service project must not be the same project; these projects must be separate and distinct from each other."

Q3: Regarding the recent change classifying the core Venturing Awards as ranks, will the focus and objectives of the Venturing program change?

No. The intent of these changes to the Venturing BSA program is to remove barriers in the transition from Scouts BSA into Venturing and to make Venturing a more viable option for those youth who participated in Scouts BSA but have ceased to be active or perhaps dropped out of all BSA programs completely. There is no plan to place a greater emphasis in the Venturing program on earning ranks. But for those youth who have mastered the basic Scout skills in a Scouts BSA Troop, the expectation is that these recent changes to the Venturing program will provide a more consistent alignment between a Scouts BSA Troop and a Venturing Crew and will make Venturing a more attractive alternative to further develop leadership skills. The focus in Venturing will not be on earning ranks and "Summitting" unless that is the goal of the Venturer. The goal of Venturing will remain what it has been for some time, to provide youth an opportunity to "Lead the Adventure."

Have further questions? Please review the BSA Guide to Advancement and contact your local council advancement committee for guidance regarding your specific circumstances.

