

# Keys Adventure Sailing Island Expedition



## Participant Guide

National High Adventure Sea Base, BSA

### Florida Sea Base Multi-Adventures

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Islamorada, FL 33036

*Revised Date: 11/2023*

## Mission of the Boy Scouts of America

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetime by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

### Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

### Scout Law

A Scout is:

Trustworthy. Loyal. Helpful. Friendly. Courteous. Kind. Obedient. Cheerful. Thrifty. Brave. Clean. Reverent.

## Mission Statement of Sea Base, BSA

It is the mission of the Florida National High Adventure Sea Base to serve councils and units by providing an outstanding high adventure experience for older Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, Venturers, Sea Scouts and their leaders.

Sea Base programs are designed to achieve the principal aims of the Boy Scouts of America:

- To build character
- To foster citizenship
- To develop physical, mental and emotional fitness

### Keys Blessing

Bless the creatures of the Sea  
Bless this person I call me  
Bless the Keys, you make so grand  
Bless the sun that warms the land  
Bless the fellowship we feel  
As we gather for this meal  
Amen



**Prepared. For Life.®**

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## Sea Base History

**Florida Gateway to High Adventure, EST 1974** In 1974 a collection of Boy Scout volunteers from Miami, FL and Atlanta, GA along with South Florida Council District Executive Sam Wampler began offering ocean-based adventure programs with rented and borrowed equipment in South Florida and the Bahamas. In 1977 the program was extended to include sailing aboard chartered vessels.

**Florida Gateway to High Adventure becomes Florida National High Adventure Sea Base, EST 1979** Due to the excitement surrounding the unique adventures offered, it quickly became evident that a permanent site was needed to facilitate Florida Gateway to High Adventure programs. With a legacy gift by the Fleishman Foundation in 1979, Toll Gate Inn and Marina on Lower Matecumbe Key was secured, its building renovated, and dormitories built. Florida National High Adventure Sea Base was born.

**Big Munson Island, EST 1982** In 1982 Homer Formby donated a mangrove barrier island, Big Munson Island, located due south of Summerland Key. Located in the NOAA Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Big Munson is home to several rare species of plants and wildlife including Key Deer and sea turtles.

**Bahamas Sea Base, EST 1990** Sam Wampler and his colleague Joe Maggio began offering sailing programs in Marsh Harbour, Abaco, Bahamas as an extension of Florida National High Adventure Sea Base in 1990. The Sea of Abaco is world renowned for its beautiful, protected sailing waters and the Abacos, or Friendly Islands, are equally celebrated for their stunning beaches, settlements and welcoming people.

**World Organization of Scouting (WOSM) SCENE Centre, EST 1990'S** Recognized for its superior commitment to conservation and education, Sea Base became a Scout Centre of Excellence for Nature and Environment in the 1990's and continues as the lone WOSM SCENE Centre in the United States.

**Florida Sea Base Conference and Training Center, EST 1995** Opened in 1995, Sea Base Conference and Training Center hosts BSA professional and volunteer conferences each winter and spring. Located in the Adams Building, a building gifted in honor of William Adams, the Conference and Training Center serves roughly 1,000 individuals annually.

**Brinton Environmental Center (BEC), EST 2001** With funding from the Brinton Trust in honor of J. Porter Brinton, Sea Base completed construction of the Brinton Environmental Center in 2001. Located at Mile Marker 23.8 on Summerland Key, BEC is home to the Keys Adventure, Out Island, Keys Fishing and Marine STEM programs.

**Sea Base St. Thomas, EST 2014** Under the direction of General Manager Captain Paul Beal and Program Director Mike Lucivero, Sea Base St. Thomas began sailing operations in 2014. Crews board vessels in beautiful St. Thomas, USVI and then circumnavigate St. John, USVI. Celebrated globally for its waters, winds, coral reefs and beaches, the US Virgin Islands offer participants amazing opportunities for adventure and exploration.

## Sea Base General Eligibility Requirements

**Registered:** To attend Sea Base, youth and adult participants must be registered in one of the following programs:

- Exploring, BSA
- Learning for Life
- BSA Merit Badge Counselor
- Scouts, BSA
- Sea Scouts, BSA
- STEM Scouts, BSA
- Venturing, BSA
- Scouts, BSA programs are single gender. Male and female Scouts BSA units can attend Sea Base if the troops are linked and each troop provides their own leadership in the Sea Base crew.
- Exploring and Venturing programs are coed. Males and females can attend together if the unit booking is an Explorer Post or Venture Crew.



### [Coed Crew Requirements Explained](#)

**Age Requirement:** For all Sailing Programs in Florida, every participant must be at least 12 years of age by their date of arrival at Sea Base. No exceptions can or will be made.

**Important!** 12-year-old participants must be physically, mentally, and emotionally mature and Sea Base **strongly** suggests that all 12-year-old participants be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

**Swim Test:** Every participant, youth and adult, must complete the BSA Swim Test as a Swimmer. Non-swimmers and Beginner Swimmers will not be allowed to participate and will be sent home at their own expense. Every Sea Base crew must provide a completed [BSA Unit Swim Classification Record](#).

