

The Corps of Discovery

Handbook



Table of Contents

Who We Are	4
Lewis and Clark's Voyage of Discovery	5
The History of the Corps of Discovery	9
Membership and Inductions	12
Structure of the COD	20
Officers	22
How to start an Outpost	30
Symbols of Membership	31
Patches and Pins	32
History of Flaps, etc.	33
Personal Log	36
Glossary	38
Appendix	39

Who We Are...

The Corps of Discovery is a grassroots movement established to form a service society. Members are youth and adults who have shown a willingness to promote service within their organizations, communities or within their religious Institutions.

This is not an "Honor Society"; it is a unit-based co-educational service organization. To be a member, one must simply be willing to commit to doing service, and ask to join the Corps of Discovery.

It is important to understand that no COD member is more or less of a member than any other member. There are elected Officers with duties and responsibilities, but membership is universal and equal for all those who wish to join.

The COD takes its name and symbolism from Lewis and Clark's historic Voyage of Discovery.

Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery

(1804-1806)

In the early years of the nineteenth century, a group of thirty-three brave individuals traveled by foot, hoof, and watercraft across the northern stretch of mountains and river systems of what became the United States. Their journey of exploration would fill in the blank spaces on the map between Canada and Mexico as their party moved northwest from Saint Louis, up the Missouri, across the Rockies, down the Columbia, to the shores of the Pacific, and back. Amazingly, only one man from the expedition died.

Under the leadership of Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, the expedition (christened the Corps of Discovery) successfully traversed nearly 8,000 arduous miles in two-and-a-half years, through territory then unknown to both the travelers and the government that sent them. The Corps of Discovery was an expedition of both science and statecraft, employing intrepid military volunteers and supplemented by equally courageous hired civilians. The expedition had specific goals—political, economic, scientific, and anthropological—outlined by President Thomas Jefferson to benefit the young and expanding American republic. Although the expedition was conceived prior to the Louisiana Purchase, the exploration party embarked into the newly acquired lands as the transfer of sovereignty was underway. They were the leading edge of the American Empire.

Jefferson wanted the Corps of Discovery to explore the upper reaches of the Missouri River, with the hopes of finding the shortest water route to the Pacific Ocean. Simultaneously, they were charged with collecting and describing plants and animals new to science, while making connections with Indian tribes on behalf of the United States. Of course, the lasting inheritance of the Corps of Discovery was not exclusively intended for just the United States, but also the interconnected international world of

learning—this was the Age of Enlightenment and the Scientific Revolution.

The Author of the Declaration of Independence sent Lewis and Clark on a mission combining discovery and diplomacy, with encouraging American enterprise. The expedition paralleled the feats of earlier explorers, such as Christopher Columbus and James Cook, and still met the objectives of the president.

Many key elements of the methodology of the Corps of Discovery should be familiar to Scouts today. Obviously, they were brave, thrifty, obedient, and loyal, in their dutiful service to their country. They had limited supplies against the challenge of seemingly limitless territory. But we should also acknowledge the idealism in their noble goal to be honestly helpful, even if the results of their efforts to make peace between warring Indian tribes and between those tribes and the United States eventually yielded mixed results. Throughout the journey, though, Lewis and Clark kept the expedition alive and on task, facing unfathomable obstacles and dangers always alert, always prepared.

Needless to say, they had a lasting impact. Lewis and Clark, both individually and together, have things named in their honor—whether natural, manmade, political, or institutes of learning—including rivers, ranges, passes, bridges, streets, naval vessels, a military installation, counties, communities, a private college, a state college, and a community college. Their fame is rooted in the outcome of the mission itself. The Corps of Discovery advanced knowledge, making topographical, biological, botanical, and ethnological discoveries: they described 178 plants and 122 animal species then unknown to science. They were the first Americans to cross the continent, and mapped their route, thus providing invaluable geographic content for future travelers. Likewise they encountered dozens of Indian tribes, even providing some of the earliest and fullest descriptions of several.

