



**Venturing Opportunities  
at the Goshen Scout Reservation**

High Adventure Opportunities, Outdoor Bronze Award,  
Ranger Award, and ALPS Rank Advancement

## **Venturing High Adventure Opportunities**

### *Lenhok'sin High Adventure*

Based at the Goshen Scout Reservation, Lenhok'sin High Adventure is NCAC's very own High Adventure base. Lenhok'sin High Adventure offers week-long backpacking and canoeing treks, where Venturers can apply their learned skills and put them into practice.

Through a "plan your own adventure" structure, crews are able to personally tailor backpacking itineraries to fit their level of experience and goals. Crews also participate in several high adventure activities including black powder rifle shooting, blacksmithing, caving, paddle boarding, COPE, archery, and more! The Lenhok'sin Canoeing Trek features over 120 Class I and II rapids along 61 miles of the Upper James River Water Trail. Many units utilize Lenhok'sin High Adventure as a shakedown for future Philmont and Northern Tier treks.

Learn more about the Lenhok'sin Program at [www.gotogoshen.org/lenhoksin](http://www.gotogoshen.org/lenhoksin)

### *Goshen Vets Program*

The Goshen Vets program, based out of Camp Bowman, is available for all participants at Camps Olmsted, Bowman, and Marriott. Vets participants create their own daily program based upon group interest and high adventure opportunities at the Goshen Scout Reservation. Past activities include wakeboarding, action archery, a mini-iron man, and a taste of Lenhok'sin High Adventure outpost activities (black powder rifle shooting, blacksmithing, caving, paddle boarding, COPE, archery, and more!).

Learn more about the Goshen Vets program at [www.gotogoshen.org/bowman](http://www.gotogoshen.org/bowman)

## **Venturing Advancement Opportunities**

There are many opportunities for Venturing Advancement at the Goshen Scout Reservation (GSR), including the Ranger Award, and the Discovery, Pathfinder, and Summit Awards. The Venturing program empowers Venture Scouts to create their own experiences while bringing Scouting values to their lives through high adventure outdoor activities and challenging real-world projects.

BSA Summer Camps offers a location for Venturers to utilize camp resources to accomplish adventure and advancement goals. For example, by attending a GSR resident camp for two consecutive weeks, Venturers are able to complete the NCAC GSR Outdoor Bronze Award, equivalent to the former Venturing Outdoor Bronze Award, completing 50% of the specialty Ranger Award. GSR Program Staff are happy to help arrange a custom program for your Venturing needs based on the elements and programs provided at GSR.

## **Goshen Outdoor Bronze and Pathway to Ranger**

Created by NCAC Venturing Crew 27, the Goshen Outdoor Bronze Award is modeled off the former Venturing Outdoor Bronze Award, and the specialty Ranger Award. If interested in achieving the Outdoor Bronze Award and Ranger Award, we highly encourage reviewing award requirements and complementing merit badge offerings, as well as preparing supplemental material for topics to be completed through “unit program.”

Access a digital copy of Ranger Requirements here:

[https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/venturing/pdf/ranger\\_award\\_requirements.pdf](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/venturing/pdf/ranger_award_requirements.pdf)

*Outdoor Bronze Award and Ranger Requirements at GSR – Core Requirements*

### **Cooking**

The Cooking requirement can be completed in the Patrol Cooking environments offered at Camp Bowman and Camp Marriott. While a basic cooking menu is available to all campers, the Venturing program allows for flexibility in menu planning, however Crew leaders should plan accordingly for supplies and ingredients. Crews of less than six scouts may invite site guides or commissioners to attend a meal in order to satisfy requirements. Although Coleman stoves and Dutch ovens are available to be signed out at the camp Quartermaster, crews should bring a backpacking stove to satisfy requirement 3d. Advisors are responsible for determining if a scout has completed the cooking requirements.

Goshen Scout Reservation Patrol Cooking Menu available at <https://www.gotogoshen.org/information/forms-downloads/>.

### **Land Navigation**

The majority of Land Navigation requirements may be completed by enrolling in the Orientation Merit Badge, however additional requirements are best taught within the crew setting in your campsite. Crews should bring a GPS to complete the night navigation requirement. Topographic maps of GSR are available for purchase at camp trading posts. Crews may also wish to consider a hike to Viewing Rock to complete the Land Navigation route planning requirements.

