



Serra Clubs in partnership with **VENTURING BSA**

*Serra Clubs are encouraged to form
Venturing Crews in Catholic High Schools*

Venturing is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) for young men and women who are 14 (and have completed the eighth grade) through 20 years of age. When a Serra Club forms a Venturing Unit in a Catholic High School the youth will have opportunities to grow through unique leadership development programs, character building exercises and to share in multiple Catholic faith development and discernment.

Structure:

Venturing is a co-ed, young adult program of the Boy Scouts of America, Inc. The Venturing program is supported by the local BSA Council Venturing/Sea Scouting committees, and individual Venturing crews and Sea Scout ships. Serra Clubs that form Venturing Units usually establish a relationship with the Arch/Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting to obtain the expertise of qualified youth ministers to assist in making the program successful.

Purpose:

The purpose of Venturing is to provide positive experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. The Serra program is unique in that it adds aspects of Catholic Faith Development with emphasis on discerning one's vocation and incorporating their faith in making decisions regarding one's own life.

Goals:

Venturing Units Chartered by Serra Clubs will provide programs tailored to help Catholic High Schools to achieve their aims and purposes. Venturing provides leadership training, outdoor and high-adventuring activities, program ideas, Catholic Religious Emblems of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS), recognition for the youth, audiovisuals and literature, and insurance through the BSA.

Activity:

Each Venturing program is owned by the Catholic High School and Chartering Serra Club. The Serra Club will work with the Venturing Adult Advisors to select programs and approve the adult leadership. The Venturing Advisors and the Catholic Student Leaders will use the elements of the Venturing program to achieve the Unit's goals. The activities within each charter organization are specifically focus on the purpose, goals, mission and objectives of the Catholic Church. Potential activities of Venturing Units and Sea Scouts Ships (in addition to the various outdoor, sports, and career orientated resources of Venturing), are of specific service to the Serra International mission.

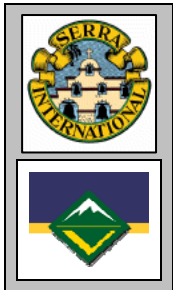
Programs and Work of Organization:

Venturing will work with any existing youth program structure. In Catholic high schools there are existing programs that will benefit from the Venturing Structure and support resources: prayer/ministry clubs, sports related and other extra-curricular clubs. It does not require starting another program. Any youth group can incorporate Venturing into its program. Venturing will help keep youth closer to the organization's beliefs and expectations, and connected to the right people. Venturing provides a "package" that can be use, to hold on to youth and to attract new youth into your religious organization. Venturing in your youth groups will help display your faith's role in the welfare of the community (vocations to service). Youth in the program will be encouraged to participate in the National Catholic Committee on Scouting's religious awards program (Pope Pius XII emblem, Pope Paul VI Unit Award), and Venturing Religious & Community Life Bronze Award, and the TRUST award emblem for members of Venturing Units). Each Venturing/Sea Scouting crew will have a Chaplain as an additional Advisor. This will create an arena for young adults to interact with religious leaders, both with clergy and Serra members.

Venturing in Catholic High Schools:
 Providing the resources of the Boy Scouts of America, the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and Serra International for youth in Catholic High Schools with an emphasis on faith development and discernment of God's Call in their life.



This Catholic High School Venturing project is provided financial support through The USA Council Vocations Committee and a Grant from Serra International Foundation to share in the initial cost, along with the local Serra Clubs (50/50). The chartering of a Venturing or Sea Scouting unit in local Catholic High Schools as an extracurricular activity gives Catholic youth a positive view of Church Vocations and discernment opportunities. It can provide a new and different outreach to Catholic youth in Catholic High Schools. Funding is needed for the start-up of these units, to assure their success without initial monetary burdens on Catholic families and inaugurate a sustained program for youth in Catholic High Schools. It will also fulfill the needs for special extracurricular activities at our high schools, which may be cut or are faltering, such as cycling, hiking, climbing, sailing, rowing, scuba, prayer groups, etc. These activities will benefit from existing resources and facilities of the BSA Venturing program, along with its insurance benefits. This project will relate to all objectives of Serra International and the USA Council of Serra International.



Serra Clubs can reach hundreds of Catholic Students through Venturing.

The USA Council Vocations Committee is responsible for monitoring the Serra Club Chartered Venturing unit formation. If your Serra Club is interested in Chartering a Venturing or Sea Scout Unit contact Homer Radford, Coordinator or David Gironda, Sr., Field Director to register the Club name and the Catholic High School, diocese and BSA Council. For additional information and to support contact Homer Radford -Coordinator of Serra Club Venturing and Sea Scouts, 9601 E. 82nd TER, Raytown, MO 64138 Phone: 816-356-1760 E-ddress: [hradford2@comcast.net](mailto:hhradford2@comcast.net) of David Gironda, Sr. - Field Director of Serra Club Venturing and Sea Scouts, 602-690-6123 E-ddress: dcgironda@gmail.com .

Like Serra Clubs, the local BSA Council serves its mission of Scouting in designated areas. Scouting serves young men and women in every part of the country through more than 300 local council service centers. Each council will assist a Serra Club working with a Catholic High School in its geographic area to establish Venturing to effectively use the Scouting program. For Serrans not familiar with their local BSA Council, it is easy to determine which local council serves your geographic area. Check your phone book under BSA (Boy Scouts of America), or use a computer Webpage Search entering "BSA." pick the [National BSA Office](#) and click on "[Find a Local Council](#)" link. The link will ask for your [ZIP Code](#) and the system will bring up the Council serving your area, or, call Homer or David. Use the letter in this proposal addressed to Diocesan Catholic School Office and Catholic High School Principals to introduce the program.

