

# About | BSA Venture Crew One



Dear Prospective Crew Member,

You are receiving this letter because you have expressed an interest in joining Crew One. Please read this letter carefully, and contact me with further questions, clarification, or to express your interest in becoming a member.

Best Regards,

Ryan Jordan | 406-595-4453 | Chartered Organization Representative

## What is “Crew One?”

Crew One (<http://www.crew1.org>) is a BSA Venturing Crew sponsored by Backpacking Light (<http://www.backpackinglight.com>) and based in Bozeman, Montana. Learn more about the Venturing Program by visiting this link:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsorce/Venturing/About/venturing.aspx>

## What is the purpose of Crew One?

Crew One exists to further the Chartered Organization’s Mission to:

“...promote youth development initiatives focused on instilling the attributes of honor, courage, and leadership through practice in the context of the complex and challenging environment of **High Adventure**; and further believes that practicing these traits provides a practical foundation that youth can use in their adult lives as positive practicing citizens in their family, workplace, and communities; and further believes that Venturing BSA provides an effective model for doing so.”

– Crew One Bylaws, Sec. 1-A-5.

## What is High Adventure?

“High Adventure” in the context of Crew One’s activities is defined as expedition-style (i.e., multi-day), backcountry / wilderness, human-powered travel.

## Who are Crew One’s Members?

Crew One’s membership is comprised of coed youth (ages 14-20) and adults (21+). The Crew exists primarily for the advancement of leadership and expedition high adventure skills in its **youth members**. Adult members have the opportunity to mentor youth members in the areas of leadership, communications, and skills development.

## Who Runs Crew One?

Crew One’s governance, administration, and management is carried out by three key groups of people:

- The Charter Organization (Backpacking Light) creates **Crew policy and vision**, and ensures that Crew One’s activities are consistent with that policy and vision. Crew One’s Charter Organization representatives are Backpacking Light founders Ryan and Stephanie Jordan.
- The Key 4 Committee consists of (1) A Charter Organization Representative, (2) the Committee Chair, (3) the Crew Advisor, and (4) the Crew President (youth member). The Key 4 is responsible for **high level strategic planning and decision making** related to Crew programming.
- The Officers include youth members of the Crew that carry out **day-to-day leadership and management** required to execute the Crew program. Officers include the Crew President, Communications Officer, Program Officer, and Financial Officer.

Our current Crew Advisor is Eric Vann, a Montana State University Senior. Our current Crew President is Walker Roy, a Bozeman High School Senior.

Officers are elected to one year terms at the fall Annual Planning Conference. Terms run from January 1 to December 31.

## Crew Activity and Meeting Schedule

Crew activities run year round, on the approximate schedule:

- 1st Wednesday of the Month - Key 4 Meeting (evening)
- 2nd Wednesday of the Month - Officer Meeting (evening)
- 3rd Wednesday of the Month - All Crew General Meeting (evening)

- 3rd or 4th Weekend of the Month - Crew Outdoor Activity (1 to 3 days)
- Late December / Early January - Winter Expedition (4 days)
- July/August - Summer Expedition (7-14 days)
- Fall - Annual Planning Conference (2 days)

## Membership Expectations

In order to keep the quality of our programming manageable and of an exceptionally high quality, we have initially capped membership at 12 youth age 14-20. We will consider increasing this cap if we can ensure ongoing and long term commitments a sufficient number of adults serving in Associate Crew Advisor roles.

Because of this limitation, we expect that your membership comes with a serious and intentional participation commitment. Before you join, you might consider asking the question, "What will I have to sacrifice in my current schedule to make room for a commitment to the Crew?" This is a serious question that you should contemplate with your families and significant others.

What we'd like to avoid is to have you hold a "membership spot" with intermittent participation that might otherwise provide value to somebody else who may have the desire to join Crew One and is able to devote a more serious commitment to it.

## Membership Prerequisites

Prospective new **youth and adult** members **should own their own backpacking equipment** (not including shelter, cooking gear, or water treatment gear, which are generally provided by Crew One and/or its Chartering Organization). Some high adventure (i.e., overnight wilderness travel) experience is **helpful but not mandatory**. However, Crew One's outdoor program is advanced in nature, and demands exceptional fitness, a tolerance for uncertainty, and a pretty happy attitude in the face of the adversity we experience through physical challenge and the wilderness environment.

