

# The FORUM

Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring Newsletter since 2003  
May 2020 Issue

## FORUM Articles

What is the FORUM  
How to submit an Article  
FORUM articles for download

## Central Region

February 29, 2020 – 46th Winter Amidships (WAM)

## Northeast Region

Ship 198 Named 2020 National Flagship

## National

### National Venturing Report

Venturing Newsletter—Fall  
National Venturing Report—2017-18  
Council Venturing Journey to Excellence  
Council Venturing Journal to Excellence  
A Venturer's Guide to World Scout Center

### National Commodore's Corner

#### Coronavirus Edition

#### Shore Leave is over

Sea Scout Manual 2019 Edition

Medical Forms

Coast Guard Auxillary

Apply for National, Regional or Area Boatswain!

SEAL 2.0

Commodore;s Corner Charlie Wurster

Sail Aboard the USCG Eagke

Mariners Explorer Club

National Exploring National Law Enforcement Conferance

## Western Region

Regional Commodore's Corner May 20



# WHAT IS 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 a Volunteers and Professionals newsletter to promote our senior program. 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 etc. stories. We are seeking support from anyone interested in working on the newsletter.

Thanks for all you do!

Bob the BEAR Monto, Editor in Chief

## How to submit an article

The FORUM would like any articles and event promotions you have on Exploring, Sea Scouting and Venturing programs from your units, council etc. Articles with photos are best. Articles with youth (under 18) must use BSA Youth Protection guidelines.

**Attach your article as a Word document (preferable method) with identified photos (With descriptions of photo), clipart, etc. and send to [rmonto47@gmail.com](mailto:rmonto47@gmail.com). Please email Bob "The BEAR" Monto by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month with your articles. Since the FORUM is published monthly, if you miss one month it will get in the next month.**

Your article should also include contact information and name of the individual submitting the article.

Use subject line FORUM to highlight this is a FORUM email.

Please edit your article.

All photos should have permission of all the participants in the photos. Indicate in the email that permission has been granted.

Scouting Youth Protection Guidelines apply.

Submit a brief bio of the author(s) of the article.

Thanks for all you do for Youth

Bob "the BEAR" Monto

FORUM Newsletter Editor

# FORUM Articles for Download

## **The Current FORUM Newsletter:**

[http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/current\\_forum.php](http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/current_forum.php)

## **The FORUM Back Issues**

[http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/venturing\\_archive.htm](http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/venturing_archive.htm)

## **Large Crews**

[http://minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/documents/FORUM-Crew\\_27-Large\\_Crews\\_articles.pdf](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)**

# February 29, 2020 – 46th Winter Amidships (WAM)

Winter Amidships (WAM) was first held in Fond du Lac, WI in 1972 as a co-ed event for teenage Sea Scouts and Mariner Girl Scouts.

The location has varied including middle schools, UW-Fond du Lac, the National Guard Armory, Marian University, and twice held in Oshkosh.

No event was held in 1982 and 2007(due to bad weather) and 1984 (due to low pre-registration numbers).

Winter Amidships was preceded by "Mid Winter Cruise" (1952-1971), an event for Mariner and Senior Girl Scouts.

The event was originally intended to sharpen the nautical skills (knots, compass, semaphore, heaving line, swimming, etc.) of Mariner and Sea Scouts by having them compete against other Scout units. Ribbons and trophies are awarded to top units. Other events that are not nautical in nature, such as tug-of-war, bowling, scooter race and obstacle course, were added to increase the variety of the competition and make the event more appealing to Scouts with other interests. This event has hosted units that range from the traditional Mariner and Sea Scout, to Explorer Posts and Venturing Crews who's emphasis may be Military, Fire, Police, High Adventure, etc, as well as Girl Scout and Boy Scout Troops. Scouts must be at least 14 years old OR 13 years old AND completed the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Units have attended from Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, Minnesota, and Michigan.

Events are staffed by volunteers, including Scout alumni and attending units' advisors, many who competed in the event as teens.

The daylong competition is topped off with an awards dinner, and a dance.

The penguin is the event mascot, first appearing on the patch in 1973. The first patch (1972) had a sailboat with long skis attached.

I attended WAM as a Mariner Scout from 1978-1980. I was on the planning committee from 1981 to 1984. I became chairman in 1985, and have chaired it every year since.

Ann Gratton  
2102 Doty St.  
Oshkosh, WI 54902  
920-231-3015  
[wamgratton@gmail.com](mailto:wamgratton@gmail.com)

Alumna  
Mariner Ship "Seawitch"  
(Girl Scout Troop #8)  
Fond du Lac, WI

February 29, 2020 – 46th Winter Amidships (WAM)



# Sea Scout News

## Noertheast Region Sea Scouts

### Ship 198 from Lewes, Delaware in Del-Mar-Va Council Named 2020 National Flagship

By National Commodore

Ship 198 from Lewes, Delaware in the Del-Mar-Va Council, is named as the recipient of the 2020 National Flagship Award by the Boat Owners Association of the United States (BoatUS) and Sea Scouts, BSA. In 2002, BoatUS and Sea Scout, BSA, created this award to mark the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Sea Scout program in the United States. The award is presented to a Sea Scout Ship that demonstrated excellence in youth servant leadership and strong adult mentorship that resulted in a quality character development program and outstanding youth membership achievement during a calendar year.



**Ship 198 – Del-Mar-Va Council**

Ship 198 is chartered by the Broadkilm Marina in Milton, Delaware and is led by Ship's Boatswain Cheyenne S. and Skipper Ron Krajewski. Under Cheyenne's leadership, the Quarterdeck embarked on an aggressive recruiting campaign as well as a well-rounded program involving active participation in outdoor district and council events, on-the-water activities, community service and active participation in the Del-Mar-Va Council's Nentego Lodge Order of the Arrow. As a result of their hard work and determination, Ship 198 grew from 10 members to 28 active members and by year's end amassed a record of accomplishment that include: Fifty percent of the youth members advanced one rank, ten earned the BSA Recruiting strip patch, and members participated in training to earn certifications in First Aid and CPR, safe boating courses, Scout BSA Rank advancement, and Order of the Arrow election into the Council's Nentego Lodge Order of the Arrow. Members also earned the Long Cruise Badge and the Ship conducted Introduction to Leadership Skills for Ships. Finally, adult Sea Scout leaders attended Seabadge while one youth member attended SEAL.

# Sea Scout News

## Noertheast Region Sea Scouts

As for the Ship's extensive on-the-water program they get underway every week and conducted land based and indoor pool nautical training during the winter and early spring. Weather permitting, members of the ship embark on their 32-foot Kirie Elite sloop "Coupe de Tete," the 30-foot Hunter sloop "Sea Angel" or their Sea Scout training vessel, the "Miss Mell." Underway, the youth members learned the fundamentals of sailing, marine engines, marine radio procedures, piloting and navigation, on board emergency procedures as well as man overboard drills. During their once a month weekend cruises, Ship 198 have sailed to Cape May, New Jersey, or other locations in the Delaware and Chesapeake Bay and fill their time with advancement training as well as fun activities that include fishing, swimming, waterskiing, wakeboarding, and operating personal watercrafts. The Ship's on the water program is reinforced by numerous land based and hands on nautical training they received. They've attended the Northeast Region (NER) Area 6 U. S. Coast Guard/Sea Scout Safety-at-Sea training event at the United States Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore, Maryland and the annual "Salt and Sleet" Sea Scout training rendezvous at Camp Fairlee, Maryland as well as the NER Area 5 President's Day Sea Scout training weekend in New Jersey. Much of what they experienced and learned came to good use during their 2019 Summer Long Cruise that involved a 120 nautical mile round trip sailing voyage from Lewes, Delaware to Baltimore, Maryland by way of the Chesapeake and Delaware (C & D) Canal. On this particular Long Cruise, while transiting the C and D Canal on board the "Sea Angel" and "Coup de Tete," the Ship's members responded to an electrical short circuit that resulted in an engine fire on the "Coup de Tete." The youth members knew the location of the boat's fire extinguishers and trained how to use them during their training. Their quick action prevented further damage and the "Sea Angel" towed "Coup de Tete" to Lums Pond at the Delaware State Park. However, the fire curtailed the Ship's Long Cruise plans, but the youth leadership remembered that Ship 123 from nearby St. Georges Delaware in Del-Mar-Va Council was conducting their own summer activities at Lums Pound and contacted them to coordinate a weekend of paddle sports, camping and fellowship while repairs were being made on the "Coup de Tete." Finally, the Ship's on the water program involves participation in the Northeast Region Koch Cup Qualifiers in October 2019 in which Ship 198 fielded two crews that placed first and third, respectively. The first-place team will be participating in the 2020 William I. Koch Cup in Galveston, Texas.

