



DATE: September 1, 2016

SUBJECT: National Flagship Competition

FROM: Keith Christopher, National Sea Scout Director
Charles Wurster, National Sea Scout Commodore

TO: Scout Executives and Sea Scout Ship Adult Leadership

Action: Publicize the National Sea Scout Flagship competition and distribute the attached Sea Scout National Flagship Scoresheet immediately to all ships in your council.

In honor of the 90th anniversary of Sea Scouts in 2002, BoatUS, the nation's largest recreational boating organization, instituted the annual Sea Scout National Flagship Award. Since then, the award has been presented to ships from Texas, Ohio, Maryland, West Virginia, California, and Oregon.

Now is the time for all ships to take stock of their past year's program and document their accomplishments to apply for the annual National Flagship Competition. You will find attached the Annual Sea Scout Flagship Application, the Sea Scout Ship Performance outline, and the Ship's Performance Scoresheet for the Journey to Excellence Award.

Make sure the ship meets the entire minimal standard on this scoresheet. If you feel that the ship qualifies, have the Sea Scouts in the ship put together a compelling packet of information that tells the judges why the ship deserves this prestigious honor. The application should include the completed scoresheet, a photograph of the Ship members in an official Sea Scout uniform as outlined in the 2016 edition of the Sea Scout Manual, and a written narrative supplemented by other materials to support the ship's application. Supporting material can include, but is not limited to, videos, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, meeting minutes, letters, etc. Be comprehensive, yet concise and creative. **This should all be presented on a thumb drive or CD/DVD, not in a paper format.**

A ship must meet the minimal national standards in all areas for a calendar year starting January 1 and ending December 31. The application is due to the National Sea Scout Office by March 31, 2017 to be considered for the National Flagship Award. **Submit your application by thumb drive or CD/DVD.** The address is National Flagship Competition, Boy Scouts of America, National Sea Scout Office, SUM 280, 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane, Irving, Texas 75038. For questions, call (972) 580-2448.

Please note that simply filling out the scoresheet and mailing it without supporting materials will not qualify the ship for this award.

The ship that is awarded the National Flagship honor will be presented with a special 'National Flagship' flag with four stars and allowed to wear the National Flagship patch with the current year. (There are patches for the uniform, which can be ordered and paid for by the winning ship.) We usually select other applicants to serve with the Flagship Fleet based on their application. (There are special 'National Flagship Fleet' flags and patches, which can be ordered and paid for by the ships that are chosen to be members of the Flagship Fleet.)



Annual Sea Scout Flagship Application

Directions:

This application and scoresheet, along with supporting materials, **including a photograph of the Ship members in an official Sea Scout uniform, as outlined in the 2016 edition of the Sea Scout Manual**, will be used to determine the annual National Flagship Award recipient. It is to be filled out by the ship's quarterdeck and the Skipper. A ship must meet the minimal national standards in all areas for a calendar year beginning January 1 and ending December 31. The application is due to the National Sea Scout Department by **March 31 of the following year**, to be considered for the National Flagship honor. **The application and supporting documents should be loaded on a thumb drive or CD/DVD for submission.**

Ship No. _____ Ship name _____ Date form submitted _____

Charter organization _____

Skipper _____ Ship Boatswain _____

Council Name _____ Council No. _____

District/Division _____ Charter expiration date _____

Submitted by _____ Print Name _____

Telephone: Office: _____ Address _____

Home: _____ City/State/Zip _____

Cell: _____ Email: _____

COUNCIL APPROVAL: We recommend and approve this Sea Scout Ship's nomination for the National Flagship Award. (A letter of reference can also be submitted with the application if desired.)

Signed _____ Date _____

(Scout executive or Council designee)

Council Name _____ Council No. _____

Contact Telephone: Office: _____ Other: _____

COUNCIL COMMODORE APPROVAL: (If applicable position available in council) I recommend and approve this Sea Scout Ship's nomination for the National Flagship Award. (A letter of reference can also be submitted with the application if desired.)

Signed _____ Date _____

(Council Commodore)

Print Name _____ Email: _____

Contact Telephone: Office: _____ Other: _____

CHARTER ORGANIZATION APPROVAL: We recommend and approve this Sea Scout Ship's nomination for the National Flagship Award. (A letter of reference can also be submitted with the application if desired.)

Signed _____ Date _____

(Charter Organization Representative or Institutional Head)

Print Name _____ Email: _____

Contact Telephone: Office: _____ Other: _____



Sea Scout Ship Performance

Directions: Please describe your Ship's annual performance for each of the following in a separate document. A Ship's Log with photos or video is strongly encouraged.

