
THE UNIT ASSESSMENT

CREW SCENARIO

BACKGROUND

Venture 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 around 20 active youth using the same model: boys looking for a co-ed Scouting experience or 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 Chairman 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 Chairman and about the same time Nancy accepted a great job opportunity across the country. The Crew continues to share the same Chartered Organization and COR as the Troop.

FINANCE

The unit hasn't ever really had a budget. The Chartered Organization pays the annual unit recharter 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 eroded down to 10 youth in their junior and senior year in high school and 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. The unit does have a current program plan, but those activities that require an overnight adult female lately have been getting cancelled at the last minute. 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 before the with the counsel of the Crew Advisor the Crew President declared such a “single sex” activity would be bad for moral. The Crew is planning to go to Sea Base in the summer of 2014, 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 have 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 was the meaning of the device shown here.



LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE (Including TRAINING)

Since Committee Chairman Dave's stroke a few new adult leaders have joined the Crew. The Crew Advisor Bob is relatively new but is position specific trained, like most of the leaders, and he took Wood Badge, but it was years ago when he was a Cub 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 COR. All adult leaders, and youth over the age of 18 have completed Venturing Youth Protection training within the past two years. The council does not offer Powder Horn training.

All the Crew Officers have completed the on-line Crew Officer Orientation. The council starting a Venturing Officers Association six months ago, but none of the members of Crew 2009 are aware it exists. The Regional Service 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 Phenomenon was hugely successful.

The Unit Commissioner quit about six months ago, and until YOUR assignment to this unit, they have not seen a commissioner since the prior UC quit.

TASK #1

Complete a simple, overall evaluation on a scale of 1 – 5. Identify at least two factors resulting in your evaluation.

TASK #2

Complete a detailed evaluation (on a scale of 1 – 5) of Finance, Membership, Program, and Leadership & Governance. Identify at least one specific strength or opportunity in each category. For each opportunity, identify a specific action that would strengthen the unit and assign responsibility (i.e., "committee member Jones," "associate advisor Smith," "COR Anderson," "district committee training committee," etc.), and set a target date for completion. Based upon the information provided in this scenario, include an assessment of the crew's Program Plan.