



Vol. 4, No. 7

SEA SCOUT EDITION

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SEA SCOUTING SETS SAIL

Sea Scouting is celebrating its 100th year of young people learning seamanship, developing as leaders, and embarking on great adventures. The hundreds of ships in the Sea Scout fleet have caught the imaginations of generations of young sailors. This one, the Pacific Harbors Council's *Odyssey*, cruises the open waters of Washington State's Puget Sound and beyond.



Sea Scout Ship *Odyssey*

Eager to include "Nautical Scouts" as a part of the newly-formed Boy Scouts of America, a 1912 national committee reported that:

"It is obvious that the occupation of seamanship and life on the water present quite as favorable opportunities for learning and practicing the Scout virtues as do the occupations of woodcraft and of the land Scouts generally..."



"Nautical Scouts" at the dawn of Scouting send semaphore messages

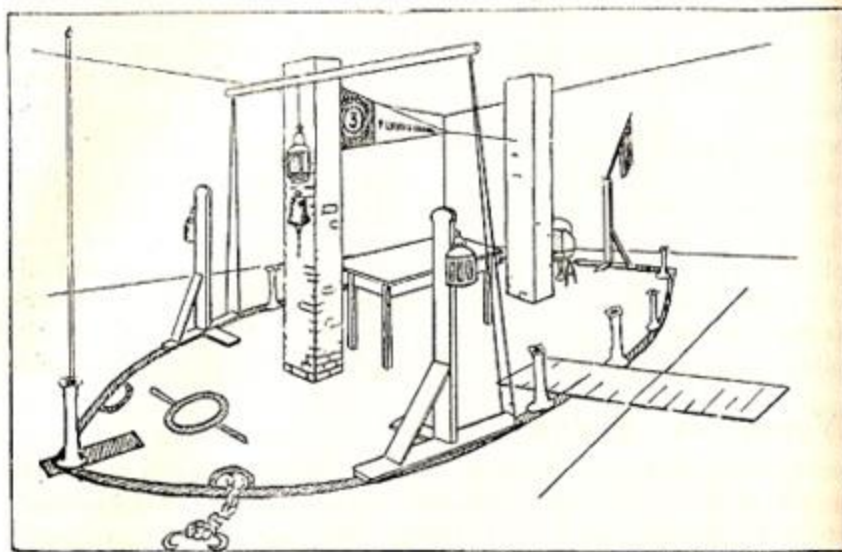
Heading the committee was Arthur Astor Carey. A tireless advocate of Sea Scouting, he made the schooner *Pioneer* available to New England Scouts for training cruises each lasting two weeks.



The *Pioneer* – the first Sea Scout ship

Today, the *Pioneer* is a living history ship docked at New York City's South Street Seaport Museum. Scout groups can arrange to go aboard for sailing trips in New York Harbor.

As Sea Scouting caught the imagination of boys, some units constructed "land ships" where they could practice skills they would need when they did set sail. The 1931 *How Book of Scouting* provided plans:

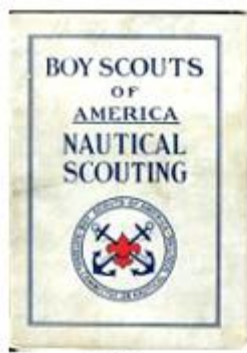


A Land Ship which Scout landlubbers can erect in Troop meeting-room or elsewhere for practice of elementary work and terminology

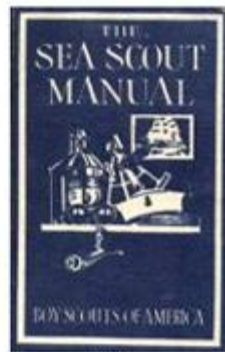
Other land ships were more elaborate. Toledo, Ohio, Scouts drilled on a land ship built around a tree in a Michigan forest.



BSA literature promoted Sea Scouts by encouraging mastery of maritime subjects and the values of Scouting. Manuals evolved through the decades to match the growth of the program.



1915



1935



1950



2010

The name changed to Sea Exploring in 1949 when Sea Scouts came under the umbrella of Exploring, the BSA's program for older boys. Two decades later young women were invited to join, and in 1998 Sea Scouting was incorporated into the Venturing program.



RANKS AND EMBLEMS

Sea Scout ranks and leadership positions are patterned after those of the United States Navy. A BSA emblem and an anchor highlight each insignia.



Apprentice Rank



Ordinary Rank



Able Rank

Quartermaster, Sea Scouting's highest rank, is the equivalent of the Boy Scouts' Eagle Award. Sea Scouts can also earn Venturing recognitions. Those who started on the trail to Eagle as Boy Scouts and reached First Class before becoming Sea Scouts can complete the requirements for that award, too. Qualified Sea Scouts can find their award emblems and other Sea Scout insignia at www.scoutstuff.org.



Quartermaster

HIGH SEAS HIGH ADVENTURE

Sea Scouts practice boat handling, navigation, communications, and many other nautical skills. Their hard work pays off when they set sail for terrific times on the water.

The Long Cruise Award signifies the achievement of spending two weeks cruising aboard Sea Scout ships.