### **Wilderness Survival (*Scoutcraft*)**

The majority of the Wilderness Survival requirements can be completed by enrolling in the Wilderness Survival merit badge taught in the Scoutcraft program area. Requirements such as 7h (1) and 7h (2) are best covered in the individual patrol site, as they are not covered by the standard merit badge. The establishment of a Totin’ Chip instruction area (with proper instruction and certification) and the building of camp gadgets as a part of the daily campsite inspections offer an incentive for practicing Wilderness Survival skills. Scouts will need to complete an additional Wilderness Survival night than what is offered by the merit badge, which may be completed away from, but adjacent to, the main unit campsite.

Requirements regarding knot tying and lashing are best completed in the unit site through older scout and/or adult instruction, or through participation in the Pioneering Merit Badge. The Scoutcraft Director and Advisor certify completion of perspective components. (See Appendix 1 for more detailed information and suggestions).

### **Conservation** *(Nature)*

The Conservation requirement is superintended by the Nature Area Staff and is available on request prior to arriving at camp, or, for Crews spending consecutive weeks, by requesting it during the week prior to the week it is needed. Service projects are usually superintended by the Camp Commissioners. Classes and discussions focus on invasive species removal, soil and water conservation, fish and wildlife management, and forestry management. Service projects, often surrounding invasive species removal, are available in these areas, and are greatly appreciated.

### **Communication, Emergency Preparedness, and Leave No Trace**

Most of the Communication, Emergency Preparedness, and Leave No Trace requirements can be completed during your time at GSR in a crew campsite setting by utilizing resources that are available. Please review the individual requirements so that scouts have all materials that are needed for the portions that they must complete individually or in small groups.

### **First Aid**

The First Aid Core Requirement is available when GSR has an authorized American Red Cross First Aid Instructor on staff or a volunteer with this credential available in camp. Ideal times to deliver the curriculum are evenings during period 7 and on the Saturdays between consecutive weeks of camp.

### *Outdoor Bronze Award and Ranger Requirements at GSR – Elective Requirements*

Of the 18 Elective Requirements, seven can be fully completed at Camp Bowman. Venturers should consider the time needed to complete the requirements when scheduling their course list and siesta time.

### **Ecology** *(Nature)*

The Ecology elective can be completed in conjunction with the conservation core requirement. Please request the availability of this course, as it is not offered as a part of the official merit badge schedule.

### **Fishing** *(Nature)*

The Fishing elective can be completed at GSR's beautiful Lake Merriweather and with the guidance of Nature Area Staff. Please note that fishing is not permitted

on the Lake Merriweather dam, spillway, or aquatics waterfronts, but may be pursued in shoreline areas.

### **Lifesaver** (*Aquatics*)

The Lifesaver elective is met by completing the requirements for the award of the Scouts BSA or Venturing Lifeguard requirements. Required courses such as Paddle Craft Safety, Safe Swim Defense, Swimming and Water Rescue, and Safety Afloat are all taught on request by Camp staff on request. Venturers may also request instruction for additional electives during free swim periods.

### **Mountaineering** (*COPE/Climbing*)

The Mountaineering requirement is available through the Climbing program offered through Camp Olmsted (available to participants at Camps Olmsted, Marriott, and Bowman).

*Note: when scheduling Mountaineering, prior Venturers have found the scheduling of two back-to-back climbing merit badge periods enables accomplishment of the mountaineering requirements by allowing enough time for both learning and teaching back. Venturers who only allowed one period had some difficulty completing in a timely manner.*

### **Plants and Wildlife** (*Nature*)

The Plants and Wildlife requirements can be completed in coordination with the Nature Area Staff upon request. Merit badges such as Mammal Study, Forestry, Reptiles and Amphibians, Bird Study, Soil and Water Conservation, and Environmental Science satisfy some requirements.

### **Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience (COPE)** (*COPE/Climbing*)

The GSR COPE course includes team building exercises, low, medium, and high elements for scouts to participate in. The course lasts for 3 hours each day, totally in 15 hours. First time Venturing attendees are encouraged to attend, as it serves as a great introduction to the scouting program and aids in their transition into their units. The earning of credit for the Ranger COPE elective requirement generally requires two consecutive weeks at GSR so that two courses may be assisted with during the second week. Learn more about the GSR COPE program here: [www.gotogoshen.org/olmsted](http://www.gotogoshen.org/olmsted)

### **Shooting Sports** (*Shooting Sports*)

GSR Camps offers opportunities to complete the Shooting Sports Elective using the recurve or compound bows in archery, the shotgun at the skeet range, and small-bore rifle at the rifle range. The amount of time required to complete the requirements is based on their individual skill level. Requirements can be completed through participation in rifle, shotgun, and archery merit badges.

