

SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT



A “Primer” Document for the Sea Scout Youth
and Their Counselor



SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT

INTRODUCTION

On the water it is common for certain classes of boats to be manned and operated by a single individual, and this is commonly discussed as “single-handed” operation of the vessel. While there may be others assisting in the background, or even on-board the vessel, their involvement is from the position of an observer or adviser and not an operator. Thus, the name of this program has evolved from a similar Scouting program known as the *Lone Scout* where the Scout experiences the Scouting program without the full benefit of a unit’s support.

This “primer “document provides information important to the **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT**, their Counselor, and a Ship and/or Council-District operating this important inclusive youth program.

WHY A SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT?

Like the *Lone Scout*, the **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT** is in a situation that does not allow for him or her to participate in the Sea Scouting program with a traditional unit or Sea Scout Ship. This however should not eliminate the youth’s participation in the Sea Scouting program, but only that the Sea Scouts, BSA recognize the unique circumstance of each participating youth and adopt means and methods for the youth to participate distanced either away from a traditional Sea Scout Ship, or periodically with a traditional Sea Scout Ship.

Specific circumstances may vary for the individual youth, such as living abroad, living in a rural community far from water resources, frequent travel, or maybe even living aboard a vessel while traveling. With these circumstances, adopting and using the **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT** program may be the right choice. However, it is just as important to recognize when it is not the right choice. While Sea Scout Ships are not nearly as plentiful as Troops, Packs, or maybe even Crews, if they can be reached by an hour or so of travel, joining a Ship is the preferred implementation of the Sea Scout program. Even when travel time exceeds a couple of hours a hybrid method of implementation is preferred, where the **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT** program is established for an individual Sea Scout registered with a traditional Ship.

Sea Scout Ships are not widespread because of uncommon proficiencies needed of Sea Scout leaders and the asset and geographic constraints often imposed by the program. While routinely associated with maritime coastal geography, Sea Scout Ships can and do operate successfully at inland locations where lakes and rivers are the dominant water bodies. Where



there are five or more youth interested, a traditional Sea Scout Ship should be chartered and is another preferred approach for accessing the Sea Scout program. Nevertheless, it is far more likely than in other Scouting programs that a youth interested in Sea Scouts find they are alone. In these regards, a program for the **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT** assures they are not Scouting castaways.

SELECTING THE MEANS AND METHODS

If the interested youth cannot find a Sea Scout Ship through customary means of research and communication, then their local Scouting Council becomes the primary point of contact to advance a search for a Sea Scout Ship proximate to the youth, which may be in an adjoining Scouting Council in their Area or Region. The Council Executive or his/her designee can assist with this search and alignment of contacts.

Circumstances within the Sea Scout program suggest needed leader’s expertise and water-based program implementation. The local Scouting Council is encouraged to assist the interested youth with joining a Sea Scout Ship that is willing and able to work with this interested youth and his or her unique circumstances either directly (i.e. traditional approach), or in a “hybrid approach” as a **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT**. If however such options fail to materialize in these search efforts, then the next best option is likely to establish a **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT** program for the interested youth within their local Council or their local District (i.e. Council-District approach). Again, the Council Executive or a District Executive will be the primary point-of-contact for the youth within the local Council until the agreed methods of program enactment have been convened and a Counselor registered.

<i>Sea Scouting Means by Order of Preference</i>	<i>Methods of Enactment</i>
1. Traditional Approach	Interested youth joins an existing traditional Sea Scout Ship (e.g. within 1± hour’s travel).
2. Chartering Approach	Interested youth along with a minimum of 4 additional youth work with leaders and an organization to form a “new “ Sea Scout Ship.
3. Hybrid Approach	SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT joins a Ship willing to work with this remotely located youth. A Counselor is required locally to work with the youth and remotely with the Ship’s Skipper (e.g. in excess of 2-hours travel to the traditional Ship).
4. Council-District Approach	Interested youth joins as a SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT working with their Council or District as the chartering organization under the guidance of the Council or District Executive as is appropriate. A Counselor is required locally to work with the youth and remotely with the Scouting Executive.

The method of advancing the **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT** program requires two critical human components; an interested youth and a dedicated Counselor. If possible, the recommended



Counselor is a parent, guardian, or a designee approved by the parent or guardian. They must be 21-years old or older, and meet the adult membership requirements of the Boy Scouts of America.

