

The FORUM

Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring Newsletter since 2003
March 2019 Issue

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Central Region Exploring

**National
and Other**

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Sea Scouts at the 24th World Scout Jamboree**

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The Current FORUM Newsletter:

http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/current_forum.php

The FORUM Back Issues

http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/venturing_archive.htm

Large Crews

http://minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/documents/FORUM-Crew_27-Large_Crews_articles.pdf

UPDATED March Crew 27 Large Crew Series (Articles on Large Crew Operations)

The FORUM Attachments Central Region

No Attachments

The FORUM Attachments National

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/regions/NAT-0319.zip>

Commissioner

[Commissioner Tools Troubleshooting Guide](#)

[Commissioner-Service-to-Exploring-FAQs](#)

Sea Scouting Info:

Sea Scout Advancement Requirements

Sea Scout Application for Area, Regional and National Boat-swain

Sea Scout Eligibility for Venturing Awards and Information On other Awards

Sea Scout Liability Insurance for Watercraft

Sea Scout New Century Universal Uniform

Sea Scout Power Point—State of Sea Scouts Oct 2017

Sea Scout Standard Operating Procedures 2019 **REVISED**

Sea Scout Strategic Plan-SMART

Sea Scout The Value of Sea Scouts

Venturing Info:

Venturing Awards and Recognitions

Venturing Board of Review Guide

Venturing Ethical Controversies

Venturing Goal Setting Time Management for Venturing Crews

Venturing Introduction to Leadership Skills Crews

Venturing Mentoring for Venturing Crews Facilitator Guide

Venturing Standard Operating Procedures (Current

Venturing Terms Lets get it Right

Venturing Venturing FAQ

The FORUM Attachments Northeast Region

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/regions/NER-0319.zip>

NER-World Scout Jamboree

The FORUM Attachments Southern Region

The FORUM Attachments Western Region

No Attachments

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Central Region Exploring

Exploring Alum on CBS This Morning

Check out the CBS This Morning segment featuring law enforcement Exploring alumnus Officer Daniel Rodriguez from Orange County, California. "It came full circle for me. Working with the kids and trying to do my best at mentoring them, and using the skills that I kind of grasped from Jason, and trying to do what he's done for me, for all the other kids." In the video from CBS This Morning, watch the two officers explain how the Exploring program benefited both of them.

READ MORE (<https://www.exploring.org/blog/exploring-alum-shares-his-full-circle-journey-on-cbs-this-morning/>)
<https://www.exploring.org/scholarships/>

Career Exploring Scholarships

2017 Recipients

We are very pleased to announce the 2017 Career Exploring Scholarship recipients. Thank you to all those who applied in 2017 and we encourage more Explorers to apply in 2018!! Read More. (<https://www.exploring.org/scholarships/>)

Visit the Activity Library

(<https://www.exploring.org/activity-library/>)

Exploring Program Tools

Did you know that soft skills like team building and interpersonal communications are more desired by today's employers than technical or job related skills. Visit the Exploring Activity Library to download over 100 soft skill activities for your next program meeting or activity. Learn more ** HERE (<https://www.exploring.org/activity-library/>)

Forward To A Friend (<http://us13.forward-to-friend.com/forward?u=7c0fb7c00a00c7a3053ff513f&id=25645c292d&e=8c0cfb9477>)

(<https://www.facebook.com/lfexploring>)
(https://twitter.com/Exploring_LFL)

Carlos Coronado | Director of Exploring / Central Region
LEARNING FOR LIFE & EXPLORING
Boy Scouts of America National Service Center



EXPLORINGTM
DISCOVER YOUR FUTURE



24th
WORLD SCOUT
JAMBOREE
SCOUT MONDIAL
UNLOCK a NEW WORLD
USA

JUL 22-AUG 2
2019

SUMMIT BECHTEL RESERVE

GET CONNECTED

www.wsj2019.us

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REGISTRATION FEES*

\$2,400 EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

\$2,500 REGULAR FEE

**FOR MORE
 INFORMATION VISIT**

wsj2019.us/faq/



Registration for Arrivals

**ARE YOU READY FOR THE
 ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME?**

The World Scout Jamboree is about Friendship, Fun, and Adventure. If you like to make friends, learn, and experience new things, this is the place for you! With 50,000 Scouts from 169 countries living side-by-side, you'll participate in a global community and will meet amazing people faster than you can imagine. Don't miss what will surely be the largest Scout celebration in the world!



