

# SOUTHERN REGION AREA 4 VENTURING

## CODE AND BYLAWS

Established 07/27/2017

### **National VOA Mission Statement**

The mission of the National Venturing Officers' Association is to promote and support the Venturing program, utilizing a standard organizational structure that enables local councils to grow membership by advancing leadership opportunities through communication, program, and administration.

### **Scout Oath**

On my honor I will do my best, to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

### **Scout Law**

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

### **Venturing Motto**

Lead the Adventure!

### **SR Area 4 Venturing Bylaws**

#### **I. Name & Affiliation**

The name of the organization will be Southern Region Area 4 Venturing Officers Association abbreviated as "Area 4 VOA". The Area 4 VOA is organized under the auspices of Southern Region Area 4.

#### **II. Purpose**

- Maintain a positive image of the Venturing program within the area.
- Strive to fulfill the mission statement within the Standard Operating Procedures.
- Act as an example VOA for Council VOAs within their area.
- Provide direct support to each council in better developing their VOA and improving Venturing within each council.
- Encourage and assist with the organizing of Council VOAs and consistent improvement of their Venturing program.
- As a recommendation, host two events per year, one being program/activity-based (e.g., area assemblages, etc.), the other training- oriented (e.g., area Venturing conference, etc.).
- Maintain contact each month with each Council VOA assessing the strengths, weaknesses, and future plans of each Council VOA, and focusing resources on helping each Council VOA improve.
- Encourage networking among each council within the area.

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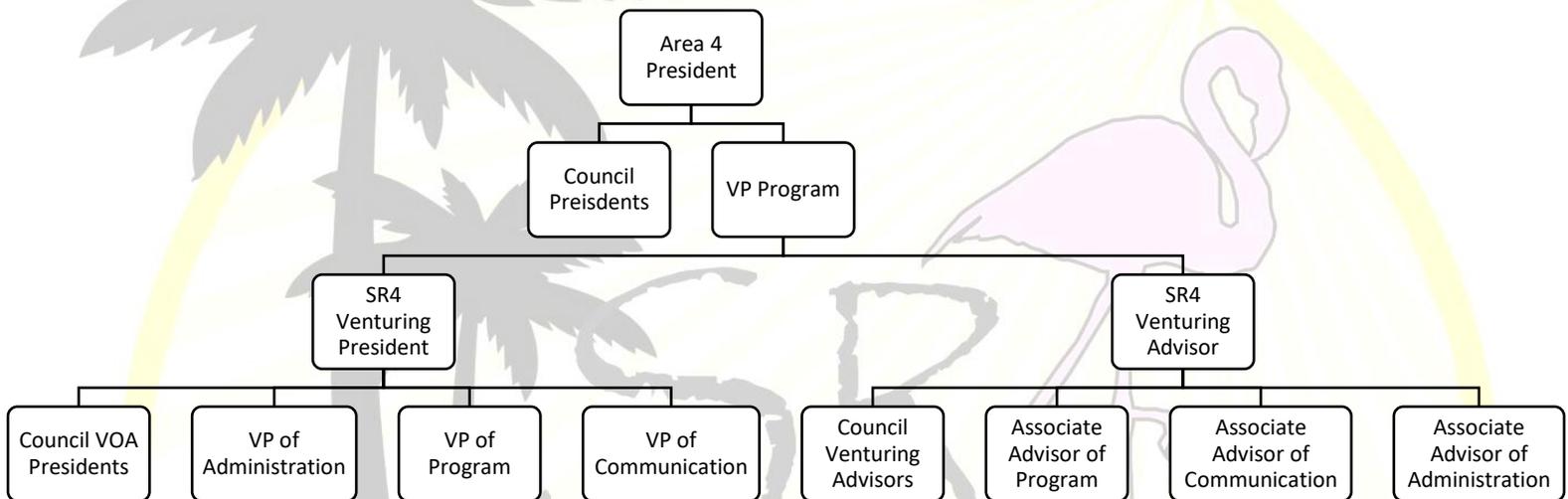
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### III. Organization & Committees

