



## WHAT IS SEA SCOUT EXPERIENCE –ADVANCED LEADERSHIP (SEAL)

In 1996, the National Sea Scout Committee created a new junior leadership course called *Sea Scout Experience-Advanced Leadership (SEAL)* training. The original course was called *Sea Explorer Advanced Leadership (SEAL)*. The course is designed to develop leadership skills in young adults. Seamanship is the medium through which the course is taught; however, nautical skills are the means, not the end. This course, which utilizes an “at sea” experience as a laboratory, is intended to teach and apply leadership skills. Few other mediums offer the opportunity for young people to actually apply leadership skills utilizing group dynamics into practice. In SEAL, there is no “play acting.” All situations and tasks are real, not created. Bad decisions or team failure can produce immediate and real problems. Each SEAL student will function as the boatswain and take command of the vessel for a 24 hours period.

**The National Sea Scout Committee uses the graduates from the SEAL course in the selection process for special assignments such as cruises on an atomic submarine, Boatswain for national events and special emissary assignments.**

### SEAL Candidates

While seamanship skills are not developed during this course, it is not possible to teach this course if the students do not arrive possessing certain minimal nautical skills. Therefore, the prerequisites for this course are: students must not have reached their twenty-first birthday by the date of the course, and they must have attained the rank of Ordinary. All participants must

possess a thorough knowledge of the contents of Chapter Four in the *Sea Scout Manual*, basic coastal navigation and fulfilled all requirements for Ordinary Sea Scout Rank.

Sea Scouts can only apply for SEAL Training through the National SEAL Training Coordinator (NSTC). The SEAL training application is modified each year to indicate the geographic areas where SEAL classes are offered in the United States. Local SEAL course directors obtain current SEAL applications from the NSTC and recruit in their area. However, applications must be returned to the NSTC by the deadline, usually March 1<sup>st</sup>. Once an applicant returns the forms, the NSTC confers with local SEAL course directors concerning candidate selection.

Upon the Scout's acceptance to the SEAL course, a SEAL course director will send the Scout's Skipper a sample test covering seamanship and basic coastal navigation. The Skipper will use this as a tool to help determine where the Scout needs review. Sample tests provided to the course directors are generated by the National SEAL Training Coordinator well in advance of the course date, as well as seamanship and navigation exams intended to be administered during the course.

All test questions originate from "Chapter Four" of the *Sea Scout Manual* or are Ordinary advancement skills. The test covers basic knots, rules of the road, aids to navigation, helm commands, relative bearings, coastal navigation, customs, ground tackle, and other important nautical information. A passing score for the test of nautical knowledge is seventy percent (70%), while a passing score for the entire SEAL course is an average of eighty percent (80%). A student may be tested with an alternate test at the discretion of the course director. Both of the current tests are provided through the Office of the National Sea Scout Director to the current National SEAL Training Coordinator.

To successfully complete this course, the candidate must:

1. Be a registered Sea Scout, or be registered as a member of a scouting organization.
2. Be actively involved in the day-to-day operations of his/her ship or unit during the following year.
3. Be underway for five consecutive days.
4. Pass the *Seamanship* and *Navigation* examinations with a score of 70% or better.
5. Complete the *Staff Study Report* and score 70% or better.
6. Complete a student teaching outline and teach a portion of "Chapter Four" of the *Sea Scout Manual*, and score 70% or better.
7. Complete a *Ship's Annual Operational Plan* and score 70% or better.
8. Tie the knots required for Ordinary and Apprentice ranks in three minutes or less.
9. Score 70% or better on the *Boatswain Leadership Evaluation*.
10. Score a 70% or better on the *Chapter Four Outline* of the *Sea Scout Manual*.
11. Agree to return to his or her ship or unit to teach and implement what he/she has learned.
12. Demonstrate the ability to pipe basic calls for colors.
13. Accumulate an overall average of 80% or better. A score of 800 points out of 1000 is passing.
14. Be certified by the SEAL course director to receive a graduation certificate and insignia. (The course director must complete the *SEAL Training Course Director Certification Summary* located in the appendices within two weeks of course completion. This completed form must be sent to the National SEAL Training Coordinator, with a copy shared with the National Sea Scout Director.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS EXCITING PROGRAM CONTACT: Jim Elroy, National Training Coordinator [seawolf410@aol.com](mailto:seawolf410@aol.com) or 305 798 8130

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Skipper Elroy,

It has been over a decade since I graduated from the Sea Explorers Advanced Leadership (SEAL) course, and I wanted to take this time to reflect on my experiences. I was only sixteen years old that summer before starting my senior year of high school. At the time, I had no idea how that summer was going to change my life. But it did.

I flew from Slidell, Louisiana to Miami, Florida to meet CAPT Jim Umberger, USGC (ret), onboard the 50-foot ketch named Seawolf. During that week, I rotated duties as navigator, engineer, boatswain, operations officer, small boat coxswain, and "Officer in Charge." I learned about true responsibility, the importance of team work, and how wonderful it was to be a part of something larger than myself. The other crewmembers and I relied on each other to get through our voyage safely, smartly, and with a smile on our faces. It took everyone onboard to make the course a success, and SEAL built my confidence as a leader.

That is why SEAL became one of the driving forces behind my decision to apply for a Navy ROTC scholarship to Tulane University in New Orleans. I wanted to be a contributing member of a team – a team much like during SEAL summer. I also wanted the opportunity to serve my great country. SEAL taught me that I could achieve anything I put my mind to. In May 2004, I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Finance and earned a commission into the U.S. Navy.

Fast forward twelve years... Today I am a Lieutenant and a Surface Warfare Officer. I have served as an engineering officer aboard a guided missile destroyer and later as a training officer on an aircraft carrier. Collateral duties in the Navy remind me very much of my SEAL experience... navigating the ship from point A to point B, in charge of small boat operations, and leading crew members. I've since completed two deployments to the Persian Gulf and will shortly be taking over as the Operations Officer onboard a warship based out of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. I LOVE my job!!!

I would now like to share with you the three biggest takeaways I've learned from being in the service:

1. I am way more appreciative of our American way of life. I wouldn't want to live anywhere else in the world.
2. Always take advantage of the opportunities life affords you.
3. Be passionate about what you do. For me, that passion is making a difference, being on the water and travelling.

In summary, I would like to thank YOU and thank all Sea Scout members who help make SEAL opportunities possible!! Without it, I may not be where I am today.

Very Respectfully,



LT Katie S. Hagen, USN

## **ARE YOU READY FOR SEAL TRAINING?**

In order to test yourself regarding your knowledge of the Seamanship Chapter of the Sea Scout manual and also test yourself regarding your knowledge of basic coastal navigation, **we invite you to take the tests on line**