






Similarities and Differences between Boy Scouting, Venture, Varsity Scouting, and Venturing

- VENTURE is a program within Boy Scout Troops within the Boy Scout Division of BSA.
- VARSITY is a program in a different type of unit within the Boy Scout Division of BSA.
- VENTURING is a program within the Venturing Division of BSA.

Program	Boy Scouting			Venturing	
(Click on picture for more info)					 VENTURING · BSA
Unit Type	Boy Scout Troops	Venture Patrols within Boy Scout Troops	Varsity Scout Teams	Sea Scout Ships	Venturing Crews
Uniform	Boy Scout tan uniform shirt with forest green shoulder loops	Boy Scout tan shirt with forest green shoulder loops and Venture strip above pocket	Boy Scout tan uniform shirt with orange shoulder loops and Varsity strip above pocket	Sea Scout uniforms	Crew decides uniform, recommended uniform spruce green shirt and spruce green shoulder loops
Members are called	Boy Scouts	Boy Scouts	Varsity Scouts	Sea Scouts	Venturers
Membership	Boys 11-17*	Boys 13-17	Boys 14-17	Boys and Girls 14-20**	Boys and Girls 14-20**
Adult Leader	Scoutmaster	Assistant Scoutmaster-Venture	Team Coach	Skipper	Advisor
Youth Leader	Senior Patrol Leader	Venture Patrol Leader	Team Captain	Boatswain	President
Activity Area	Boy Scout Program	Boy Scout program with high adventure / sports activities added.		Sailing, Boating, Seamanship	Crew determines in an area within outdoor / high adventure, sports, youth ministries, or arts & crafts

Youth Leader Training	TLT, NYLT, AND NAYLE			NYLT, NAYLE, VLSC, and SEAL	NYLT, NAYLE, VLSC, Kodiak, Kodiak X
Rank Advancement	Merit Badges, Tenderfoot thru Eagle and Palms			Apprentice, Ordinary, Able, Quartermaster	(No Rank Advancements)
				Merit Badges, Star, Life, Eagle and Palms ****	
Recognitions and Awards	All Boy Scout Recognitions	All Boy Scout Recognitions	All Boy Scout Recognitions plus Varsity Letter & activity pins and Denali Award	Bronze, Gold, and Silver Ranger, Quest and TRUST Venturing Leadership Award	
	Religious, Lifesaving, Meritorious Action, Hornaday, Council Achievement, BSA Lifeguard, Snorkeling, Mile-Swim, Fifty-Miler, Historic Trails, World Conservation, Interpreter, Firem'n Chit, Totin' Chip, Paul Bunyan Woodsman, Den Chief Service Award and others				
Order of the Arrow	Members eligible for election			Not eligible for election, can participate in program if already elected in a troop or team.	
National Jamboree	Can participate as contingent members if over age 12 Can serve on Youth Staff if over age 16			Can serve on Youth Staff if over age 16	

Notes:

* Boys who have graduated the 5th grade or have Arrow of Light and are at least age 10 may also join.

**Youth who are 13 and have graduated the 8th grade may also join. Venturers and Sea Scouts registered in a crew or ship prior to their 21st birthday may continue as members after their 21st birthday until the crew or ship recharter or until they reach their 22nd birthday, whichever comes first

***Per BSA's National Bylaws, Sea Scouts is the only program within Venturing to have ranks.

****Only boys under 18 who have earned First Class rank in a Troop or Team may earn Boy Scout advancements in a Ship or Crew.

- The term "Venture Crew" is no longer valid. That group is now called a "Venture Patrol."
- The term "Venture Scout" is not valid for any program of the BSA.
 - Members of a Venture Patrol are "Boy Scouts".
 - Members of a Venturing Crew are "Venturers".
- The term "Varsity Team" as used by in-troop programs is no longer valid. That function has now been taken over by the Venture Patrol.
- No one can wear spruce green shoulder loops on a khaki Boy Scout shirt. Scouts in a Venture Patrol wear forest green shoulder loops.
- Venturers do not wear a khaki Boy Scout shirt.