Importantly, the Corps of Discovery exemplified that American ideal of unity formed of diversity. The expedition under Lewis and Clark was

composed of a party that featured Anglo Americans, French Canadians, Native American Indians, Mixed-Bloods, and an African American Slave. They were mostly a band of men in their twenties and thirties, but did have some young adults, and famously included a teen mother with her infant child. Moreover, a few Indian tribes brought critical assistance to the travelers, offering winter quarters and providing horses for both legs of the journey. Plus several Native American Indians were instrumental as guides, and women saved the team more than once. They demonstrated that input and contributions could come from all quarters: they held the first vote of the American Pacific Northwest and included all members of the expedition—male and female, red, white, and black.

The leaders and members of the Corps of Discovery were flesh and blood humans—little different in capabilities and personalities than you or me. Without mythologizing them, we should recognize their accomplishments as incredible feats worth admiring. Above all else, the Corps of Discovery was a team, and the success of this team was dependent on the contributions of its various members. They each had different duties, different talents, different backgrounds, and different positions, yet together they became something greater than any of them would achieve individually. Through effective preparations and solid leadership, the expedition tied together its diverse constituent elements, to be rightly remembered as part of the fabric of the American historical tapestry.

*Toby Thomas Willett,
Spring 2013*

Lewis and Clark Websites

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

<http://www.lewisandclark.org/LCTHF2/HOME.html>

Timeline of the Expedition

http://www.lewisandclark.org/LCTHF2/Expedition_Timeline.html

The Foundation's Journal, *We Proceeded On*

http://www.lewisandclark.org/LCTHF_Publications/We_Proceeded_On.html

Lewis & Clark Fort Mandan Foundation

<http://www.lewis-clark.org/>

U.S. Army History

<http://www.history.army.mil/LC/index.htm>

American Philosophical Society

<http://www.amphilsoc.org>

Library of Congress, Sextant

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/lewisandclark/images/ree0060s.jpg>

Library of Congress, Map

<http://www.loc.gov/item/7969290>

History of the Corps of Discovery

First proposed by Crew 477 of Northwest Suburban Council, BSA, the program has been through testing at several levels and many youth and adults were allowed to give their input into developing the program, suggested by-laws, the ceremony, and recognitions. At this point the program was called, *"The Venturing Corps of Discovery"*.

Why Lewis and Clark? Even though he had reached the age of 30 when he finally led the expedition for President Jefferson, Meriwether Lewis initially volunteered to make the trip when he was only 18 years old. Lewis spent a year in preparation and planning for the voyage, which included learning botany, geology, celestial navigation, cartography, and medicine, plus designing and supervising the construction of a keelboat. Moreover, in William Clark, Lewis did not choose a second-in-command, but instead a partner-in-command. Clark was an experienced woodsman, river man, soldier, and mapmaker. Together, Lewis and Clark commanded as a unit, a remarkable group of individuals, who together combined a diverse set of backgrounds and skills. In a two-year trip of extreme conditions and constant dangers, the expedition successfully achieved its goals.

Additionally, Lewis and Clark may have crossed paths with Pierre Menard, a trader in Kaskaskia, Illinois prior to their departure up the Missouri. Menard would later become a partner of the Saint Louis Missouri Fur Company founded by members and associates of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Menard was also the grandfather of Lucien Maxwell, who settled the property in New Mexico that is now the Philmont Scout Ranch.

The program developed using several youth and adults who had an interest having recognition for their outstanding members. All those who helped, in the writing, testing, and re-testing, are listed here for you to refer to.

Corps of Discovery Originators

Writers and developers of the original ceremony were: Milt McDougal, Dave Wilson, Tom Petrik, Heather Wilson, Matt Petrik, Erick Johnson, Nick Michelin, Chris Hoffman Scott Placke, and Dan Smart. Everything was further revised by the following test groups:

YOUTH - Alpha test group

Crew 477, Northwest Suburban Council

- Matt Petrik, President
- Erick Johnson, VP-Prgm.
- Nick Michelin, VP-Admin.
- Chris Hoffman, Secretary
- Dan Smart, Treasurer

YOUTH - Beta test group

Crew 1984, Utah National Parks Council

- Heather Wilson, President
- #### **Crew 50, Great Smoky Mountain Council**
- Harvey Robbers, President
 - Sean Hill, VP- Admin.
 - Jim Snyder, VP-Program
 - Justin Fleming, Secretary
 - Aaron Havener, Treasurer
 - Chris Willen, Communications
 - Anthony Robbers, Quartermaster

After some years, two Scouters, Craig Murray, and Joe Garrett, took up the program with the intention of taking this program, centered on Kodiak Trainings, and spread it throughout the country as a service society for the Venturing Program. A pocket flap was created, and a grassroots organization began.

