

Auxiliary – Sea Scout Youth Development (AUXSCOUT) Program

Executive Summary

1. Background.

- a. Sea Scouts is a youth program within the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) that is supported by the Coast Guard pursuant to provisions of the Coast Guard External Affairs Manual, COMDTINST M5700.13. Sea Scouts are authorized to use training and recreation facilities at Coast Guard facilities and to participate in Coast Guard cruises and air operations at the discretion of Commanding Officers or Officers-in-Charge, with approval of the District Commander, and in accordance with applicable Coast Guard policies.
- b. The Coast Guard Auxiliary traditionally exercised limited partnership with youth organizations. But it also shared with the Sea Scouts a strong mutual respect and appreciation for the benefits gained from leadership education and development programs among youth who possess maritime interests.
- c. Both organizations had a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in place since 2009 which allowed their units to partner on a variety of projects including shore-side RBS activities on a case-by-case basis. The Auxiliary and the Sea Scouts identified significantly beneficial prospects of enhancing their partnership including improved Sea Scout training opportunities, enriched Coast Guard and Auxiliary recruiting, and better overall promotion of RBS. This led to MOA revision in 2018 and cleared the way for AUXSCOUT program development and implementation (the MOA can be found at: http://wow.uscgaux.info/Uploads_wowII/B-DEPT/AUX-BSA-MOA.pdf).
- d. The attached AUXSCOUT SOP has been developed to provide fundamental guidance to the Auxiliary and the Sea Scouts in the conduct of this new program.

2. AUXSCOUT SOP Highlights.

- a. Change in Minimum Auxiliary Enrollment Age. Until now, the minimum Auxiliary enrollment age was 17yoa. The Auxiliary may now enroll Sea Scouts as young as 14yoa. Such enrollees must be currently enrolled in the Sea Scouts. If they disenroll from the Sea Scouts prior to 90 days from their 17th birthday then they shall be disenrolled from the Auxiliary.
- b. General Enrollment and Guest Status. Sea Scouts and adult leaders are not required to enroll in the Auxiliary, but they are encouraged to do so. Likewise, Auxiliarists are encouraged to enroll in the Sea Scouts. Sea Scouts and adult leaders who engage in Auxiliary activities pursuant to the AUXSCOUT SOP but who are not enrolled as Auxiliarists shall be recognized and treated as guests in the conduct of such activities. The Auxiliary mission leader shall ensure the Order Issuing Authority is aware in advance of such guest involvement.

- c. Background Checks. All Sea Scout youth and adults shall undergo the same entry-level background check as that undergone by all other Auxiliary enrollees if they enroll in the Auxiliary. These checks are run through the Coast Guard Intel Coordination Center and are normally completed in a matter of days if there are no issues.
- d. Sea Scout Ship Chartering. Like the Auxiliary flotilla, the basic Sea Scout organizational unit is the Sea Scout Ship. Auxiliary flotillas and divisions are authorized to charter a Sea Scout Ship. Auxiliary units have never been authorized to charter other organization's units until now. By the same token, this is simply organizational recognition that the flotilla and ship have established a formal relationship in the AUXSCOUT program, comparable to how a flotilla can create its own detachment. The District Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX) approves charter requests and signs a certificate for documentation and ceremonial purposes.
- e. Training, Youth Interaction, and Auxiliary ID Cards.
 - (1) Like all other Auxiliary enrollees, Sea Scouts who enroll in the Auxiliary may only be issued an Auxiliary ID card upon receipt of a favorable background check and completion of their Auxiliary Core Training requirements.
 - (2) Sea Scout youths under 17yoa and enrolled in the Auxiliary may not board or move about a CG facility by themselves. At a minimum, they shall be accompanied by another Auxiliarist who is at least 17yoa, a parent, a legal guardian, or another person authorized by the facility's command.
 - (3) Any Auxiliarist who has the potential to interact on a regular basis with Sea Scouts who are under 18yoa (e.g., Auxiliary boat crew; flotilla commanders) must complete BSA Youth Protection Training (YPT; found at: <https://my.scouting.org>). This training must be completed every 24 months to maintain the authority to interact with Sea Scout youth.
 - (4) Two-deep leadership shall always be applied by Auxiliarists when interacting with Sea Scouts who are under 18yoa. This means that no Auxiliarist shall ever put themselves in a one-on-one situation with such youth, shall ensure another adult is with them in such situations, and shall ensure at least one such adult is of the same sex as the youth.
 - (5) At least one Auxiliary or Sea Scout leader with current BSA Safe Swim Defense training is required for the conduct of swimming related activities associated with Auxiliary programs, and at least one Auxiliary member participating in a mission involving an Auxiliary surface facility shall have successfully completed BSA Safety Afloat and CPR training prior to commencing the mission.
 - (6) Sea Scouts who are under 17yoa and enroll in the Auxiliary may train in any Auxiliary competency. They may qualify in any Auxiliary competency except

- coxswain, Personal Watercraft Operator, paddlecraft operator, aircraft commander, first pilot, or co-pilot. Although they may qualify in the other competencies, they are not authorized to perform those activities in a lead or independent capacity.
- (7) Sea Scouts who are under 17yoa and enroll in the Auxiliary are not authorized to be nominated for, be elected to, or hold elected office. They are also limited in the types of appointed staff offices they may hold.
 - (8) Auxiliary mission leaders shall ensure that all Sea Scout youth and Sea Scout leaders who are enrolled in the Auxiliary are fully outfitted in Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required for mission performance. Sea Scout youth and Sea Scout leaders who are not enrolled in the Auxiliary shall be treated as guests and outfitted with PPE as such activities warrant for guests.
 - (9) Auxiliary facilities with Sea Scouts aboard shall not be scheduled for search-and-rescue (SAR) standby duty nor SAR response missions. If an Auxiliary facility with Sea Scouts aboard must respond to a SAR incident, the Sea Scouts shall not be involved in the operation.

3. Additional AUXSCOUT Program Considerations.

- a. Like the AUXSCOUT MOA, the AUXSCOUT SOP has been reviewed and cleared by the Coast Guard Office of General Law (CG-LGL) and the Office of External Outreach (CG-0923). The basic nature and conduct of Auxiliary activities and operations do not significantly change due to the AUXSCOUT program. The major change stemming from AUXSCOUT implementation is direct Auxiliary engagement with Sea Scouts as young as 14yoa who can now become Auxiliarists. The AUXSCOUT SOP's provisions (e.g., BSA YPT requirements) are designed to ensure such engagement remains professional, constructive, and mutually beneficial for the Coast Guard, Auxiliary, and BSA.
- b. The AUXSCOUT SOP comprehensively addresses many additional program considerations meant to provide detailed guidance for carrying out provisions of the AUXSCOUT MOA, facilitate AUXSCOUT program administration, and manage the expectations and performance of Auxiliary and Sea Scout participants. This includes appendices that provide specific information about BSA youth protection standards and Sea Scout program organization as well as guidance for Auxiliary enrollment of Sea Scout youths, appropriately managing parental consent, and properly logging activity by all AUXSCOUT program participants.