

# *The FORUM*

*Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring Newsletter since 2003*  
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**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)

**The FORUM Attachments Central Region**

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/regions/CR-0717.zip>

*June Central Point newsletter*

**The FORUM Attachments National**

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/regions/NAT-0617.zip>

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*Law Enforcement Exploring National Pistol Championships Booklets*

**International**

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*Sea Scout Sea Scout Log Spring 2017*

*Sea Scout Advancement Requirements*

*Sea Scout Eligibility for Venturing Awards and Information On other Awards*

*Sea Scouts Standard Operating Procedures 2017*

*Sea Scout Strategic Plan-SMART*

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*Venturing Goal Setting Time Management for Venturing Crews*

*Venturing Mentoring for Venturing Crews Facilitator Guide*

*Venturing Standard Operating Procedures (Current\_*

*Venturing Terms Lets get it Right*

*Venturing Venturing FAQ*

**The FORUM Attachments Northeast Region**

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/regions/NER-0717.zip>

*Crew 27 Large Crew Series (Articles on Large Crew Operations)*

*VENTURING\_WEEK-CAMP SQUANTO*

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*No Attachments*

**The FORUM Attachments Western Region**

*No Attachments*



# The Central Point



Newsletter of the Central Region | Boy Scouts of America

The June 2017 edition of the Central Point, the Central Region Venturing newsletter, written by the Central Region's Venturing Officers is now available on our website at <http://crventuring.org/Home/Newsletters/>. Also in FORUM Attachments.

## Highlights in this issue are:

- *Thank you 2016-2017 officers*
- *2017-2018 CRV Region officers*
- *2017-2018 CRV Area presidents*
- *2017 National meeting recap*
- *Venturing Blast*
- *National Scout Jamboree*
- *Upcoming Activities*
- *Advisor's Minute*
- *President's Corner*

# ***Revised Safe Boating and Sailing Standards***

by Sea Scouts, BSA | May 19, 2017

The National Sea Scout Committee has recently approved an update to the ***Safe Boating and Sailing Standards*** for Sea Scout activities. A copy of the new standards is attached. These standards are applicable to all Sea Scout activities; particularly activities on larger boats, which are typically 26 feet in length or longer.

All Sea Scout volunteer leaders and local council executive staff are requested to adopt the new standards for conducting Sea Scout activities. These standards are designed to fit most councils and most Sea Scout operations. The standards also provide flexibility to local councils to accommodate local circumstances.

The attached 2017 version of the ***Safe Boating and Sailing Standards*** supersedes the previous version dated November 28, 1994. (Included in FORUM National Attachments)



SAFETY

# Verification process for on-water boating skills courses

By [Sea Scouts, BSA](#) | May 28, 2017

**NASBLA is announcing a new course verification opportunity for providers of on-water skills training for recreational power or human-propelled boating courses. Successful completion will include the award of a uniquely numbered verified course mark indicating, "The content of this course conforms to the American National Standard for on-water skills as verified through an independent third-party assessment process."**



**Recognized by the American National Standards Institute as American National Standards, both the On-Water Power and On-Water Human-Propelled standards identify fundamental skills that entry-level recreational boat operators should be able to demonstrate after receiving instruction. The standards are freely available for voluntary application by organizations providing recreational boating instructional programs. For a limited time, this new third-party course verification process is provided at no-cost under funding provided by the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.**

The Link is

[https://community.nasbla.org/files/news/2017/nasbla\\_newsrelease\\_verified\\_course\\_v2\\_approved.pdf](https://community.nasbla.org/files/news/2017/nasbla_newsrelease_verified_course_v2_approved.pdf)

or for more information on this process visit [www.NASBLA.org/Verifiedcourse](http://www.NASBLA.org/Verifiedcourse)





# THE TELEGRAPH

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## THE TELEGRAPH

A Newsletter published  
by the Northeast  
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Committee, Boy  
Scouts of America.

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something related to  
Sea Scouts, we'd like to  
hear from you. Send us  
news of events or story  
ideas to the editor at  
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Hello,

We are pleased to announce that the Spring 2017, Volume 21, Issue 2, edition of THE TELEGRAPH "The Voice of Sea Scouts in the Northeast Region" has been posted on our Northeast Region Sea Scout Website at <http://www.nerseascout.org/> for your review, distribution, and reading pleasure.