In 2012 it was agreed that it was time to organize and define what the Corps of Discovery is, how it works, and how to handle membership. Chris Hagerty, from the Voyager Outpost accepted leadership of this project, and after months of group input, debate and conversation, the first Guidebook was published in May of 2013.

On June 26th, 2015, Craig Murray, Joe Garrett, And Chris Hagerty announced the next evolutionary step for the Venturing Corps of Discovery at the Western Region Rendezvous at Fort Clatsop.

In order to both ensure the service-first mission of the COD, and to offer the program to a larger number of youth, the word “Venturing” was dropped from the title, and membership was made available to and youth 14 and over willing to adhere to the Mission, Principles, and policies of the Corps of Discovery. Any group of youth could adopt the COD, or form to become an Outpost, Company or Camp.

Membership & Inductions

The Corps of Discovery is a Service Society. It is intended for youth (14 and older) and adults who go beyond what would normally be expected; ones that provide widespread service.

The Corps of Discovery at the Outpost level allows the group leadership to encourage their own members to participate doing service within the larger community.

Membership in the Corps of Discovery is not an award, or an honorary title. Membership is a demonstration of your commitment to service.

Membership is a self-nomination process, although youth and adults may also be invited to join. To be a member, a youth or adult just needs to find an Outpost, Company or Camp, and ask to join. If you are willing to accept the challenge of doing service, you can join the Corps of Discovery.

We have some basic, recommended guidelines for joining the COD, however, each Outpost/Company/Camp is empowered to create their own, locally-specific criteria. Local criteria must still reflect the COD's values.

The Nationally recommended guidelines are:

- Be Fourteen Years of Age or Older.
- (If in Scouting) Have the endorsement of your Crew/Ship/Troop/Post's Advisor/Skipper/Scoutmaster/Advisor

Some Outposts may include ILSC/ILSS/ILST completion, demonstrations of service, tenure, and other requirements.

There are some unacceptable practices that are not permitted, these include, but are not limited to:

- Any hazing or initiation rights or rights of passage that include labor or humiliation.
- Limits or quotas on number of members inducted. Any and all who are eligible may join.
- Any ceremony, or other practice that would violate the policies of the larger program that you belong to.

To join, a youth, or adult, need only contact their local Outpost, or if their area does not have an Outpost, their Nearest Camp, or Company. They will be informed of their local joining requirements and time of the next Induction, if they do not simply induct new members as they become available. (For questions about structure, please refer to page 12)

If you have no local COD members, or an Outpost etc. you can still join and even start an outpost. You just need to call for help.

Corps of Discovery Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/16213695514/>

Corps of Discovery Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/vcorpsofdiscovery/>

Ideas can also be found at our mostly inactive Corps of Discovery Yahoo! Group: <https://groups.yahoo.com/group/corpsofdiscovery/>

Corps of Discovery Induction Ceremony

The Corps of Discovery is a grassroots movement to form a service society. Members are youth and adults who have shown a willingness to promote service, within their communities, or within their religious organizations.

There should be care taken to make the induction a special experience, but there are no costumes worn, but all involved should be in appropriate uniform or apparel. Please feel free to incorporate props, or have safe campfire ceremonies.

Generally, at the end of the Ceremony a COD Flap, Pin, and Membership Certificate are presented. An animal tooth on a Leather Thong was presented prior to the creation of the flap. All of this is up to the individual Outpost/Camp/Company.

Remember to always follow your program's policies. No Hazing, bullying, manhandling, humiliating, etc. of member is to be tolerated. Also no Flaming-Arrows or other dangerous/banned ceremonies should be held.

The Ceremony

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.

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. Youth today possess the same spirit of adventure and willingness to face the unknown.

