

The FORUM

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

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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-0419.zip>

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<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/regions/NER-0419.zip>

NER-World Scout Jamboree

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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/lflexploring>)
(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

Announcing the 2019-2020 National Boatswain

By Sea Scouts, BSA

Congratulations to Hannah Carter, the incoming 2019-2020 National Boatswain. Hannah is a member of Mariners 936 of Dana Point, California in the Orange County Council. She the current Western Region Boatswain and an Able Sea Scout working towards Quartermaster. She has served as the Western Region Area 4 Boatswain's Mate and in multiple Ship leadership positions. She has cruised aboard the USCG Barque Eagle, graduated from the SEAL program, and competed in the Koch Cup two times.

Outside of Scouting, Hannah has attends various sailing clinics, works as a US Sailing Level 1 & 2 Instructor, and is an active Girl Scout working on her Gold Award. She is a member of her high school choir, Key Club, and sailing team.

Hannah's vision for Sea Scouts includes enhancing recruitment, improving mentor ship relationships, increasing social media engagement, and developing regular communications among youth. Hannah has taken personal ownership of similar goals in the past. She has personally recruited five new members and developed a comprehensive communications plan as the Western Region Boatswain. We look forward to seeing where Hannah takes the program in the coming year!



Sea Scout National Youth Quarterdeck

By philbroo

One of the best the parts about the Sea Scouts is that it is Scout led, that is something that we want to show on the national level. We are now introducing the National Youth Quarterdeck, a national level group of experienced Sea Scout youth to help guide the Sea Scouts across the nation.

The Quarterdeck is divided into five different committees; Program Support, Communications, Membership/Growth, Outreach/Relationships, and Operations. Program Support will go into things such as spreading best practices, improving existing youth training, and helping develop model ship meeting programs. Communications will focus on promoting Sea Scouts on Social Media, drafting press releases, helping with updating and maintaining information on the Sea Scout Website, and experimenting with different techniques. Membership/Growth will analyze membership data, develop recruiting strategies, and assist in new ship creation. Outreach/Relations will work with the National Sea Scout Support Committee Liaisons, help brainstorm possible relationships for Sea Scouts, and emphasize the importance of Sea Scouts to colleges. Operations will oversee internal operations, scheduling, and keeping all the committees on track for success.

The Quarterdeck will be working in harmony with the National Sea Scout Support Committee (NSSSC) and each Quarterdeck Committee will be working with a NSSSC sub-committee. This will help bring together perspectives of both the youth and adults in Sea Scouts.

I urge everyone who wants to bring their ideas to the rest of Sea Scouts or thinks that they can help make a difference in the great Sea Scout program apply to be part of the National Youth Quarterdeck. Please help me better Sea Scouts B.S.A and apply today for the National Youth Quarterdeck! Download application here:

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.



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

JUL 22-AUG 2
2019

SUMMIT BECHTEL RESERVE

GET CONNECTED

www.wsj2019.us

facebook.com/wsj2019usa

REGISTRATION FEES*

\$2,400 EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

\$2,500 REGULAR FEE

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION VISIT**

wsj2019.us/faq/



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

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.





BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
PATRIOTS' PATH COUNCIL

1 Saddle Road
Cedar Knolls, NJ
973-765-9322

Every February, the members of Patriots' Path Council gather for our annual Youth Leadership Brunch. The brunch is a fantastic event that gives us the opportunity to recognize all the hard work put in by the Scouts of Patriots' Path Council, and to reward those most deserving individuals for their service to the council. The awards presented at the brunch include:

National Youth Leadership Training Staff Awards

-To recognize the contributions of youth and adult staff members to the NYLT program.

Venturing Summit Award

-Highest award a Venturer can earn in the program.

Camp Staff Member of the Year Awards

-To recognize the most outstanding members of the camp staff at our five council camps.

Lieutenant Joseph Franklin Explorer of the Year Award

-Presented to an exceptional leader in a law enforcement Exploring post; named in honor of Lieutenant Joseph Franklin of the Roxbury, New Jersey, police department.

William H. Spurgeon Award

-Recognizing the contributions of individuals or Exploring posts to career development through the Exploring program.

Venturing Leadership Award

-For exceptional contributions to Scouting and the Venturing program and exemplifying the Scout Oath and Law.

Youth Leadership Award

-Highest award a youth can receive for service to the council; recognizes youth leadership and service at the council level.