*Denotes pricing for Northeast, Central, and Southern Regions

Sea Scouts at the 24th World Scout Jamboree

By Sea Scouts, BSA



24th
WORLD SCOUT
JAMBOREE
SCOUT MONDIAL
UNLOCK a NEW WORLD
USA



Are you ready to “Unlock a New World?”

The USA Contingent to the 24th World Scout Jamboree in 2019 is accepting applications for participants, adult volunteers, and International Service Team (IST) members. We hope that you can join us for an adventure of a lifetime. Not sure what a World Jamboree is? Simply put, the World Jamboree is a 12-day party, with 50,000 scouts from 169 countries who all came together to meet, bond and begin life-long friendships.

Sea Scouts can apply to join the United States Sea Scout Contingent by selecting their home ship when completing the application. This group of 36 Sea Scouts and 4 adult volunteers will come from across the country. Special coordination with Sea Scouts from other countries is being explored now. If you have already applied to attend as a part of a Scout Troop or a Venturing Crew and want to attend as a Sea Scout contact Mike Philbrook at wsj2019@seascout.org.



Dates: July 22 – August 2, 2019 (USA Contingent will arrive on July 21, 2019)

Location: Summit Bechtel Scout Reserve West Virginia, USA
Eligibility: Birthday between July 22, 2001 and July 21, 2005
– Youth participants (boys and girls) must be age 14-17

Birthday before July 22, 2001 (age 18 and older)

- **Adult unit leaders (age 18 and older)**
- **International Service Team (IST) age 18 and older**

How to apply: The USA Contingent application system is open now at wsj2019.us/apply.

Application Process: Participants, adult leaders, and IST will complete an online application. Applications will be reviewed on both a Council and National level.

Fees: Total fees, along with a payment schedule, and scholarship information was published on the web site.

If you do not make the age cutoff, there are plenty of IST opportunities which include water sports positions.

If you have any questions about joining the Sea Scout Contingent, contact the Sea Scout coordinator, Mike Philbrook at wsj2019@seascout.org. For more information on the Jamboree or US Contingent be sure to check out wsj2019.us.

Introduction to Powder Horn

Powder Horn is a resource course designed to introduce Scouting's adults and youth to the exciting high-adventure program possibilities for their unit. The course supports the mission of strengthening units so they can achieve the mission of the Boy Scouts of America. One common denominator of successful courses is that creativity and variety play a role in the delivery of the curriculum. Each course is somewhat different, and that is a good thing.

Some courses have had participants arrive by canoe, horseback, or bike, or even on skis. Creativity is fun, too! The ultimate goal is for the participants to leave the Powder Horn course with a list of ideas to help their program, along with the contacts and resources needed to implement them. This will lead to a more exciting and robust program, which in turn should lead to increased membership and a higher retention rate in our units.