Please share this information with your Flotilla's Sea Scouts.

This issue includes:

**Regional Bridge of Honor and Sea Scout Ball**

**Flotilla Training Superfecta Reports**

**Marine Safety Alert from the US Coast Guard**

**"Mark Your Calendars" for the upcoming  
Regional Sailing Qualifiers and the  
Fall Seabadge 34-NY-2017 in Watkins Glen**

And lots of other great info submitted by our Ships!

Check out the issue!!

Would love your feedback.

Thank you.

Deidre Buchner  
Editor, The Telegraph

# **National Scout Jamboree Crew 5107 Shakes Down at the Goshen at 50 Camporee**

**Edited By Gen, VP-Admin, NSJ Crew 5107**



**NCAC National Scout Jamboree Crew 5107 Shaking Down At The Goshen 50 Camporee**

Just two weeks ago, National Capital Area Council - National Scout Jamboree Crew 5107, (also known as Crew 27), attended Goshen@50, a Camporee that served to celebrate the 50th year since the camp was opened to Boy Scouts in 1967. For the Crew, this event also served as a Jamboree shake-down. So, each of our MiniCrews (A, B, C, and D) all pitched in to staff a station. We also taught the Project Management Course for Pathfinder. We all had great fun getting to know each other over Memorial Day weekend: we worked together in adverse situations and came together as a unified team. Below are some articles by Venturers from each MiniCrew describing the awesome time she had over the weekend!

## **MiniCrew A (By Sophie):**

Over the 2017 Memorial Day Holiday weekend, NSJ Crew 5107 participated in the Goshen@50 Camporee at the National Capital Area Council's Goshen Scout Reservation. Crew 5107 is one of three NCAC Crews going to the 2017 National Jamboree. We are divided into four MiniCrews, which are like patrols in Boy Scouts. Each of the major "divisions" in Boy Scouts were separated among the six camps at Goshen Scout Reservation. Our camp were only Venturers and we were at Camp Marriott.

MiniCrew A (The 'Americans All Stars') ran a station that showed Venturers how to make paracord crafts.



**NCAC NSJ Crew 5107  
In The Round At Camp Marriott**



# **National Scout Jamboree Crew 5107 Shakes Down at the Goshen at 50 Camporee**

**Edited By Gen, VP-Admin, NSJ Crew 5107**

MiniCrew B (The 'Beareavers') ran a station that taught RANGER knots and lashings. MiniCrew C (The 'Centaur's') ran a blindfolded obstacle course and MiniCrew D (The 'White Tigers') ran a Woodsman's Meet consisting of caber tossing, log dragging and log chopping.

My MiniCrew A, ran the paracord station in which we taught how to make paracord bracelets at the Camp Marriott Handicraft Pavilion along with MiniCrew B who did knots and lashings for the RANGER wilderness survival core requirement.

We had expected that there would be a lot more participants for us to teach, but since everyone was spread out all throughout Goshen, we did not get as many campers as expected. We still had a blast! We got to meet many new Venturers, as well as another crew (5106) who is going to attend the National Scout Jamboree this summer. As a treat, the Virginia National Guard also swung by Camp Marriott to talk to us about what they do. On Sunday night, there was an arena show and fireworks.

My favorite part of Goshen 50 was getting to know my crew better. There were many instances in which our crew ran into bumps along the road. On Sunday night, the grubmaster, Dominic, along with the help of one of the mini crew's, cooked Cowboy Stew. Cowboy Stew is a stew which contains ground beef, onion, corn, tomato soup, carrots, and beans. Suddenly, it started down pouring. Since we were cooking in Dutch ovens, it became an issue. We had to think quickly.



**NCAC NSJ Crew 5107 'Tarps'  
Their Coals In A Downpour and Saves Dinner**



**Amy and The American All Stars work Knots  
and Lashings For RANGER**

We set up a tarp over top of the fire so the coals would not die on us. Luckily, we had set up a tarp over top of a picnic table which protected the stoves. After the stew finished cooking, we started running the Dutch ovens over the covered picnic table. We then moved the other tarp that was covering the coals to attach with the one that was covering the picnic table. After we had gotten all the Dutch ovens under the tarps, we began serving the stew. What a success! The stew was a big hit. Everyone loved the stew. Overall, this weekend was a blast and our crew had a great time bonding! We are all looking forward to the National Scout Jamboree. We're gonna have great FUN!