The brunch is organized by the Youth Executive Committee, which is a pilot program established in Patriots' Path Council. The Youth Executive Committee provides training, leadership development opportunities, and beneficial community outreach programs to those in and out of Scouting. By working with peers, Youth Executive Committee members develop their problem solving, public speaking, and communication skills by using their knowledge to assist and empower youth to be the best leaders that they can be.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
PATRIOTS' PATH COUNCIL

The following are pictures of the award recipients with their awards



Explorer Post of the Year

Venturing Leadership Award 2019



Youth Leadership Award 2019

Puerto Rico is definitely one of the bestkept secrets of NERV Area 5

Ryanne Fisher Washington Crossing Council's VOA President Crew 4385

My favorite part about scouting is all of the connections you are able to make. Each campout you go on, you seem to meet new people you never thought you would have ever met. Whether these new people are in your district or council, or they are from different regions or even sometimes other territories or countries, scouting is this amazing connection that we get to share with 38 million other scouts worldwide. In scouting, I've gotten to meet scouts from different places such as Hawaii, Virginia, Kuwait, Canada, and Ireland to name just a few. Scouting has given me some of the best opportunities of my life and every opportunity has led me to the next. From taking NYLT in my home council to learning how to teach it better at Leadership Academy in DC to even being invited to staff NYLT courses in another council and state in our Regio



Ryanne, Carlos, Adianez, Taneisha, and Laura

One of my most recent adventures started at this past VenturingFest. My crew was placed beside the Puerto Rico contingent of scouts while at the 2018 VenturingFest. That week, we got to talk and share our own scouting stories while playing cards. From that bond, I was later invited to attend Puerto Rico's Venturee by one of the scouts who I had befriended. With my parent's (and grandparents) support I was able to get a flight down to Puerto Rico for this great event in Area 5.

Puerto Rico is definitely one of the bestkept secrets of NERV Area 5

Ryanne Fisher Washington Crossing Council's VOA President Crew 4385

Although while I was there there was a bit of a language barrier between me and some of the other scouts who mostly spoke Spanish, they all did their best to accommodate. At the end of the day, we all were excited to share what scouting means to us with our cool stories and crazy adventures. From their cheerful chants to their cool scout songs, Puerto Rico's Venturee was a blast. They offered so many activities for the scouts to enjoy such as shooting, swimming, boating, and they even had a dance party that never seemed to end. Even the Northeast Region Venturing President was able to attend. The scout spirit there was like no other I've seen. The crew we camped with (Crew 39) became so familiar they felt like another family I'd known for my whole life. Attending this event became just one more example of how great scouting is and how important it is to me. My favorite part is how we all can do scouting so differently but still have this mutual understanding of the happiness it brings us all.



Ryanne, Adianez, Laura, Angel, Carlos, and Taneisha
with Katelyn St. Louis (NE Region)

**ORDER YOUR VENTURING JACKET
PATCH TODAY - \$5/each**

**Every Venturer wants the cool Venturing
Pocket Patch!**

**Help Support Crew 7 of Water & Woods Field
Service Council**

Metallic and 'Glow-In-The-Dark' Thread

Order Yours Today!

Contact Crew 7 at mapesni@aol.com

Cost \$5/each plus postage



Send your order to: mapesni@aol.com

All profits support Crew 7 W&WC (782)

Include address, name, number of patches requested Crew



The Northeast

Region

Area 3

Venturing Officers Association

Presents

the 2019 eVENT



	<p>Northeast Region, BSA Area 3 2019 Area Venturing eVENT May 17-19, 2019</p>	
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Contingent and Unit
Registration Form

The fee for the 2019 eVENT is dependent on when they are postmarked. (All campers will use their own tents). The fee applies to all youth and adults and covers all food, program activities, eVENT patch, and T-shirt. **Registrations received after May 8th & on-site registrants will NOT receive an event t-shirt or 2019 eVENT patch.**

Council Name: _____ VOA/TLC Contingent – Circle One YES NO
If registering as a Crew/Ship: Unit #: _____ City: _____ State: _____
Contact Name: _____ Contact Email: _____
Phone - Primary (_____) _____ Secondary (_____) _____
Address/City/State/Zip: _____
Additional Email Contact: _____

I am registering the following participants for this weekend event.