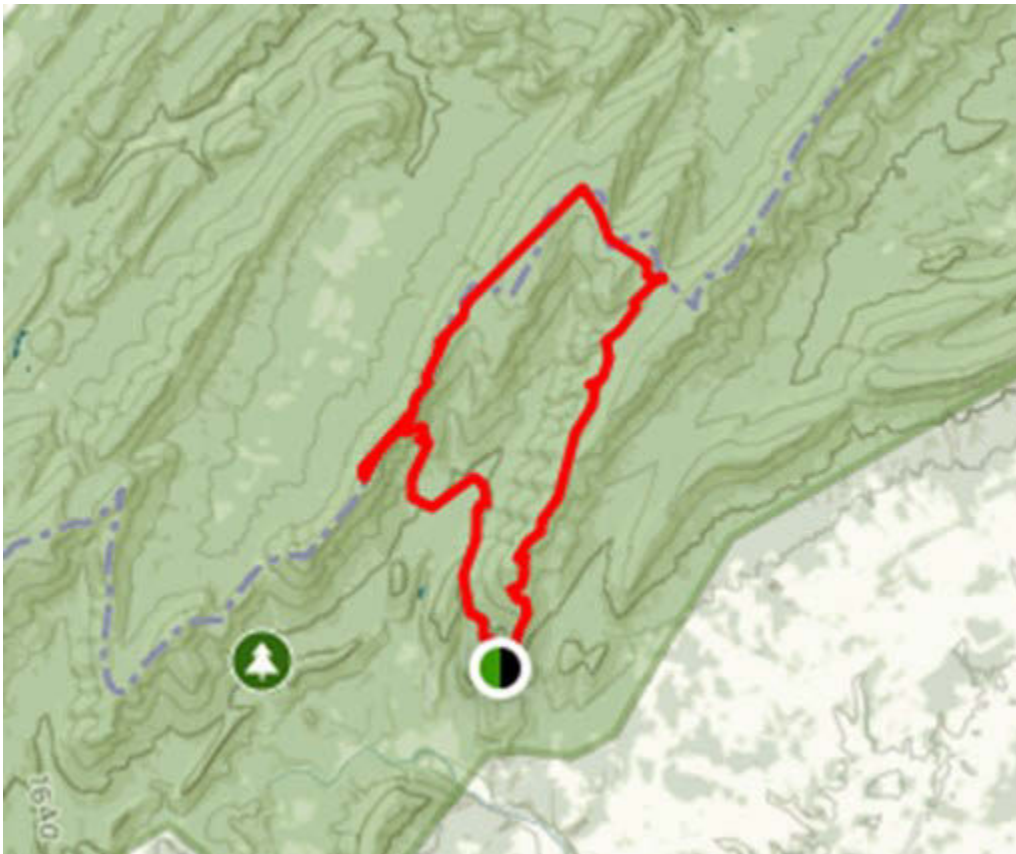
It is important to understand that Powder Horn is not a personal development course or a team-building experience. Its purpose is to educate the youth and adult Scouting leaders about specific high-adventure skills, to connect them to resources to deliver those skills, and to get them excited about delivering those skills in an exciting, challenging way to youth.

Seek out a course in your council or any course in your region for this adventure.



A Venturer Reports: Backpacking the Little Schloss Trail, Columbia Furnace, Va By Amalia

Last November, three Venturers from National Capital Area Council Crew 27 went backpacking on the Little Schloss trail near Columbia Furnace, Virginia. The Little Schloss and Big Schloss Loops are on the edge of the George Washington National Forest near Edinburg, Va. Hiking and camping in America's National Forests is available without fee or permit outside of established campgrounds. Our National Forests are administered by the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior. They are an immense gift to the American People from the American People and particularly to the Scouts.



The Topography of the Little and Big Schloss Loops on the Va-WVa border

It was a three-hour drive for us to get to the trail head on Saturday. We arrived around noon and started backpacking, excited for the day to come. Our packs seemed pretty heavy as we started out. It was hunting season so we all wore bright orange hats that would help identify us as people instead of venison.

A Venturer Reports: Backpacking the Little Schloss Trail, Columbia Furnace, Va
By Amalia



Crew 27 Backpacking Venturers on the Little Schloss Trail in orange hats

The trail turned out to be very hilly. It seemed to me that we spent a lot of time trekking uphill. The view from the trail made the walk up worthwhile. We got a great view of the surrounding mountain landscape.



Beautiful late fall vistas along the Schloss Loops in the George Washington National Forest

A Venturer Reports: Backpacking the Little Schloss Trail, Columbia Furnace, Va By Amalia

The days are short in November and we learned that an earlier start would have been well advised. We weren't able to make it more than a few miles before it began to get dark so we had to stop earlier than planned. Everyone got their tents set up as quickly, we got the fire going and make dinner before it got dark. We melted snow to get potable water. The dehydrated backpacking food tasted pretty good after our afternoon of exercise. After packing all of our trash and leftover food away in bear-proof containers, we all went to bed. Despite only being 7:30 PM, it was already pitch-dark outside.



Crew 27 stopping before sunset on the Little Schloss Trail

The next morning, we hiked the remaining eight miles to the end of the trail. Aside from the fact that melting snow seemed to have turned part of the trail into a shallow river, everything went smoothly. We ended up getting back to the parking lot in the late afternoon. On our way home, we stopped to eat fried chicken to celebrate a successful trip.