# National Scout Jamboree Crew 5107 Shakes Down at the Goshen at 50 Camporee

Edited By Gen, VP-Admin, NSJ Crew 5107

## MiniCrew B (By Gen):

My MiniCrew ran a wilderness survival knot-tying station. Since we were at a Venturer-only campsite, we taught people knots according to Ranger requirements: the sheet bend, the fisherman's knot, bowline, bowline on a bight, taut-line hitch, square lashing, shear lashing, and more. When waiting for someone to come to the station, we would play cards and talk about random things to make each other laugh.

We also had an opportunity to see a fireworks show; it was one of the best I've seen. We sat in the grass together, watching the sun set over the beautiful Lake Merriweather. It had just rained, so the clouds were illuminated with various shades of oranges and pinks. Once the sky finally became dark, the fireworks began. There was a beautiful array of colors: blues, pinks, greens, golds, silvers. Some even sounded like cannons going off, they were so loud! After the finale (which was beautiful), there was a thick fog over Lake Merriweather. Everyone seemed really impressed with the show.

We had an interesting event while we were at the handicraft pavilion. Apparently a nonpoisonous snake (a black racer) is the de facto landlord of the handicraft pavilion at Camp Marriott. While we were there, he (or she) perched nearly 4 feet of snake in the rafters to watch the goings on. When we finally noticed the snake, it decamped and headed for the woods but we were all impressed with it



**Dominic Goes Over RANGER Knots**



**Four Foot Long Snake Checks Out Crew 5107  
MiniCrew A & B Activities At Handicrafts**

Even though participation was light, we had fun bonding and becoming a better team. For me, I enjoyed most this bonding time with almost all of the 35 other scouts in Crew 5107. In the span of three days, I had a conversation with almost everyone and definitely got to know even my closest of friends in the Crew better. I especially loved seeing the Crew coming together and becoming a family. I look forward to Jamboree with them!

# National Scout Jamboree Crew 5107 Shakes Down at the Goshen at 50 Camporee

Edited By Gen, VP-Admin, NSJ Crew 5107

## MiniCrew C (By Maryam):



**Mel Judges a Chopping Contestant at the Woodsman's Meet Run By The Centaurs of Crew 5107 at The NCAC Goshen 50 Camporee & NSJ Crew Shakedown**

My mini-crew (mini crew C) set up a station in an open field that included log skidding, caber tossing and wood chopping. The log skidding station required one to pull a short log along a course while being time. The log was fairly heavy but the shortest time was 11 seconds! Another activity we set up was caber tossing, which is a traditional Scottish event where a thin log is tossed and the distance thrown is measured. Our third, and most popular event, was our wood chopping station. Participants would try to break off a piece of 2" by 4" wood with a hatchet in the least amount of blows. I learned a lot from these stations as I was taught how to safely use axes and hatchets as well as managing activities. As my second campout with the crew, this was really fun and I earned my Tot'in Chip Award! What I enjoyed

the most from this staffing experience was how I bonded with my other crew members while running these stations.

## MiniCrew D (By Zoë):

From May 26th to May 29th, Mini-crew D, the White Tigers, ventured to Camp Marriott along with the three other mini-crews from NCAC NSJ Crew 5107 (Home Crew 27). Although arriving late at night, we woke up Saturday morning excited to truly begin the trip and run our activity. We set up two different obstacle courses, an easy one and an advanced one. Most people immediately went to the advanced course which entailed following a rope through the woods with a blindfold on and no guidance.



**Zoe, Johana & Elisabeth Take '5' As They Wait For Customers At The Obstacle Course**



# **National Scout Jamboree Crew 5107 Shakes Down at the Goshen at 50 Camporee**

**Edited By Gen, VP-Admin, NSJ Crew 5107**

This activity was used to simulate walking in the woods at night using all your senses other than sight. Unfortunately there were not many participants at the camp in general, but the few who did come had an amazing time at our activity. Our mini-crew used shifts in our working schedule so that we could go to other activities such as The Woodsman Meet held by Mini-crew C or the shooting/archery range. The next day was pretty similar only with more participants, and even when there were none, we still had a blast playing heads-up and just talking. Sunday afternoon we had to take down our course which was bittersweet. Although it symbolized a job well done, it also meant our time at Camp Marriott was coming to a close. On Monday morning we were all ready to go home and sleep in our own beds. However, we were going home with a different view of our crew members. We learned a lot about each other as well as how to work together as a team. The best part, for me, about this trip was seeing the fireworks in honor of Memorial Day. We all had a blast talking and laughing in the dark as we waited for the fireworks. Once the show started, there were lots of smiles, 'oooing' and 'ahhhing' (and also a little screaming when the loud ones exploded). Overall, everyone who went to our Shake-down at Goshen 50 got to know their fellow Venturers much better and strengthened the comradery within Crew 5107 (and Crew 27).