GETTING STARTED AS A COUNSELOR

The **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT** program is about a youth and his or her friend and Counselor. Together they are operating a "small-scale" Sea Scout program. Together they must be registered members of the Boy Scouts of America, and abide by the policies and procedures that exist to provide for safety and consistency within the program. Before a Counselor's registration application is acceptable for consideration, they MUST COMPLETE Youth Protection Training. Even parent(s) must complete Youth Protection Training.

The Adult Application outlines the qualifications for serving as a leader, explains the requirements for Youth Protection Training, and authorizes the Boy Scouts of America to conduct a background check. Depending on the hybrid unit's or Council's association, the approval of the adult applicant may vary. The registration and application fee are good for one year and are renewable in subsequent years of participation.

COUNSELOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Scout Oath and Scout Law are the foundation for building the lasting relationship between a youth and his or her Counselor. The words and their understanding become the mariner's compass for a lifetime.

The Counselor must recognize, understand, and foster the concept that *"An adult should never do for a youth what he or she can do for themselves"*. Sometimes not easy, youth learn by applying their own resources with adults on the gunwales. The Counselor assures access to situations and resources where the youth can solve problems and learn on their own. This said the youth Sea Scout must bolster their end of the relationship too. Support on this voyage is mutual, and it is up to both the Sea Scout and the Counselor to discuss this mutual support before casting off.

The **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT** must become immersed in the program and its resources, and take initiatives appropriate for their age for advancing the program. The Counselor provides support by assuring an adequate supply of resources and activities for the youth. They also provide a positive example and learn to know the youth well enough to challenge them continuously to reach further and achieve more, while providing the right mix of assistance,



guidance, and recognition. As is appropriate by age and ability of the Sea Scout youth, the Counselor should practice the EDGE® method of both teaching and learning: **E**xplain, **D**emonstrate, **G**uide, and **E**nable.

COUNSELOR MEASUREMENTS

The Counselor will want to set the example during his tutelage for measuring successes and short-falls. This process starts by providing a motivating environment for the youth during learning and physical activities. The Counselor can recognize success when the youth is:

- Studying and learning from the Sea Scout Manual and its many recommended resources and references.
- Setting goals for participation in discovered Sea Scout activities, and goals for reaching advancement points of recognition.
- Asking for or planning activities that help reach requirement objectives.
- Taking on initiatives, responsibilities, and providing self-leadership.
- A Sea Scout program advocate among his or her friends.

COUNSELOR'S TO DO PLAN

The Counselor should make training a priority by taking advantage of the many on-line training opportunities provided by:

- The Boy Scouts of America (<http://www.scouting.org/training/adult.aspx>) and
- The Sea Scouts (<http://seascout.org/adult-training/>).

It is also incumbent upon the Counselor to leverage the enormous inventory of Fact Sheet, Booklets, and Manuals published by the Boy Scouts of America and the Sea Scouts, BSA. Their respective base websites (i.e. <http://seascout.org/>) are the entry points to this vast library of scouting knowledge. Reviewing your vicinity Councils' websites and calendars may also expose "in-person" training opportunities. These are important venues for a Counselor's attendance considerations since they deliver a network of other scouters that can share experiences, activities, and program knowledge.

A structured plan should be established early in the relationship of the Counselor and the **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT** receiving assistance. This plan might include a calendar, weekly meetings, and/or monthly activities. The Counselor should also learn about surrounding Council, District, and/or Ship activities that are in your vicinity that might be possible to attend.



Seek out valuable opportunities provided by other organizations that are usable for service projects and/or activities that facilitate the achievement of objectives, goals, and/or advancement. A **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT** may live where with a little travel; auxiliary prospects for delivering the Sea Scout program exist.

The Counselor has the responsibility of being the liaison between the **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT**, and depending on the enactment method, the Council, District, or assisting Ship. Visiting these workplaces and meeting with the people that service them is important for building this long-distance relationship and delivering the Sea Scout program to the interested youth.

BUILDING A SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT PROGRAM

While a **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT** program may not be able to access and use many of the typical Scouting assets and opportunities, there remain many possibilities for the Counselor to explore as alternatives. The BSA programs provide much in the way of leader guides, literature, handbooks, and many other on-line or linked resources to use directly or mold into programs. Meetings provide the opportunity for delivering these discoveries.

The Counselor, even if a parent, will want to set aside a regular time for Sea Scout activities and for working on advancement. Maritime education for Sea Scout advancement is particularly accessible through the United States Power Squadrons or United States Coast Guard Auxiliary on-line courses, which are also mirrored in the Sea Scout advancement requirements. While meetings may be at home, it is important the Counselor looks for things to do that are different by location and/or activity. All of Scouting's programs, including Sea Scouts are built around the concept of:

- Doing something fun that just happens to involve advancement with its learning to recognition flow lines for the youth.

Since Sea Scouts is a program for older co-ed youth, they are quite capable of being involved and are integral in their program's planning. The Counselor should look for and design-in opportunities for assimilating interested youth into their program planning. If there is a concern for oversight by the Counselor, it is usually misjudging the ability of the youth to do things on their own. A Counselor's role overall with the program planning should be focused towards the concepts of "guided discovery". In these regards, youth are typically limited by their life experiences, which when compared to those of the Counselor are often confined by geography and time-dependent knowhow. It is the Counselor's charge to place their larger



sphere of geography and time experiences on the planning table for the youth to discover, select, and plan into their program.

The result of program planning is to have a 12-month calendar of meetings, outings, and other activities that expand the interested youth's learning, while providing advancement recognition of their progress found in the leadership/management features of the Sea Scout program. This may take several planning meetings early in this process of building your **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT** program. However, having this calendar will help build the program around family vacations, school holidays, and Sea Scouting events in your area and region. As your program progresses and learning achieved, nationally recognized Sea Scout programs such as SEAL, International Koch Cup, National High Adventure Base Florida Sea Base, Ship Long Cruises, National High Adventure Base Northern Tier, or the National High Adventure Base Summit should find their way into the "guided discovery" process.

GETTING CONNECTED

While a **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT** program may seem remote by traditional means of travel, the non-conventional means of communication today have closed this time and distance gap. The interaction with other Sea Scouts and particularly other **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUTS** is a modern-day way to expand your localized, population of one, Sea Scout program.

Before getting started here, spend some time learning from another aspect of the Boy Scouts of America Youth Protection that focuses to modern electronics communications. You will find the BSA has established social media guidelines that are accessible from the following link:

- ✓ <http://www.scouting.org/home/marketing/resources/socialmedia.aspx>

There is also age-appropriate training for the youth where they can earn their "Cyber Chip" at the following link:

- ✓ <http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection/CyberChip.aspx>

Earning the Cyber Chip should be an early-on element of your **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT** program calendar, and since it requires an annual "recharge" it can remain on your calendar year after year. Efforts here are to protect our program participating youth when they are on-line with the various entrances of social media. Internet and social media safety are a priority for the Boy Scouts of America within all their youth programs.

Today's youth will often participate in an activity or event and within seconds and sometimes live share their experiences with others through pictures, videos, and text-messages. This powerful way of sharing the Scouting experience with their friends and family instantly is



today's reality. No longer do we wait at the photo counter for 1-hour development of photographs so we can pass them around the room. This instant ability to interact with others should not be underestimated as a means to expand the horizons of a **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT** program for its participating youth and Counselor. Its power as a program marketing and sales tool is also something to be remembered and utilized when possible. Sea Scouting sells Sea Scouting.

Websites published and produced by other Sea Scout Ships can be a valuable resource for direct learning and gaining program ideas. If you are a **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT** that has enacted the hybrid approach for your program participation, a website review and/or e-mail communications with your assisting Sea Scout Ship are a routine necessity. Also important are the national Sea Scout website (<http://seascout.org/>), and your local Council-District websites. In fact for a **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT** adjoining councils may have events or activities you can attend that are occasionally closer geographically and accessible.

HAULING THE LINES TOGETHER

While a **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT** program will consist of many individual learning events, it is important to recognize the overall Sea Scouting experience is presented through fun activities and exciting challenges. For Sea Scouts the application of these learning events are most often found during the fun and excitement of the Long Cruise. Searching for these or similar extended day's activities to include in your annual program-planning calendar should be routine.

Nationally, the Sea Scout SEAL program is designed to specifically fill this berth for Sea Scout youth learning and leadership. You will find similar week-long boating programs offered by active, well-organized Sea Scout Ships. Access through your Council and/or District is often available for individual Scouts to attend the National Jamboree (every 4 years in West Virginia), or any of the national high-adventures bases such as Philmont Scout Ranch (New Mexico), Northern Tier (Minnesota/Canada), Florida Sea Base (Florida Keys), and/or The Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve (West Virginia). You will also find scout Councils that also offer high-adventure events and activities accessible by Sea Scouts in many other locations of the country.