The Area 4 VOA will consist of:

- Elected Area 4 VOA Officers
- Appointed Area 4 VOA Committee
- Appointed Area 4 VOA Committee Chair
- Appointed Area 4 VOA Advisors & Associate Advisors
- Council VOA Youth & Adult Representatives



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### IV. Meetings

- Conference calls with the Council VOA Presidents, Council VOA Advisors, Area 4 Venturing Committee, and Area 4 VOA Officers will be held every month at a time and date determines by the Cabinet.
  - Agendas for each conference call will be sent to the invited parties at least one week prior.
- Planning Conference calls with the Area 4 VOA Officers and Committee will be held at least once every month at a date and time determined best by the current cabinet.
- The Area 4 VOA President and Advisor will participate in the monthly Southern Region Conference Call.
- The Area 4 VOA President and Advisor will also participate in the Area 4 Program Conference Call once every quarter.
- The Area 4 VOA President will participate in the Southern Region VOA Officers Orientation.
- The Area 4 VOA incoming officers will be transitioned into their positions by the outgoing officers either via in person or over the phone with the Advisor that presides over them during the last month of the previous term.
- The Area 4 VOA Officers and Committee will hold an Area 4 Leadership Orientation. *More on this in Area Events.*
- If there are any Area 4 committees, then those committees must meet at least once a month with their respective Area 4 Venturing Officer and Area 4 Venturing Advisor to report their status and progress.

### V. Area Events

- **Attendance of Area Events:**
  - Area Events are defined by being open to all the Councils in Area 4 and being hosted by a Council Venturing Officer Association.
- **Planning of Area Events:**
  - Any planning for an Area Event should be supervised & reported to the:
    - Area 4 Venturing President
    - Area 4 Venturing Advisor
    - Area 4 Venturing Vice President of Program
    - Area 4 Venturing Associate Advisor of Program
  - The Area Event idea must be approved firstly by the Area 4 Venturing President & Area 4 Venturing Advisor and secondly by the host Council Venturing President, host Council Venturing Advisor, and host Council Venturing Staff Advisor before any planning may begin.
  - Planning for the Area 4 Event can either be entirely done by the Area 4 Venturing Cabinet or a committee comprised of Venturing Youth & Adults. If such a committee is created, then all members must be approved of by the Area 4 Venturing President and Area 4 Venturing Advisor.
- **Consistence of Area Events:**
  - The types of Area 4 Events are as follows, Area Training, Area Activity, Area Orientation, or any combination of the three.

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### **VI. Officers: Elections, Appointments, Removals**

*As written in the National Standard Operating Procedures*

#### **Selection Process: Area VOA President**

- Area Venturing presidents are to be selected by May 1
- Current or past crew presidents and above (e.g., district VOA president, area Venturing vice president) are eligible to submit an application.

1. Eligible applicants may submit an application for consideration by April 1
2. The area Key 3 may choose to eliminate candidates for the presidency of their tier if they deem that the pool of candidates is too large to effectively conduct the selection process. The Key 3 shall select a process to determine who the most qualified and competitive candidates are based upon the position description within this SOP and present those candidates to the complete selection panel. If practical, each eliminated candidate should receive a personal interview, but this is not required. The preferred pool size is three to four, but the Key 3 may choose to present a different size pool.
3. The area Venturing president (or the advisor's youth designee) shall serve as unbiased chair. The chair is only to vote in a tie-breaking situation, if necessary.
4. The area Venturing president, area Venturing vice presidents and council Venturing presidents who are not candidates will form a selection panel to interview and select a new area Venturing president from the qualified applicants.
5. The region Venturing President, or their designee, shall be an observer on the area selection calls to ensure that all procedures in the SOPs are met. The chair may include the region Venturing President as a voting member, if they desire.
6. If any of these individuals are running for president or for any reason are unable to participate in the selection process, the volunteer advisor of the appropriate council will provide a replacement. Area VPs do not require a replacement.
7. If there is only one applicant, the selection panel may vote (by simple majority) and decide as a group to extend the application deadline. If there is still only one applicant, the procedure outlined here shall be implemented to confirm that applicant.
8. The interview process may be determined by the area VOA leadership and may include remote conferencing.
9. A  $\frac{3}{5}$  vote is required for a candidate to be selected. If a  $\frac{3}{5}$  majority cannot be met after 3 rounds of voting between two candidates, a simple majority requirement will take into effect. It is recommended that voting is completed in the form of a secret ballot.
10. The new area Venturing president-elect will be notified and announced immediately.