**Photo credits 'in the round' to Thomas Germer, one of the dad's who came along! They turned out awesome!**

## **The Authors**

**Gen (Editor and one author) is the VP-Admin of NCAC NSJ Crew 5107 and a rising Senior in Vienna, Virginia. She wants to be a mechanical engineer and a military officer. She is applying to the United States Air Force Academy & the United States Coast Guard Academy - where she will participate in the AIM program this summer. She is a competitive swimmer who holds pool records in events in her community, holds the Venturing Discovery Award & expects to finish RANGER Rank by the end of this summer. She will be Crew 27's sixth RANGER in 8 years. Sophie is the MiniCrew Leader for Crew 27's MC-F & is new to Venturing this year, a former Girl Scout, she is rapidly advancing & taking on leadership. Maryam is on her second Venturing outing & is brand new to the Crew, she lucked into a NSJ participant position when two other Venturers dropped out. She lived in Africa (In Namibia) for years and was a Scout there. Zoë is a rising Junior at Stone Ridge School in Bethesda, MD and a competitive fencer. She has been in Crew 27 for a year and leapt at the opportunity to participate in the 2017 NSJ. Sophie, Maryam & Zoë all plan to attend NYLT this summer!**



# FACT SHEET

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P.O. Box 152079  
Irving, TX 75015-2079  
972-580-7810  
972-580-2430 fax  
[www.seascout.org](http://www.seascout.org)



## SEAL 2017

Sea Scout Experience Advanced Leadership (SEAL) training teaches leadership skills **while underway**. It is designed to “jump start” the junior leaders of new Ships and to “fine tune” leaders of experienced Ships. It is a physically and mentally demanding and a remarkably rewarding hands-on leadership experience.

### Qualifications to Attend

This course is open to any Sea Scout or Scout or Venturer at least 14 years of age on the first day of the course and not yet 21 on the last day of the course. To attend a participant must be at least Ordinary for Sea Scouts, Pathfinder for Venturers and 1st Class for Boy Scouts by June 1st prior to this course.

### Skills Taught

Evaluation	Managing, Supervising & Commanding
Team Building	Motivating
Leadership	Counseling
Training	Problem Solving
Communicating	Planning & Preparing
Goal Setting	Implementing & Re-Implementing

### 2017 Course Locations and Dates

Additional course locations and dates might be added if required.

- Chesapeake Bay, MD      June 23 – July 2, 2017
- Galveston Bay, TX      June 30 – July 9, 2017
- Newport Beach, CA      July 6 – 16, 2017
- Seattle, WA      July 6 – 15, 2017
- Long Island Sound, NY      August 5 – 13, 2017

### Cost

Costs are from \$250 to \$290 not including transportation to and from the course.

### Additional Information and Application

<http://seascout.org/youth-training-and-education/seal/>



# Run for the Wall

Southern Region Commodore | Jun 6, 2017



*On May 20, 2017 the southern route of the 29th annual Run for the Wall made their pit stop in Grand Prairie, Texas. Members of Ship 1880, the SSS Zavala, were on hand in the parking lot of the Dubiski Career High School to welcome approximately 400 motorcycles and riders for the night. Our Boatswain, Coltrane Lins, not only helped to sweep the parking lot to make sure no debris would tear up the tires, but he helped to install the American Flags and the MIA/POW Flags to greet the riders. Many of the riders are veterans. Our Skipper, Peggy Kilcrease, and her First Mate, Kandice Lins are*

*always on hand to hug necks and welcome the riders to the cafeteria where a hot meal, cold drinks and also free massages await them before they bed down for the night. This is an event that is looked forward to each year by the entire city of Grand Prairie, Texas and the riders are greeted by many of Grand Prairie's citizens who each year pile into the parking lot of the high school and stand along the highway route of the run*