*Note: The Venturing Archery requirements may need to be accomplished at the Skeet ranges since a 40-yard archery range is not currently available. Please coordinate with the Camp's Shooting Sports Director.*

### **Watercraft (Aquatics)**

Some of the Watercraft requirements are available for completion at GSR upon request and collaboration with the Camp Aquatics staff. Venturers should plan to take the prerequisite boating safety courses before their arrival at GSR. BSA Safety Afloat Training can be satisfied at GSR and the kayaking, canoeing and small boat sailing merit badges provide the necessary training for the Ranger Watercraft elective requirement provided the necessary boating safety course is completed before (or after) camp.

#### *Sample Class Schedule:*

Week 1: COPE, First Aid, Land Navigation, Wilderness Survival

Week 2: Scout's selection of programs fulfilling Bronze//Ranger Award Requirements,

*Suggestions: Mountaineering, Ecology & Conservation. Venturers will need to schedule some time at COPE to complete the COPE Ranger Elective of assisting with two COPE courses.*

### **Venturing Rank Advancement Opportunities**

The Goshen Scout Reservation offers a tier III scouting experience where Venturers can complete ALPS requirements for the Venturing, Discovery, Pathfinder, and Summit Ranks. Although these ranks are often best completed on the unit level, facilities at the Goshen Scout Reservation can be utilized for completion of various rank advancement requirements. While at camp, we recommend hosting crew wide reflections on the Goshen experience and what they have accomplished each day. This creates an environment where Venturers will be motivated and proud of their accomplishments.

#### *Tier III Activity*

As a tier III activity and council led adventure, Venturers are able to obtain credit towards their Discovery and Pathfinder Ranks through attending a GSR summer camp program. Depending on Advisor interpretation, a second week at camp may be used to meet requirements for a second-tier III activity.

#### *Trainings*

Opportunities for Safe Swim Defense, Safety Afloat, Paddle Safety, BSA Swimming and Water Rescue, & BSA Lifeguard are also available upon request from the Camp Aquatics Director.

Crews may use camp spaces (pavilions, etc.) with permission from the admin staff, as well as their assigned campsite, to host

*Faith – Duty to God: Higher Than Eagles*

The Duty to God program, known as “Higher Than Eagles” at GSR, encourages youth and adults to learn about, promote, and participate in the BSA religious emblems program, and fulfills requirements for the Pathfinder Rank. Participants are encouraged to earn all four segments over a four-year span. Booklets and patches can be purchased at the Camp trading posts.

### *Service Projects*

Service Projects are available upon request and with prior coordination with camp commissioners and program area directors. Many service projects include camp improvement and conservation needs.

## APPENDIX 1

*Suggestions from Pete Mapes, program founder, on how to earn the Outdoor Bronze at the Goshen Scout Reservation following a consecutive two week schedule.*

### **Notes to New Crews for Week 1**

If your Crew is new to Venturing at GSR, or if you are bringing Venturers who are just starting their Ranger and ALPS advancement, you will want to schedule your Crew for two consecutive weeks at GSR. Two consecutive weeks maximizes the potential for advancement and provides a superlative experience. During the first week, you'll probably want the Venturers to sign up to spend a half day in the Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience (COPE). This meets part of the requirement for the COPE Ranger elective. COPE is provided at Camp Post by staff based at Camp Olmsted.

During the first week, the other half of the day can be spent working on the Wilderness Survival Core requirement for Ranger while simultaneously working on the Cooking and Land Navigation Core Requirements. The most effective way to do this is to enroll in the orienteering and wilderness survival merit badge classes and provide augmented instruction in the wilderness survival core knots and lashings during the free period. This can be done inside the Crew or by enlisting help from the staff at the Scoutcraft areas. Evenings can be spent augmenting land navigation skills. Note that having Venturers attend the Scout Wilderness Survival overnight has a tendency to leave Venturers tired out and does not fully meet the Venturing Wilderness Survival Overnight requirement, as two nights are required. Crews participating in the Goshen Venturing program in the past have found that building overnight shelters next to the Crew campsite and inhabiting them for two nights in the first week is a more effective way to meet the requirement without experiencing a significant loss of sleep. For Venturers also registered as Scouts, or on the Trail to Eagle in the Crew, who wish to complete the wilderness survival merit badge, a brief note from the Advisor to the merit badge counselor will allow the shelter experience to be counted for both.