Second Speaker: Those inducted 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 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: Induction 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 service. One does not accept membership in this organization for recognition; instead, one must recognize those with the inherent commitment to service.

This society acknowledges your dedication but this induction is just one

small step in your activism. You are called not only to continue but also to expand your service to your community. Your additional obligation now calls you to develop the Corps of Discovery in your community and organization and to mentor future members.

Fourth Speaker: I now ask everyone to please stand. The originators of the Corps of Discovery desired that youth would select both youth and adults to be recognized for their work. 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 accepted into the Corps of Discovery and will now be inducted as a member. Will you please raise your right hand and repeat after me:

***I promise
that I shall continue to serve
my unit, council, area and program
That I shall continue my personal growth
and lead others 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.

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

Permanent Party Members

The term Permanent Party Member originally referred to a Member of the Corps of Discovery that made the entire journey. Permanent Party Members are Members who have distinguished themselves, and have been presented this honor by their Outpost.

Once a year, each Outpost (or Company or Camp, depending on the lowest level of organization in your county or Council) may honor One Youth and One Adult as a “Permanent Party Member”.

The Commander of the Outpost (or Company or Camp, depending on the lowest level of organization in your Council or county) will call for nominations; this may be done publicly, or handled in writing.

The Outpost (or Company or Camp, depending on the lowest level of organization in your Council or county) Officers will then vote on the recipients.

While there may be one Youth and one Adult recipient each year, if there are no qualified recipients, there should never be a presentation made just to do it. This will cheapen the honor.

Also, while a youth may be honored with no Adult recipient, there must be a Youth recipient to honor an Adult.

General Qualifications:

- Join the COD, and maintain active membership for 6 months
- Be able to explain the purpose of the COD in your own words.
- Have an understanding of, and be able to give a brief history of Lewis and Clark's Voyage of Discovery.
- Demonstrate significant Service to the Community and/or Scouting.

Permanent Party Members should be recognized at a public gathering, or possibly a Rendezvous.

Permanent Party Members will be presented a red backing for their COD Pin. This is a Nationally Recognized symbol of the Permanent Party Member Honor.



The Chris Hagerty Founder's Award

Each Regiment may present up to two (2) Founders Awards per year to Corps members who have shown exceptional service to the Corps of Discovery and their Community.

One Award each year must be given to a youth. The second may be given to a youth or adult. If only one award is given, it must be to a youth.

The award is a Jefferson Peace Medal suspended from a Royal Blue Neck Ribbon.

Nomination

Nominations should come in the form of a letter which includes the Nominee's Name, Outpost, Advisors name and contact information, and a description of the nominee's accomplishments.

In the case of nominating an Outpost Advisor, please include an Associate Advisors Contact information.

This letter is to be sent to your Regimental Clerk. The Regimental Clerk will save a copy of the nomination and present the originals to a committee made up of all previous recipients of the Founders Award in that Regiment, who will choose the recipient(s) by a vote.

The results will be shared with the Regimental Officers immediately and announced publicly so that the recipients may be present, and have family in attendance, when the award is presented at the Regiment's annual Rendezvous.

If there are no previous award winners, and/or no regimental officers established, voting may be done at the Rendezvous with written and floor nominations and a secret ballot process.

The award is available through Dr. Craig Murray at (TheHiker@SageVenture.com) for the cost of the medal, the neck ribbon and shipping which will be \$30 per medal. Please allow sufficient time when ordering as the medals and ribbons are not stocked. If you order two medals and shipping is less than the factored in shipping cost, the extra will be returned to you.

History of the Award

The first awards were presented at the first regimental Rendezvous, the Western Region Rendezvous at Fort Clatsop, June 27th, 2015.

The first Awards were given, fittingly, to the three Founders of the Corps of Discovery, Joe Garrett, Craig Murray, and Matt Petrick (for his service from a youth member until now)

In honor of Chris Hagerty's service, we have decided to posthumously rename the Corps of Discovery Founders Award, which he created, the Chris Hagerty Founders Award. This is the highest recognition available for Corps of Discovery members and was created by Chris to honor Matt Petrik, Craig Murray, and Joe Garrett for their efforts to strengthen the Corps within Venturing.