Amalia

Amalia is a senior at Richard Montgomery High School in Rockville, MD and is in her third year as a Venturer. She is a graduate of National Youth Leadership Training in the National Capital Area Council. Amalia has been selected to serve as the third Associate Advisor to World Scout Jamboree Crew USA141 so she will be advising sixteen Venturers from her home Crew as well as the rest of the Venturers from Areas 5 and 6 of the Northeast Region of the BSA. Amalia has applied to a number of colleges, she has been accepted to SUNY Binghamton and University of Vermont and would like to study environmental science.

Scouts BSA - Cave Safely, Cave Softly

Scouts BSA seems to have the largest interest in cave exploring of any youth organization I've worked with. They put a lot of thought into the safety of their members as well as the safety of their partners.

A little more than a year ago the Scouts BSA released a new caving policy for its members to follow. There was not a lot of fanfare about this new policy. Some people, both cavers and Scouters, missed it. Some who have seen it were confused about what it all means.

First I want to thank Debbie Spoons, the BSA Liaison from the NSS Youth Group Liaison Committee, for spending more than a year of her own time and travel expense working on this document with the Scouts BSA and representing the interests of the National Speleological Society. I feel the changes to this policy will give more leeway to the experienced caver in making judgement calls that are in the best interests of the Scouts and the cave.

The first document that changed was the *Guide To Safe Scouting section on Caving*. It can be found [here](#). The big change to the document is replacing age restriction of a minimum of 14 years old to allowing all Scouts who are a member of a Troop, Ship, or Crew to be able to enter a cave at the discretion of their Supervising Adult Leader and the Experienced Cave Guide.

The current *Guide to Safe Scouting* has a link to the current *Cave Safely, Cave Softly*, which replaces the old BSA cave exploring policies. *Cave Safely, Cave Softly* is broken down to eight sections.

1. Qualified Supervision is usually provided by the Scouting Unit. This section defines the responsibilities of the adult supervisors.
2. Qualified Trip Leader is the experienced caver that is guiding the Scouting Unit underground. This section defines the responsibility of the Qualified Trip Leader. Nowhere is it stated that the Qualified Supervision (Scout Leader) and the Qualified Trip Leader (experienced caver) can not be the same person. Two deep leadership is still required.
3. Physical Fitness of all the members of the Scouting Unit is the responsibility of the Qualified Supervisor (Scout Leader). The Qualified Supervisor must relay any concerns to the Qualified Trip Leader (experienced caver).
4. Safety of the group is everyone's responsibility. The Qualified Trip Leader (Scout Leader) or the Qualified Supervisor (experienced caver) can call off the trip at any time they feel the situation warrants it.
5. The Qualified Trip Leader (experienced caver) does not have to supply all the Equipment. They are responsible to make sure everyone has everything they need before they enter the cave.
6. Planning the trip is extremely important. It is good to get the youth leaders involved with this, but the Qualified Adult Supervisor (Scout Leader) and Qualified Trip Leader (experienced caver) are ultimately responsible for seeing that everything is done.

Scouts BSA - Cave Safely, Cave Softly

7 **Conservation** is a good time to review all the *Leave No Trace* ethics and the laws protecting caves in your State.

Discipline is everyone's responsibility. Either the Qualified Supervisor (Scout Leader) or the Qualified Trip Leader (experienced caver) can stop the trip at anytime they feel that a lack of discipline is endangering any member of the team.



Most Scout trips are the first time a youth has the opportunity to get underground and experience cave exploring. This may also be the only time they get to do this. Making the trip fun is very important, second only to safety. If the Qualified Supervisor and Qualified Trip Leader work together it can be fun and safe.

If you have any questions please send me an email at allenmaddox@youcave.org.

Cave Safely, Cave Softly, Cave Often,
Allen Maddox
Founder, Youth Opportunities Underground
Chair, NSS-Youth Group Liaison Committee



**The Northeast Region
Area 3
Venturing Officers Association
Presents**

Venture Trek

the 2019 eVENT

**To go where no Venturer has
gone before
May 17-19, 2019**



**ORDER YOUR VENTURING JACKET
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**Every Venturer wants the cool Venturing
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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
PATRIOTS' PATH COUNCIL

Jersey Jam 2019

Join 5,000 Scouts, Explorers, Venturers and Sea Scouts on

Friday, October 4 – Sunday, October 6, 2019

for a week-end Jam-packed with Scouting fun and adventure!

