

Sea Scout Ship 258 Colonial Beach, VA 22443

Sea Scouts is a specialized segment of the BSA Venturing program, which was organized to teach boating skills and promote knowledge of our maritime heritage.

1 December 2013

We are writing today to introduce **Sea Scouting**, an international program offered to adolescent boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 20, and invite you to attend one of our Open House events in December – see attached flyer and press release.

In Sea Scouts, young people come together from diverse cultural and socio-economic backgrounds because they share a common desire: **to Learn Boating and Sailing Skills.**

Sea Scouting has a rich tradition dating back over 100 years. As a Co-Educational Venturing Program, Sea Scouts is part of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Here in Colonial Beach, we are surrounded by water, yet few of our youth have the opportunity to learn maritime skills.



Our goal is to provide an opportunity for Colonial Beach youth to learn more about our maritime environment. Whether students are interested in fishing, crabbing, a maritime career, marine science, the Navy, the Coast Guard, or just want to develop skills for recreational use, Sea Scouts is the best and most affordable place to learn!

Whether Sea Scouts roam the sea under sail, paddle, or power, they discover a thrill that you cannot get anywhere else.

What's that you say...most students know nothing about boating or scouting? Don't worry—no previous experience in scouting, boating, or sailing is required. Sea Scouts learn all they need to know about our waterways and how to sail, from experienced adult volunteers. Sea Scouts acquire the knowledge, skills,

and experience necessary to:

- **Pilot, crew and maintain a boat under power and sail**
- **Speak the language unique to the sailing**
- **Read the water and the sky**
- **Splice lines and tie knots**
- **Navigate and follow the rules of the sea**
- **Become good stewards of the aquatic environment the keeps us all afloat!**

Very soon, Sea Scouts begin to feel like they belong “on the water” with its own language and practices. In the midst of all of this, Sea Scouts also develop skills in **boat maintenance, engine service, marine electronics and how to plan a long cruise.**



Leadership Opportunities - Sea Scout programs are run by youth members—with adult oversight. Youth leaders plan and conduct the program. Being part of a Ship’s crew teaches teamwork. As Sea Scouts gain experience, they have the opportunity to contribute to the leadership of their Ship.

Leadership skills learned as a Sea Scout will last a lifetime!

With this letter, we are seeking the opportunity to tell you and the youth you mentor more about Sea Scouting... in person at your next available opportunity.

We are launching a Sea Scout Ship right here in Colonial Beach where we have a rich nautical history and easy access to the water, but few opportunities for our youth to learn.

As adult volunteers, we expect to share our experience and expertise with the local youth who want to learn how to work, play, and live on the water!



We look forward to talking to you soon. Please feel free to contact us by phone or email.

The Colonial Beach Sea Scout Ship 258 Organizing Committee

Boone Hichborn, US Navy Retired, Chair, 540.752.1241, Oldswabbie@comcast.net

Caryn Self-Sullivan, PhD, Committee Member, 540.287.8207, cselfsullivan@gmail.com

Glenn Newcomb, Committee Member, US Navy Veteran, Experienced Sailor

Bill Bowman, Committee Member, Owner of The Boathouse Marina (Our Host Marina)

Frank Alger, BSA Venture Crew Leader, VFW Chartering Organization Representative

Marty Shirilla, River’s District Executive, Heart of Virginia Council, Boy Scouts of America