

Corps of Discovery Induction Ceremony

Background:

The Venturing Corps of Discovery program was first established by a Venturing crew in Northwest Suburban Council in Central Region. The Venturing Corps of Discovery is a grassroots movement to form a service society for Venturing. Members are Venturers and adults who have shown a willingness to promote Venturing at Council and District events, within their communities, or within their religious organizations.

This is not yet an official program of the BSA. It is simply another resource available for crews and councils to consider using if they think the program is helpful. It should not be thought of as a co-ed Order of the Arrow.

First Speaker:

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark organized and lead an epic expedition to the Pacific Ocean over 200 years ago. They were charged by President Thomas Jefferson with the mission to find a water route for the purpose of commerce across the continental Western expanse. The party of 33 individuals left with a sense of purpose and adventure and was entitled the Corps of Discovery.

The legendary duo of Lewis and Clark were not so different from present-day Venturers. Most of the members of the Lewis and Clark crew were young adults. Lewis was merely 18 years of age when assigned to the expedition. This speaks wonders of the capabilities of youth. Venturers possess the same spirit of adventure and willingness to face the unknown.

Second Speaker:

Those elected tonight represent the same skills that Lewis and Clark used every day in the untamed West. You can sail, fish, navigate, and you can appreciate the outdoors. You also possess the same purpose to help others. Lewis, Clark, and the members of the Venturing's Corps of Discovery, characterize servant leadership. We all recognize the importance of putting others before ourselves and the benefit of working as a member of a team.

The historical and contemporary members of the Corps of Discovery are ultimately comprised of unique individuals who are willing to explore and take a chance for the future.

Third Speaker:

Election into the Corps of Discovery does not follow the completion of formal requirements, presentations, or classes. Your installation into this organization requires just your commitment and dedication to the Venturing program. One does not accept membership in this organization for recognition; instead, one must recognize those with the inherent commitment to build the Venturing program.

This society acknowledges your dedication but this induction is just one small step in your activism. You are called not only to continue but to expand your service to Venturing. Your additional obligation now calls you to develop the Corps of Discovery in your unit, council, and area and mentor future members.

Forth Speaker:

I now ask everyone to please stand.

The originators of the Venturing Corps of Discovery desired that youth would selected both youth and adults to be recognized for their work with Venturing. To promote this program and recognize each of you for past, present, and continued service at the unit, council, and region level, I am pleased to announce you have all been elected to the Corps of Discovery and will now be inducted as a new member and contributor. Will you please raise your right hand in the Venturing sign and repeat after me:

**I promise
that I shall continue to serve
my unit, council, and area.
That I shall continue my personal growth
and lead Venturers
in projects of community service
and unselfish giving to those in need.
That I shall expand the Corps of Discovery
and I shall forever remember
the fact that in working together,
we can accomplish
great and amazing things.**

Each of you will now receive a certificate and a pocket flap. The new Corps of Discovery pocket flap that you are receiving depicts the coincidental moment in which Corps member Sacagawea recognizes her chieftain brother, Cameahwait, after years of separation.

Please take this opportunity to applaud one another for your past service and your willingness in accepting this task. Congratulations!