Community service is also a strong part of Ship 198's DNA and they planned and conducted five community service projects during the year that included beach erosion prevention measures by planting dune beach grass in beach areas along the Delaware Bay. In addition, the Ship partnered with the city of Lewes, Delaware to provide maintenance to city marinas, marina buildings, canal cleanup and setting up a safe boating and Sea Scout information both during the annual Lewes, Delaware "Maritime Day." Finally, in December, members of the Ship partnered with the local Lewes West Marine store to wrap Christmas presents for customers.

Ship 198 is also active in Council and District activities. They participated in their district's annual Klondike Derby and assisted in running a couple of stations. In addition, members of the Ship are active in the Council's Order of the Arrow (OA) Lodge as Lodge Vice Chief and Chapter officers and participate in Chapter, Lodge, and Section OA events while simultaneously promoting the Sea Scout program. In addition, Ship 198, in November 2019, served as Color Guard for the council's National Eagle Scout Association reception where retired Lieutenant General Ronald Blanck, Medical Corps, United States Army and former Army Surgeon General, was conferred the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. Finally, Ship 198 Sea Scouts are active in the National, Region, Area and Council levels of Scouting. The Del-Mar-Va Council Boatswain hails from the Ship as well as the NER Area 6 Boatswain. Two adult leaders serve on the Northeast Region Sea Scout Committee and Eagle Scout Matthew Parsons, the 2019-2020 National Chief of the Order of the Arrow is an active member of Ship 198.

I want to express my congratulations to all members of Ship 198 for your outstanding achievements! Ship 198 is joined by the following Sea Scout Ships as the 2020 National Flagship Fleet by:

SSS Response (Ship 911) from Capitol Area Council

SSS Enterprise (Ship 1701) from the Sam Houston Council

SSS Heatwave (Ship 450) from Las Vegas Area Council  
BRAVO ZULU to all of you!

## National Venturing Report

### Venturing Newsletter - Fall 2019 Edition



[View Online](#)

[Download PDF](#)

The second edition of the Venturing Newsletter is here! Learn more about what has happened the last three months and what is upcoming in the Venturing world by visiting the link below. Happy New Year and happy reading!

## National Venturing Report

As the 2017-2018 Venturing Officer term draws to a close, we would like to share with you all of the amazing happenings in the Venturing world. The Annual Report includes a final letter from this year's NVOA, updates on some of the progress Venturing has made over this past term, as well as the national opportunities for Venturers coming up in the future.

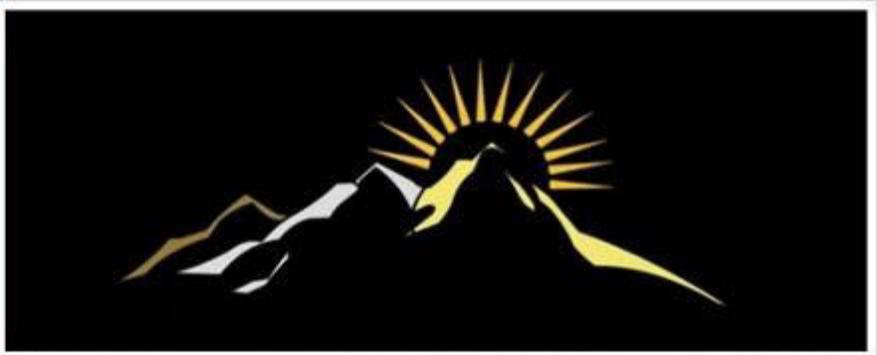
Thank you again for an awesome year!



<https://spark.adobe.com/page/>

# National Venturing Report

## Council Venturing Journey to Excellence



[venting.org/journey-to-excellence.html](http://venting.org/journey-to-excellence.html)

April, 2018

The Council Standards of Venturing Excellence Award has been redesigned and re-branded as “Council Venturing Journey to Excellence”. This will help provide continuity with other BSA programs, and better evaluate the quality of a council’s Venturing program. See the new form at:

## A Venturer’s Guide to the World Scout Centre National Venturing Communications Team



Jean Perea, a Venturer from Atlanta, Georgia recently spent a few months staffing at the Kandersteg International Scout Center in Switzerland. Read more hear about the experience in Jean’s own words and learn more!

Denmark on an overnight train, I am reminiscing about the past five months I just spent staffing my favorite place on earth: Kandersteg International Scout Centre — and here’s why I think you should should staff here too...

KISC, or the World Scout Centre, is placed in a town, Kandersteg, in the gorgeous and serene Swiss alps. No place has ever left an impact on me like KISC has, and that’s due to the life-long international friendships I gained, the high adventure I experienced in the alpine setting, and the knowledge I gained about sustainability during my work there.

I stayed at KISC as a guest for a few weeks, but I mainly stayed as staff for the 2019 Autumn season. We worked hard and played even harder. So, what exactly did we do? I served the World Scout Centre as a Short Term Staffer between September 6th and December 6th, and then as a Helper until December 24th.

But wait, what’s a Short Term Staffer? What’s a Helper? Are there *Long* Term Staff? Are you a volunteer? Do you get paid? What kind of work do you do? Don’t worry, all of this will be answered shortly!

As a Short Term Staffer you do two types of work: daily jobs around the chalet and, in my case, helping rewrite some of the Centre’s program. For most “Shorties” — which is another word for Short Term Staff — almost all of your responsibilities come in the form of manual labor in four main areas: Catering, Grounds, House, and Programme. Yes, program is spelled with an extra “-me” but that’s okay because we love learning about cultural differences!

## National Venturing Report

# A Venturer's Guide to the World Scout Centre

## National Venturing Communications Team



If you love cooking, then you'll love Catering. This area is all about making food, serving guests, and doing random bits around the kitchen. In low-season, during Autumn and Spring, you can expect to serve anywhere from 0 to 100 guests. Sometimes you'll have to serve a bit more than that, but it's never for more than a day or two. Of course, you also have to feed your fellow staff but they're never more than 50 people during low-season.

From chatting with your fellow staff all day, to blasting international music in the kitchen, to just having a grand time during long breaks, there's never a dull moment in the kitchen during low-season. There is always high energy in the kitchen and you develop a sense of unity in such an intense environment.

If that's low-season, then what about high-season? According to legend, high-season can get as high as 1,000 people! And that's just for lunch! Granted, this is on August 1st: the biggest celebration of the year as it is both the birthday of Scouting and of Switzerland. But on average, you can expect between 100 and 400 guests daily. More guests means more staff to help share the load. So, it's never too crazy.

For those of you not so inclined to cooking, there's House and Grounds. In these two work areas, you can expect to be on your feet all day but you lose the apron.

House works indoors checking in guests, folding laundry, and keeping the Centre up to hygienic code. While that may sound boring or just downright disgusting at first, don't let that fool you. Some of my favorite memories come from working in House. From checking in guests from every corner of the world, to deep cleaning bathrooms with my best friends for eight hours, you get extremely close with those around you.

For a breath of (very) fresh air, there is Grounds. Here, you take care of our beautiful campsite and attend to tasks outside of the Chalet. This includes generic landscaping, chopping wood, and repairing random bits around our property.

Grounds has you working outside 90% of the time and these jobs are like no other. Whether you are chopping down our home-grown Christmas trees or repainting the Chalet, Grounds will give you a workout and memories that last a lifetime.