Rain or Shine 70 Acres U.S. Historic Location* Safe, Secure, Easy Access

- Outdoor Challenges, including Extreme Obstacle Course
- High Adventure: Climbing Wall, Tomahawk / Knife Throwing, Archery, BB Gun Shooting and much more
- Hands-on Pioneering and Backwoods Engineering Projects
- Extensive Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics (STEM) Exhibits and Activities
- Fun Competitions: Tug of War, Human Foosball, GaGa Ball, Ultimate Frisbee
- Military, Police, Fire and EMS Displays
- Special Events, including Live Jump by the US Army's Golden Knights Parachuting Team
- Secure Overnight Camping for Scouts, Venturers, Explorers and Sea Scouts
- Saturday Evening Arena Show / Live Entertainment



RESERVE YOUR SITE TODAY!

Key Dates:

- June 4, 2018 Unit "Save A Site" Reservations Open
- January 2, 2019 Registration Open to all Units**
- June 15, 2019 Final Registration and Payment Due

Register online at www.JerseyJam.org

** Open to PPC units and units from area councils, on a first-come, first served basis.

* Waterloo Village is a National Historic District located in Byram Township, New Jersey

Prepared. For Life.™

WE'RE GIVING AWAY A 2019 HIGH ADVENTURE TREK FREE!!!



Now's your chance to go to Swamp Base, but with no worries of having to pay the trek fees! One person will win a 2019 trek for up to II Scouts and leaders, valued at up to \$7,150 in registration fees!!!

HOW TO ENTER:

It's easy! Simply complete the short survey at bsaswampbase.org/trek-I-giveaway by December 12, 2018.

One lucky name will be drawn on December 14, 2018!

*No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited. Must be 18 years old to enter.
For complete sweepstakes rules please visit bsaswampbase.org/trek-I-giveaway-rules*

Southern
Region

SSS Valor Named 2019 Southern Region Flagship

by Southern Region Commodore



Ship 3, SSS Valor of Swansboro, North Carolina, has been named the 2019 Regional Flagship.

Ship 3 is a relatively new but outstanding unit: over the past year, they have doubled their membership, had over half of their members reach Apprentice rank and shown a strong commitment to Scouting values.

However, what made Ship 3 stand out was their strong dedication to serving the community. Ship 3 completed 1379 service hours in 2019 in response to the devastating effects of Hurricane Florence. Ship 3's ability to muster members to work in the community in a time of need unequivocally reflects Scouting's values. Their commitment to service and showing that "a Scout is helpful" sets a bar that all Sea Scouts need to reach.

Please take time to congratulate Ship 3 for their achievements.

Additionally, three other Ships showed excellent performance over the year and deserve recognition, and are considered the Regional Flagship Fleet:

Ship 1 SSS Unique of East Texas Area Council

Ship 626 SSS Nahar of Longhorn Council

Ship 16 SSS Confluence of Colonial Virginia Council

Congratulations to all and I hope to see more Ships apply next year!

Ryan Trefny – Southern Region Boatswain

Marketing Material

Sea Scout Marketing Flyers- Open House Flyers with fillable fields

Sea Scout Me In Collateral- Images and infographic

Promoting Sea Scouts in High Schools- Tips on how to submit flyers to school districts for approval in high schools

How to Update Your Pin on BeaScout.org (Great way to increase your visibility for interested youth looking for a Sea Scout Ship)

Sea Scout Marketing Toolbox (Logos, Photos, Videos, Flyers, Posters)

Open House Best Practices (Video Presentation from the New Ship Mentor Workshop)

Leadership and Flagship Nomination Deadlines

The deadline to recognize a deserving Scout or Scouter with a Sea Scout Leadership Award or a Ship with the National Flagship Award is approaching. National Flagship Applications are due March 31. Download Application. National and Regional Leadership Award nominations are due March 1. Area Leadership Award nominations are due April 1. Contact your local council for the council deadline. Download Application.

Take the time to nominate a deserving individual or put together an application package for your ship and share the video below with others to spread the word.

Summer Cruise Opportunities

The most important part of any ship's program is the annual long cruise. If you have not begun planning for this summer's cruise, read on to see what resources are available to you.

