



DATE: January 2024
SUBJECT: National Flagship Competition
FROM: Ben Feril, National Sea Scout Committee Chair [National Commodore]
TO: All Sea Scout Ship Youth and Adult Leadership

Action: Publicize the National Sea Scout Flagship competition and distribute the attached Sea Scout National Flagship application information 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 Coast to Coast, and many locations in between—including land-locked ships that travel great distances to water.

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 National Flagship Council Approval Form, the Sea Scout Ship Performance Criteria, and the application instructions.

Make sure the ship meets the entire minimal standard in the Performance Criteria. If you feel the ship qualifies, have the Sea Scouts in the ship put together an interesting video or presentation that tells the judges why the ship deserves this prestigious honor. The application will be judged based on the criteria on the scoresheet—up to 100 points will be awarded. Some categories are weighted more heavily than others, see the scoresheet for weighting. Please note that telling the ship's story from a youth perspective is worth up to 15 points—the reviewers should feel that they are hearing the story of this past year in the ship from the youth, not the adults.

The actual application will be submitted online using the link below. The applicant will need to attach the Council Certification sheet (later in this document), the ship's JTE scorecard, a photograph of the Ship members in the Official Sea Scout Uniform, which is described as the New Century Universal Uniform in the 2016 edition of the Sea Scout Manual, and a link to a presentation or video to support the ship's application. Include in the narrative, presentation, or video any supporting material that helps to tell the story. Be comprehensive, yet concise and creative. Whatever form is chosen, it must be accessible via a single URL on the internet - it could be a YouTube video, a Google Slides or PowerPoint presentation, a web page or site, or any other form that can be accessed from a web browser. The presentation should avoid the use of personally identifiable information for youths or anything else which might be sensitive.

A ship must meet the minimal national standards in all areas for a calendar year, starting January 1 and ending December 31. While the ship's history matters, this award is about what the ship did during that calendar year. The application must be submitted by March 31, 2023, to be considered for the National Flagship Award. Applications must be submitted using the Google Form at [2024 National Flagship Submission Form](#).



Ships should be prepared to attach a scan of the signed JTE form, the council's approval form, the photograph of ship members, and the URL to the supporting material. **The Official Sea Scout Uniform is a requirement.** The National Flagship is a highly visible representative of the Sea Scout program and is required to wear only The Official Sea Scout Uniform (formerly referred to as the New Century Universal Uniform). **There are no exceptions to this - ships who cannot provide a photograph of their ship in The Official Sea Scout Uniform will be disqualified.**

Please note that **incomplete applications will not be considered** - please provide all the requested information. 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.)

Questions may be addressed to the [National Sea Scout Resource Advisor](#).



Sea Scout Ship Performance Criteria for National Flagship

Please have the information below available when you fill out the online application. The video or presentation of your ship's story is key and should be told from a youth perspective (a clear youth perspective is worth up to 15 points). The scoring in all areas adds up to 100 possible points.

Youth Perspective and Preparation of all aspects of this Application: (15 points)

Scouting's Journey to Excellence performance evaluation: (10 points)

- Please submit the signed copy of the 2023 Ship Scorecard found at <https://www.scouting.org/awards/journey-to-excellence/> (use this [2023 Ship Scorecard](#))

Sea Scout Advancement and Recognitions: (15 points)

- List the 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, Lifeguard or a safe boating course.
- Number of Sea Scouts who attended ILSS, Quarterdeck training, other youth training.
- Number of Sea Scouts who earned the Long Cruise Award in past 12 months.
- Held Sea Scout Bridge of Honor with Landship to recognize Sea Scout advancement.
- Occasions for presenting awards and recognitions at regular meetings.
- Special Celebrations, activities, events held in celebration of the Sea Scouts in 2023

On-Water Activities: (20 points)

- Describe all on-water activities, and dates from your Ship's Log, of any of the following activities:
 - All Long Cruises and Super Activities, including ports of call and time on the water.
 - Support of National Sea Scout Activities, Examples: Barque Eagle, OA NOAC staffing, Jamboree IST/Staffing, etc.
 - All weekend cruises, destinations, and time on the water.
 - All Drills, Examples: 1) Man Overboard, 2) Abandon Ship, 3) Collision, 4) Fire, 5) Anchoring, 6) Injuries

Sea Scout Collaborative and Mentoring Activity: (10 points)

- Describe any and all Council, Territory, 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, Sea Scout Marksmanship participation, or similar events.
- Describe any mentoring or collaboration activities with other ships not included in the above.



Community Service: (10 points)

- Describe all community service by project and date.
- List with dates any and all Color Guard services and similar provided at any community or Scouting event.

Recruiting Activities: (15 points)

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

Sea Scout Leader Development: (5 points)

- List all adults who completed all required Scout trainings, such as Basic Leader, 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, IOWLS and AOWLS.
- 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.



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Please scan the signed copy of this form and attach it to the online application.