It is very productive if the Venturers have completed an American Red Cross First Aid and CPR course before arriving at camp to satisfy the Ranger Core First Aid Requirement and the Discovery First Aid Requirement. There are times when a Red Cross Authorized instructor is available at camp and if that is the case, these courses can be worked into the Camp schedule, generally on the Saturday or Sunday between weeks or during seventh period in the evenings. Venturing policy is that the Wilderness Survival Core requirement for Ranger cannot be started or signed off until the First Aid, Land Navigation and Cooking requirements have been completed. GSR has an exemption from BSA National Headquarters to allow Venturers to work on these requirements simultaneously instead of delaying the start of Wilderness Survival until the other three are completed (See Appendix 2). Credit still cannot be awarded for Wilderness Survival until the other three core requirements have been completed.

The Ranger Core Cooking requirement can easily be met at Goshen by planning augmented menus and bringing the requisite mixes and canned foods to support them. If items are already on the GSR menu, some extra food can be provided to Crews to help meet cooking requirements.



Ingredients such as eggs, shortening and various fruits are available by request with the commissary. Crews should import items like bread and dessert mixes or specialty main course items for Dutch oven cooking. Planning requirements can be met by altering the stock GSR menu to suit Ranger needs.

## Notes to New Crews for Week 2

During the second week at GSR for new Crews, Venturers will probably want to complete the Ranger Core Conservation requirement while working on Ranger Electives like Shooting Sports, Watercraft, Mountaineering & Ecology.

Ideally, at the completion of week 2 in the first year of the GSR Venturing program, program participants should be able to complete Land Navigation, Cooking, Conservation, First Aid (if an instructor is in camp) and Wilderness Survival Core requirements for Ranger. If an ARC instructor is not available in camp, the awarding of Wilderness Survival credit may be delayed until the ARC First Aid & CPR class is completed. In addition, the elective requirements of COPE, Ecology, Shooting Sports & Mountaineering can also be completed. Completion of four Core and two Elective RANGER Requirements entitles the Venturer to the award of the Goshen Outdoor Bronze Award. Note that one of these requirements must be completed while at GSR to qualify.

### APPENDIX 2

*Note 1:* Permission has been received from the National Headquarters of the BSA to teach Wilderness Survival simultaneously with Standard First Aid, Land Navigation and Cooking instead of consecutively.

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob Scott

To: Pete & Nona Mapes

Cc: Donald Shepard

Sent: Fri, Aug 3, 2012 4:15 pm

Subject: RE: Revision of Venturing Program - Urgent follow-up from Shakedown

Pete, I've reviewed the materials you sent on the immersion program you are proposing and believe it is consistent with the intent of the sequential requirements - to establish base skills and then build on them. You can go ahead with your planned direction.

Bob Scott | Senior Innovation Manager

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
Research & Program Innovation

1325 West Walnut Hill Lane | P.O. Box 152079 Irving, Texas 75015-2079 P

History is a myth that men agree to believe.  
Napoleon

----- Original message -----

Subject: Re: Revision of Venturing Program - Urgent followup from Shakedown

From: Pete & Nona Mapes  
To: Bob Scott  
CC: Donald Shepard, kcheesma,Gary Carroll, Philip Barbash

Bob;

While you are thinking about when to give me a ring, take a look at this Venturing Program Guide for the Goshen Scout Reservation for next year. This is the draft of a program I hope we are able to fully implement.

We would like to get permission from National HQ to allow Venturers enrolled in the GSR program to simultaneously take ARC Standard First Aid, Venturing Land Navigation, Cooking and Wilderness Survival all in the same week. The requirements currently make First Aid, Land Nav and Cooking prerequisites for Wilderness Survival. We think we can effectively run them simultaneously. Obviously summer camp is an immersion which is far different from the way the advancement is normally pursued.  
Sincere Best Regards,

Pete Mapes