Long Cruise Planning Resources

The Passport to Adventure Long Cruise Guide is the one stop shop for any ship to plan and execute a successful cruise. Its eight chapters are packed with topics including Before You Go; Who Will Go; Trip Planning; Travel, Budget, and Insurance; Promotion and Preparation; Equipment; Underway Procedures; Sail Safely; and Wrapping up Your Long Cruise.

Two online training modules for planning and executing successful cruises are available in the [BSA LearnCenter](#), which is part of My.Scouting Tools.

Provisional Cruise Opportunities

Sea Scout Ships that are new, landlocked or looking to cruise in a new area can find a cruise at seascout.org/cruising. A map of cruising locations and a calendar of planned cruises is available. If your unit has open space on your summer cruise, consider listing it so others can join.

Specialty Cruise Opportunities

Every summer the a handful of scouts embark on SEAL training or cruise aboard the USCG Eagle. SEAL is a week long, on the water, leadership development course that is being offered in five locations this summer. More information is available at seascout.org/seal. If a scout is interested in a career in maritime service, they should consider applying to sail alongside U.S. Coast Guard Academy cadets on The *Eagle*, a three-masted barque-rigged ship. More information is available at seascout.org/news/sail-aboard-the-uscg-eagle.

2020 Sea Base Opportunity

With the generous support of a Sea Scout leader, we have secured two Florida Sea Base sailing vessels each summer, beginning in 2020, without having to participate in the lottery and commit two years in advance.

Ideally, we are looking for two Sea Scout Ships, consisting of six Sea Scouts and two adult leaders each, who want to book their 2020 Summer Cruise at the Florida Sea Base, and sail the Lower Florida Keys, including Key West, and the Marquesas. Once registered, they will raise their funds, pay their deposits and fees. The cost and additional information is available at bsaseabase.org/Adventures. Interested Ships should contact contact Janice Downey at seascouts@scouting.org.

Summer Cruise Opportunities



KEY WEST SUMMER CRUISE 2020

Set sail from the Florida Sea Base and cruise along the lower Florida Keys, including Key West, and the Marquesas.

KEY WEST SAILING ADVENTURE JUNE 27 - JULY 3, 2020

Does your ship want to do a Long Cruise but lacks access to a boat? Beginning in 2020, two ships have the opportunity to participate in a Sea Base adventure without having to go through the traditional lottery. The ideal unit makeup is 6 youth and 2 adults. Cost and additional information is available at bsaseabase.org/Adventures.



Contact Janice Downey at seascouts@seascout.org to apply



JOIN THE AREA 5 SCAVENGER HUNT

SR5VENTURING.ORG/HUNT



LEGACY 7

OCTOBER 4-6, 2019
CAMP BARSTOW, BATESBURG SC



THE PREMIER EVENT OF SOUTHERN REGION AREA 5 VENTURING

Legacy brings together youth from Area 5 and beyond for a weekend of camping, competitions, highadventure, fun, and fellowship.



sr5venturing.org
facebook.com/sr5venturing/
[@SR5Venturing](https://twitter.com/SR5Venturing)

Sea Scout News

Across the Western Region

Full Ahead for 2019

Dear Shipmates,

2019 is off to a strong start with new Ships, new Quartermasters, and new opportunities. We now have Sea Scout Ships in the Mount Baker, Grand Teton, and Nevada Area Councils. Welcome aboard, to all of our new Sea Scouts.

Please see all of the below news for opportunities and announcements. Remember, now is the best time to plan for Spring Recruiting.

**Fair winds,
Josh Gilliland
Western Region Commodore**

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Sea Scout News

Revised Sea Scout Standard Operating Procedures



The [Sea Scout Standard Operating Procedures](#) have been updated to include recent changes in the program. Please download the SOP from [SeaScout.org](#). Also in FORUM NAT Downloads folder

Sea Scout News

Past WR Boatswain Earns Rank of Quartermaster

Past WR Boatswain Miranda passed her Quartermaster Board of Review. Miranda is on the Sea Scout Ship Viking of San Francisco and served as Ship Boatswain when they earned the National Flagship Award. Please join me in congratulating Miranda on a job well done

Seabadge Denver

The next Seabadge course in the Western Region will be in Denver on April 26 to 28 at Donald E. Scott Colorado Adventure Point