*Most of the time, while we are at Run For The Wall's pit stop in Grand Prairie, several of the riders remember us from the year before because we make it a point to hug the riders instead of just shaking their hand. 2016 was different, one rider remembered our Skipper Peggy Kilcrease for another reason. While she was a Army Nurse stationed in Cu Chi from 1968 until 1970, this soldier had been in her care for malaria. He remem-*



*bered her putting ice on him and turning on a huge fan. He grabbed her and cried that it was because of her that he was still alive and able to ride from San Francisco to Washington, DC. Each year we hug and we cry. We cry for the ones that aren't able to ride, and we cry with thanksgiving that the riders that are in Grand Prairie are fine.*

*— by Ship 1880 Mate Kandice Lins*

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# Sea Scouts and Scouters Recognized at National Meeting



Last week during the Venturing and Sea Scout Reception at the Boy Scouts of America's National Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, the inaugural Sea Scout Leadership Award Class was announced. This year's recipients include Rachel West of Georgetown, Texas and Natasha Leahey Sayles of Irving, Texas.

Rachel served as the 2016-2017 National Sea Scout Boatswain. During her term, she oversaw several initiatives, most notably the writing of a new Boatswain's Manual which will be available online in shortly. Because of her ef-

forts and foresight, the future leaders of ships across the country will have it a little bit easier.

Natasha is the longtime Office Manager for the Sea Scout program. One of Natasha's nominators had this to say about her, "She is truly one of the most valuable assets to the Sea Scout family. She works tirelessly, but beyond that, she is thoughtful and kind...There is no doubt in my mind that Natasha has all the qualities the Sea Scout Leadership Award was designed to recognize. Her work with the BSA is not a job. It is a passion – a life's work."



Sea Scout Ship 100, *Dominion*, of the National Capitol Area Council, was recognized as the 2017 National Flagship. Sea Scout Ship *Dominion* sails every other week on the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay and their long cruise took them to the US Virgin Islands. They participated in many other events such as flying at the Manassas Airport and volunteering with several hunger related organizations. The formal award presentation followed in Manassas, Virginia on June 3rd.

Following the award presentations, Mercedes Matlock took office as the 2017-2018 National Boatswain, assuming the watch from Rachel West. You can view the entire reception [online here](#).

# Sea Scout Day 2017

by Sea Scouts, BSA / Jun 12, 2017

We are proud to announce that July 9 will be recognized as "Sea Scout Day." Sea Scouts, BSA was established in 1912 as the second program of the Boy Scouts to help retain older Scouts. The logbook 1912 logbook of the Boy Scout Ship Pioneer, recognized as the first Sea Scout Ship, has the first documented evidence of the birthday of Sea Scouts. The Logbook states that the first cruise was on July 9, 1912. The logbook states the Pioneer took on crew, set sail, anchored, and immediately conducted small boat drills. This easily could have been a Sea Scout cruise in the 21st Century, demonstrating our core activities are timeless.

All Sea Scouts are encouraged to celebrate the birthday of Sea Scouts the weekend of July 8th and 9th, by getting underway, setting sail, launching kayaks, scuba diving, or any other maritime activity approved by the Guide to Safe Scouting. July 9th is our day to get on the water. If you cannot get on the water July 9, plan an activity anytime during the month of July.

Join the Facebook event and be sure to tag any social media posts with #seascoutday, so we all can all share in the celebration. If you have special plans, please let us know what you are planning by emailing us at [seascoutday@seascout.org](mailto:seascoutday@seascout.org).





## Sea Scouts tour Eagle

by Southern Region Commodore | Jun 10, 2017



On Saturday, June 10th, Sea Scouts from across Southern Region Area 7 gathered in Norfolk, Virginia for Harborfest. Scouts from Ship 16 Suffolk, VA; Ship 71 Fayetteville, NC; Ship 244, Cary, NC; Ship 258 Colonial Beach, VA; Ship 530, Mechanicsville, VA; Ship 1117 Washington, NC; and Ship 1781, Yorktown, VA took a tour of United States Coast Guard Barque Eagle and the American Rover in the morning and split up in the afternoon to enjoy the rest of the festival.

