

PRATIK VAIDYA

*for National
Venturing President*

- WR Venturing President
- Chief Seattle Council (609)
- Biomedical Engineering at the University of Michigan
- Over Five Years of Venturing Involvement
- Past Council Venturing President and Region Venturing Vice President
- Philmont Trainer, NYLT Course Leader, NYLT Academy Graduate



Hi! My name is Pratik Vaidya and I'm the 2015-2016 Western Region Venturing President. I'm from Chief Seattle Council in Area 1 of the Western Region. I'm applying for the position of the 2016-2017 National Venturing President.

I have been inspired by the Scouting program throughout the past 12 years I have been in Scouting and have noticed a tremendous impact on my social skills, outdoor interests, leadership skills, and general life skills. Especially after my term as Council VOA President, I strongly believe in the importance of starting and maintaining **strong** council VOAs to foster the exchange of ideas, tips, events, training, and more, ultimately strengthening our program.

As you read over the next few pages, I hope that you are able to learn a little more about who I am. Please feel free to reach out to me at WR.Venturing@scouting.org if you have any questions!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Pratik Vaidya'.





Who Am I?



About Me

I'm a member of **Chief Seattle Council** located in **Seattle, WA** which is part of **Area 1** in the **Western Region**, and I am registered in **Crew 570** and **Crew 1**. I became involved in Scouting at the age of **7** with **Pack 159** in **Herndon, Virginia** because **I enjoyed being outside and wanted to find an activity that allowed me to explore the outdoors and learn new skills with friends!**

Events Staffed

- **National Youth Leadership Training (Senior Patrol Leader)**
- **Program and Training Conference (Presenter and Trainer)**
- **Interamerican Leadership Training (Assistant Course Director)**
- **Wood Badge (Program and Venturing Crew Staff)**
- **Venturing SPLASH (Trainer)**
- **Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews (Trainer)**

Trainings Taken

- **National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)**
- **NYLT Academy**
- **Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews**
- **Time Management , Project Management, and Goal Setting**
- **Area Training Conference**

Venturing Positions

- **Western Region Venturing President**
- **Western Region VP of Communications**
- **Chief Seattle Council VOA President**
- **Crew 570 President**
- **NYLT Senior Patrol Leader**
- **Crew 570 Treasurer**

Scouting Awards

- **Western Region Venturing Leadership Award**
- **Chief Seattle Council Venturing Leadership Award**
- **Venturing Silver Award**
- **Eagle Scout Award**
- **Arrow of Light**
- **Venturing Gold Award**
- **Venturing Bronze Award**





Accomplishments



Western Region Current Term Accomplishments

- Started **seven** new Council VOAs with more in progress (my goal was at least six)
- Implementing a **region-sponsored Super Activity**
- Planning a **STEM-focused region activity** (first of its kind)
- **Reestablishing an Area VOA** in our Area with the largest number of Venturers after significant pushback and delays
- Creating an atmosphere of **networking, resource sharing, and community** by means of our **Facebook groups** (advisor specific and general) and FB page
- **Understanding the needs, wants, and constraints** of the Venturing program in our region and nation through the WR Venturing Open Forum and conversations with individual Venturers across the country
- Creating a **brand new WR Venturing website** after our previous one was inaccessible for nine months
- Working with the **Western Region Venturing Committee** to **initiate initiatives and programs** that span multiple youth officer terms



LEFT: Giving a speech about the benefit and value of Venturing to over 800 Boy Scouts, Venturers, Sea Scouts, and Varsity Scouts at a Council Program and Training Conference.

Previous and Planned Travel

- Region Leadership Orientation
- National Leadership Orientation
- Chief Seattle Program and Training Conference
- Venturing Winter Challenge
- Fall Board Meetings
- Winter Board Meetings
- Area 4 Extravaganza
- Area 1 RAVE
- National Annual Meeting
- Interamerican Leadership Training
- VenturingFest



Goals and Ideas

- **Improve communication** between VOAs and individual Venturers by:
 - Creating **“digital toolboxes” with videos** for new crews, crew advisors, and crew members about Venturing, what the VOA is, and links to council, area, and region resources (websites, officers, etc.) that are sent to every new registered member
 - Creating a **centralized site** that regions, areas, and councils can add to, **showing information about all the public Venturing events across the country**
 - Expanding, supporting, and publicizing **an arsenal of youth-contributed Venturing resources**, comparable to the effort started by the Northeast Region VOA
 - Ties into the Mentoring aspect of the Venturing program and ALPS award structure
- Create **active Council VOAs in over 50% of Councils** nationwide by:
 - Fostering **strong and effective Council VOAs**. Having a council VOA is great, but if they are not effective it may actually be detrimental to the Venturing program
 - Creating a social media campaign to showcase the **impact Venturers are making across the country**
 - Originating a **fun, interesting youth-led video** that highlights what a VOA is and what it can do for membership in particular councils (give concrete ideas of things to plan)
 - Creating a nation-wide spreadsheet to **track councils that have been approached** to start councils VOAs
 - Track **what the response has been**, associate Venturing membership **growth/loss to the presence of VOAs**, continue **maintaining national contact sheet**
- Develop an atmosphere of **camaraderie, unison, and networking** between national VOA officers to share **ideas, strategies, and techniques** by:
 - Fostering information sharing among councils, areas, and regions.
 - Many **are extremely strong**, especially in specific skills, but their ideas are **kept locally** instead of being **shared across the nation**
 - Creating strong personal relationships with national VOA officers and area VOA officers
 - Attending all the region VOA training events
 - Publishing quarterly updates about the state of the Venturing program, accessible to anyone in the program.
- **Promote** Venturing awards, CSVE, events, the National Jamboree, VenturingFest
- Work with the National Venturing Committee to **garner support and improve our program**



LEFT: Team bonding at our WR Venturing Leadership Training in Orange Country, CA.