

# Forming or changing to a Sea Scout Group



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## Introduction

This is the fifth edition of the factsheet which updates that coded FS120616 and dated October 2003. It provides guidance relating to the formation of or changing to a Sea Scout Group. The information amplifies that contained in POR Chapter Three Rule 3.17.

Further editions may be issued in the light of experience. The publication of further editions will be notified in the Activities Newsletter.

## General

The Scout Association's policy is to encourage the development of Sea Scouting. It should be understood however, that the purpose of Sea Scouting and the method of achieving that purpose are the same as elsewhere within the Movement. The difference lies only in the fact that water and the associated nautical skills are used more as a medium for training. Therefore, a change from the teal green uniform is not recommended unless activities afloat will play a major part in the normal programme.

## Formation And Registration

- 1 The District Commissioner must be informed of proposed developments at the very earliest opportunity. Contact should then be made with the Assistant County Commissioner (Activities), and either the Assistant County Commissioner (Water Activities), or the County Water Activities Adviser as appropriate. The District Commissioner will be able to help make contact where necessary.
- 2 It may be found useful to start a Sea Scout Patrol within a Scout Troop and to operate this on an

experimental basis for a period. No change to the Registration form (C2) is required but the DC must give his approval.

- 3 As part of the District Explorer Scout provision, and with the DC's agreement, it is possible to form an Explorer Sea Scout Unit, possibly in partnership with a Sea Scout Group. This can be of great value in motivating young people to remain in the Movement and in providing practical help for members of a Sea Scout Troop afloat.
- 4 A large Group with more than one Troop may decide to have one specializing in water activities and become a Sea Scout Troop. The DC would need to approve such a change in writing.
- 5 A Group changing from Scout to Sea Scout should incorporate the word 'Sea Scout' in their official registered title. The *Change of Registration form* (C2) should be used and must be submitted to Headquarters in triplicate in accordance with the instructions on the form. The Group's original registration number and date will not be affected.

## Standards

There are no special minimum standards for Sea Scout Groups, but the following certainly ought to be accepted as part of Sea Scouting by those involved:-

- Sea Scouts should be provided with a Balanced Programme that regularly visits all the Programme Zones. Much of this, particularly in the Scoutcraft and Adventure Zone, will probably have a nautical theme.

The Challenges that should emerge naturally from the Balanced Programme will, therefore, reflect this nautical theme, particularly the Expedition,

## The Scout Information Centre

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Fitness and Adventure Challenges. In addition, the members of the Troop will work to achieve the Nautical Skills Activity Badges. In addition, there are two Nautical Skills Activity Badges that can be gained in the Explorer Unit.

- Practical boating should form a normal part of the programme. This should normally include more than one water activity such as pulling, canoeing, kayaking, windsurfing and sailing. It will not always be necessary to own suitable craft, particularly at first, when these can be borrowed or hired from local Scout Centres, Local Education Authorities and other contacts. If it is not possible to start all aspects of boating at first, definite plans should be drawn up on how this is to be achieved in the future.
- At least one of the Leaders should have a thorough knowledge of some relevant aspect of boating or canoeing, and preferably all members of the leader team should have some nautical experience. The principle of undertaking further specialist training, especially within the Royal Yachting Association and British Canoe Union Schemes, should be accepted in addition to the general programme of Leader Training. It may be necessary to make use of outside expertise, particularly if a full and broad programme is to be followed. The use of Scout Instructors not holding warrants could also be of great assistance.
- Those Leaders and instructors leading and supervising water activities should be authorised by the District Commissioner using the Scout Association's Activity Permit Scheme. Older Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Young Leaders should also be put forward for permits.
- The importance of Sea Scouts being confident and competent in water must be remembered. Often Cub Scout Packs in Sea Scout Groups put a little extra emphasis on gaining the Water Activity Badge.

There are no extra rules for Sea Scout Groups, but since boat work will feature prominently in the programme, your attention is drawn to POR Chapter Nine where the rules for water activities are given.

If Sea Scouting provides extra opportunities it also creates extra responsibilities, particularly, those associated with the acquisition, storage, repair and maintenance of craft and safety equipment, access to water and the demands on the skills of the Leaders. However, Sea Scouting can provide excellent training in its broadest sense and it can appeal to young people and Leaders who may not otherwise be interested in the Movement's Programme.

### **Uniform**

Details of Sea Scout uniforms are given in POR Chapter Ten. Leaders of Sea Scout Troops and Explorer Sea Scout Units are expected to wear the Sea Scout Leader's uniform.

The Beaver Scout and Cub Scout programmes and uniforms are no different in Sea Scout Groups.

### **Royal Naval Recognition**

The Ministry of Defence (Navy) recognises up to 101 Sea Scout Groups. Applications to gain recognition should not normally be made until after at least one year of formation. Details of the requirements for RN Recognition are available from the Scout Office at Gilwell Park.

### **Publications Cross Reference**

Current Editions of:

The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association

Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme – FS120100

Water Safety (Incorporating Lifejackets and Buoyancy Aids) – FS120603

Explorer Scout Structures – FS452010

Royal Navy Recognition Scheme – FS120628