You might be thinking, "Okay, this sounds insane. I can barely cook for myself, know nothing about landscaping, and my own room is a huge mess. Why would I even attempt to work here?!" And that's because KISC grows people like you wouldn't believe, and after just a couple of weeks, you'll be one extremely capable volunteer.

Don't know how to cook? That's fine, you'll learn! Besides cooking you'll learn lots of other skills to help prepare you for the rest of your life. Personally, my household has never looked so organized and sparkly until my time at KISC. So, who are these different staff? What's a Short Term Staffer?

A Short Term Staff, or Shorties for short, are volunteers that have applied and been accepted to work at KISC during one of the four seasons. The seasons are Autumn, Winter, Spring, and Summer. Autumn and Spring are low-seasons, while Winter and Summer are high-seasons. Each season is three months long and afterwards you can be a Helper, essentially a Shortie without a contract. Three months is a long time, but it's not as long as you would think. So, how can you spend even more time there? Well, you have three options: become a Helper, High Season Staff, or Long Term Staff!

## National Venturing Report

# A Venturer's Guide to the World Scout Centre

## National Venturing Communications Team

High Season Staff come back in the summer to help with the ridiculous amount of guests we have in *high season*. They are just like Short Term Staff but they are usually ex-staff who are coming back just for the high-season in Summer.

Secondly, you can become Long Term Staff. These are the team members that specialize in one area. They manage that area, like House or Grounds, as well as those assigned to work there for the day. They also get paid!

Long Term Staff have an extensive range of time requirements that can fit almost everyone's needs. Only have five months? Apply for High Adventure Assistant! Looking to hone your skills as a chef while managing Shorties and Helpers for a year? Then Catering Manager sounds like your fit.



Want to boost your career as a member of the Senior Management Team for three years? Well, look no further than being our Staff Development Director. As you can see, there is a multitude of different opportunities for you to grow as a member of our Long Term Staff.

During work I had a blast with my friends from around the world, but afterwards the real fun began. Every week we had a Staff Night Out where we had a special evening team activity.

From learning to blacksmith, to playing an advanced version of manhunt in the campsite at night, it's always a fun time on Staff Night Out. Other activities included going out to local restaurants or clubs for some high-energy fun, or chilling in the staff room to watch a movie together.

Nights were never dull and they always brought us that much closer, but not nearly as close as adventuring around the local Swiss towns with Alex, Ari, Maja, and Stephen. Or when Dave, Lovisa, and I went hiking

around the Swiss alps and ate lunch off the edge of a cliff. That's what a potential day off at KISC looks like.

Whether it's to take a break between chapters in your life, to gain international experience, or to engage in a unique opportunity like no other, I highly recommend considering an application for the Kandersteg International Scout Centre.

# National Commodore's Corner

## Commodore's Corner: Coronavirus Edition

By National Commodore Mar 28, 2020

Our world has changed dramatically since I last wrote you. Amid all the change and constraints imposed on us, this could be our finest hour. Consider that our traditional competitors for the attention of youth – sports, orchestra, etc. – are all dead in the water. If we can find ways during this time to continue to engage our youth, to give them things to do and a sense of belonging, we can emerge from our time of isolation and social distancing stronger than ever!

Many of you have not even slowed down – have switched to video based meetings via Zoom or GoToMeeting or whatever and are charging ahead. If you aren't doing that, it's time to get started. It isn't that hard, and it turns out that you can accomplish a lot in a video conference. One of the most important elements of a meeting is the social aspect – seeing your friends, commiserating about school, and planning to do things together. All those can continue – so remember that your meetings don't have to be all business – allow social time too! And for this reason consider meeting more often – if you meet twice a month, maybe pick it up to weekly for a while.

This is also a good time to think about constraints of time and distance which have disappeared. That family that doesn't come too often because they live 45 minutes away? Their travel time to meetings just went to zero! Remember discussing with people in your Seabadge crew how fun it would be if your ships could meet together, but it was just too hard because you were 3 hours drive apart? Not any more! Just this week I was able to join a ship meeting in Rhode Island – in normal times I could never do that from here in central Texas! Also remember that the overhead of running meetings has gone to zero – you can have as many as you like, as often as you like. My home ship is having regular meetings using Zoom, but also holding on-demand micro-meetings focused on a single advancement requirement. For example, this Tuesday at 7:15 there was a meeting to work on Apprentice 7B – “Describe the identifying characteristics of a sloop, ketch, yawl, cutter, and schooner.” The 3 or 4 youth who needed to work on that showed up, and when they were done, the meeting was over. After all, nobody had to drive anywhere – they just picked a free time and got together and did it. So don't think you have to be constrained by big blocks of time. Do just-in-time training and advancement! But don't forget that youth protection practices still apply – you'll need two deep leadership for those sessions.



Obviously, sailing is a bit hard to conduct while social distancing, but with a little creativity, there is an awful lot that you can do. In addition to advancement, planning activities for the summer, I've heard of more than one ship that has done ILSS via video, plus, this is probably a good time to dust off your code of conduct and your bylaws, those could easily be worked on online. This is a great time to write up some Sea Scout Leadership Award nominations, too. Think out of the box – with some thought, we can teach nearly anything online. And speaking of out of the box thinking, consider signing your ship up to produce a short video about an activity that can be done at home – the Scouting at Home Initiative.

### Scouting at Home Initiative

You may have noticed that BSA has an initiative for Scouting in all programs to continue despite social distancing – there's a [site here](#) that's collecting ideas for activities that can be done at home right now. We've been asked to provide an idea per day for the 30 day Video Challenge to show activities that can be done in this time of social distancing. Yes, I know there's no Sea Scout section, but there will be as soon as we contribute something.

We are looking for 30 Sea Scout Ships to volunteer to each make a one to two minute video of a Sea Scout related activity that can be done solo or through a video conference such as Zoom, Skype, or UberConference. A fun activity that a Scout or non-Scout could do is ideal, so the activities should be something anyone can accomplish – even if they are not currently in our programs. BSA media will be creating an opening and closing template – and the focus is for

these videos to be consumable by a wide audience (not just Sea Scouts). This could be a really fun project to bring your ship together.

# National Commodore's Corner

## Commodore's Corner: Coronavirus Edition

Activities that could be great for a short video can include, but are not limited to:

How to send a Semaphore Message;

How to Make a Ditty Bag;

Understanding Bell Time;

Rules of the Road Right of Way Situations with Toy Boats;

Monkey's Fist & Heaving Line; and

Many other activities from the Sea Scout Manual, Regattas, or Safety @ Sea events.

If your Ship wants to participate, please email [marketing@seascout.org](mailto:marketing@seascout.org) with your video proposal. All participating Sea Scouts will need to send in a media release and wear either the Official Sea Scout Uniform or their Ship activity t-shirt.

### Online Training Opportunity

Also, while you're thinking of things that can be done online, I want to point you at [NauticEd](#) – they're an online training company focused on sailors. One of our Skippers put me in contact with them, and while I was initially skeptical as to how much useful sailing stuff you could learn from an online course, I've come around after looking at their courseware. They have a 15 hour course to prepare you to operate a small keelboat (20 ft or so) that has a lot of great content in it that corresponds well to Sea Scout advancement. It includes some good in-depth coverage of topics like weather, too. That course is normally about \$40 but they're offering a limited time discount code for Sea Scout youth and their immediate families making the course less than \$20. If you'd like to take advantage of that, follow these instructions:

(1) Go to [Skipper Small Keelboat Course](#)

(2) Click the **Register for this Course** button

(3) Enter information. In section 2, note where it says "If you have been given a promotion code from a sailing school or charter company click here", click the "click here" and enter the promotion code (see below). The price will drop from \$39 to a special Sea Scouts price of \$19.90.

(4) After payment, the course will be shown under the Curriculum button. There will also be a bonus of 2 other free courses in your curriculum.

(5) On the site, anytime you see a [?], tap it. It will give you further information about that area.

Please respect their generosity in offering this to our Sea Scouts and don't share the promo code outside Sea Scouts. The promotion code is **SeaScoutsBSA1912** – just copy and paste.