Structure of the COD

First of all, The Corps of Discovery is intended to be a Unit-Based Program with a hierarchy at the town/District, county/Council, Region and National level to support the Program at the Unit level.

Outpost

Generally the basic, primary level of the COD Organization. An individual group within the COD, generally based within a Crew, Ship, Troop, Post or other organization, but can be made up of members of multiple Crews or Ships.

Camp

A group of Outposts in the same geographical area, generally within a community, town or Scouting District.

Company

A larger group comprised of multiple Camps and/or Outposts, generally covering a county or Scout Council.

Regiment

The Region, based on BSA's set Regional boundaries (There is no group at the Area level)

National

Obviously the Entire United States and affiliated units overseas.

On the local level, it is best to have the basic Outpost/Camp/Company organization in place; this may not work in all situations. A lone outpost may exist in a council and report directly to the Regiment, or there may only be a Camp or Company. The program is intentionally flexible to allow for all situations.

Officers

Officers are elected by the active youth members to support and organize the COD. There are generally a COMMANDER, EXECUTIVE OFFICER, and CLERK at each level. The Commander being the official representative to the next level.

Council level leadership is up to the local members, as they may not have Outposts, Camps, or a Company structure. Each level of Organization will have a yearly vote amongst the youth for the Officers. The group(s) making up the COD in the Council will offer a representative to the Regiment (preferably the Company Commander).

The Company Commanders or Council Representatives (one per county or Council) are the voting block with the Regional Commander. So all the Reps/Commanders vote for the Regional Commander, Executive Officer and Clerk, as well as the regional Advisor (who appoints their own 2 assistants). This vote May be done online, or at a meeting, or a combination of the two.

The Regiment Officers handle Regional Business and organize/support regional events like the yearly Regional Rendezvous/meeting.

Then the Regional Commanders make up the National Committee. They will also vote for the National Commander, Executive Officer and Clerk, as well as the National Advisor (who appoints their own 2 assistants).

This group handles National Business, address policy, policy changes, and organize/support national events like the National COD Rendezvous every 2 years, in a different Region each time. Each level can easily operate via conference calls and email primarily.

The following Pages give Job Description of the various positions listed above.

OUTPOST JOB DESCRIPTIONS

OUTPOST COMMANDER

- Elected to a term of one year by the youth members of the Outpost.
- Promotes the COD whenever possible.
- Organizes Outpost Meetings and Activities.
- Represents the Outpost at the next highest level within the Council (Camp or Company).
- Encourages the Outpost, and Outpost members to do service.
- Supports Service Projects organized by Outpost Members.
- Oversees the Executive Officer and Clerk.
- Sets the example in their uniform and actions for the rest of the Outpost.

OUTPOST EXECUTIVE OFFICER

- Elected to a term of one year by the youth members of the Outpost.
- Promotes the COD and whenever possible.
- Stands-in for the Commander when needed.
- Supports Service Projects organized by Outpost Members.
- Sets the example in their uniform and actions for the rest of the Outpost.

OUTPOST CLERK

- Elected to a term of one year by the youth members of the Outpost.
- Promotes the COD and whenever possible.
- Handles all financial transactions for the Outpost.
- Maintains Outpost log, including roll call at all meetings, activities, and service projects.
- Maintain a record of Inductees and Permanent Party Members in the Outpost Log.
- Coordinates press releases sharing the accomplishments of the COD.
- Writes and presents an annual Report of the Outpost's Activity to the Camp Clerk.
- Sets the example in their uniform and actions for the rest of the Outpost.

CAMP & COMPANY JOB DESCRIPTIONS

CAMP or COMPANY COMMANDER

- Elected to a Term of one Year by the Outpost Commanders in the local area, or (in case of a COD with no Outposts) youth members of the Camp or Company.
- Promotes the COD and whenever possible.
- Organizes Camp or Company meetings and activities.
- Represents the Camp or Company at the next highest level within the COD.
- Encourages the Outposts, to do service.
- Supports Service Projects organized by Outpost Members, and fosters support between outposts and camps to do larger service projects.
- Works to build membership in the COD, and new Outpost where possible.
- Oversees their Executive Officer and Clerk.
- Sets the example in their uniform and actions.