## What Roles Are Available for 21+ Year Olds?

Membership requirements for adult members are the same as for youth members. The primary difference in the two roles is that a youth member is involved in planning and executing the Crew program, and adult members are there to mentor and coach the youth in the areas of skills and leadership development.

**Associate Crew Advisor or Crew Consultant?** 21+ year old adult members who are able to make an ongoing and regular commitment to attending Crew functions and spending time outside of scheduled functions mentoring youth members may take on the role of an "**Associate Crew Advisor**". 21+ year old adult members who are able to bring key skills in the areas of expedition leadership or outdoor skills to our crew but aren't able to make an ongoing, longer

term commitment may be appointed as “**Crew Consultants**” and utilized for our programming on an as-needed basis.

We are also looking for adults who are able to assist as adult participants on some of the outings, participate as active committee members, and remain involved and aware of crew communications and programming.

Otherwise, adults play very little role in how the Crew is executed - that's the role of the youth, under the direction of our Crew Advisor, Eric Vann, with the vision provided by the Chartering Organization.

### **Programming: "We Do More By Doing Less"**

Our vision is simple. Our program is simple. We are looking to create **deep mastery of advanced skills** (expedition leadership and wilderness travel). This comes at the expense of giving up some breadth in our programming.

The core of Venturing Crew One's programming is focused on the following areas:

1. Advanced Expedition Leadership Skills
2. Expedition Wilderness Travel Skills

This is not to say that we won't be involved in or support other programs including service work or the Venturing advancement program. But if you are looking for a Scouting experience with more "breadth" (e.g., active advancement programs, service work, attending camporees, and the plethora of other options available to Scouts), then you might consider participating in another local Venturing Crew, or supplementing your participation in Crew One with another Scouting unit that provides these activities. They are not our core focus.

### **Programming: "We Do Hard Stuff"**

Crew One's activities are very challenging and will stretch you emotionally, mentally, and physically. Skills are taught at a very high level - you will also be expected to teach these skills to others as part of mastering them.

Your involvement in Crew One requires a commitment of finances and time, and a sacrifice of "self" in order to achieve the goals of our "team".

Our program is best described as "challenging and engaging", and is not meant to be casual entertainment.

### **How Much Does It Cost?**

We plan and execute fundraisers to raise money for our General Fund, which helps pay common expenses such as travel, facility bookings, and some expenses for our big expeditions.

In addition to owning your own wilderness backpacking equipment, the following costs are likely to be incurred by each member (youth and adult):

- BSA Registration - \$25-\$50 / year;
- Membership Dues - TBD in context of budgeting & fundraising efforts (they were \$0 in 2014);
- Uniforms (mandatory for all youth members and Crew Advisors) - The Official Crew Shirt (a black Mountain Hardwear collared long sleeve nylon travel shirt with the Crew logo on it) costs about \$45. In addition, you should own a nice pair of khaki pants (pants or business casual skirts OK for female members) to wear as part of the uniform, dark socks, and casual brown shoes.
- Monthly Activities - outing fees, etc. - \$15 - \$25/month is typical. In addition, you may be required to bring your own food and other supplies (e.g., stove fuel, water treatment chemicals, etc.) for some of our shorter (less than 3 day) outings.
- Winter Expedition - Typical cost will probably be in the range of \$50 to \$100 per participant, some of which may be subsidized through Crew fundraising efforts.
- Summer Expedition - Typical cost will probably be in the range of \$250 to \$500+ per participant, some of which may be subsidized through Crew fundraising efforts.

## **Learn More**

We maintain a page at our website of FAQ's that describe the Venturing program, Crew One's focus, BSA advancement, and more here:

<http://crew1.org/frequently-asked-questions/>

## **Do You Want to Join?**

OK, so you read all of this, and think that Crew One is a good fit for you, then, and would like to join us?

That's great news, we'd love to have you. We have opportunities for both youth and adults and you will find a stimulating and exciting environment that promotes skills growth and a greater appreciation for the outdoors.

Because our membership slots are limited, membership for both youth and adults is accepted by letter of inquiry only. Please email your letter to me at [ryan@ryanjordan.com](mailto:ryan@ryanjordan.com), include a brief description of your wilderness travel experience, a statement of the goals you'd like to achieve as

a participant, the level of involvement that you are able to have, and a brief statement that tells us why you are excited about the opportunity to join Crew One!