Seabadge is intense leadership and management training focused on the “how-to” aspects of managing a successful youth-led Sea Scout program. While Seabadge was developed as an advanced leadership training program for experienced Sea Scout adult leaders, the course is open to all adult Scout leaders. The driving theme for the training is to “Focus on Youth,” which makes the course especially valuable for any Scout leader dealing with older youth. Registration is open at

<http://www.denverboyscouts.org/seabadge>

Sea Scout News

Sail Aboard USCG Eagle

The Coast Guard has partnered with Sea Scouts, BSA to offer a weeklong sailing adventure aboard USCGC EAGLE to a select group of Sea Scouts from around the nation. Interested Sea Scouts can apply for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity with the USCG Eagle Cruise Application on SeaScout.org



Applications Now Available for Area, Regional and National Boatswain



We need qualified youth leaders to serve as the next National, Western Region, and WR Area Boatswains. Terms begin June 1, 2019. Applications available at SeaScout.org. Please be advised of the following due dates:

National Sea Scout Boatswain: February 15
Region Sea Scout Boatswain: March 1
Area Sea Scout Boatswain: March 15

Sea Scout News

SEAL 2019 Applications



Applications for the [2019 SEAL Courses](https://www.seascout.org) are now available on [SeaScout.org](https://www.seascout.org). The SEAL training program is designed to teach leadership skills while underway. SEAL is designed to “jump start” the junior leaders of new Ships and to sharpen the skills of Sea Scouts from experienced ships. It is a demanding and remarkably rewarding hands-on leadership experience. New and experienced Sea Scouts will succeed at SEAL so long as they are willing to learn and work hard at preparation

Sea Scout News

Summer Cruise 2019

Sea Scout Ships can list summer cruise opportunities on SeaScout.org. Now is the perfect time to share summer cruise plans, so Ships that are land-locked or looking to cruise in a new area can find a Ship for this summer.

Here are some tips for promoting your summer cruise: Think of summer cruise like going to camp. List dates and ports of call, advancement opportunities, and information about where you will be cruising.

The next step is to visit the [Calendar page on SeaScout.org](#), select "Add Event," provide the information about your summer cruise, including how many Sea Scouts that can cruise with your Ship, and select the Category "Provisional Long Cruising." Be sure to include contact information.

It is extremely important to not violate the *Passenger Safety Vessel Act* of 1993 and to charge all Sea Scouts, whether they are members of the Ship or visiting Sea Scouts going on a provisional long cruise, the same price for the cruise to cover food, fuel, and supplies. For more information, please see the [Revised Safe Boating and Sailing Standards](#) and [59 FR 792 - Passenger Vessel Safety Act of 1993](#)

Let's make sure every Sea Scout who wants a summer cruise can have one this summer



Sea Scout Safety Moments Videos

We have a new [Safety Moment video series](#) done in partnership between Geico and the Boy Scouts of America. Check them out on [SeaScouts.org](#).

Sea Scout News

WR Executive Board Meeting

Dear Shipmates,

We just had an amazing WR Executive Board meeting in Palm Springs, California.

WR Boatswain Hannah did an outstanding job reporting on the state of Sea Scouts in the Western Region to each Area that included membership reports, activities, and opportunities for Sea Scouts across the Region.

WR New Ship Coordinator Deidre Baumgarten shared with each Area the prospective new Ships in each Council service area and made contact with BSA Growth Coaches/VPs of Membership to coordinate activities with in each Area.

WR Vice Commodore for Training Kathy Weydig highlighted the next four upcoming Seabadges in the Western Region, including Denver on April 26-28, 2019, Lake Tahoe on October 18-20, 2019, and Long Beach over March 6-8, 2020. WR Area 3 Commodore Kris Leverich is working with the NPS in Monterey to host a Seabadge for the 50th Anniversary where the course originally began in 1970.

Special congratulations to WR Area 3 for having their first positive growth in Sea Scouts in over a decade. Job well done to all of the Ships and Commodore Leverich for his hard work.

I was deeply humbled at the meeting after finding out that I am being honored with the Silver Antelope at the National Meeting in Denver. Words cannot express how I felt after the outpouring of congratulations from friends across the country.

