

The FORUM

Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring Newsletter since 2003
December 2019 Issue

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WHAT IS THE FORUM!

The FORUM is a National cluster concept and a friendly way to help Scouting Leaders exchange ideas and programs among our Troops, Crews, Ships, Posts, Councils, Areas, Regions and National.

The FORUM is shared by Volunteers and Professionals across the country.

The FORUM has been published monthly since 2003 and is not an official publication of any Council, Area, Region or National. It is a Volunteers and Professionals newsletter to promote our senior program. Help support our teenage program by sending the FORUM your stories, Newsletters. Council articles, By-Laws, Questions and Best Practices to share with others.

As always, articles, questions and comments are welcome. Promote Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring by promoting your Unit and Council etc. stories. We are seeking support from anyone interested in working on the newsletter.

Thanks for all you do!

Bob the BEAR Monto, Editor in Chief

[How to submit an article]

The FORUM would like any articles and event promotions you have on Exploring, Sea Scouting and Venturing programs from your units, council etc. Articles with photos are best. Articles with youth (under 18) must use BSA Youth Protection guidelines.

Attach your article as a Word document (preferable method) with identified photos (With descriptions of photo), clipart, etc. and send to rmon-to47@gmail.com. Please email Bob "The BEAR" Monto by the 25th of the month with your articles. Since the FORUM is published monthly, if you miss one month it will get in the next month.

Your article should also include contact information and name of the individual submitting the article.

Use subject line FORUM to highlight this is a FORUM email.

Please edit your article.

All photos should have permission of all the participants in the photos. Indicate in the email that permission has been granted.

Submit a brief bio of the author(s) of the article.

Thanks for all you do for Youth

Bob "the BEAR" Monto

FORUM Newsletter Editor

FORUM Articles for Download

The Current FORUM Newsletter:

http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/current_forum.php

The FORUM Back Issues

http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/venturing_archive.htm

Large Crews

http://minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/documents/FORUM-Crew_27-Large_Crews_articles.pdf

UPDATED March Crew 27 Large Crew Series (Articles on Large Crew Operations)



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
BAY-LAKES COUNCIL

WINTER AMIDSHIPS

SAVE THE DATE for The 46th WAM

February 29, 2020 www.BayLakesBSA.org/WAM

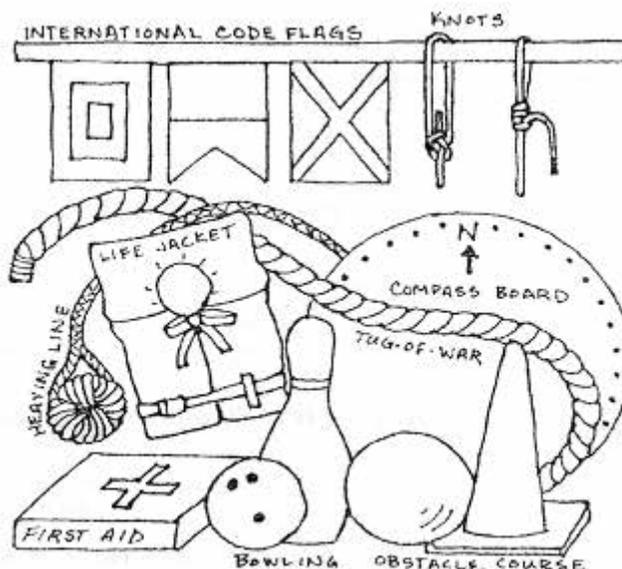
WAM is a 1-day event for Scouts BSA Troops, Venture Crews, Sea Scout Ships, Career Explorer Posts, Varsity Teams, Girl Scout/Mariner Troops, American Heritage Girls Units, and 4H Clubs. Youth participants must be registered members of the Boy Scouts of America (Troop, Crew, Ship, Team, Post participant), Girl Scouts-USA, American Heritage Girls or 4H. Dinner is included; lunch is on your own.

DATE/TIME: Saturday, February 29, 2020; 8:30 AM-10:00 PM
PLACE: National Guard Armory, 796 Sullivan Dr., Fond du Lac, Wisconsin
REGISTRATION: cost TBD (*Online Registration Required*)
LATE FEE: \$5 per Youth Starting 02/16/2020

Events:

- * Life-Jacket Relay
- * Obstacle Course
- * Scooter Race
- * Tug-of-War
- * First Aid
- * Bowling
- * Knots Relay
- * Heaving Line
- * Compass Board Relay
- * Happy Feet Relay
- * International Code Flags
- * Surprise Event(s)
- * Awards
- * Dance

Overnight offered at
Church of Our Saviour, Fond du Lac



For more info contact
Winter Amidships Chair
Ann Gratton
(920) 231-3015
wamgratton@gmail.com

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All profits support Crew 7 W&WC (782)

Include address, name, number of patches requested Crew

Our nationwide Coast Guard Auxiliary partnership is here!