Special Celebrations, activities, events held in celebration of the Sea Scouts in 2016:

- Events held with dates, programs, and activities. Brief description of the program.
- Number of youth members, parents, leaders, and visitors (non-Sea Scouts) who participated.
- Attach a couple of pictures of the events held.
- Description of any key successes from the event being held.

Sea Scout Advancement:

- List number of Sea Scouts who each achieved Apprentice, Ordinary, Able and Quartermaster.
- Number of Sea Scouts who attended specialized training activities, such as First Aid, CPR, Life Guard or a safe boating course.
- Number of Sea Scouts who attended ILSS, SEAL, Quarterdeck training, other youth trainings.
- Number of Sea Scouts who earned the Long Cruise Award in past 12 months.

Sea Scout Recognitions:

- Held Sea Scout Bridge of Honor with Landship to recognize Sea Scout advancement.
- Occasions for presenting awards and recognitions at regular meetings.

On-Water Activities:

- Describe all on-water activities, and dates from your Ship's Log, of any of the following activities:
 - All Long Cruises, ports of call and time on the water
 - All weekend cruises, destinations and time on the water
 - All underway Drills, including, but not limited to: 1) Man Overboard Recovery, 2) Abandon Ship, 3) Collision, 4) Fire, 5) Anchoring

Sea Scout Activities:

- Describe any and all Council, Regional, or National Sea Scout activities that your Ship participated in during the past year. These may include, but are not limited to, Safety @ Sea, regattas, rendezvous, Scout-o-Rama, Merit Badge Midway or similar events.

Color Guard Activities:

- List with date any and all Color Guard services provided at any community or Scout event.

Community Service:

- Describe all community service by project and date.

Recruiting Activities:

- Describe all recruiting activities and means of retaining Sea Scouts in your Ship.

Sea Scout Leader Professional Development:

- List all adults who completed all required Scout trainings, such as *Youth Protection*.
- List any adult volunteers who either took or have taken in the past any of the following trainings: Sea Scout Fast Start, Sea Scout Adult Leader Basic Training, Seabadge, or Seabadge Underway.
- List any adult volunteers who have taken a boating course from organizations such as the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, United States Power Squadrons, US Sailing, American Sailing Association, National Safe Boating Council, or any state-approved course or similar organization.

SPECIAL NOTE: National Flagship Fleet Selection – Sea Scout Ships with outstanding programs that are not selected to be the BoatUS National Flagship may be selected as a member of the National Flagship Fleet by the Selection Committee and will be notified by the committee.

2016 Scouting's Journey to Excellence

Item	Objective	Bronze Level	Silver Level	Gold Level	Bronze Points	Silver Points	Gold Points
Planning and Budget					Total Points:		200
#1	Planning and budget: Have a program plan and budget that is regularly reviewed by the committee, and it follows BSA policies relating to fundraising.	Have an annual program plan and budget adopted by the ship committee.	Achieve Bronze, plus ship committee meets at least six times during the year to review program plans and finances.	Achieve Silver, plus ship conducts a planning meeting involving youth leaders for the following program year.	50	100	200
Membership					Total Points:		500
#2	Building Sea Scouting: Have an increase in Sea Scouting membership or maintain a larger than average ship size.	Have a membership growth plan that includes a recruitment activity and register new members in the ship.	Achieve Bronze, and either increase youth members by 5% or have at least 10 members.	Achieve Silver, and either increase youth members by 10% or have at least 15 members with an increase over last year.	100	200	300
#3	Retention: Retain a significant percentage of youth members.	Reregister 50% of eligible members.	Reregister 60% of eligible members.	Reregister 75% of eligible members.	50	100	200
Program					Total Points:		800
#4	Activities: Conduct regular activities including a super activity or long cruise.	Conduct at least four activities including a super activity or long cruise.	Conduct at least five activities and at least 50% of youth participate in super activity or long cruise.	Conduct at least six activities and at least 50% of youth participate in a super activity or long cruise.	50	100	200
#5	Leadership: Develop youth who will provide leadership to ship meetings and activities.	Have an elected boatswain, boatswain's mate, yeoman, and purser leading the ship.	Achieve Bronze, plus officers have Quarterdeck meetings at least six times. The ship conducts Quarterdeck training.	Achieve Silver, plus each ship activity has a youth leader.	50	100	200
#6	Advancement: Provide opportunities for advancement and personal development.	Ship members participate in advancement by earning the Apprentice Rank.	Achieve Bronze, plus ship has organized programs addressing fitness and citizenship.	Achieve Silver, plus the ship has members earning the Ordinary, Able or Quartermaster Ranks.	50	100	200
#7	Service: Participate in service projects, with at least one benefiting the chartered organization.	Participate in two service projects and enter the hours on the JTE website.	Participate in three service projects and enter the hours on the JTE website.	Participate in four service projects and enter the hours on the JTE website.	50	100	200
Volunteer Leadership					Total Points:		500
#8	Leadership recruitment: Have a proactive approach in recruiting sufficient leaders and communicating with parents.	Have an skipper, mate, and a committee with at least three members.	Achieve Bronze, plus the ship holds a meeting where plans are reviewed with parents.	Achieve Silver, plus adult leadership is identified prior to the start of the next program year.	50	100	200
#9	Trained leadership: Have trained and engaged leaders at all levels.	Skipper or a mate has completed position-specific training.	Achieve Bronze, plus the skipper and all mates have completed position-specific training or, if new, will complete within three months of joining.	Achieve Silver, plus at least two committee members have completed committee training.	100	200	300