### Sharing Experiences – Online Roundtable

On the topic of sharing what's working, we're going to hold another video roundtable next Wednesday, April 1st at 8pm central time. This one is open to any Sea Scout or adult leader. I'd like to ask a few ships to speak briefly on what they are doing that's working – if you've got a good idea or story to share, please contact me (email below). If you'd like to attend the roundtable, you'll need to register in advance. We're limited to 300 people on the Zoom line, first come, first served.

Register in advance for this roundtable [here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



### International Opportunities

It turns out, Scouts all over the world are experiencing the same challenges we are. Jamboree on the Internet will allow your Scouts to compare notes with others around the world. Find out more [here](#).

### Keeping in Touch

I'd love to drop in on your meeting sometime – if your ship or committee are holding video meetings, please send me an invitation. I'd like to hear what's going on with your ship and to answer any questions you may have of me. My calendar is pretty full, so I can't promise to be there, but I'll try! Email me or send a calendar invite to [twcook@seascout.org](mailto:twcook@seascout.org).

I would also really like to hear the ideas you've had about how we can make the best of these times – please send those along as well and consider sharing those on the upcoming roundtable.

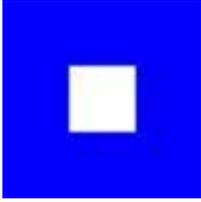
*Fair winds and remember to keep 1 fathom of social distance!*

*TW Cook*

*National Commodore*

# National Commodore's Corner

## Commodore's Corner: Shore Leave is Over



*All persons should report on board as the vessel is about to proceed to sea.*

**Ok folks, shore leave is over, time to get back underway!** Many of our ships are still underway with an active program despite shelter-at-home. Some ships have even speeded up and are taking full advantage of the lack of distractions to get a lot of advancement requirements and training done. But some ships have shut down operations and are waiting for things to return to 'normal' and that's a serious mistake. None of us can see the future, but it seems likely that it is going to be a while before we can get back on the water, yet our Scouting needs to actively continue no matter how long that takes.

Most people today, including our Scouts and our leaders, are missing the social interaction and the sense of belonging from their many activities. Being stuck at home is already getting old, so let's fill that need with Sea Scouting! [This article](#) is a great perspective on what Scouting can mean in times like these.

### Virtual Scouting

You may be wondering "what's the point of an online meeting – what would we do?" The answer is, you'd do pretty much what you'd do in an in-person meeting. You'd have some sort of opening, maybe some announcements, some sort of skills instruction, a fun activity or a game, some planning for future activities, and a closing. You might even invite a guest speaker – that's easier now that most people have clearer calendars. And don't forget some social time to visit with each other. Right now, that's the most important part, because it is what everyone misses the most. Turn your boatswain loose on making it happen, and you'll be surprised at how well it will work. Adults may need to help with skills instruction, but the youth will adapt easily to this – they're already having to do it with schoolwork, and we're way less boring than that! All of those things work fine in a video conference – if you are envisioning this is just a conference call, think again, it's way better than that.

### Considerations for Virtual Meetings

Here are some suggestions from Dave Pickering from Sea Scout Ship 1909 in Rhode Island on holding successful Sea Scout virtual meetings:

In advance of your meeting, visit the software's website and watch a few of the brief tutorials.

Introduce everyone during the meeting, and give everyone a chance to contribute

Don't stare at your phone while people are presenting

Test all technology (including camera/video, Wi-Fi, and screen sharing) before the meeting

Keep your microphone muted unless you are speaking.

Make sure you are in a quiet area without distractions.

Give as many scouts a "job" to help with the meeting, helping to keep everyone engaged.

It's important to keep everyone engaged during remote meetings, including all scouts and adult leaders who might not be the most vocal or outspoken.

Have your Quarterdeck meet weekly, to establish the content of the meetings – THEY know what other sea scouts will be interested in. We are **Youth Developed & Youth Run**.

Your Quarterdeck can address who is responsible for following up on each item or task for future meetings.

Set several dates for your future meetings.

And most important! Get genuine feedback from the scouts on what they liked, didn't like, and their suggestions for future meetings!

Dave also reports that using breakout rooms in the video conference to work on advancement works great

# National Commodore's Corner

## Commodore's Corner: Shore Leave is Over

A typical online ship meeting!

Paul McDonald from Ship 7007 in Kansas suggests:

Online meetings are a new experience for our youth. Many of the adults often participate in conference calls and virtual meetings. Youth have not had that experience. It's brand-new to them.

Because it's new, they don't know how to behave or act, they are unsure about speaking up and communicating, and they may not know how to use the software.

I found success when I called on each member and then they spoke more freely.

Virtual school started for most of the scouts in our ship and they are apprehensive about it. We can help them get more comfortable with this new adventure.

Our youth are wanting more meetings: from twice a month to weekly for the immediate future just to connect with everyone—all virtual.

### **Mini Meetings**

Ship 911 in the Capitol Area Council has gone from holding 2-3 meetings per month to holding multiple meetings per week. One of those is a typical all-hands meeting, but the rest are 'mini-meetings' usually focused around a single advancement topic that probably isn't relevant to the whole ship. For example, "Everyone who needs to do Apprentice 7B show up at 6:15 on Tuesday" – and the 3-4 people who need that requirement show up and get it done. Since nobody has to drive across town to attend. It doesn't really matter if you have a bunch of extra meetings and the frequent social interaction just makes the ship stronger. An additional benefit is that the youth can focus on teaching a short-focused lesson, and it is less scary than standing in front of a room.

### **Demonstrating Skills with Video Conferencing**

Teaching skills in a video conference works way better than you'd think. Consider a requirement like "Using both large and small lines, tie and explain the use of the following knots: stevedore's knot, French (double) bowline, bowline on a bight, timber hitch, rolling hitch, marline hitch, trucker's hitch, and midshipman's (taut-line) hitch." There's no reason you can't do this via video conference. Or "Name the principal parts of the masts, booms, spars, standing and running rigging, and sails of a gaff- or Marconi-rigged sloop, schooner, and ketch or yawl." will work just fine.

### **Virtual Service Projects**

There are plenty of other things you can do from home – even community service! Options for that include things like making face masks, teaching something via video, or maybe calling your church and getting a list of people who are quarantined at home alone and would appreciate someone calling to check up on them each day.

### **Other Possibilities**

Online learning is an obvious way to spend time in isolation, and several ships are busy capturing video lessons for various Sea Scout skills. Some of the Sea Scouts on the National Quarterdeck have decided that there need to be Sea Scout podcasts and that producing those sounds like fun, so they've launched a podcast series under the title **The Lookout**. The first episode is already up, and more are coming soon. Check it out [here](#) and please relay this to the youth in your ships!

### **Technology Options**

Many leaders are older folks who aren't too technical, but you can't let that stop you. If you're not sure about how to proceed, get your boatswain involved. It's a safe bet that several of the youth in your ship are technically literate enough to make things work, and it may be that you just need to get out of their way.

# National Commodore's Corner

## Commodore's Corner: Shore Leave is Over

So let's talk about the technology for a bit. In addition to an internet connection, everyone is going to need some sort of computer with video and audio. Just about any laptop made in the last dozen years will work fine. Or, just about any smartphone made in the same timeframe should work too. Either way, you may need earphones to get the best audio – most of the ones used for music listening will work, and most of them have a built-in microphone too.

Ultimately you'll need some sort of video conference software. If you can, use commercial grade stuff – it's more secure and reliable, but it usually isn't free, or the free version has some limitations. Do your homework and you can find something that will work for your ship. I'm going to give a few examples, but this list isn't exhaustive. Before you even start, poll the adults in your ship to see if any of them have a commercial account that you can use – my employer lets me use my work Zoom account for Scouting – they're fine with that since using it for more hours doesn't cost extra.

**Zoom** is by far the most popular, and it works great for Scouting. It's easy to use, reliable and includes the ability to have breakout rooms if you need to subdivide for advancement work. A free Zoom account is good for up to 40 minutes, after that, it shuts the meeting down. Many ships use it anyway – everyone knows that when the meeting shuts down, they just dial back in and start it again. A paid account costs about \$15 per month, and you can sign up month-to-month, so you could subscribe for now and terminate the account when you don't need it anymore. That gets you the ability to host unlimited length calls for up to 100 people. Zoom provides some good tips for using Zoom in education [here](#) – many are relevant for us too.

