



U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Public Affairs



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Communications

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News Release

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Recognizes Sea Scouts As its Official Youth Program

Boy Scouts of America and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Partner to Promote Youth Leadership Development and Introduce More Youth to Maritime Skills and Opportunities

ORLANDO – Rick Washburn, National Coast Guard Auxiliary Commodore, and VADM Charles Wurster, USCG (ret.), Sea Scout National Commodore, announced signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary that strengthens ties between the two organizations. The new agreement establishes BSA’s Sea Scout program as the Auxiliary’s official youth program, broadening the Auxiliary’s efforts to reach out to young boaters and encourage them to consider Coast Guard careers.

“Working with the Coast Guard Auxiliary will give Sea Scouts an opportunity to benefit from Coast Guard seamanship and vocational training, while giving Sea Scouts a unique introduction to the Coast Guard,” said Admiral Wurster, Sea Scout National Commodore.

“With this cooperative effort we will reach out to the emerging population of young adults who share the Auxiliary’s commitment to safe boating, service to the nation, and Coast Guard and maritime careers,” said Rick Washburn, Auxiliary National Commodore.

This stronger relationship will allow Auxiliary flotillas to become Sea Scout Ship chartered organizations. This will also provide the Sea Scouts with a broader pool of adult leaders with seamanship skills and training and access to vessels. In addition, Auxiliary programs will facilitate advanced science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)-oriented training.

"The BSA is proud to continue our partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary as we continually strive to improve leadership development, real-life skill-building and unique STEM training through the Sea Scout program," said Mike Surbaugh, BSA Chief Scout Executive

For the Auxiliary, Sea Scout participation can become a pathway to Auxiliary membership and will enhance the Auxiliary's ability to reach out to and recruit newer constituencies in the recreational boating community. This initiative will also be an additional source of potential Coast Guard Academy candidates and enlistees with prior training and an aptitude for the Coast Guard.

This new partnership will undergo initial development and evaluation between Auxiliary and Sea Scout units in Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia as well as portions of New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania before it is ultimately implemented nationwide.

For more information about the Sea Scout program or to find a Sea Scout ship near you, visit www.beascout.org.

About the Boy Scouts of America

The Boy Scouts of America provides the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training, which helps young people be "Prepared. For Life.®" The Scouting organization is composed of nearly 2.3 million youth members between the ages of 5 and 21 and approximately 960,000 volunteers in local councils throughout the United States and its territories. For more information on the Boy Scouts of America, please visit www.scouting.org.

About the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed volunteer component of the United States Coast Guard created by an Act of Congress in 1939. The Auxiliary, America's Volunteer Guardians, supports the Coast Guard in nearly all of the service's missions. For more information about the Coast Guard Auxiliary visit <http://www.cgaux.org>

Editor's Note: Photos Available