D Bronze: Earn at least 550 points by earning points in at least 6 objectives.

D Silver: Earn at least 800 points by earning points in at least 7 objectives.

D Gold: Earn at least 1,100 points by earning points in at least 7 objectives.

Total points earned:

No. of objectives with points:

D Our ship has completed online rechartering by the deadline in order to maintain continuity of our program.

D We certify that these requirements have been completed:

Skipper _____ Date _____

Boatswain _____ Date _____

Commissioner _____ Date _____

Scouting's Journey to Excellence

2016 Ship Planning, Performance, and Recognition

Journey to Excellence uses a balanced approach to measure performance. It guides program planning before the year begins, monitors activities for continuous improvement during the year, and recognizes performance at the end of the year. In planning your strategy, use actual numbers from the previous year to guide your performance improvement goal planning. The period for measuring performance will be the calendar year.

Planning and Budget Measures	
1	The ship has a program plan and budget that is reviewed at all ship committee meetings, and the ship follows BSA policies relating to fundraising and fiscal management as found on the Unit Money-Earning Application form and any other publication that the council has developed for fundraising and fiscal management. A meeting is held with youth leaders where they are involved in developing the plan for the next program year.
Membership Measures	
2	The ship has a growth plan, and conducts a formal recruiting event. On December 31, 2016, the ship has an increase in the number of youth members as compared to the number registered on December 31, 2015. A membership growth plan template can be found at www.scouting.org/membership .
3	Number of youth members on the most recent charter renewal (A) divided by the number of youth registered at the end of the prior charter year (B) minus any age-outs (C). Total = (A) / (B-C). Age-outs are youth who are too old to reregister as Sea Scouts.
Program Measures	
4	The ship has regular activities (not including normal ship meetings). Number of youth participating in at least one super activity/long cruise, divided by the number of Sea Scouts registered in the ship on June 30, 2016.
5	The ship has elected youth leaders as boatswain, boatswain's mate, yeoman, and purser who are leading the activities of the ship. Officers hold regular Quarterdeck meetings and receive training. Each ship activity has a youth leader.
6	Ship members earn the Apprentice Rank shortly after joining. Meetings allow ship members to participate in fitness and citizenship activities. The ship encourages achievement through the advanced Sea Scout ranks.
7	The ship participates in at least two service projects during the year and enters them on the Journey to Excellence website. The projects may be completed as joint projects with other organizations. At least one project must benefit the chartered organization.
Volunteer Leadership Measures	
8	The ship has skipper, mate, and a committee of at least three members. Ideally, the chartered organization representative should not be dual registered as one of the committee members. The ship holds a meeting where program plans are shared with parents. Volunteer leaders are selected prior to the next program year.
9	Skipper and mates have had an orientation and have completed youth protection training. Skipper and mates (paid or multiple registration) have completed position-specific training or, if new, will complete within three months of joining. Two committee members have completed committee training.

Scoring the ship's performance: To determine the ship's performance level, you will use the above information to determine the points earned for each of the 9 criteria and then add those individual point scores to determine a composite score. Count only the highest point total achieved in any one criterion. Bronze level requires earning at least 550 points in at least 6 criteria, Silver level requires earning points in at least 7 criteria and 800 points, and Gold level requires earning points in at least 7 criteria and 1,100 points.

For more resources: www.Scouting.org/jte



JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE