

## Sea Scouts BSA/Coast Guard Auxiliary Memorandum of Agreement

Key points regarding the Sea Scouts BSA/Coast Guard Auxiliary Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP or AUXSCOUT SOP)

1. The two big changes called for in the MOA are: (a) Sea Scouts who are least 14 years old will be able to apply for Auxiliary membership; and (b) local Auxiliary flotillas and divisions are encouraged to charter Sea Scout Ships.
2. The initial Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) implementation of these and other changes is in Coast Guard Auxiliary districts 5<sup>th</sup> Southern (MD-DC-VA-NC) and 9<sup>th</sup> Eastern (upstate NY-northwest PA-northeast OH) **only**. Coast Guard headquarters wanted this initial test in just two districts to shake out the bugs so that the fuller implementation later this year will go smoothly. Auxiliarists in those two pilot districts will be briefed in the next couple of weeks and will be ready to work with Sea Scout leaders shortly thereafter.
3. There is no general rollout of Sea Scout information to the other 14 Auxiliary districts yet. While most Auxiliarists have heard about the Sea Scout initiative, Auxiliarists outside of 5<sup>th</sup> Southern and 9<sup>th</sup> Eastern are probably not very familiar with the specifics.
4. Sea Scout leaders in the areas covered by the SOP are strongly encouraged to reach out to their Auxiliary counterparts and explore how they can work with them. The coordinator for 5<sup>th</sup> Southern is Bruce Johnson, and for 9<sup>th</sup> Eastern is Gene Little.
5. Sea Scout leaders in all other areas should feel free to reach out to their Auxiliary counterparts to introduce themselves and invite the Auxiliary to attend local Sea Scout meetings and activities. All Auxiliarists are already authorized to provide public education, vessel safety checks, and public affairs support, but this may not be widely understood.
6. Information is available on the Sea Scout website at [seascout.org/cgaux](http://seascout.org/cgaux). That page will be further developed over the course of the year.
7. Information is also available on the Auxiliary's AuxBWiki at [auxbdeptwiki.cgaux.org/index.php?title=Sea\\_Scouts](http://auxbdeptwiki.cgaux.org/index.php?title=Sea_Scouts). Although that side is largely up-to-date, some changes will be coming shortly.
8. A new video designed to explain the program to Coast Guard Auxiliarists, and Sea Scouts as well, can be found at [seascout.org/cgaux/](http://seascout.org/cgaux/)
9. **A webinar for Sea Scout adult leaders about the AUXSCOUT SOP is scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, March 19th. [Preregister here.](#)**
10. It is very important to remember that "A Scout is Friendly." This is a new world for the Coast Guard Auxiliary, which has never made this sort of commitment in the past. Reaching out in a friendly way will definitely have the best results in the long run. Don't make demands. Look for ways to work together. This could mean helping to staff a boating safety booth at a boat show or participating in a joint shoreline clean-up at the local beach.
11. Questions can be directed to Bruce Johnson at [relationships@seascout.org](mailto:relationships@seascout.org).