Long Cruise Emblem



Centennial Long Cruise Emblem

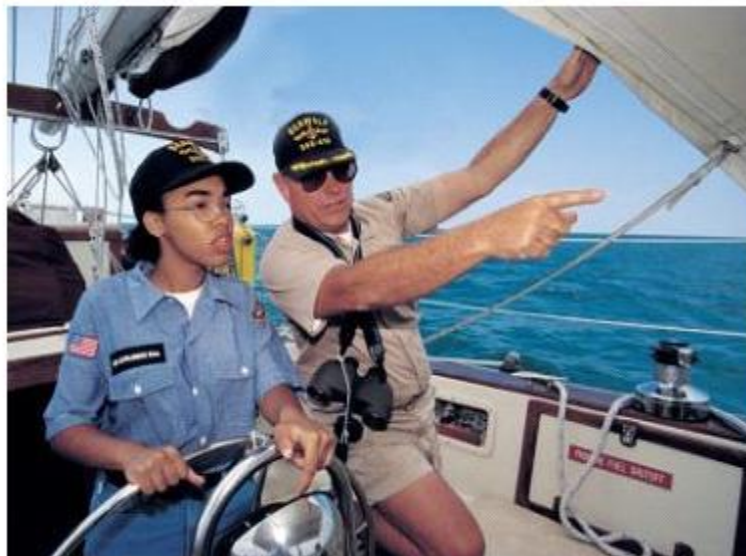
The emblem's usual red border is stitched this year in gold to honor Sea Scouting's centennial. It is identical to the special gold-edged Long Cruise award given to Paul Siple in 1929 after he had served as the first Antarctic Scout.



**Paul Siple (in suit) with Greensboro, NC, Sea Scouts
soon after his return from Antarctica**

To reach the frozen continent, Sea Scout Siple had sailed with the explorers of Admiral Richard Byrd's expedition from New York, a long cruise of more than 7,000 miles each way.

A much closer destination is the BSA's Florida Sea Base. From headquarters in the Florida Keys, Sea Scouts can sail as far away as the Bahamas. The Sea Base is open to older Boy Scouts and Venturers, too.



At the helm of the Sea Scout Ship Sea Wolf

Several Sea Scouts are chosen each year to join a cruise aboard the *Eagle*, the famous 295-foot square rigger used to train U.S. Coast Guard Academy cadets and officer candidates. The Scouts serve alongside the cadets for two weeks as regular crew members as they learn the ropes - and much else - about sailing the historic vessel.



US Coast Guard photo

United States Coast Guard *Eagle* under full sail

NATIONAL BOATSWAINS

The youth leader of all American Sea Scouts is the National Boatswain. During their one-year terms, National Boatswains promote the Sea Scout program and help spread the values of Scouting.



Matt Miller



Eva Hogan

Current National Boatswain Matt Miller is from the Sam Houston Council where his home ship is the *Jolly Roger*. An Eagle Scout and holder of a Hornaday Silver Award, Matt took part in a training cruise aboard the US Coast Guard's *Eagle*. He has set his sights on attending the Coast Guard Academy or the Maine Maritime Academy.

Preceding him as National Boatswain was Eva Hogan, another veteran of a USCG *Eagle* cadet cruise. After an eventful year representing Sea Scouting, Eva is a college student majoring in English and history and looking forward to a career in international relations.

TWO FOR THE TRUNKS

There are plenty of opportunities for all BSA members to enjoy activities on and in the water. From the Cub Scout belt loop award for swimming to merit badges including Canoeing, Kayaking, Lifesaving, Rowing, Scuba Diving, Small-Boat Sailing, Swimming, and Water Sports, there's sure to be something for nearly every Scout.

While merit badges are sewn onto a sash, several BSA awards are meant to be stitched to the swim trunks of Scouts who have earned them. Two of those are the Mile Swim award and the BSA Lifeguard emblem.



Mile Swim Award



BSA Lifeguard

The main requirement for the Mile Swim award, of course, is swimming a mile in one continuous effort. Scouts preparing to go that far often train by doing shorter distances. For the test itself, they can use any swimming stroke, and there is no time limit.

A Scout must be at least 15 years old to become a BSA Lifeguard, and complete a rigorous set of tests covering basic and advanced waterfront safety and rescue. Qualified Scout Lifeguards can serve as key members in many BSA aquatics programs.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

With regattas, open house events on their ships, and community outreach presentations, Sea Scouts are spreading the word about their program and encouraging young people to consider coming aboard. Check with your council to learn about Sea Scout events in your area.



Close competition during the annual Koch Sea Scout Regatta

Are you a Sea Scout or a friend of Sea Scouting? Show your pride in the program's centennial by wearing a shirt and cap featuring the Sea Scout emblem. You can find these and plenty of other great BSA clothing items at www.scoutstuff.org.



Sea Scout Shirt



Sea Scout Cap



To read more about Sea Scouts, visit [Scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org) [here](#). If you are participating in an official National Centennial Sea Scout event and would like to purchase an official Sea Scout Centennial Burgee pictured at the top of this edition of *Be Prepared*, go [here](#).

(This edition of the *Be Prepared Newsletter* was developed and written by Robert Birkby, author of the current editions of the *Boy Scout Handbook*, *Fieldbook* and upcoming *Eagle Scouts*, a new book celebrating the 100 year history of the Eagle Scout award.)