

The first honored mentor of the National Venturing Youth Cabinet Website is:

### **Dr. Craig Murray**

*"The way to get things done is not to mind who gets the credit of doing them."*

*--Benjamin Jowett*

It is my great pleasure to introduce the first honored mentor of the National Venturing Youth Cabinet Website, Dr. Craig Murray, our web site advisor.

The National Venturing Youth Cabinet website is a testimony of Dr. Murray's tireless commitment to Venturing and its youth. During the development of this site, Dr. Murray listened with great care to my vision and labored hundreds of hours to create my ideas on the site. Mentoring someone with no experience in web site design over a distance of almost 1000 miles could be difficult, but Dr. Murray remained positive, kind, and above all, responsive. He truly listens to youth; assimilates their ideas; and assists them in the appropriate manner, never trying to take over, but offering wise and practical advice. Dr. Murray is a generous and gifted artist. Moreover, he is a skilled advisor and sage mentor who makes overcoming challenges fun.



I selected Jowett's quote because long after this mentor page for Dr. Craig Murray is archived, my Venturing biography will credit me with the redesign of the website; the team who worked with me to create it will be forgotten by most. However, I will never forget Dr. Murray listening with great care, asking clear and direct questions, cheerfully making changes, and with noteworthy kindness, providing me with constructive advice to improve my work, ensuring that the site remained the implementation of my vision, albeit greatly enhanced by his involvement. Furthermore, Dr. Murray has agreed to remain our web site advisor, assisting future National Presidents and Cabinets, and providing smooth transitions as administrations change.

At this time, I would like tell you about Dr. Craig Murray's Scouting history and accomplishments. As a Boy Scout, he earned the rank of Eagle Scout, then traveled to New Zealand as an exchange student and enjoyed Scouting with "New Zealand" brothers who were Queen Scouts. As an adult, Dr. Murray has served as a Scout Leader for almost 20 years and as an advisor since 1992, first in Exploring, now Venturing. In addition to serving as our web site advisor, he is the webmaster for Kodiak-BSA ([www.kodiak-bsa.org](http://www.kodiak-bsa.org)) and "The Hiker on the Scouting Trail" ([www.sageventure.com](http://www.sageventure.com)). The latter includes "BSA Badge History" and the "Venturing Notebook."

Dr. Murray is reluctant to discuss his numerous awards in Scouting, but I learned about them from his website. In addition to the Silver Beaver Award, Dr. Murray has been presented with the District Award of Merit, the Exploring Advisor's Key, the Venturing Advisor's Award of Merit, the International Scouter's Award, the Venturing Leadership Award and Order of the Arrow-Vigil, among others. He has taken his Crew on national Venturing-age scouting activities in New Zealand, Canada, Australia and Austria. His favorite activity in Scouting is backpacking, having logged over 1100 miles.

Venturing is a better program because of the involvement of Dr. Craig Murray – mentor, advisor and friend.