SEA SCOUT ADVANCEMENT

Advancement is the core for all of the scouting programs, of which Sea Scouts is one of these programs. Advancement is one of several calculated methods to carry out the mission of



the Boy Scouts of America. Everything done for advancement is intended to provide the youth with experimental learning that educates and expands their knowledge and social horizons. While the skills are important as the details, the primary goals of personal growth to a well-rounded citizen in society is the total concern. Challenges placed at age-appropriate levels provide for the Scout to learn about themselves and gain confidence from both successes and disappointments.

The success of advancement is measured when we see self-reliant young adults accept responsibilities in their daily lives and providing a positive contribution in our communities and society.

It is important to recognize that formal advancement requirements cannot be reduced or enhanced by individuals, units, Districts, Councils and/or committees. There are provisions for all Scouting members with "special needs", but these provisions are strictly controlled and require prior authorization. Overall, a youth participating as a **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT** is not considered a scout with "special needs".

THE COUNSELOR'S ADVANCEMENT OBJECTIVES

Underlying all advancement is the fundamental words of the Scout Oath "I will do my best". A Counselor's demeanor is to challenge the youth in their charge to *...Do Their Best...* while evaluating if *...They Have Done Their Best.*

Passages and their course legs to advancement should be modeled around EDGE[®] learning and teaching (**Explain, Demonstrate, Guide, and Enable**), recognizing the youth may discover that in some situations they are learning and in other situations they are teaching. For older youth, they should be gaining knowledge and experiences over their time in Sea Scouts that transitions them from primarily a learner to primarily a teacher of their friends, other Scouts, and/or fellow Sea Scouts.

The fun part of all Scouting is Scouts learn by doing. Sea Scouts is no different and in fact may demand more learning by doing due to the commonality of vessel operations. Thus over time the Sea Scout finds they are in a position to help others learn and this is the foggy passage of follower to leader, learner to teacher, youth to responsible adult.

As a youth reaches the various waypoints of advancement, the Counselor may find they need to "test" a skill or requirement, or may find they need to approach or have others "test" a skill or requirement. If the **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT** has enacted a hybrid approach, working with a



Sea Scout Ship, then more often than not this role of “tester” falls to the Ship’s Skipper, rather than the Counselor.

Many Sea Scout requirements for advancement require the youth to participate and/or complete other organization’s program elements. These might include courses from the United States Power Squadrons, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, American Red Cross, National Rifle Association, American Canoe Association, various nationally recognized SCUBA certifiers, etc. In these regards, it is generally only necessary for the youth to complete these courses and be awarded their certificates of completion to achieve the Sea Scout advancement. However, due to vessel operations unique to Sea Scouts, there are often levels of observed competency required by the Skipper, or in specific cases the Counselor, to complete the requirement(s).

Sea Scout advancement consists of four primary ranks and in order of achievement are Apprentice, Ordinary, Able, and Quartermaster. Like the Eagle Scout rank, the completion of the Quartermaster rank requires the youth to plan, organize, and complete a community related service project that is approved by the Council or District before it is initiated (see: *Quartermaster Leadership Service Project Workbook*, No. 420-011, <http://seascout.org/download/qm-leadership-service-project-workbook-bsa-official/>). Likewise, the Sea Scout Quartermaster applicant must complete a specific Quartermaster rank application (see: *Quartermaster Application*, <http://seascout.org/download/qm-rank-application-bsa-official-420-015>), and sit for a formal Bridge of Review conducted by his or her Council of registration on behalf of the national Sea Scouts, BSA. The Sea Scout Quartermaster rank is routinely achieved by less than 1% of the registered Sea Scouts annually, and is therefore an award of significant recognition and prestige for a Sea Scout youth.

There are many other advancement and/or recognition circumstances provided by Sea Scouts, BSA, along with junctures provided by complementary agencies and community organizations that partner with the Sea Scouts, BSA. (see: <http://seascout.org/awards-and-recognition/>).