By National Commodore

Many of you have been anxiously awaiting the nationwide rollout of the AUXSCOUT program – the Coast Guard’s name for our partnership with the Coast Guard Auxiliary – and that moment has finally arrived! As of November 1st, 2019, AUXSCOUT is open for business across all Coast Guard Auxiliary districts.

If you haven’t been keeping up, this program represents a significant deepening of our long-standing relationship with the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Here are a few of the key features:

- Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotillas (and Divisions) are now able to charter Sea Scout ships and are encouraged to do so;
- Youth Sea Scouts are the only people under 17 allowed to join the Coast Guard Auxiliary;
- Sea Scouting is designated as the Official Youth Program of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.



You can learn more by visiting seascout.org/cgaux but the most efficient way to learn about the program and about how you as a Sea Scout leader can get started is to view this recorded webinar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JamSV-pVo3k&feature=youtu.be>

The webinar is just under an hour long and it will get you off to a great start and will help you avoid any pitfalls in developing a relationship with your local Auxiliary flotilla. Once you’ve viewed the webinar, consider joining the [Facebook discussion group](#)— that’s going to be your best bet for getting a fast response to any questions you may have. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JamSV-pVo3k&feature=youtu.be>



I’d like to thank all those who have worked tirelessly for the past year to make this possible – especially Bruce Johnson, whose unique role in both the Sea Scouts and the Auxiliary has helped us overcome many obstacles along the way. I’d also like to thank Coast Guard Auxiliary National Commodore Larry King, whose leadership and unwavering support of this program has been essential. Commodore King and I both believe that this relationship is going to be game-changing for the Auxiliary and for Sea Scouts, and I’m excited to see it roll out now!

Northern Lights High Adventure Base Fairbanks, Alaska Celebrating 20 Years of Northern Lights High Adventure Base

This past Summer season marked the 20th anniversary for the Northern Lights High Adventure base, and proved worthy of celebration in every way.

Troops from across the “lower 48” trekked across glaciers, paddled over 150 miles down the legendary Yukon River, hiked above the Arctic Circle, and pitched tents under the midnight sun. Wildfires raged across most of interior Alaska this summer, but fortunately no treks were cancelled and very few re-routed to alternative locations.

Each trek is planned exclusively for the Troop or Crew visiting based on their needs, goals, and expectations. Alaska boasts vast, diverse landscapes, climates, and endless opportunities to explore, which is why Northern Lights High Adventure takes so much time to learn the wishes of each individual Troop or Crew and plan the best possible adventure, down to the very last detail.

Although the majority of treks occur during the Summer season, those wishing to try cold weather camping, snow sports, and maybe catch a glimpse of the aurora borealis might consider a winter trek.

Interested in learning more about visiting the Land of the Midnight Sun? For more information on planning your trek or open guide positions contact Matthew Banaszewski, Director of Northern Lights High Adventure: (907) 452-1976 Matthew.Banaszewski@scouting.org

Space is still available for Summer 2020 and 2021!

Facebook: [facebook.com/NorthernLightsHighAdventureBase](https://www.facebook.com/NorthernLightsHighAdventureBase)

Instagram: [@NorthernLightsHighAdventureBase](https://www.instagram.com/NorthernLightsHighAdventureBase)

Website: alaskahighadventure.com Written

Written by

Stephanie Kelly, Backcountry Trek Manager and 2018 & 2019 Backcountry Guide.

Photos courtesy NLHA.

**Northern Lights High Adventure Base Fairbanks, Alaska
Celebrating 20 Years of Northern Lights High Adventure Base**



**Sea kayaking off the coast of Valdez,
July 2019**



**Hiking across Root Glacier in Wrangell
St. Elias National Park, July 2019
Backpacking**



**Backpacking in Denali State Park,
June 2019**



**Backpacking in the White Mountains
National Recreation Area, July 2019**

Sea Scout News

Across the Western Region

Commodore's Minute

Hello, Shipmates and friends of the Western Region, Happy Thanksgiving!