When the SIF Grant was awarded in 2006 the Vocations Committee of the USA Council sent information to the local Serra Clubs and the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. Serra Clubs in seven dioceses have shown interest and are in various stages of forming Catholic High School Venturing Units. Clubs engaged the project are responsible for initial funding. One-half of the initial start-up cost for each Catholic High School will be reimbursed. Disbursement of the Grant funds would only occur when the Charter is submitted naming the local Serra Club as the Chartering Organization.

The Coordinator of the program will submit a report on the progress of Serra Chartered Venturing units semi-annually to the Vocations Committee of the USA Council. A summary of the reports will then be provided annually to the Serra International Foundation, the USA Council of SI - Vocations Committee and the NCCS Vocations Committee. The Coordinator and Director will establish a network of Catholic Scout Leaders with Venturing experience, and a parallel sub-committee of the USA Council of Serra Vocations Committee to help support and monitor the progress.

BSA has proven methods for volunteer recruitment, leadership training, youth protection program training, and placement of Venturing Advisors to assist the youth officers of the Venturing/Sea Scouting crews. Scout leaders from the ranks of local Serra Clubs, as well as any faculty members of the Catholic High School with past Scouting experience, would be preferred Advisors. As an extracurricular activity, at least one of the Advisors may have to be a faculty member. For Advisors not previously trained, the local BSA Council and/or District will provide training at no cost. The diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting will also be a valuable resource. As a Catholic youth program, all adults would have background checks and take the local required Diocesan youth safe protection program.

The National Committee on Scouting (NCCS) Webpage has additional information about the Serra/Venturing program at <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/activities/SerraVenturing.php>



USA Council of Serra International -Vocations Committee

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TO: Diocesan School Administrators, Catholic High School Principals and Faculty,
Catholic High Schools in America

FROM: Homer Radford,
USA Council of Serra International – VP Vocations Committee

SUBJECT: New Youth Program for Catholic high school students

I have the privilege to inform you about a program of the USA Council of Serra International, specifically for Catholic High Schools. Serra is a Catholic lay organization that works closely with diocesan vocation offices to support seminarians, clergy and religious vocations. As part of our apostolate, we provide support for discernment activities for Catholic youth through prayer, dedicated volunteers and financial commitment for programs offered by our Serra Clubs.

This memo is to introduce you to a Serra Club program in the diocese to form a partnership with Catholic High Schools in offering an extracurricular program for male and female students. The programs, called Venturing or Sea Scouting, are tried and true programs of the Boy Scouts of America used by the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting and the Knights of Columbus, and is one of the Catholic youth programs included in Diocesan Youth Ministry.

In 2006 the Serra International Foundation approved a grant to fund the establishment of Serra Club chartered Venturing Crews or Sea Scouting Units in Catholic High Schools. These programs provide positive experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. Venturing reinforces the values and skills taught in Catholic High Schools. It gives a venue to make ethical choices, acquire leadership skills, and advance knowledge and skills in the areas of high adventure, sports, arts, hobbies and religious life. Venturing supplements most any activity that the school administration and students would desire.

The first step would involve a charter of Venturing or Sea Scouting units in local Catholic High Schools, as an on-going extracurricular activity. The initial funding is being provided for the start-up of these clubs, to assure success without initial monetary burdens on students' families or schools. The local Serra Club will arrange for the payment of dues, equipment and expenses, with no costs anticipated for the high school. Training of faculty and adult Advisors would include various free leadership courses and youth protection programs of the local Scout Council, as well as those required by the Archdiocese or Diocese. The program is fully qualified under the diocesan youth protection policy.

This program provides specialized extracurricular activities at the high school level. It has succeeded in activities such as cycling, hiking, climbing, sailing, rowing, scuba diving, prayer groups, community service groups, etc. At the same time, the program allows for each youth to grow in religious belief, and is open to the various outdoors, sports, and career orientated resources of Venturing and Sea Scouting. This program can work with existing programs, such as high school prayer/ministry clubs, sports related and/or other clubs, or can be adapted rather than starting a "new" school program.

Liability is covered as a B.S.A. chartered program, except for a few high-risk activities that are not approved by Scouting and Diocesan youth programs. Safety training and certifications are a part of the program for specific activities.

Religious awards, under the auspices of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, can create an arena for the young adults to be more aware of the Catholic faith in action and service. Our intent is to allow young adults to have interaction with religious leaders, clergy and local Serra members. Students could do surveys of the alumni who have been ordained, are current seminarians or vowed religious, and plan posting of their high school's religious "heroes". Through such activities, an awareness of and greater respect for Church vocations should become part of the students' lives. We believe this program should be a blessing for any Catholic High School, while Serra International, through the local Serra Club, realizes that this program will serve its mission to foster and promote Church vocations.

Of course, each Serra chartered Venturing program would be required to have a Chaplain, preferably either an ordained or a vowed religious, to participate along with the youth at Diocesan events. The local Serra Club will assist in securing a Chaplain.

The Serra Club representative listed below will call to arrange a meeting with you to discuss the possibility of starting a Venturing program in your school.

Local Serra Club Contact Person: _____

Phone Number: _____