- Sea Scout advancement information links:
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsources/GuideToAdvancement/MechanicsofAdvancement/SeaScout.aspx>
<http://seascout.org/advancement-central/>

THE SEA SCOUT UNIFORM

Over the 100+ years of the Sea Scout program, there have been many uniform styles and colors. Uniforms range from formal to work uniforms usually chosen as a Ship’s uniform by the Ship’s youth leaders. Officially, any Sea Scout uniform of serviceable quality and worn neatly with respect is “official”. If your **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT** has enacted a hybrid approach,



then the uniform of the assisting Sea Scout Ship is likely the official uniform of choice. Otherwise, the uniform options are a personal choice, but the youth should consider that some events may require the wearing of a particular uniform (e.g. International Koch Cup, dress White uniform).

A Sea Scout uniform is an essential part of the Sea Scouting experience and can serve to keep a **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT** focused on the program and serve as a place to display his or her achievements with pride. The Sea Scout uniform is appropriate attire during Sea Scout meetings, activities, and/or ceremonies. The uniform is especially appropriate for community service events. The Sea Scout uniform is not sanctioned for general fundraising activities and may not be appropriate for wear in certain foreign settings. If in doubt, consult your Ship or Council-District resources for guidance.

There are many insignias and patches available for placement on the Sea Scout uniform. Each has its specific place and most are earned awards of advancement or achievement. For the proper placement of patches and insignias on the Sea Scout uniform consult the following link: http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/Sea_Scout_Insignia.pdf.

YOUTH PROTECTION

The Boy Scouts of America have always taken youth protection seriously, yet it has evolved and will continue to evolve as knowledge, resources, and society changes. An example close to Sea Scouting is the use of life jackets, which when Sea Scouting began in 1912 were not even a thought, later evolving to being in the vessel, then worn if needed, to now worn when in the vessel and sometimes near or about the water. The formal overriding document for this purpose is the routinely updated and often referenced, Guide to Safe Scouting (<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx>).

For the Counselor and others, this document should be a familiar reference for your planning and implementation of the **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT** program. At a minimum, the Counselor should review this document annually, and with the planning of special events or activities where safety of participants is a reasonable concern. Note there are some activities undertaken by the general youth population that are not allowed as a matter of routine policy in the Guide to Safe Scouting. This is not to douse the fun, but to assure the fun is safe and rewarding for the participants and assures their future enjoyment of the activity.

Another aspect of youth protection developed by the Boy Scouts of America is to uncover and prevent child abuse, with the BSA program serving as a model for many other youth



organizations. There is mandatory youth protection training and many of the training modules require re-training every 2-years. It is encouraged that all Sea Scout youth, adults, and parents, regardless of their formal or informal affiliation with Scouting take this accessible youth protection training, which is available on-line from the website link: www.MyScouting.org.

***MANDATORY REPORTING** - All persons involved with Scouting, including Sea Scouting must report to authorities (i.e. local Council Scout Executive or designee) any good-faith suspicion or belief that any child has been physically or sexually abused, physically or emotionally neglected, exposed to any form of violence or threats, or exposed to any form of sexual exploitation, including possession, manufacture, or distribution of child pornography, on-line solicitation, enticement, or showing of obscene material. No one in Scouting is permitted to abdicate this responsibility to any other person.*

In all matters of Scouting where public relations and/or press relations are necessary due to an accident or incident of concern, such matters are to be directed to the local Scout Council by way of the Council Executive or his or her designee. This "professional scouter" will serve as the authorized spokesperson with the press or other interested parties.

Basic barriers to abuse include in brief:

- Two deep leadership
- No one-on-one contact
- No hazing or bullying
- No corporal punishment
- Proper clothing for activities
- Separate accommodations for adults and scouts
- Discipline is constructive and reflect Scout values
- Behave and act to the Scout Oath and Scout Law
- Privacy for adults and youth during showering and clothing changes, etc.
- Two-deep leadership extends to electronic communications between adults and youth.

Digital privacy is important and often overlooked these days. The **SINGLE-HANDED SEA SCOUT** and his or her Counselor should discuss the appropriate use of cell phones, and address cyber-safety education through the Cyber Chip program found at the following link:

- ✓ <http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection/CyberChip.aspx>

There are "Three-Rs" of youth protection applicable to the youth that should be discussed by their Counselor with them:

1. **RECOGNIZE** situations that place a youth at risk
2. **RESIST** unwanted, inappropriate attention or advances
3. **REPORT** attempts of molestation to parents or other trusted adult

Remember, your Scout Council Executive is the designated spokesperson for all matters that involve the press or other public relations of a sensitive nature.