There is a lot of exciting upcoming news. Stay tune for more announcements in the days ahead.

**Fair winds,
Joshua Gilliland
Western Region Sea Scout Commodore
National Sea Scout Support Committee**

Sea Scout News

New Sea Scouts Uniform Online Learning Module Available

The Official Sea Scout Uniform (TOSSU) is now the standard for all Sea Scouts.

ScoutingU announced the new Sea Scout Uniform module was launched in the BSA Learn Center and contains the latest uniform information. Links are also provided where insignia and uniforms may be purchased.

The module is contained within the Sea Scout Adult Leader Basic Training Learning Plan. The module is built using a new template that is more mobile friendly than previous e-learning courses.

The Official Sea Scout Uniform was adopted because it eliminates barriers to entry, namely new Ships no longer have to navigate through extensive obstacles to acquire Navy uniforms, is low cost, and available everywhere.

Sea Scout Ships wearing legacy uniforms can do so as long as the uniforms are serviceable. There is no requirement to change to the Official Sea Scout Uniform, unless your Ship wants to be considered for the National Flagship, attend National events such as SEAL or serve as Seabadge staff, or serve in leadership positions such as Area, Regional, or National Boatswain. However, converting over to The Official Sea Scout Uniform shows we are part of the Boy Scouts of America by having a uniform that looks consistent with the rest of Scouting. All Sea Scouts wearing the same uniform strengthens our identity within Scouting, which is vital for new Ship growth and supporting existing Ships. Our mission is to provide relevant program to youth of today and The Official Uniform meets that goal.

Sea Scout News

Best Practices Webinar for Council Commodores on YouTube

The Four Regional Commodores are hosted a “Best Practices” webinar for Council Commodores on February 12, 2019 at 1800 PST. The video is available on the [Sea Scouts BSA YouTube](#) channel

Sea Scout Leadership Award

Recognizing Sea Scout volunteers and Scouts is extremely important to honor those who have contributed to help Sea Scouts at the Council, Area, Regional, and National level

If you know a deserving volunteer, please nominate them for the Sea Scout Leadership Award for where they serve. National and Regional Leadership Award nominations are due March 1. Area Leadership Award nominations are due April 1. Contact your local council for the council deadline. Applications are available on SeaScout.org

Websites

National Venturing

<http://www.scouting.org/venturing.aspx>

National Sea Scout

<http://www.seascout.org/>

Central Region Venturing

<http://www.crventuring.org>

Northeast Region Venturing

<http://nerventuring-bsa.org/>

Northeast Region Sea Scouting

<https://seascout.org/regions/southern/>

Southern Region-Venturing

<http://srventuring-bsa.org/wordpress/>

Southern Region Sea Scout

<http://srventuring-bsa.org/wordpress/>

Western Region Sea Scouts

<https://wrseascouts.wordpress.com/>

Western Region Venturing

<http://wrventuring.org/>

USA Scouting Service-Venturing

<http://www.usscouts.org/usscouts/venturing/>

UniformingFAQ.asp

Venturing Magazine

www.venturingmag.org

National Exploring

<http://www.exploring.org/>

Yahoo Groups

Central Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/crventuring/>

Northeast Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nerventuring/>

Southern Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/srventuring/>

Western Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wrventuring/>

National

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/venturinglist/>



the FORUM

The FORUM is a National cluster concept and a friendly way to help Scouting Leaders exchange ideas and programs among our Troops, Crews, Ships, Posts, Councils, Areas, Regions and National.

The FORUM is shared by Volunteers and Professionals across the country.

“The **FORUM**” has been published monthly since 2003 and is not an official publication of any Council, Area, Region or National. It is the Leaders and Professionals newsletter. Help support our teenage program by sending the FORUM your stories, Newsletters. Council articles, By-Laws, Questions and Best Practices to share with others.

As always, articles, questions and comments are welcome. Promote Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring by promoting your Unit and Council. We are seeking support from anyone interested in working on the newsletter .

Thanks for all you do!

Bob the BEAR Monto—Editor in Chief

Pete Mapes—Associate Editor

Bernie Suess - Webmaster

TO SUBSCRIBE to the FORUM:

Email Bob the BEAR at

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Use the email account you want to receive the FORUM and give Full name and Council to place you in the right email list.