**Webex** is a similar commercial video conferencing system. They have temporarily removed the limitations on their free account, so that may be attractive. They've got a page about using Webex in education [here](#) – again, much of it is relevant to us too.

**Skype** – not to be confused with a different product called Skype for Business – also makes free videoconferences possible. They have a great education resources page with some great ideas [here](#).

**Google Hangouts** is now available only in GSuite (commercial) Google accounts, but it works great. Someone in your ship probably has a GSuite account for work or school. If not, you might consider applying for [GSuite for Nonprofits](#). If your ship has an EIN (you probably had to get one to open a checking account) you can apply and it gives you the full suite of Google tools, including Hangouts, for free.

There are many more choices but these seem to be the most popular among the ships I've heard from. No matter what technology you use, there are some important considerations:

Never post the links to your meetings in public on social media – that's inviting unwelcome guests and we need to protect our youth!

Use a password for your meetings – that way, even if someone manages to guess the meeting link they still can't crash your meeting

Avoid recording – while it's tempting to record teaching sessions, be careful – in many states it is illegal to record video of a youth in any context without written permission from parents. Because of this and privacy considerations, BSA policy is to avoid recording video meetings when youth are present

### **Youth Protection**

It's critical that we all continue to keep youth protection top-of-mind whether our Scouting activities are taking place in-person or through a digital platform. The youth protection requirements for a video conference are exactly the same as for any other kind of BSA meeting. In particular, remember that BSA prohibits any one-on-one interaction between an adult leader and a Scout – in person, online, through a web conference, over the phone, via text, or in any other form.

# National Commodore's Corner

## Commodore's Corner: Shore Leave is Over

### **Skipper's Minute**

I'd like to close by sharing a Skipper's Minute from Skipper Dave Aronson that I think is worth your consideration. By the way, Dave shared this with the ship virtually via email and social media, it (obviously) wasn't delivered in person. Keep thinking of new ways to deliver what we've always done!

### **To be prepared to render aid to those in need**

We say this in the *Sea Promise* all the time, but it isn't only needed on the water.

Now is a very trying time for all of us; young and adult are trying to wrap our heads around this situation. Everyone is experiencing disappointments and loss. It is ok to feel that disappointment and not attempt to measure that disappointment against someone else's. It is ok to be disappointed, but we can't live in that state permanently. One of the best ways to get over disappointment is to help others.

I am not a doctor/nurse/essential employee. How do I help others?

**STAY AT HOME:** This is a huge sacrifice for many of us but critical to help slow the spread of the virus.

**STAY Connected:** Reach out to someone, text/call/video/email them. Human connections help make us feel better, and a short message or conversation can have a great positive impact on them and you.

**STAY Involved:** Find something you can do to help. Maybe it is making masks for people or teaching someone something over video. Did you know we are having micro-meetings on video?

**STAY Educated:** Now is a great time to learn something new. Learn it, then teach it.

If you need help with anything, ask for help. We are here for you. If someone asks you for help, make time to help them.

Yours in Sea Scouting,

Mr. Aronson

Skipper, Sea Scout Ship 911 – SSS Response

*Fair winds,*

*T.W. Cook*

*National Commodore*

# National Commodore's Corner

## Sea Scout Manual – 2019 Edition



Since the beginning, the Sea Scout manual has been an evolving document that changed with the times. The 2016 edition incorporated some significant changes – perhaps the biggest of those was the addition of paddlecraft advancement requirements, making true paddlecraft ships a reality. National supply still has a big inventory of those 2016 editions in stock so it'll be a while before another printed edition comes out – but several things have changed since then. Since 2016, we've been making available 'errata' files in the [manual resource center](#) on [seascout.org](#) – if you print those and replace the appropriate pages in your 2016 manual, you can bring it up to current. The ability to update like this was the plan and is why the manual was produced as loose-leaf rather than bound. If like me, you prefer to refer to a downloaded PDF of the manual, you're in luck – the [PDF version available for download](#) has been updated to 2019 so all you need to do is to download a fresh copy. Check the fine print on the title page to make sure you have the correct one – it should say "Updated to October 2019". Either way, please do make sure your manual is up to date so that you're looking at current requirements and standards!

## Medical Forms

For the first time in several years, BSA has made some changes to the standard medical forms for 2020. There's no need to panic, they've given us a year to transition – but do remind your people that if they're going in for their annual physical, be sure to use the new form. Read more about this [in Bryan on Scouting](#) along with some good advice as to when you need parts A, B or C but if you don't need that, you can go straight to the form [here](#).

## Coast Guard Auxiliary

As I'm sure you saw, the Coast Guard Auxiliary has gone nationwide with our new agreement making us their official



youth program – so any Auxiliary flotilla anywhere can charter a ship, and any Sea Scout youth 14 and up anywhere can join the Auxiliary (whether or not they are in an Auxiliary chartered ship). If you somehow missed that, full details are [here](#) on our website. We have gotten tremendous support from inside the Auxiliary as you can see from the [Sea Scout coverage](#) in the current edition of their magazine, Navigator Express. It even includes an interview with me!

One of the challenges in this new relationship is explaining to our councils (both the professionals and the non-Sea Scout volunteers) what this whole partnership is about. The December newsletter for District Executives included a link to this [8-minute video](#) that tries to explain the essence. If you need to make a similar presentation at a roundtable or whatever, you're welcome to use or adapt

the [slides](#) and the [talking points](#) for your purposes.

And finally, several of you have asked me where to get those navy blue shirts (featured in the [last Commodore's Corner](#)) with both our logo and the Auxiliary logo on the back. We are working with the merchandising folks in the Auxiliary Association to make some things like that available and I expect you'll see some of them appear soon. If there's anything you'd like to see available, let me know and I'll pass it along to that team. I've asked for a Coast Guard orange wicking t-shirt with the Auxiliary logo on one sleeve and ours on the other (so that they're still visible with a life jacket on) but I don't know if I'll get that or not. We'll see!

# National Commodore's Corner

By National Commodore

## Apply for National (or Regional or Area) Boatswain!



### Hannah Carter

National Boatswain 2019-2020

**It's time to apply for National Boatswain for the 2020-2021 term – taking office at BSA's National Annual Meeting for a one-year term starting June 1st, 2020.**

Since even before I started in Sea Scouts, I knew that I wanted to make a difference in this program. Growing up with an older brother in Sea Scouts was very inspiring; I watched him grow with his shipmates as each of them took on various leadership positions within our local ship. The bonds between my brother and his shipmates made me realize that not only was Sea Scouts the right place for me to be, but also was a place where I could make a difference.

My first season in Sea Scouting consisted of me trying to learn everything I could about the program from other shipmates and my Sea Scout Manual. I wanted to know the structure of the program and what it truly had to offer. As I continued to advance in rank, I ran for leadership positions in my ship such as Crew Leader and Pogy Master. These leadership positions allowed me to feel like I was helping my shipmates by sharing my Sea Scout knowledge and ship skills for them to be successful. Sea Scouts was also the center of my social life so I loved being part of the organization.

As much as I loved helping shipmates on my team, I realized that I wanted to make a greater impact on Sea Scouts as a whole. I ran for Regional Boatswain's mate position as a high school freshman and it influenced me to run keep running for other positions

of greater responsibility. After being a Regional Boatswain's mate for a year, I still knew that I wanted to continue to make an impact on Sea Scouts in the biggest way possible. The next step I took was running for Regional Boatswain, and eventually, National Boatswain. I had aggressive, but attainable goals for myself and Sea Scouts and I knew these leadership positions were the key to getting those goals accomplished. Along the way, I was also fortunate to attend S.E.A.L., a really challenging, but fantastic leadership program, and sail on the USCG Barque Eagle as a Sea Scout representative. I've also been able to sail in two William I. Koch International Sea Scout regattas. I hope to sail in the 2020 regatta, if my college plans permit. The common denominator in all these positions was filling out the application and having a true desire to make a difference. It all starts with the saying yes to taking on a leadership position and saying you want to be a part of the bigger Sea Scouts program.

