

Structuring your Venture

What Kind of Organization are We?

Deciding whether your Venture team will be a business, club, or another type organization is important because it will guide you in setting up your Venture and running it effectively. If your Venture team is a business for example, it will be run much differently than if it were a club at your school. Understanding the differences between clubs, businesses, and other organizations will help you create a successful Venture!

BUSINESS

An organization that provides customers with the goods and services they want.

For profit vs. Non-profit: Most businesses seek to make a profit—that is, they aim to achieve revenues that exceed the costs of operating the business. However, some businesses, commonly called nonprofits, only seek to earn enough to cover their operating costs. Examples of nonprofit businesses include such organizations as social service agencies, advocacy groups, and many hospitals.

Venture teams that are organized as a business provide various products or services to people. Some teams do make a profit, such as A&J Curb Appeal. This business provides low-cost landscaping services to people within the community, while still providing free services to some elderly customers. Other Venture teams, such as Beech Hill Bakers, are non-profit businesses. Beech Hill Bakers makes and sells baked goods with any money they earn either supporting their business or being donated to charitable causes.

Things To Think About

Do you plan to buy or sell goods or services?
What is the mission (goals) of the Venture?
How will your group be achieving its mission?
What resources does your group have available?
Will the group meet regularly and what will these meetings look like?

The answers to these questions will help you determine how to structure your team.

CLUB

A group of people organized for a common purpose, especially a group that meets regularly.

Many Youth Venturers chose to organize their Venture team as a club. Your club could meet at your school, at the public library, or somebody's house for example. Meetings are usually held regularly.

Interact Club MMS is an example of a Venture that meets at the middle school and goes out and does different community service projects together. Another example of a club is the Portsmouth Debate team. This team is a school club that meets regularly and practices debating.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Sometimes Venture teams are neither a business nor a club. These organizations may strongly resemble a club or business, but have unique characteristics that make them unique.

MWV Free Ride Park Project is an example of a Venture team that would fall into this category. This group is working to design and build a skate park in their community, and once it is built maintain it. Another example is the NH Board of Youth Volunteers. This Venture team is working together to organize an annual conference on volunteerism for young people.

Remember that no matter what organizational structure your Venture takes, it must always benefit your community!