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### **Selection Process: Area VOA Vice Presidents**

- All Area Venturing Vice Presidents are to be selected by June 1
- Any registered Venturer is eligible to submit an application
- Each area shall have, at a minimum, a vice president of administration, vice president of program, and vice president of communication.

1. Eligible applicants will submit an application by the date of the president's announcement at the tier for which they are applying.
2. The president-elect will review all the applications and then, with help from his/her advisor, select a pool of candidates.
3. The president-elect can determine his or her own selection process.
4. The advisor must approve of each vice president selection, and the president-elect must not promise any position prior to talking with their advisor and getting their agreement.
5. It is recommended that the appropriate associate advisor be involved in the selection process in an advisory capacity.

### **Advisor and Staff Advisor Appointments**

- The Venturing advisor shall be appointed by the top officer at each tier (e.g., region president, district chair) with the approval of the candidate's council Scout executive and serve at the appointer's pleasure.
- The Venturing staff advisor shall be appointed by the Scout executive at each tier (e.g., area director, council Scout executive) and serve at the appointer's pleasure.
- Associate and other subsidiary Venturing advisors shall be appointed by the top Venturing advisor at that tier, be approved by the Venturing staff advisor at that tier and the candidate's local council Scout executive, and serve at the appointer's pleasure.

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### Removal from Office

- On rare occasions, it may be necessary to remove a VOA member from a position.
- Any youth or adult may resign from office.
- Any appointed youth or adult may be removed from office at any time by the appointer.
- Due to the short time frame of the Venturing youth officer's term, if the officer has not been significantly completing duties or has exhibited behavior inconsistent with the Scout Oath and Scout Law, the officer may be removed from office by agreement of the Venturing advisor and staff advisor.
- The removal and replacement of Venturing presidents should be undertaken rarely and only for just cause. Advisors should consult with their own leadership and the president's leadership prior to taking this action. Any member of the VOA may request the removal process of the president to take place; however, only the VOA advisor and VOA staff advisor have the authority to conduct the removal process. A probation period may be implemented, if deemed appropriate by the advisor.
- Venturing presidential vacancies shall be filled through appointment by the Venturing advisor and staff advisors, with the consent of their leadership (the person to whom each of them reports), for the remainder of the term of office. Other VOA vacancies shall be appointed by the current Venturing president with approval by the advisor.
- Council Scout executives should be notified if any member of their council is removed from office.



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### VII. Amendments

Any part of this document detailing the by-laws of the Area 4 VOA may be changed, deleted, or added to except sections VII. Officers; elections, appointments, removals and II. Purpose as these are taken directly from the National Standard Operating Procedures. For an amendment to take place, there are several steps.

1. The amendment may be suggested by anyone within the Area 4 Venturing Officers and Committee.
2. It must be voted upon by all members of the Area 4 Venturing Officers and Committee.
3. The amendment must receive a 75% favorable vote in order to pass.
4. Once passed, the amendment is given to the Area 4 Venturing Vice-President of Program who has the power to veto the amendment. If the amendment is not vetoed then it is official and must be recorded under section VIII. Amendments in the Area 4 Venturing By-laws.
5. If the amendment is vetoed then it is given back to Area 4 Venturing Cabinet and Committee to be changed and voted on again. This time, it must achieve a 100% vote to be passed into being without the approval of the Area 4 Vice-President of Program.
6. Amendments may only be suggested and voted upon during Area 4 Venturing Planning Conferences.



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