In order to run for these Regional and National Leadership positions, you don't have to have the longest resume or be the best public speaker, but rather have goals for what you want improved in this program. If you are someone who wants to help other people, or help the Sea Scout program grow, I urge you to apply for these positions. We need people who want to make that difference and make our program the best that it can be.

Please download the application now and consider how you can help. Whether you apply for an area, regional, or national position, you'll meet amazing people from different ships all over the country and have an extraordinary leadership opportunity. Sea Scouts has been the greatest leadership program I've been involved in. I urge you to get involved too.

Applications for National Boatwain are due by February 15th, 2020. For Regional Boatswain, your application is due by March 1st, 2020, and for Area Boatswain, by March 15th, 2020. Please download the application form, fill it out and obtain the appropriate signatures, then upload. Please don't submit your form by email – upload using the form you can access with the button below. You can apply for any combination of National, Regional or Area Boatswain using the same form – there is no need to submit multiple forms.

*Hannah Carter*

*National Boatswain 2019-2020*

### **Download forms and Instructions:**

<https://seascout.org/download/national-regional-area-boatswain-application/>

### **Upload your application:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfu2nVifEPv0UZ\\_4CPsiirCHqA-KkR4IBcPqwUkAxfgb7tsQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfu2nVifEPv0UZ_4CPsiirCHqA-KkR4IBcPqwUkAxfgb7tsQ/viewform)

Please note: using this form to upload your application will require logging in with a Google account – if you don't have one, just create one, it's free. If you have any questions about the process or issues using the upload form, contact twcook at seascout.org.

Share this:

# National Commodore's Corner

By National Commodore

## SEAL 2.0

Sea Scout Experience Advanced Leadership Course (SEAL) is a week of adventure and leadership on the water. We have doubled the number of SEAL courses in 2020 to ensure that every Sea Scout who wants to go to SEAL, can go to SEAL, and we've revised and improved the curriculum. Moreover, we will have our first paddlecraft SEAL courses! And for the first time ever, we have SEAL courses being held in all four regions! Applications are now available [here](#) and are being accepted already – don't wait to submit them!

If your Scouts aren't sure about SEAL, have them check out the new SEAL testimonial videos that highlight the benefits and adventure of attending SEAL:

[National Boatswain Hannah on SEAL](#)

[SEAL with Trinity from Texas](#)

[SEAL Seattle with Sea Scout Madi from Ship 993](#)

[Sea Scout Nick from Ship 24 on his SEAL Cruise](#)

[SEAL Prospective from a Skipper](#)



## Commodore's Corner: Charlie Wurster

Congratulations to our immediate past National Commodore! Distinguished Eagle Scout, VADM Charlie Wurster (USCG, retired), has been named as one of the 2020 Silver Buffalo award recipients. He and his family will be honored at the 2020 National Annual Meeting of the Boy Scouts of America in May near our nation's capital.

The Silver Buffalo Award, created in 1925, is bestowed upon those who give truly noteworthy and extraordinary service to youth. This award, Scouting's highest commendation, recognizes the invaluable contributions that outstanding American men and women render to youth.

Charlie's contribution to Sea Scouts cannot be overstated. He oversaw the transformation from our legacy Sea Scout program into a new, modern Sea Scouts and laid the groundwork for growth. Here is what I said about that at our change of watch ceremony back in May:

I think that history will look back on Charlie's time as National Commodore as being as transformative a leader as any in the history of Sea Scouts -perhaps only Tom Keane had such a profound impact on our program.

Think of it this way. Charlie brought our beloved but creaky 100-year-old vessel into dry dock, and did a complete refit. He gave her modern navigation systems allowing us to go where we couldn't before – like the ability to have Sea Scout ships on any river that can float a kayak. He gave her a refitted propulsion system including the ability for Power Squadrons and now Coast Guard Auxiliary flotillas to charter ships. He gave her a new crew in the form of a solid and effective National Committee and Regional Commodores. He reflagged her under BSA's flag, rather than Venturing's and in doing so, updated the communication systems and got us back in close contact with our colleagues in the rest of the BSA. He even spiffed her up with a new coat of paint in the form of our new Scout-like uniforms! All that remains is to re-launch the good ship Sea Scouts BSA and get her back underway. If anyone was ever set up for success, it is me, and I owe Charlie profound thanks for that.

I am delighted to see that BSA recognizes Charlie's contribution. Please join me in congratulating Charlie on this outstanding recognition.  
Bravo Zulu Charlie!

# Sail Aboard the USCG Eagle

by Sea Scouts, BSA

Every summer for over a decade, the Coast Guard has partnered with Sea Scouting to offer a weeklong sailing adventure aboard USCGC EAGLE to a select group of Sea Scouts from around the nation.

What exactly is it like to sail aboard the Eagle? Katie Bruton, a Quartermaster Sea Scout, provided a firsthand account of her life-changing adventure



“We began our voyage in Boston, Massachusetts where we boarded, had a safety briefing, and were assigned to our sleeping areas. During our safety briefing we were reminded that we would get as much out of the opportunity as we put in and that we were expected to do everything with the first year cadets. Some of our duties included preparing meals in the swaying messdeck for the 200 people on board, scrubbing the teak deck with Simple Green and water, polishing the brass for public tours, trimming sails for maximum speed and changing direction, and trying to stay awake in the scorching engine room at 1am. The multitude of lines we heaved and hoed during the week in order to trim the sails left us with dirty and callused hands. During our shifts, we also climbed aloft in some of the 6 miles of standing and running rigging to prepare the twenty-three sails to be set and stowed, used celestial navigation to pinpoint our location, and attended interactive trainings. These trainings included preparing for fire emergencies, man

overboard, abandon ship, and weather safety.

The week of exhausting hard work did have its perks. At the beginning of the week, I, along with many of the cadets, stared at the whale-speckled horizon. We watched dolphins dance through the waves off the bow, did sunrise workouts, laughed at a 2-hour long talent show, and gazed at the glorious sunrises while standing in the rigging above the ship’s deck.

I did not fully realize how amazing the opportunity was until I was 40 feet in the air watching the sunrise come over the surprisingly calm horizon of the Atlantic Ocean between Boston and New York. I knew how uniquely I was seeing the world and I was awestruck by the beauty of it.

Among an endless laundry list of things the experience taught me, is how so many people can come together to accomplish a common goal. Sailing on Eagle gave me a new view on life and I would not trade the experience for the world.”

If you want to see more, check the Sea Scouts, BSA Facebook group from Aug 2018 for photos and posts about the 2018 cruise. You can check the USCGC EAGLE Facebook page as well, but please do not ask the EAGLE about this program on Facebook because they do not administer the selection process for the program – Sea Scouts does.

Do you think you have what it takes to join the crew of the USCGC EAGLE? Apply today!

## Apply for SEAL Training 2020

by Sea Scouts, BSA

For the first time ever, SEAL training will be offered in all four regions, at a record setting nine locations! This makes SEAL more accessible than ever before. If you are not familiar with SEAL, it is similar to NAYLE, the BSA’s advanced outdoor leadership training. SEAL is a leadership course where the “laboratory” is a boat you are in command of and the environment changes as fast as the river, lake, bay, or ocean the course is taught on. That is what makes SEAL unique and challenging. Don’t take our word for it, check out what Nick, Madi, and Trintiny had to say about their SEAL experience!

Download the application and take some time to browse the various courses available before submitting before the **March 1st deadline**.

If you have any questions check out the information available at [seascout.org/seal](http://seascout.org/seal) or reach out to the National Sea Coordinator, Rob Freas, at [seal@seascout.org](mailto:seal@seascout.org).