CAMP or COMPANY EXECUTIVE OFFICER

- Elected to a Term of one Year by the Outpost Commanders in the local area, or (in case of a COD with no Outposts) youth members of the Camp or Company.
- Promotes the COD whenever possible.
- Helps the Commander to organize Camp or Company Meetings and Activities.
- Represents the Camp or Company at the next highest level within the COD in the Commander's absence.
- Supports service projects organized by Outpost Members, and fosters support between outposts and camps to do larger service projects.
- Sets the example in their uniform and actions.

CAMP or COMPANY CLERK

- Elected to a term of one year by the Outpost Commanders in the local area, or (in case of a COD with no Outposts) youth members of the Camp or Company.
- Promotes the COD whenever possible.
- Puts out, and saves examples of press releases and articles sharing the accomplishments of the local COD.
- Handles all financial transactions for the Camp or Company.
- Maintains Camp or Company Log, including taking roll at all meetings, activities and service projects.
- Maintain a record of Inductees, and Permanent Party Members in the Camp or Company Log.
- Writes and presents an annual report of the Outpost's activity to the Company or Regimental Clerk.
- Sets the example in their uniform and actions for the rest of the Camp or Company.

REGIMENT JOB DESCRIPTIONS

REGIMENT COMMANDER

- Elected to a Term of one Year by the Company Commanders in the Region. May serve 2 terms in this position, total.
- Promotes the COD and whenever possible.
- Organizes Bi-Annual Regimental Rendezvous, and any other Regimental events.
- Represents the Regiment at the National COD.
- Encourages the Outposts, Camps and Companies, to do service.
- Supports service projects organized by Outpost Members, and foster support between Outpost, Camps and Companies to do larger service projects.
- Works to build membership in the COD, and new Outposts, Camps and Companies where possible.
- Oversees their Executive Officer and Clerk.
- Sets the example in their uniform and actions.

REGIMENT EXECUTIVE OFFICER

- Elected to a term of one Year by the Company Commanders in the Regiment. May serve up to two terms in this position.
- Promotes the COD and whenever possible.
- Helps the Commander to organize bi-annual Regimental Rendezvous, meetings and activities.
- Represents the Regiment at the National COD in the Commander's absence.
- Supports Service Projects organized by COD Members, and foster support between Outposts. Camps, and Companies to do larger service projects.
- Sets the example in their uniform and actions.

REGIMENT CLERK

- Elected to a term of one year by the Company Commanders in the Regiment. May serve in this position for up to two terms.
- Promotes the COD and whenever possible.
- Puts out, and saves examples of press releases and articles sharing the accomplishments of the local COD.
- Handles all financial transactions for the Camp or Company.
- Maintains camp or Company Log, including taking roll at all meetings, activities and service projects.
- Maintain a record of Inductees, and Permanent Party Members in the Camp or Company Log.
- Sets the example in their uniform and actions for the rest of the Camp or Company.

NATIONAL JOB DESCRIPTIONS

CORPS OF DISCOVERY NATIONAL COMMANDER

- Elected to a Term of One Year by the Regiment Commanders.
- May serve 1 term in this position, total.
- Promotes the COD and whenever possible.
- Organizes National Rendezvous, and any other National Meetings and events.
- Represents the Corps of Discovery.
- Encourages all levels of the COD to do service.
- Supports service projects and foster support between Outpost, Camps and Companies to do larger service projects.
- Works to build membership in the COD, and new Outposts, Camps and Companies where possible.
- Oversees their Executive Officer and Clerk.
- Sets the example in their uniform and actions.

CORPS OF DISCOVERY EXECUTIVE OFFICER

- Elected to a term of one Year by the Regiment Commanders.
- May serve up to two terms in this position.
- Promotes the COD whenever possible.
- Helps the Commander to organize National Rendezvous, Meetings and Activities.
- Represents COD in the Commander's absence.
- Supports service projects organized by COD Members, and foster support between Outposts. Camps, and Companies to do larger service projects.
- Sets the example in their uniform and actions.

