



Revisions to the Sea Scout Manual

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Sea Scout Uniform

The Sea Scout uniform is worn in accordance with the official policy of the Boy Scouts of America: “Uniforms help to create a sense of belonging. They symbolize character development, leadership, citizenship training, and personal fitness. Wearing a uniform gives youth and adult members a sense of identification and commitment.” Uniforms provide program recognition and acknowledge personal equality, identification, achievement, and personal commitment.

Wearing a Sea Scout uniform is a privilege; with that privilege comes responsibility. Always keep in mind that your actions while in uniform reflect upon the reputation of all Sea Scouts; always do the right thing. Keep your uniform in good condition, clean and pressed, with badges and insignia properly placed.

The Official Sea Scout Uniform is required for participants in national Scouting events.

The Official Sea Scout Uniform is worn by all youth and adult members. It is equivalent to the Scouts BSA field uniform.

All units are required to promptly adopt the uniform standards in this manual.

For the latest updates on The Official Sea Scout Uniform visit <https://seascout.org/uniforming/>

Apprentice 2b.

Obtain a Sea Scout uniform. Describe the Sea Scout uniform. Tell how and when to wear the uniform.

“In our uniforms we are not just individuals, but representatives of the vast movement, a great cause, a vital part of a great nation.”

—James E. West

Sea Scout Uniform Components

- Navy blue ball cap, No. 618623, with “SEA SCOUTS” and the Sea Scout anchor embroidered in white
- Dark navy blue shirt; similar to Dickies No. 1574DN (male) or No. FS574DN (female), color DN, dark navy
- Dark navy blue pants; similar to Dickies No. 874DN (male) or No. 774DN (female), color DN, dark navy
- Dark navy blue crew-neck T-shirt
- Black web belt and buckle with Sea Scout logo, No. 618624
- Black plain-toe shoes and black socks. Or, activity footwear and socks (of any color) such as boat shoes, hiking boots, or athletic shoes.
- Optional Neckerchiefs (unit option)
 - Youth and adults may wear No. 618625; black triangular design (unit option)
 - The “tar flap” design, No. 618626, is reserved for youth only (unit option)
 - In keeping with the Guide to Awards and Insignia, No. 33066, youth and adults may wear other neckerchiefs including Wood Badge neckerchiefs and council-approved custom triangular unit neckerchiefs (unit option). This applies only to triangular neckerchiefs; the “tar-flap” design, No. 618626, may not be altered or imitated.
- Youth may wear the navy-style white hat. (unit option)

Uniform Specifics and Tips

Wear your uniform with pride. Youth leaders and adult leaders should always set the example regarding standardization of the uniform.

- Different activities may require different clothing. The ship should designate appropriate attire for each activity; for example, a ship T-shirt or polo shirt. The design for a ship T-shirt or polo shirt should include the words “Sea Scouts BSA” and/or the Sea Scout logo to identify the wearer as a member of the Sea Scouts.
- “Unit option” means that all the members of a unit wear the optional item; or none of the members wear the optional item; no mixing. This is based upon a unit decision.
- Remove all manufacturers labels and marks that show on the outside of the garment.
- Matching shorts, or cargo shorts, may be worn.
- The metal belt tab abuts the buckle. Adjust the length of the belt from the “cut” end.
- An official leather belt with buckle may be worn.
- Custom dark navy blue ship ball caps may be worn (unit option). Custom event caps may be worn during the event.

Badges, awards, and insignia are generally worn similarly to other BSA uniforms, but here are a few specifics for the Sea Scout uniform:

- A custom ship patch may be worn in place of the Universal Sea Scout emblem on the right sleeve. The recommended style for a custom ship patch is 2½ inches round to match the Universal Sea Scout emblem it replaces. The custom ship patch must be less than 3 inches in any dimension, and must be in keeping with BSA standards.
- As an alternative to the Sea Scouts BSA strip, the words “SEA SCOUTS BSA,” in block style letters 3/8 of an inch high, may be embroidered in white directly on the garment. The bottom of the lettering is positioned 1/2 of an inch above the right pocket.
- A nametag may be worn immediately above the Sea Scouts BSA strip (individual option). The nametag must be black with white lettering.
- Up to six knots, in two rows of three, may be worn.
- Wear only the light blue circular badges of office on The Official Sea Scout Uniform.
- Sea Scout uniforms are generally worn with limited insignia to help maintain a sharp appearance. However, any official BSA insignia may be worn with the Sea Scout uniform, in accordance with the *Guide to Awards and Insignia*, No. 33066.

Personal grooming says a lot about the pride you take in your appearance in uniform. For example, when in uniform, you may want to keep your hair off your collar and keep facial hair neatly trimmed.

Insignia Placement Details

Wear only national authorized awards and insignia in accordance with the *Guide to Awards and Insignia*, No. 33066.

Required insignia: U.S. flag; Universal Sea Scout emblem (or custom ship patch); Sea Scouts BSA strip; council strip; ship number; and World Crest.

Right sleeve—The U.S. flag is centered at the shoulder seam. The Universal Sea Scout emblem or custom ship patch is centered 1 inch below the U.S. flag. The Journey to Excellence patch is centered 1 inch below the Universal Sea Scout emblem or custom ship patch. (The National Flagship Award, or the National Flagship Fleet Award, takes the place of the Journey to Excellence patch.)

(On a very short sleeve, the badge spacing may be reduced to fit the badges.)

Left sleeve—The council emblem is centered at the shoulder seam. The ship number is positioned immediately below the council emblem. The badge of office is centered immediately below the ship number; with the Trained Strip immediately below it; and the Long Cruise badge 1/2 inch below that. Arcs represent subsequent awards and encircle the badge. The first red arc is positioned at the top of the badge; second at the right; third left; fourth bottom; then start over with a white arc representing five subsequent awards at the top; and so on. If there is insufficient room for the Long Cruise Badge, it may be worn on the right pocket. (On a very short sleeve, the badge spacing may be reduced to fit the badges.)