Fees postmarked by April 14, 2019 # _____ youth + # _____ adults = _____ x \$40 = TOTAL \$ _____

Fees postmarked April 15 to May 8, 2019 # _____ youth + # _____ adults = _____ x \$55 = TOTAL \$ _____

NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER MAY 8

◆ **For those who need access to electricity, there is sites with electricity available.**

An eVENT T-Shirt is included with registrations postmarked prior to May 8, 2019. Indicate the number of each size below:

Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ XL _____ 2XL _____ 3XL _____

Do you anticipate a lack of adult leadership that we can assist your unit in overcoming by pairing you in a site with another unit? ___ Yes Circle One: Male Female

Mail Form & Payment to: **Seneca Waterways Council - Area 3 eVENT**
2320 Brighton-Henrietta TL Rd., Rochester, NY 14623

Make checks payable to: **Seneca Waterways Council, BSA**

For Council Use: Date Rec'd: _____ ACCT. #: 1-2306-983-00
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<http://www.scoutingevent.com/397-a3voaevent>



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
PATRIOTS' PATH COUNCIL

Jersey Jam 2019

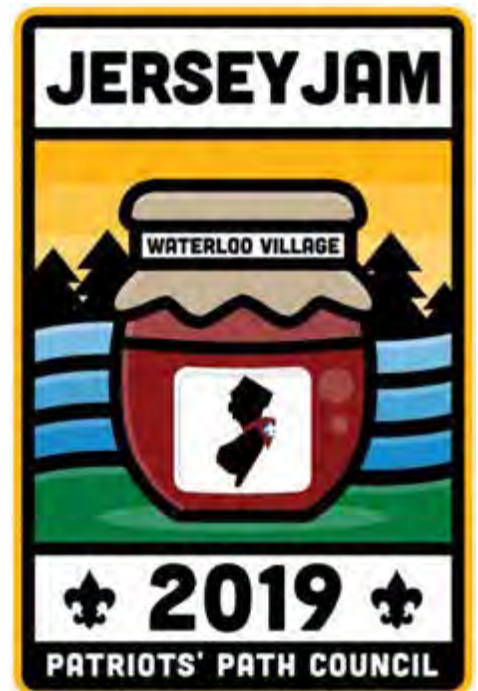
Join 5,000 Scouts, Explorers, Venturers and Sea Scouts on

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.™

Sea Scout 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 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.

Marine Technology Society Partnership Opportunities

By Sea Scouts, BSA

The Sea Scout program and the Marine Technology Society have a Memorandum of Understanding to allow Sea Scouts to take part in educational opportunities; conferences/trade shows in the marine industry; and internships with member organizations. Sea Scouts have attended conferences/hearings on marine incidents (like the Mercado oil spill initial report when it was still on-going) and participate in the annual scholarship opportunities for funding of college that includes graduating High School seniors and/or attending summer camps and internships where the college age Sea Scouts are exposed to the equipment and technology used in marine science and engineering such as *Remote Operated Vehicles (ROV's)* and *Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUV's)*. In the past years, several Sea Scouts have received college scholarships as raising college freshmen and others have attended conferences.

The Marine Technology Society is one of the oldest marine science, academic and industry trade associations that operates globally. The Society has numerous active committees on all concerns in the marine fields including the new committee on cyber-attacks on maritime transmissions and navigation systems. The MTS Manned Underwater Vehicle Committee is the only global organization that coordinates/reports all of the world's civilian and research submersibles/submarine technology and operations with an annual meeting symposium. This Committee is currently writing the Consensus Standards For The Operation Of Submersibles/ Submarines that will be the basis for new USCG and IMO Regulations/ Laws and will also be used as the basis of underwriting by Lloyds Of London insurance syndicates. A Sea Scout Leader is even the Coordinating Editor of this industrial standard.

Marine Technology Society has numerous regional student sections that coordinate with the Association's industry/academic members and explore the possibilities for careers in the marines sciences and industry.

Upcoming opportunities

Northwestern Michigan College Undergraduate Camp – May 20 -24: Please join us for a week-long, hands-on experience using several marine technologies. Participants will log time on research vessels, collect data using ROVs, sonar, sensors and buoys and learn about the multiple applications of these technologies.

Rutgers University Undergraduate Camp – June 10-14: Please join us for a week-long, hands-on experience using underwater glider technologies. Participants will be introduced to the underwater robots while gaining hands on experience prepping, ballasting, deploying and piloting.
Scholarship Information- Deadline Extended

Students may also apply for a scholarship to attend one of the 2 summer camps below by completing an application form and a recommendation form. Act fast, the deadline for scholarship applications is Friday, March 22, 2019.

Further information can be found at www.mtsociety.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

Dear Shipmates,

It has been a privilege to serve as your Western Region Commodore. I have been promoted to serve as the new WR Vice President of the High Adventure and Career Programs. My new responsibilities include growing Sea Scouts, Venturing, and Exploring. I look forward to working with the volunteers across these programs to expand Scouting's opportunities for youth.