Aboard Cutter Eagle, Scouts were given a tour by Cadets on their summer training cruise. They were able to see all the topside

spaces and were also treated to a tour of some spaces off-limits to the general public. Following the tour of Eagle, the Scouts visited American Rover, a three masted top sail schooner homeported in Norfolk that provides daily 2 hour narrated harbor and sunset cruises on the Elizabeth River. Her design is inspired by the 19th Century Cargo Schooners that once sailed the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Seaboard. The first mate, Alex Shelanski an Eagle Scout from Troop 1 Norfolk, provided an outstanding private tour of the vessel and



explained the working of the ships rigging. Southern Region Area 7 includes most of Virginia and North Carolina. It maintains an active Sea Scout program and area Ships regularly gather in Hampton Roads for Sea Scout Academy in late April or early May and again in September at High Rock Lake for the Davy Jones Rendezvous. Additionally, a Seabadge Course is regularly held at Pamlico Sea Base.



# Minto Rendezvous 2017

by Southern Region Commodore | Jun 16, 2017



The boarding manual for the 2017 William M Minto Memorial Sea Scout Rendezvous has been published. Minto this year is sponsored by Sam Houston Area Council, and will be held September 8-10, 2017 at Bovay Scout Ranch near Nava-sota, Texas. All ships are invited to attend. New ships are especially invited – this event is designed to be fun for all, and is a great chance to work on your Sea Scout skills! You can download the boarding manual [here](#). Registration should be live shortly.

## Coast Guard Flight Ops on Kauai



Boating safety is very important and it is something everyone should take very seriously. Lives depend on it. That fact became very clear to me recently when I watched the U.S. Coast Guard practice flight ops off Kauai.

Flight ops happens several times a week in the Coast Guard. They get together with the rescue swimmers, the response boat and MH-65 Dolphin Helicopter to practice drills.

I was fortunate enough to be with them on their 45ft response boat and watch them practically three feet away from all of the action. We were about 2 miles off shore and as the helicopter approached I really got how serious this is. The Dolphin was flying really low and the boat was rocking on the waves, sea spray created from the rotors hits you in the face, you can feel the helicopter engine vibrating and even with earplugs it's very loud.



## Coast Guard Flight Ops on Kauai



They practice lowering the basket from the helicopter onto the boat. The flight engineer lowers the basket and the two Coast Guard on the stern of the boat are ready to retrieve the basket. In real life this basket is used to transport people from the boat or the water to the helicopter. After that the two rescue swimmers jumped out of the boat and swam a safe distance away to practice their maneuvers, like being hoisted up by the helicopter single & in tandem, using the basket and jumping from the helicopter into the water from approx. 20 feet up.

Drills like this are practiced routinely by the Coast Guard so that when a real life situation happens, like someone getting lost out in sea for example, they are ready to react and respond. They are prepared for anything that comes their way.

The United States Coast Guard gives us an excellent example of being safe on the water. They use helmets, goggles and life jackets during their drills. When I went to watch them during flight ops they made sure that I had all the proper safety equipment needed.





## Coast Guard Flight Ops on Kauai



That being said, we should all take special safety precautions when boating on the water like having enough life jackets on board for everyone and wearing them! The Coast Guard Senior Chief Rescue Swimmer said, even better yet make sure your life jackets are equip with an ACR Distress Strobe light on them (a light that can be scene flashing at night).

Having flares and a registered EPIRB on board is very important too. An EPIRB is an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon; it is used to alert search and rescue services in the event of an emergency.

You can help encourage boating safety

by raising awareness of the proper equipment needed and being a role model by always making the choice to use that equipment. You can also help to bring life jacket loaner stations to your community. If you already have a life jacket loaner station then promote it and make sure it is stocked with life jackets of all sizes. Post social media photos wearing life jackets. Take it seriously, lives depend on it!

The ocean is a huge body of water, it covers about 72% of the waters surface and something bad can happen in an instant, when it does, every second counts. This is why you too need to be prepared for anything. Sometimes even when all necessary

safety precautions are taken before going out on the water, bad things can still happen, so it's very good to know that the U.S. Coast Guard is there prepared and ready to save a life!



It was such an honor to go along on the Coast Guard flight ops. I really want to thank the U.S. Coast Guard for all that they do. I want to thank everyone at the U.S. Coast Guard Station Kauai and at the U.S. Coast Guard Airsta Barbers Point who allowed me to tag along and have this amazing adventure and also for the great advice I received!