Right pocket—The Sea Scouts BSA strip is placed immediately above the pocket. The optional nametag is worn above the Sea Scouts BSA strip. The Seabadge insignia is worn centered $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch above the Sea Scouts BSA strip or nametag.

Left pocket—The World Crest is centered over the pocket halfway between the top of the pocket and the top of the shoulder. Up to six knots may be worn immediately over the pocket in two rows of three. The Sea Scout Experience Advanced Leadership (SEAL) insignia is worn $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch above the left pocket. If suspended medals or knots are worn, the SEAL insignia is worn $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch above the suspended medals or knots. Suspended medals are worn no more than five at a time, pinned in a single row immediately above the pocket. Medals are worn for bridges of honor and formal occasions. Youth wear the badge of rank centered on the left pocket. Youth wear bar awards (Small-Boat Handler and Qualified Seaman) centered $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch below the pocket.

The order in which medals and knots are worn is at the discretion of the wearer. Members may choose to wear the recognition they deem most important to the wearer's right.

Military ribbons or other awards not awarded by the BSA are not worn on the Sea Scout uniform; except for the Finley Award, which is awarded by the United States Power Squadrons.

Uniform Sources

The Official Sea Scout Uniform can be purchased at stores or websites specializing in work clothing, such as seascouts.sgtradingpost.online or dickies.com.

Information on alternative sources for official uniform garments can be found at <https://seascout.org/uniforming/ships-stores/>

Badges and insignia are available from ScoutStuff.org or your local Scout shop.

Hoisting and Lowering the Flag

On Land

Two Sea Scouts are needed to hoist or lower the flag correctly. In raising, one holds the flag to prevent it from touching the ground, while the other attaches the line and raises the flag, keeping it close to the staff by holding the line rather taut. When the flag has left the flag bearer's arms, he steps back and comes to salute. In lowering, the flag bearer catches the flag and unfastens it.

Hoist the flag briskly in the morning. Lower it slowly in the evening but not later than sunset.

On Board

Sea Scouts refer to the flag of the United States as the ensign or colors. On Sea Scout ships the ensign is flown at the stern when the ship is alongside or at anchor. It is flown at the gaff, usually aft and above the bridge, while underway on a power vessel and three-quarters of the way up the backstay or leach on a sailboat. When the ship is preparing to get underway, the ensign is shifted from the stern to the underway position at the moment the last line comes across or at the moment the anchor is aweigh. Ship's flags and officer's flags are flown from the starboard spar, and signal flags are flown from the port spar. The ensign is never flown from the masthead.

The ensign is raised at exactly 0800 when the ship is alongside or at anchor. It is lowered (retired) at exactly sundown when the ship is at anchor or alongside. When underway, the ensign is never retired. (In foreign waters it may be a violation of law not to fly the ensign.)

When raising the ensign, a uniformed color guard is posted. It is also important that the color guard is trained by the boatswain's mate in advance so there is no fumbling or disrespect shown during this ceremony.

The boatswain's mate should assemble the color guard and off-duty crew with the boatswain's call "All Hands." The boatswain's mate should salute the OOD (officer of the deck) and say, "Request permission to strike eight bells on time, sir?" The OOD should reply, "Make it so." The boatswain's mate sounds the boatswain's call "Attention." At approximately 0759:56, the ship's bell should be struck eight times so that the last bell strike sounds at exactly 0800 to the second. The boatswain's mate may then give the verbal command, "Hand salute." The boatswain's mate sounds the boatswain's call "Pipe the Side." At the first note of the boatswain's call, the colors are briskly raised. The call should sound until the colors reach the apex of the hoist and end with a sharp up note. At the last sharp note of this call, the ship's company should smartly retire their salute. If the salute was initiated with a verbal command, it should be completed with the verbal command, "Ready, two." All hands should stand at attention until the halyard is secured. When the halyard is secured, the boatswain's mate sounds a short warble with a fade to convey the command, "Carry on." The boatswain then gives the verbal command, "Detail dismissed. Carry on," and the ship's company will resume normal duties. **Note:** The verbal commands are redundant to the boatswain's calls and could be omitted with a well-trained ship's company. If so, the hand salute should be initiated with the first note of the boatswain's call "Pipe the Side" and retired with the last note of that call.

During this ceremony, the ship's company not on deck stands at attention. If ashore, a member of the ship's company will come to attention and salute if in uniform. If not in uniform, it is proper to stand at attention and place the right hand over the heart. The ship's flag and officer's flag are raised slightly after the ensign starts its ascent. These flags are retired slightly after the ensign starts its descent. The rule is that the ensign is first up and last down.

Sea Scout Adult Awards and Insignia

Seabadge Pin



Restricted by the national Sea Scout director. Silver pin awarded to adults who complete the Seabadge requirements.

No. 4097

(worn centered above right pocket)

Sea Scout Leader Device



No. 931

(worn on the Scouter's Training Award, the Scouter's Training Award Knot, the Skipper's Key Knot, and the Venturing/Sea Scout Leadership Award Knot to identify the program for which the knot was awarded)

Scouter's Training Award



**Medal, No. 922
Knot, No. 5008**

(worn above left pocket)

Skipper's Key



Medal, No. 616990

Restricted by the National Sea Scout director.

Knot, No. 5008

(worn above left pocket)

Important notes:

- Locally developed recognitions are not authorized elements of the official Sea Scout uniform.
- Some vendors produce unofficial insignia to meet local demand. However, these insignia are not authorized elements of the official Sea Scout uniform.

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