Our new Western Region Commodore is Greg Harden. Greg has served as the WR Vice Commodore of Membership. Greg grew up in the late 1980s on the SSS Intrepid of Palo Alto in the current Pacific Skyline Council. Greg is a firefighter professionally and lives with his family in Watsonville, California. Greg is a father of three and has worked tirelessly to help new Sea Scout Ships across the Region.

As I look back on my tenure as WR Commodore, I am very proud of the growth we have had in new Ships, the grants that have helped Sea Scout programs, and all of our dedicated volunteers across the Western Region. I was blessed to work with outstanding WR Boatswains, all of whom have earned their Quartermaster. Our current WR Boatswain has been appointed the next National Boatswain and she is on track to earn her Quartermaster soon. We have held Seabadge courses in San Diego, Portland, Long Beach, and Las Vegas; we held awesome Bridge of Honors on the USS Iowa in San Pedro and Balclutha in San Francisco; and a fantastic rendezvous in Lake Tahoe. I have had the good fortune to fly my commodore flag on Sea Scout Ships from the Bay Area to Kauai to Long Beach to Seattle. We have amazing Sea Scout Ships and Sea Scouts in every part of the Region. Working with all of you have been a joy

My new regional mission is to work with Council Vice Presidents of Program to have each council in the Region appoint a Commodore, Venturing Advisor, and Vice President of Exploring. Having volunteers responsible for each of these programs at the council level is critical for starting new units and supporting existing programs. I also have accepted the role of developing marketing material for Sea Scouts BSA. Stay tune in the days ahead as we develop new videos, print on-demand resources, and webinars for Sea Scout Ships

Please join me in welcoming Commodore Harden as he takes the helm. He is a good friend and I look forward to the days ahead. We will hold an official change of watch at the National Meeting in Denver on Wednesday, May 29, 2019.

Steady on for the second star on the right

Fair winds,

Joshua Gilliland

WR Vice President, High Adventure and Career Programs

Chairman, Marketing Sub Committee, National Sea Scout Support Committee

Sea Scout News

Meet the New WR Commodore

Hello Western Region,

I am very delighted and honored to have this opportunity to serve as the next Regional Commodore for the Western Region.

I will continue the forward progress that has been made under the watch of Commodore Gilliland with growing the West. We have a long history and legacy to protect and honor. We must not forget where we came from.

We must continue to guide, teach, and train the young men and women in our program to preserve our maritime history and traditions so they can pass this gift down to the next generation of Sea Scouts. Many of our Scouts will become Skippers and Mates in the future.

Every Skipper should share the same goal to help and support each one of their Sea Scouts in building confidence, communication skills, and problem solving abilities, before departing our program for life's many challenges. Every Sea Scout should be doing their best to earn and achieve their Quartermaster Rank.

As we move through 2019 and beyond, myself and the Regional Committee will be doing our best to continue guiding the Western Region in a positive direction. I will keep you all in the loop with all major changes.

I look forward to meeting and talking with as many of you as I can as I make my rounds throughout the West.

For every Adult Leader we have here in the West, I thank you for your time and commitment to the Sea Scouting Service and investing in the lives of the young men and women in our program.

Sincerely,
Greg Harden
Western Region Commodore

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

Seabadge Denver April 2019

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](#)



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



Greater Los Angeles Area Council Annual Recognition Dinner



Annual Los Angeles Area Council Recognition Dinner Greater held on January 30, 2019 at Quiet Cannon in Montebello, CA. Honoring the Class of 2018 Silver Beaver recipients.

Venturing Crew 561 Honor Corps, Rose Bowl District, Greater Los Angeles Area Council performing the opening ceremony playing "Assembly" and "To the Colors." From left to right: Julianne, Bryan, Bailey, and Larry Ballenger. Crew is led by Mark Riebs, Advisor.



Stephen Rose, a 2018 Silver Beaver Recipient and Crew 561's Committee Chair. From left to right: Mark Riebs (Advisor), Julianne, Bryan, Steve Rose, Bailey, and Larry Ballenger (Bugling Merit Badge Counselor).



2019 Annual Recognition of the Unknown Boy Scout



Annual recognition of the Unknown Boy Scout held on February 10, 2019 at Memorial Park in Sierra Madre, CA.

Venturing Crew 561 Honor Corps, Rose Bowl District, Greater Los Angeles Area Council performing the opening ceremony playing "Assembly" and "To the Colors." From left to right: Crew is led by Mark Riebs (Advisor), Bailey, Julianne, Bryan, and Larry Ballenger.

The monument was dedicated in 1948 to the all boy scouts of Sierra Madre who served in the World War II.

Crew 561, Troop 373 and Pack 373 below



The weeping wall veterans' memorial.

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

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