## Sea Scout Nick from Ship 24 on his SEAL Cruise

CLICK LINK TO VIEW VIDEO

<https://youtu.be/Ps9PUgeEu7o?list=PLrldm6XxQvjVvSNG6Uf08BcO2pgnbFEzf0>

# Mariners Explorer Club

National Sea Scout leader Cassie Johnson is always thinking about how to get more youths involved in Sea Scouts, one of the high adventure wings of the Boy Scouts of America that centers on boating and paddle sports for youth 14-20.

The BSA, of course, has Cub Scouts that takes care of elementary school kids, and Scouts BSA for high school kids. But National BSA leaders wanted to have something to bring in kids in middle school – as well as bring back kids who had quit after Cubs.

So, in early 2013, after 18 months of piloting the program in 17 local Councils, the Learning for Life program of the BSA obtained official approval to start the Exploring Club Career Education Program for young men and women who have completed the fifth grade and are at least 10 years old but have not completed the eighth grade and are not yet 15 years old. The Exploring Club program was created in response to the U.S. Department of Education’s recent emphasis on career education. Cassie wanted to include Sea Scouts in the mix with the group’s own Sea Scout Mariners Explorers Club.

“It’s like a light bulb went off for the national Sea Scout committee,” Cassie said. “The National Sea Scout Support Committee saw the proposed Explorers Clubs and wanted to know if they could add a club designation for Sea Scouts.”

Since Sea Scouts offers a viable path to a maritime career, National BSA officials said yes.

“We recognized immediately that this was a way to teach kids about Sea Scouts before they were old enough to become members,” Cassie said. “We wanted them to be involved before they got to high school, where they have other extra-curricular activities that vie for their time.”

Sea Scout leader Richard Gash in Cleveland, Ohio, was first to do a Mariners Club to promote Sea Scouts. He partnered with the county he lived in and taught boating skill because there are a lot of people using boats on the Great Lakes, Cassie said.

## Photos from the Christmas Boat Parade.



# Mariners Explorer Club

“It was capturing an age group we weren’t serving well,” she said. “The BSA were losing a lot of kids in middle school. That’s why Explorers Clubs were pioneered and then they were made available to us.”

Cassie started a Mariners Explorers Club three years ago at Spillane Middle School in the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District. Her unit, Ship 502, “Invincible,” from Foundry United Methodist Church in Jersey Village, Texas -- near Houston -- has landed five new members from the club. (Cub Scouts meet as a pack, Scouts BSA meet in a troop, and Sea Scouts meet as a ship.)

How successful has that Mariners Club been? Four of the five from the club have reached ordinary rank in Ship 502, attended National Youth Leadership Training and also staffed National Youth Leadership Training. During their meetings, junior high youth are taught skills such as knot-tying, throw a heaving line, how to sail on the ocean, rules of sailing, first aid, and other skills that are used by Sea Scouts.

The youth also are invited to watch the Christmas Boat Parade on Clear Lake near Galveston Bay each year, where boats are decorated with Christmas lights and slowly sail down a channel for prizes. And the youths are invited to Trash Bash each spring, where area youth help clean up bayous in Greater Houston, Cassie said.

There is no way yet to know how many Mariners Clubs there are nationally. But they have been very successful in the test markets of Cleveland and Houston.

“It’s just a good idea,” Cassie said. “It makes us more visible in the community and the school. It’s easy because we are doing what the kids in our ship are doing anyway for their advancements, and our youth are leading it. They walk across the street from their high school to the middle school and teach. It’s like they are building their legacy.”

**DSC-1280 - Sea Scouts preparing to anchor in Clear Lake near Galveston for the Christmas boat parade.**

**DSC-1285 – Sea Scouts preparing to anchor in Clear Lake near Galveston for the Christmas boat parade.**



# Mariners Explorer Club



From left to right –  
Boatswain Chris D., Boatswain's Mate Hannah M., Boatswain's Mate Jewel N., Committee Chair  
Cassie Johnson, and Boatswain's Mate Campbell M.





## 2020 NLEEC SUMMIT XPERIENCE

[exploring.org/nleec-experience](http://exploring.org/nleec-experience)



The National Law Enforcement Exploring Conference Planning Committee is excited to announce that the “2020 NLEEC Experience” will be held at the Summit Bechtel Reserve located in Glen Jean, West Virginia. This is going to be an outstanding location as we lead the charge in creating an unbelievable atmosphere that is unique and a fun experience for our Explorers.

The Summit Bechtel Reserve is going to create opportunities that will enable Explorers to enjoy many of the historical conference traditions alongside the capacity to add new experiences and build new traditions. While we incorporate those historical traditions of week-long competitions, seminars, and exhibits, the “EXPERIENCE” will offer a new high adventure dimension to the NLEEC experience.

### the 2020 NLEEC Xperience\_FAQ's



## NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE XPERIENCE JULY 13-17, 2020

### ONLINE REGISTRATION & POST RESERVATION

OCTOBER 15, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020  
\$200 NON-REFUNDABLE POST DEPOSIT  
\$450 \*REGISTRATION FEE PER ADVISOR  
AND EXPLORER (NEW LOWER FEE)

\*REGISTRATION FEES INCLUDE MEALS, HOUSING, PROGRAM,  
FULL ACCESS TO CONFERENCE SCHEDULING, AS WELL AS THE  
ALL NEW SUMMIT XPERIENCE!

### \*EARLY-BIRD REGISTRATION INCENTIVE FOR POSTS

REGISTER BY APRIL 30, 2020 11:59 PM (CST)

\*EARLY-BIRD REGISTRANTS WILL RECEIVE A  
LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPLORING CONFERENCE XPERIENCE PATCH.  
ONE PATCH PER INDIVIDUAL WITH FULLY PAID YOUTH & ADULT  
REGISTRATION FEES AND PAID POST DEPOSIT.

FOR MORE DETAILS & UPCOMING  
INFORMATIONAL ADVISOR CALLS, GO TO  
[EXPLORING.ORG/NLEEC-EXPERIENCE/](https://exploring.org/nleec-experience/)



2020 NLEEC  
SUMMIT EXPERIENCE

LEARNING FOR LIFE • 1325 W. WALNUT HILL LN • IRVING, TX 75038



HONORING TRADITIONS &  
CREATING NEW EXPERIENCES



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

 @leexploringlfl

 @leexploringlfl

## **Northern Lights High Adventure Base Fairbanks, Alaska Celebrating 20 Years of Northern Lights High Adventure Base**

This past Summer season marked the 20th anniversary for the Northern Lights High Adventure base, and proved worthy of celebration in every way.

Troops from across the “lower 48” trekked across glaciers, paddled over 150 miles down the legendary Yukon River, hiked above the Arctic Circle, and pitched tents under the midnight sun. Wildfires raged across most of interior Alaska this summer, but fortunately no treks were cancelled and very few rerouted to alternative locations.

Each trek is planned exclusively for the Troop or Crew visiting based on their needs, goals, and expectations. Alaska boasts vast, diverse landscapes, climates, and endless opportunities to explore, which is why Northern Lights High Adventure takes so much time to learn the wishes of each individual Troop or Crew and plan the best possible adventure, down to the very last detail.

Although the majority of treks occur during the Summer season, those wishing to try cold weather camping, snow sports, and maybe catch a glimpse of the aurora borealis might consider a winter trek.

Interested in learning more about visiting the Land of the Midnight Sun? For more information on planning your trek or open guide positions contact Matthew Banaszewski, Director of Northern Lights High Adventure: (907) 452-1976 [Matthew.Banaszewski@scouting.org](mailto:Matthew.Banaszewski@scouting.org)

Space is still available for Summer 2020 and 2021!

