

MCS 316 – Venturing Crew Scenario 1

THE UNIT ASSESSMENT

VENTURING CREW SCENARIO I

BACKGROUND

Venturing Crew 2009 spun off from Troop 100 about five years ago; initially starting with a half-dozen boys who were dual registered with the Troop and an equal number of girls who were predominantly sisters of Scouts in Troop 100. For the first few years, the crew continued to attract new members predominantly from Troop 100, peaking at around 20 active youth using the same model: boys looking for a co-ed Scouting experience and the sisters of the boys in Troop 100. The initial key adult leadership for the crew included the immediate past Troop 100 Scoutmaster Dave as the crew committee chair and his highly motivated and gung-ho “outdoorsy” 21-year-old daughter Nancy as an associate advisor. A couple of years ago Dave had a stroke, but he continues as best he can as the committee chair; about the same time Nancy accepted a great job opportunity across the country. The crew continues to share the same chartered organization and charter organization representative with the troop.

PLANNING AND BUDGET

The crew has a current program plan developed by the youth, but activities that require an overnight adult female lately have been getting cancelled at the last minute.

The unit hasn’t ever really had a budget. The chartered organization pays the annual unit re-charter fees, and any individual membership fees. The chartered organization holds no equipment on behalf of the unit, and all youth and adult members pay-as-they-go for activities.

MEMBERSHIP

Not counting those youth who are away at college, the active youth membership has declined to 10 members, all of whom are in their junior or senior year in high school. The unit has not recruited a new member in two years.

PROGRAM

The crew meets twice a month, usually to plan the next one or two events.

Until Nancy moved away, the unit hiked and camped at least once a month – they even went to Philmont twice. Since Nancy’s departure, finding adult females willing to camp has been problematic – in fact at one point the unit hadn’t camped together in so long that they were seriously giving consideration to having a “males only” overnight hike until, with the counsel of the crew advisor, the crew president declared such a “single sex” activity would be bad for morale. The crew is planning to go to Florida Sea Base next summer, but were only able to make this a co-ed event because Nancy said she would use her vacation and would come back to support the effort, including reregistering , and getting her training current.

None of the members in the crew has ever sought to earn any of the old awards, but a recent article in **Scouting** magazine caught the attention of one of the youth females, and she is interested in learning more.

Occasionally, some of the adults attend a multi-district Venturing roundtable. In fact, one of the newest female leaders was asking another Venturing leader new to the council what the meaning of the device shown here was.



VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

Since committee chair Dave's stroke, a few new adult leaders have joined the crew. Crew Advisor Bob is relatively new and is position-specific trained, like most of the leaders. He took Wood Badge, but it was years ago when he was a Cub Scout leader. The Crew Advisor's son is a junior and a member of the crew. In addition to Bob, there are two male and one female associate advisors, plus a committee of five including committee chairman Bob and the charter organization representative. All adult leaders and youth over the age of 18 have current Youth Protection Training. The council does not offer Powder Horn training.

All the crew officers have completed the on-line Crew Officer Orientation. The council started a Venturing Officers Association six months ago, but none of the members of Crew 2009 are aware it exists. The area has a very active Venturing Officer Association, and at least twice a year they schedule an area-wide Venturing event. The last area Venturing event hugely successful.

TASK:

Assess Crew 2009:

- ☐ Rate the unit on a scale of 1 – 5 (Red/Yellow/Green)
- ☐ Identify the unit's key strengths and needs in planning and budget, membership, program, and volunteer leadership.
- ☐ Identify any issues the unit has and if any are critical to the unit's success.
- ☐ Prepare a unit service plan to address the unit's needs and issues.