## Meet the 2017-2018 Western Region Boatswain



We are pleased to announce that the 2017-2018 Western Region Boatswain is Tessa Ramsey, of the Sea Scout Ship Decisive, of the Aloha Council, on the island of Kauai. She is an Able Sea Scout with a goal to complete the requirements and achieve the rank of Quartermaster by December 2017.

As the 2017-2018 Western Region Boatswain Tessa plans to continue on the path she began in 2016-2017 as one of the Western Region Boatswain's Mate, by promoting Sea Scouts through writing blogs, newspaper articles, posting photos to her Sea Scout Instagram, and creating videos sharing the adventures, fun, and learning experiences she has in Sea Scouts with the rest of the world. Tessa wants to promote safe boating by encouraging the use of life jackets, supporting the installation of more Life Jacket Loaner Stations, and participating in safe boating videos and events. As the Western Region Boatswain Tessa also plans to travel and meet other Sea Scout Ships around the Region.

Tessa will be entering her senior year of high school this fall, is on her high school varsity cross-country and varsity swim teams and is on the Honor Roll. She has served Sea Scouts in several leadership positions over the past four years. Tessa served as the Aloha Council Boatswain 2015-2016. As the Aloha Council Boatswain, Tessa played an active role as one of the organizers and

founders of the first Regatta on Kauai: Hawaii Youth Maritime Regatta 4/9-10/2016. Tessa's Ship, Decisive, was named to the Flagship Fleet in 2016 & 2017. Tessa served as the Boatswain for the Sea Scout Ship Decisive 2014-2015, the Ship's Administrative Boatswain's Mate 2014-2015 and the Ship's Program Boatswain's Mate 2013-2014.

Tessa received the BSA Medal of Merit in 2015 for her meritorious action in rescuing 3 boaters off the coast of Molokai on Summer Cruise 2014. She is an ILSS graduate as well as a Coast Guard Auxiliary "Boating Safety" and "Weekend Navigator" course graduate. She is a BSA Lifeguard, SCUBA Certified, Red Cross First Aid Certified and has completed the BSA Mile Swim. Tessa has her Small Boat Handler Bar and Long Cruise Badge with 4 red arcs (the badge and red arcs each represent 14 days at sea). She has made several crossings of the Kauai To Oahu channel with her Ship, Decisive, traveling sometimes as far as the island of Molokai. Decisive's Summer Cruise schedule also regularly includes circumnavigating the islands of Kauai, Oahu and Niihau.

Tessa participated in the Sea Scouts aboard the CGC Eagle Program in 2016 and sailed from New York, NY to New London, CT aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Eagle, an adventure that she will never forget.

In December 2016 Tessa completed her Sea Scout Quartermaster Service project, building a Life Jacket Loaner station at Nawiliwili Harbor on Kauai. This was made possible in part with a grant she was awarded from the Sea Tow Foundation.

Tessa has been motivated to serve Sea Scouts in leadership positions because she wants to give something back, to help it to grow and for it to be there for kids in the future. Tessa aspires to attend college and join the United States Coast Guard after high school.

# Meet the 2017-2018 WR Quarterdeck



**The 2017-2018 WR Quarterdeck is dedicated to helping Sea Scouts recruit new members and mentor Sea Scouts on newly formed Ships. Each member of the new WR Quarterdeck has an area of focus where they will work on resources for Sea Scouts. Here is the new team:**

**Hannah, WR BMS for Media Relations, SSS Mariners, Orange County Council, WR Area 4;**

**Christopher, WR BMS for Membership, SSS Del Mar, Orange County Council, WR Area 4;**

**Branden, WR BMS for Marketing, SSS Sea Fox, Alameda Council, WR Area 3.**

**Please join me in welcoming the new WR Quarterdeck aboard. If you are a Sea Scout Boatswain or Boatswain's Mate and have a question for the Quarterdeck, please contact them on the form below.**

**Joshua Gilliland  
Western Region Commodore  
National Sea Scout Support Committee**

# 5 Tips and Ideas to Recruiting New Members

Ships generally consist of two groups of people, adults and youth. The adults such as Skippers and Mates help guide youth as they grow not only is their skills and knowledge, but also develop their character and leadership skills that can give Sea Scouts an advantage over their peers no matter what path they choose. As symbiotic as this bond can be within a ship, we often do not see youth rushing to register with Sea Scouts Ships. One of the issues is that many teens and parents do not know about Sea Scouts and how great of a program it really is!