Facebook: [facebook.com/NorthernLightsHighAdventureBase](https://www.facebook.com/NorthernLightsHighAdventureBase)

Instagram: [@NorthernLightsHighAdventureBase](https://www.instagram.com/NorthernLightsHighAdventureBase)

Website: [alaskahighadventure.com](http://alaskahighadventure.com) Written

**Written by  
Stephanie Kelly, Backcountry Trek Manager and 2018 & 2019 Backcountry Guide.  
Photos courtesy NLHA.**

# **Northern Lights High Adventure Base Fairbanks, Alaska Celebrating 20 Years of Northern Lights High Adventure Base**



**Sea kayaking off the coast of Valdez, July 2019**



**Hiking across Root Glacier in Wrangell St. Elias National Park, July 2019 Backpacking**



**Backpacking in Denali State Park, June 2019**



**Backpacking in the White Mountains National Recreation Area, July 2019**

# Sea Scout News

Across the Western Region

## Sea Scouts BSA and Coast Guard Auxiliary Partnership

It is now official: Sea Scouts, BSA is the official youth program of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. With our new partnership now underway, more opportunities will be opening up for us soon. The Coast Guard Auxiliary can now be charter partners of Ships. We will be able to utilize classes and training materials of the USCG Aux to help us with bettering our Sea Scouts' knowledge and abilities. We will also have an increase in adult leadership to help support our existing ships and help with the formation of new ships to come. This is a very exciting time for us with new positive changes.

Bruce Johnson of the National Sea Scout Support Committee has led the rollout of the partnership with a series of webinars, which have been recorded and posted on Facebook and YouTube. You can watch [Introduction to AUXSCOUT](#), [AUXSCOUT Workshop 102](#), and [AUXSCOUT Workshop 201-Standard Operating Procedures](#), on the embedded links to learn more about the partnership known internally by the Coast Guard Auxiliary as "AUXSCOUT"

## Sea Scout Ship Propeller Featured in Boys' Life Video



The Sea Scout Ship Propeller from the Chief Seattle Council has hosted Sea Scouts from around the country for SEAL. Check out the new video on the [Boys' Life YouTube channel](#) featuring the Propeller and the SEAL program.

# Sea Scout News

## Across the Western Region

Dear Western Region,

As you all know we are currently experiencing some uncertain and stressful times as we and the rest of the world battles through the covid19 virus. As we move forward through this moment in history together we all have a Duty to Act. We must continue to follow our state and local county guidelines to ensure we do our part to protect ourselves, families, friends and neighbors in our communities.

With regatta season now here I'm recommending that all events and social gatherings be postponed until further notice. Event chairpersons and coordinators please contact me with any questions regarding this recommendation. Until we are out of this we need to adjust our way of doing business. I recommend all Ships to use meeting platforms such as Zoom Meetings to conduct their weekly or monthly meetings with your crews to limit social gatherings and contact. Skippers and Mates please be creative with your activities with your crews as we progress forward things are going to get better and we will soon again conduct normal operations here in the West

Some positive Western news: I have been getting information that a lot of Ships have been making the switch over to the Official Sea Scout Uniform. This is great news as we only have one official uniform now. I would like to see all ships make this switch. For the old guard Skippers let me remind you that tradition resides in what we teach our youth not what we wear. I encourage you all to make the switch.

WR Area 4 is under the watch of Mr. Bau Phung who has been up and running for the past several months. Commodores Phung has already made introductions in WR Area 4. For those in A4 who have not heard of him please reach out to him.

Regional Boatswain interviews have just taken place and Jayce Letson is the Western Region Boatswain-Elect. Please join me in welcoming Jayce, whose term starts on June 1. Please see below for the full announcement on Jayce's appointment.

I want to encourage all Areas in the West need Area and Council Boatswains. The Area application deadline has passed but I'm going to extend it through the month of April for the West. Area and Council Commodores reach out to your Skippers and Mates and let's get some applicants. You can find the prerequisites for each position at [seascouts@scouting.org](mailto:seascouts@scouting.org) All incoming Area applications will be to the Regional Quarterdeck to review.

Last, once again as we move through these uncertain times we all have a Duty to Act with keeping ourselves and shipmates safe. As Sea Scouts we have always pulled together through tough times more than any other program in scouting. The dedicated Skippers and Mates here in the West are no strangers to adversity and change. I appreciate all of you greatly, let's all continue to be safe and well!

Fair Winds,

Greg Harden  
WR Commodore

# Sea Scout News

Across the Western Region

## Message from WR Boatswain Jordyn

Greetings, sea scouters!

This is a hard and difficult time for everyone around the world, and we understand that it may be hard to continue participating in Sea Scouts at this time. But that doesn't mean we have to stop all of our plans - it just means we find new ways to do them! Here are various ways that you can stay active:

- Many ships across the country have decided to switch to virtual sea scout meetings either through Zoom, Google Hangouts, Skype, or other popular video chatting formats
- Host a virtual ship movie night! Have some fun! We all need some smiles in this time, why not choose a funny movie for the ship to enjoy together?
- Join a challenge! There is a 30 Day Sea Scout Challenge going around for Apprentice and Ordinary requirements
- Get started on those sea scout projects for your ship - were you supposed to make an engine manual? Did you tell your leadership you'd help revise the bylaws? What about some calendar planning for 2021?
- And on a National level, we are preparing some material for you all to watch and listen to soon - stay tuned for updates!

These are just a few of the many ways that YOU can stay active, and ways you can encourage your shipmates to remain active as well. If there is any silver lining to our situation, it's that once we return, we will be as ready as ever for some action! Remember to #stayhome, wash your hands, practice healthy habits, and to do your part! I am wishing everyone great mental and physical health at this time!

Fair winds,

Jordyn Alexis  
Western Region Boatswain, 2019-2020

# Sea Scout News

Across the Western Region

## Meet the Incoming Western Region Boatswain Jayce

We are proud to announce the incoming 2020-2021 Western Region Boatswain-elect, Jayce Letson!

Some of Jayce's goals for the Western Region Sea Scouts are:

- Continue to grow and retain Ships and Sea Scouts across the Western Region by continuing the strong communication and social media work started by Jordyn.
- Connect with his Venturing and Order of the Arrow Peers at the Region level to ensure the older youth programs are aligned and moving together to support program growth.
- Encourage and promote Sea Scouts by visiting with and working with Ships all across the Region either by face to face interaction or online virtual connection.
- And finally, he wants to foster growth in the Area and Council Sea Scout leadership ranks.



A member of ship 444 in the Denver Area Council, Jayce served as the Western Region Area 2 Boatswain, and Boatswain Mate for Program for ship 444 in 2019-2020. He has attended High Adventures at Florida Sea Base on the Tall Ships as well as Canoeing in Wyoming. Jayce is currently an Ordinary Sea Scout and is working hard this year to earn his Able and then Quartermaster Award. Jayce has received the Council and Area Sea Scout Leadership awards for his service to the Sea Scout Program.

Jayce is an active Order of the Arrow member in Tahosa Lodge, recently called out for Vigil, where he has served as the Vice Chief of Activities and most recently as Tahosa Lodge Ordeal chairmen. In July 2018 he attended the National Order of the Arrow Conference as contingent leader for his lodge.

He is active in Venturing where he serves as the Denver Area Council Venturing Officers Association Vice President for Program in 2019-2020. He has earned his Summit Award as well as Ranger and Quest Awards in the Venturing Program. Jayce has received the Council Venturing Leadership Award for his service to DAC VOA.

Jayce has attended National Jamboree, NYLT, NLS, KODIAK Challenge and NAYLE and has staffed NYLT, KODIAK and NLS. He is on staff for NOAC 2020 and is attending Powderhorn and SEAL this summer.

Jayce is a Sophomore at Heritage High school and runs varsity track. Among his many interests, Jayce is planning on going to college for cybersecurity and computer science at the University of Arizona.

His term will begin on June 1st, 2020, and will be active through May 31st, 2021. We look forward to seeing Jayce accomplish his endeavors! Congratulations once again!

# Sea Scout News

Across the Western Region

## Listen to The Lookout



There is the NEW Sea Scout Podcast Network "The Lookout." Check out the two show tracks "Man Overboard" and "Reef Points." The first episode of [Reef Points has a great introduction to Sea Scouts BSA](#). Check out the [second episode of MOB](#) for an interview with the incoming WR Boatswain.

# 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/>

## Southern Region Sea Scout

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

## 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**  
**Bernie Suess - Webmaster**

## TO SUBSCRIBE to the FORUM:

Email Bob the BEAR at

[rmonto47@gmail.com](mailto:rmonto47@gmail.com)

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