



For a Venturer Scout program to be relevant to the young people participating in it, they must always be involved in its planning and review. The program is fundamental to the success or failure of a Unit. The program must reflect the interests, goals and aspirations of the Venturer Scouts that will be participating in it. Unit Councils in each Venturer Scout Unit are an essential way for Venturer Scouts to perform checks and balances on what level of engagement, control and direction they have over the program and Unit.

Specifically, in a Venturer Scout Unit, they should be leading the way, setting the agenda, and running the meeting, with Adult Leaders supporting and providing guidance only when necessary. In a Venturer Scout Unit, there is only a small amount of leadership provided by Adult Leaders, as the youth are being completely autonomous in most capacities.

The Unit Council should occur regularly so that all members maintain a feeling of engagement and direction with the creation of their program and its implementation. A good suggestion for this is having a Unit Council once every 4 to 6 weeks. Not all Unit Councils need to occur in a formal setting, and sometimes it can be very beneficial for creativity and engagement for the Councils to be held in an outdoors environment or an unfamiliar or creative location.

Take time with your Unit Council and adult mentors and Leaders to go through the following statements. If you can agree on them, then you are on the right track. That is, the youth members within the Unit fulfil the roles outlined in the statements:

- We set the direction for the Unit
- We design and implement our program through the Plan>Do>Review> cycle including full plan and delivery of activities and events
- We do the planning and reviewing on activities, programs and events. Adult Leaders support us, if necessary, providing some specialist guidance with activities and events etc.
- We ensure that the whole Unit is following the concept of Youth Leading, Adults Supporting
- We discuss and put in place checks and balances of our Units application of the Scout Method
- We are solving problems and issues if, and /or when, they arise
- We are collaboratively coordinating inter-Unit and inter-Group events.
- We have active Project Patrols which our members are engaged in with members of other Sections
- We support all the youth members in our Unit in their Scouting journey and personal life
- We autonomously discuss and approve achievements and challenges and endorse peak awards.
- We actively review our activities individually and as part of a program cycle
- We set a clear standard of behaviour and support all Unit members in maintaining it
- We undergo a constant review of our performance as members of the Venturer Scout Unit

To help make your Unit Council as successful as possible, you could do the following:

- Have clear guidance from the Unit Leader
- Have an appropriate level of support from adult Leaders, and/or mentors from other Units, when specialist knowledge or advice is needed.
- Make sure that when support and guidance is given, it does not undermine or take over the leadership of our youth members.
- Have a meeting agenda to follow (depending on formality, age of members and location of the meeting) and a clear plan for execution before leaving the Unit Council meeting
- Make sure there is engagement and participation from all members present
- Record all the creativity, decisions, discussions and reviewing that occurs in our meeting

For more information about Unit Councils and programming for the Venturer Scout Section please refer to the Program Manual, Youth Leading, Adults Supporting documentation and programming support documentation.