Many of my fellow Scouts including myself stumbled upon Sea Scouts having no idea that it existed. Since the start of 2017, Ship 711 Del Mar has gained six members within the last 6 months and I would like to share the various ways we worked to recruit these members and leave you with some ideas that you can twist to make your own.

1) Becoming a Camp/Aquatics Instructor: This one is can be a little harder as you will need to apply and find a job where you can interact with your target audience. Some of our ship members work in the harbor as various aquatics instructors and our first scout that joined this year was previously in one of those sailing classes taught by our scouts. Our scouts were able to network and advertise the ship to those to desire more than just a two week sailing merit badge. This was the exact same way I found out about Sea Scouts! You don't have to be an instructor or a merit badge counselor, the goal is to put yourself in a setting to work and communicate with your target audience.

2) Day Sails/ Paddle Craft Days: We had developed a list of youth who were eligible to join the ship and sent out an open invite to join us for a day sail around the harbor and just outside the jette. Within the first couple hours, our boat was full with over 15 individuals who were interested in get a taste of Sea Scouts. A couple of our newest members joined after coming out to our day sails.





# 5 Tips and Ideas to Recruiting New Members

3) **Inviting Friends:** It doesn't matter whether they are from work, school, band, or family friends! Inviting those around you that you know is a great way to not only add to your ship's numbers, but it can even make Sea Scout more fun since your friends are spending your regular meetings and weekend activities with you!



4) **Representing at BSA and Council Events:** In our ship, we have 6 Eagle Scouts, all who have searched for another calling after acquiring the highest rank in Boy Scouts. A couple of them saw us at Scout O Rama and Camporee and decided to look further into those Sea Scouts looking sharp in their dress whites or practicing scuttlebutt. The goal is to bring awareness, if you have them thinking or learning that sea scouts exist, that could make the difference on whether an individual joins your ship or not.

5) **Visiting Boy Scouts/Girl Scout Troops:** We set aside a weekday and planned with my Boy Scout Troop to introduce them to Sea Scouts and introduce them to activities and events you would see at competition like team knots and code flags. These are interchangeable with other events depending on what you think will interest scouts the most. Once again, the trick is just to make them knowledgeable and aware that Sea Scouts exists and is an opportunity for them to continue concurrently or after they age out of Boy Scouts.



# 5 Tips and Ideas to Recruiting New Members

All these methods have worked to bring awareness and new recruits to Sea Scouts. I have listed different methods that work for us. I am aware that there are other ways as well such as an open house or maybe even a short weekend cruise and I recommend to do whatever works best for your ship. You can also reach out to individuals younger than 14 as they can later feed into your ship once they become old enough. Keep in mind that although many of the methods listed are focused on Boy Scouts, they could be used to reach out to Girl Scouts as well. Remember that you can work with other sea scout ships whether you're coordinating an event or just asking for suggestions, you are not alone! I hope you find this helpful whether this is new or just a reminder. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me!

If you would like to see what I am up to, you can follow me on instagram at [@wr\\_boatswainsmate\\_membership](https://www.instagram.com/wr_boatswainsmate_membership)



## 2017 Rose Bowl District Camp-O-Ree, Greater Los Angeles Area Council



Annual Rose Bowl District Camporee held on April 29, 2017 at Trask Boy Scout Reservation, Monrovia CA.

Opening Ceremonies by Venturing Crew 561 Honor Corps. From left to right: Mark Riebs, Advisor, Brandon, Crew Member, and Travis Williams, Rose Bowl District Committee



Venturing Crew 561 Honor Corps playing “Assembly” and “To the Colors” From left to right: Mark Riebs, Advisor, Brandon, Crew Member, and Travis Williams, Rose Bowl District Committee





# 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

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

## Southern Region-Venturing

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

## Southern Region Sea Scout

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

## 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](http://www.venturingmag.org)

## National Exploring

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

## Yahoo Groups

### Central Region

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

### Northeast Region

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

### Southern Region

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

### Western Region

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

### National

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



# the FORUM

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

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

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

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

*Thanks for all you do!*

**Bob the BEAR Monto—Editor in Chief**

**Pete Mapes—Associate Editor**

**Bernie Suess - Webmaster**

## **TO SUBSCRIBE to the FORUM:**

**Email Bob the BEAR at**

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