

Sea Scout Ship 270, Northport, NY

Frequently Asked Questions

What are Sea Scouts?

Sea Scouts is a program of the Boy Scouts of America for all youth aged 14-21 (or 13 and completed the 8th grade) who want to participate in high adventure in, on, around, and under the water. They learn seamanship skills, such as navigation, marine communication, and marlinspike (knots and splicing), small boat handling, boat maintenance, engines, and ground tackle (anchors). It is operated through Sea Scout Ships: units of youth and advisors.

If a youth does not swim, can they join?

Yes. They may participate in the program, but will not be allowed on the water until they pass a swim test.

If a youth has no prior scouting background, can they still join?

Yes. Previous scouting experience or membership is not a required.

Can someone actively enrolled in a troop with Scouts BSA or Girl Scouts USA also belong to a Ship?

Yes. As long as he or she meets the age requirements, they may join a Ship. Remaining active in both a Scouts BSA troop and a Sea Scout Ship is called a "dual registration" and is encouraged. They can continue working on ranks and awards in both groups, including Eagle Scout.

When and where does Ship 270 meet?

The Ship's home is at her charter organization (sponsor), St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 270 Main Street, Northport, NY. The Ship meets there on the 2nd and 4th Thursday night of each month. The Quarterdeck meets with the Skipper and Mates at 6:30 p.m., and the full Ship meets 7-8:30 p.m. Additional meetings and events may be announced during the year.

In addition, the Ship may meet for yard days to maintain the boats we use and service projects for our community and charter organization.

What happens at a Ship meeting?

Fun. After an opening there may be a brief business meeting to discuss and vote on issues brought up at the Quarterdeck meeting. Then the program part of the meeting may include advancement activities, a guest speaker, or in-depth planning for a big up-coming program, such as the "long cruise."

Who conducts a Ship meeting?

Each Ship meeting is led by the Quarterdeck—the youth Ship's Officers.

Who makes up the leadership of a Ship?

The leadership of a Ship is called the Quarterdeck: the youth members who have been elected by their peers. It consists of the Boatswain (president), Boatswain's Mates (vice presidents), Yeoman (secretary), and Purser (treasurer). Quarterdeck training is conducted by the Skipper after every election.

In additions, there may be Crew Leaders and a Store Keeper. All members, regardless of their title or position, form the Ship's crew.

Are adult leaders present to supervise Ship meetings?

Yes. All supervision follows BSA policy. At each meeting there are at least two adult advisors. The skipper is the supervising adult and is assisted by one or more Mates. All adults have completed BSA Youth Protection Training, and there is a female adult if there are girls in the unit.

What activities does the Ship take part in?

As a part of BSA, our Sea Scout Ship takes part in District and Council activities such as service projects and camporees. We also take part in Northeast Region Sea Scouts and Liberty Flotilla (NY Metro) Sea Scout activities.

When do we go boating?

We get out on the water as often as possible from May through October. As of the 2019 season, Ship 270 does not own any boats, but several generous owners have donated the use of their vessels, and so exact schedules depend on those owners. Most Sunday afternoons will have a sail on Northport Bay, along with other opportunities throughout the season.

Is there an opportunity for advancement?

Yes. Sea Scouts can advance through four ranks: Apprentice, Ordinary, Able, and Quartermaster. Quartermaster is very difficult and can be thought of as equivalent to Boy Scout Eagle Scout or Girl Scout Gold Award.

What is the uniform policy?

Ship 270 has two uniforms. Class A is The Official Sea Scout Uniform or TOSSU, which is based on commercially available dark navy workclothes and official insignia. The full uniform and sources are described on <https://seascout.org/uniforming/>. The Class A uniform is worn for ceremonies and other special occasions.

The Class B uniform is a custom polo shirt worn with any appropriate khaki pants or shorts. It is worn for boating and most meetings.

What does it cost? How are activities paid for?

The Ship Committee determines an annual fee, which covers membership dues to Boy Scouts of America and insurance for meetings and activities. As of December 2018, the annual fee is \$125. A \$25 deposit is required with application and the balance is due in \$25 monthly installments. The fee is prorated for Sea Scouts who join mid-year, but no refunds are available.

In addition, each Scout must get a class A uniform (The Official Sea Scout Uniform or TOSSU, <https://seascout.org/uniforming/>) and a class B polo shirt. The total uniform cost is about \$100.

The committee helps the Ship plan and carry out fund-raising efforts to cover some or all of the cost of trips, events, and other activities. All Sea Scouts are encouraged to help with fund-raising as they can.

What books are required?

Every scout should have a copy of the Sea Scout Manual, which can be downloaded and printed from <https://seascout.org/manual-resource-center/> or bought through the Scout Shop for \$29. In addition, have a loose-leaf binder with lined paper dedicated to Sea Scouts and bring it and a pen / pencil to every meeting.

How does the Ship communicate with members and families?

Ship 270 uses several means of communication, depending on the content and the audience.

- **Scoutbook:** Registered adults, youth members, and their parents are invited to connect with the Ship account in the app for messaging and calendar events
- **Email:** Meeting notices, and occasionally links to more information and events are sent by the skipper
- **Website:** <https://sites.google.com/site/seascoutship270northport/> has a calendar and other resources for Sea Scouts and their families
- **Social Media:** Instagram, Twitter, and a Facebook page are the public face of the Ship, used mostly for recruiting. Members and parents are invited to join the private FB group for sharing articles, etc.