We have had a very positive year so far thanks to our dedicated leaders here in the West. We have had successful Seabadge courses and SEAL programs that have made our adults and youth better leaders. To all those who participated in and taught the curriculum, I appreciate your hard work and dedication to Sea Scouting. As I traveled around this past summer I often heard talk of how our program is shrinking and that we may not exist sometime in the future. Well, let me squash those rumors now. The West has experienced positive ship growth numbers from where we were last year. This is great news but it doesn't mean we can rest and celebrate. We still have much work to do in our rebuilding process, but we are moving forward again. Our goal is to at least one Sea Scout Ship in every council. Out of the 51 Councils in the Western Region, only 13 do not have Sea Scout Ships. However, 20 Councils are in need of a Council Commodore.

For those who are unfamiliar with the official role of a Council Commodore, they serve as the Chairman of the Council Sea Scout Committee, are often a member of the Council Executive Board, whose duties include providing support to existing Sea Scout Ships, visiting Ships, conducting Unit Assessments if they also serve as a Unit Commissioner, and starting new Sea Scout Ships. The position code is 36 and Sea Scout Council Members 36M.

Every Sea Scout Ship in the West matters to me. Our Regional Committee wants to see everyone be successful. If your council does not have a Commodore and you need help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I'm sure we all know and have heard about the tragic charter boat fire in Southern California. This hit especially hard for me as the owners of the diving company who chartered the boat are good friends of mine. We have a big responsibility with being a high adventure program. The routine tasks we do daily should not be taken for granted. Let's make sure we are safe and that our vessels that carry youth on board are all up to specs. I have been working with my Regional Vice Commodore of Safety Kris Young who is active duty USCG to review the current BSA policy and to see what can be improved on.

As always the Skippers and Mates are the backbones of our program. Your dedication is the reason why we are still around today and rebuilding. I thank you all!

Fair Winds,

**Greg Harden
WR Commodore**

Sea Scout News

Across the Western Region

Meet WR Area 6 Commodore Sheldon Allred

There has been a change of watch in WR Area 6. Mr. Sheldon Allred has taken over the helm as Area Commodore. Commodore Allred is a dedicated Sea Scouter and already moving full steam ahead with his duties of growth and retention in Area 6. Welcome aboard Commodore Allred. I would also like to say thank you to outgoing Area 6 Commodore Mike Philbrook. Commodore Philbrook, I thank for your service to WR Area 6 and dedication to Sea Scouting.

Sea Scouts BSA and Coast Guard Auxiliary Partnership

It is now official: Sea Scouts, BSA is the official youth program of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. With our new partnership now underway, more opportunities will be opening up for us soon. The Coast Guard Auxiliary can now be charter partners of Ships. We will be able to utilize classes and training materials of the USCG Aux to help us with bettering our Sea Scouts' knowledge and abilities. We will also have an increase in adult leadership to help support our existing ships and help with the formation of new ships to come. This is a very exciting time for us with new positive changes.

Bruce Johnson of the National Sea Scout Support Committee has led the rollout of the partnership with a series of webinars, which have been recorded and posted on Facebook and YouTube. You can watch Introduction to AUXSCOUT, AUXSCOUT Workshop 102, and AUXSCOUT Workshop 201-Standard Operating Procedures, on the embedded links to learn more about the partnership known internally by the Coast Guard Auxiliary as "AUXSCOUT"

Sea Scout News

Across the Western Region

Sea Scout Ship Propeller Featured in Boys' Life Video



The Sea Scout Ship Propeller from the Chief Seattle Council has hosted Sea Scouts from around the country for SEAL. Check out the new video on the Boys' Life YouTube channel featuring the Propeller and the SEAL program.

Sea Scout Open House Images for Facebook Events

The Marketing Toolbox on SeaScout.org now has cover images for Facebook Events promoting a Sea Scout Open House. More photos will be added before Spring. For Ships that wish to create their own Facebook Event Cover Images, the image size is 1920 x 1080 pixels with a 16:9 ratio

Websites

National Venturing

<http://www.scouting.org/venturing.aspx>

National Sea Scout

<http://www.seascout.org/>

Central Region Venturing

<http://www.crventuring.org>

Northeast Region Venturing

<http://nerventuring-bsa.org/>

Southern Region Sea Scout

<http://srventuring-bsa.org/wordpress/>

National Exploring

<http://www.exploring.org/>

Yahoo Groups

Central Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/crventuring/>

Northeast Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nerventuring/>

Southern Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/srventuring/>

Western Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wrventuring/>

National

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/venturinglist/>



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Thanks for all you do!

Bob the BEAR Monto—Editor in Chief
Bernie Suess - Webmaster

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Email Bob the BEAR at

rmonto47@gmail.com

Use the email account you want to receive the FORUM and give Full name and Council to place you in the right email list.