CORPS OF DISCOVERY CLERK

- Elected to a term of one year by the Regiment Commanders in the Regiment. May serve in this position for up to two terms.
- Promotes the COD and whenever possible.
- Puts out, and saves examples of press releases and articles, sharing the accomplishments of the Local COD.
- Handles all financial transactions for the Camp or Company.
- Maintains camp or Company Log, including taking roll at all meetings, activities and service projects.
- Maintain a record of Inductees, and Permanent Party Members in the Camp or Company Log.
- Using Reports from all Outpost, Camp, Company and Regiment Clerks, writes and presents an annual report of the COD's accomplishment, including number of members, Permanent Party Members, and service hours. This report is made available to the entire Membership.
- Sets the example in their uniform and actions for the rest of the Camp or Company.

ADVISOR JOB DESCRIPTION

The Corps of Discovery is a Youth-Run Organization.

While this is true, the Youth need the support of Adult Advisors. Additionally these Advisors are caretakers of the movement; here to provide consistency, and make sure the Corps of Discovery is here for the youth of today, tomorrow, and for generations yet to come.

Every level of the COD has an Advisor and two Associate Advisors.

- The Advisor for each level is elected by the youth at those levels that are voting for the Commander, Executive Officer, and Clerk at each Level.
- The Advisor may serve in that position for as many terms as they are elected to.
- The Advisor appoints their two Associate Advisors.
- The Advisor, and Associate Advisors, follow up with, advise and support the COD Officers in the completion of their duties.
- The Advisor is to make sure matters of Health & Safety, are dealt with appropriately.
- Sets the example in their uniform and actions for the rest of the Camp or Company.

How to Start an Outpost

It would be untrue to say that starting an Outpost is easy; however, it is not difficult from the end of dealing with The Corps of Discovery. There are no charters or forms. Much like the basic requirement for membership, if you wish to be one of us, or have an Outpost, and you are willing to operate within the Corps of Discovery standards, all you need do is ask to be included.

If you have no local COD members, or an Outpost etc. or don't know if you do, you just need to call for help. We can answer questions, and help you get started.

The Corps of Discovery Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/16213695514/>

The Corps of Discovery Facebook Page:

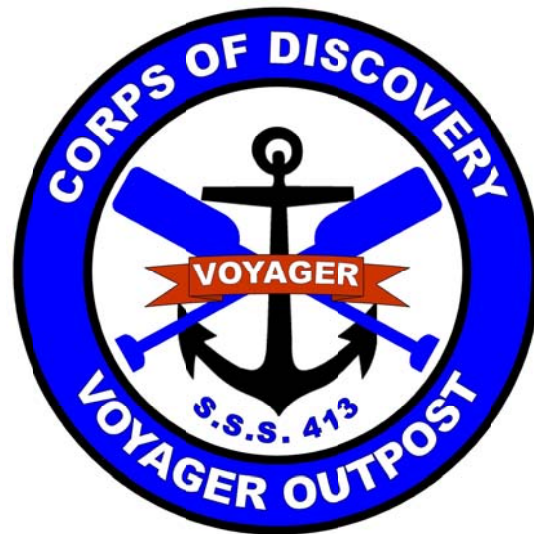
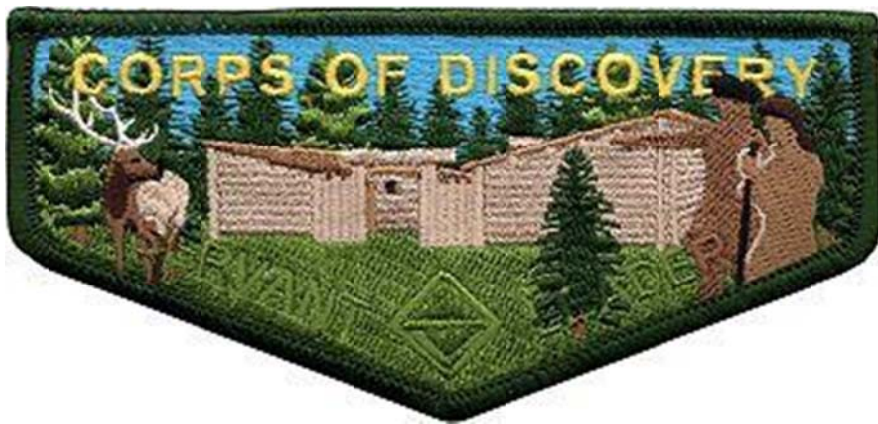
<https://www.facebook.com/vcorpsofdiscovery>

The Corps of Discovery Yahoo! Group Archives:

<https://groups.yahoo.com/group/corpsofdiscovery/>

Beyond that, you just need to recruit Youth and Adults who are interested in service, and the COD, hold an induction, and you're underway.

Symbols of Membership



Patches and Pins

First of all, there is no requirement for anyone in the COD to wear anything, but if you would like to, there are options.

Originally, inductees were issued a Coyote Tooth on a wire that was worn hanging from the right pocket button. This practice was retired, and modified to a presentation item during the inductions later.

Today, there is a Pin and a Pocket Flap Patch Available. The Flap Patch has been available for several years, and has gone through various transformations, including size and shape as Venturing and Sea Scout Uniforms have changed. The current patch styles are available in rectangular (for older Venturing Uniforms), traditional pentagon (for Scouts BSA and current Venturing Uniforms), and hexagon shapes (for Sea Scouts and the BSA Red Jac-Shirt). The Pocket Patches are available to be purchased from <https://www.thecorpsofdiscovery.org/recognition.html>

Some Outposts and Companies produce their own patch, generally a pocket patch, worn on the right pocket or sleeve.



History of Flaps, etc.



Craig Murray has made the COD Flaps from the beginning, using designs that reflected the journey that took the Corps of Discovery across the North American Continent.

The Corps of Discovery Pin



A call for a metal insignia, of some kind, came from the membership after about 2009. There was much debate, and different ideas were discussed and shared.



Some suggested just commandeering the Rifle Infantryman's Badge, or other military insignia. This was dismissed by the members, and other designs were created.



Most of the original designs went back to the Lewis and Clark motif, and especially the Jefferson Peace Medal.



The Final design was shared by Craig Murray with the Email list during the Summer of 2012.



After great support, and a lot of pre-orders, Craig produced the pin and Outposts throughout the country started wearing them that same summer. The Pin features the Handshake from the Jefferson Peace Medal.



This Pin was originally intended to be worn above the right pocket, above the Program Strip, Nameplate, and Interpreter Strip.

Currently, Corps Members wear the pin on their CoD or other (i.e. OA) flap patch.

The pin is intended for all members of the COD.

For members that are “Permanent Party Members”, and Commanders, there has been a series of colored plastic backings created.



For Commanders and Advisors there is a series of color-coded disks to be worn with the COD Pin to denote their position.

First, for The Outpost Commander, we have a bronze colored disk.



For the Advisor at each level, there is a larger blue disk as shown.



For the Camp (District) Commander and Advisor, there is a Gold (yellow) Disk.

For the Company (Council) Commander and Officer, there is a silver colored Plastic backing.

For all the members of the National Committee, three youth and three adults, there is a metal backing with the words “National Committee” printed on the disk. (This disk is not available at this time.)



Glossary

Outpost - individual group within the COD, generally based in a Crew, Ship, Troop, or Post, but can be made up of members of Multiple Units.

Camp- A group of outposts in the same geographical area, generally within a District.

Company- a larger group comprised of multiple Camps and/or Outposts, generally covering a Council.

Expedition - Any COD Activity, generally at an Outpost level.

Rendezvous - A gathering of COD Outposts on a Camp, Company, Area, Regional or National Level.

Corps of Discovery Banquet – On, or about May 14th of each year, the COD celebrates its anniversary on the day the original Voyage of Discovery began in 1804.

30 Second Elevator Speech

When someone asks. "What is the Corps of Discovery?"
This can be a jumping-off point to respond to that question.

The Corps of Discovery is a
service organization for
youth 14 and older.

This is not an "Honor
Society", it is a unit-based
co-ed service organization.

There are neither ranks, nor
levels, just membership and
the pride of service.

This organization takes its
name and symbolism from
Lewis and Clark's historic
Voyage of Discovery.