☒ Sea Base does not provide onsite BSA Swim Tests.

**Snorkel Review:** Upon arrival every participant must complete a Sea Base Snorkel Review in a strong manner. This review does not take the place of the BSA Swim Test. **Crews must still complete the BSA Swim Test and fill out the Unit Swim Classification Record prior to arrival.**

**Completed BSA Annual Health and Medical Record:** Sea Base participants must be in good health. All participants must provide a current and complete [BSA Annual Health and Medical Record \(BSA AHMR\)](#). BSA AHMR's are current for 12 months from the end of the month in which they are completed.

**Weight Requirements:** Due to rescue equipment restrictions and evacuation efforts from remote sites, under no circumstances will any individual exceeding 295 pounds be permitted to participate. Anyone arriving at Sea Base exceeding 295 pounds will be sent home at their own expense. No refund will be given.

General Eligibility at a Glance	
Registered Member of the BSA	*12 Years of Age or Older (see above)
Passed <a href="#">BSA Swim Test</a> as a Swimmer	Meet BSA Height & Weight or within 20lbs.
<a href="#">Meet Sea Base Risk Advisory Medical Requirements</a>	Medically Approved for Participation

## Sea Base Adult Leader Eligibility Requirements

**General Eligibility Requirements:** Adult leaders must meet **all** General Eligibility Requirements.

**Proper Adult Supervision:** As required by BSA Youth Protection, every crew must have at least two adult leaders over the age of 21. Sea Base crews with coed (male & female) youth participants, must have at least one female adult leader over the age of 21. [Coed Crew Requirements Explained](#)

**Adult Leader Training:** Every adult leader must be a registered member of the BSA and complete Youth Protection Training, BSA Safe Swim Defense, BSA Safety Afloat, and BSA Hazardous Weather Training.

**Adult Leader Medical Training:** At least one adult leader in each crew must complete Wilderness First Aid Training (WFA) and Basic CPR/AED from an agency approved by the [American Camping Association](#) or hold a higher professional license such as MD, EMT, RN, LPN or WFR. Multiple crews require multiple trained leaders. Sea Base **highly recommends** that every adult leader completes WFA and CPR/AED. However, it does not have to be the same adult leader holding WFA and CPR/AED.

Adult Leader Eligibility at a Glance	
Registered Member of the BSA	21 Years of Age or Older
Passed <a href="#">BSA Swim Test</a> as a Swimmer	Meet BSA Height & Weight or within 20lbs.
Meet Sea Base Medical Requirements	Medically Approved for Participation
Completed <a href="#">BSA Youth Protection</a> Training	Completed <a href="#">BSA Safe Swim Defense</a> Training
Completed <a href="#">BSA Safety Afloat</a> Training	Completed <a href="#">BSA Hazardous Weather</a> Training
One Adult Must Complete Wilderness First Aid	One Adult Must Complete CPR/AED





## Sea Base Risk Advisory

**Sea Base Experience:** Sea Base Adventures are not risk free. Participants must follow safety measures and take personal responsibility for their health and safety. Climate conditions include temperatures ranging from 45 to 95 degrees, high humidity, heat indexes reaching 110 degrees, and frequent, sometimes severe tropical weather. Prolonged, rigorous activities include snorkeling, scuba diving, kayaking, canoeing, sailing, hiking, and others.

It is the responsibility of participants, participant's parents/guardians, participant's healthcare teams and unit leaders to ensure that each individual, youth and adult, can safely participate in Sea Base Adventures.

**Adult Participants.** It is the role of accompanying adults to ensure youth safety. As a result, adult participants must arrive in good physical condition and have no medical conditions that may warrant diversion of staff attention away from youth participants.

**Sea Base participants must be able to:**

- Swim in a strong manner.
- Climb a 6 ft. ladder, unassisted, in inclement weather, from the water onto a rocking vessel.
- Self-rescue if found overboard in inclement weather.

**Location.** Sea Base adventures are conducted at sea, often far from land, with limited access to Emergency Services. **Response times can be affected by weather, seas, location, and can be delayed for hours.** Individuals with medical conditions that require immediate or nearly immediate access to professional medical care should not attend Sea Base.

**Right to Refuse.** Sea Base reserves the right to deny participation based on health and safety concerns and/or medical history.

**Special Needs or Medical Concerns.** Individuals with special needs or medical concerns must have an onsite advocate who understands the individual's condition and treatment who is prepared to support.

**Trained Leadership.** Each crew is required to have at least 1 adult trained in [Wilderness First Aid](#) and [CPR/AED](#) or who has a greater professional medical certification. These leaders act as the primary first response until emergency services arrive. **There are no-onsite facilities for treatment or extended care at Sea Base. Sea Base does not staff professional medical personnel.**

**Food:** The Sea Base offers food appropriate for the experience. If a participant has specific diet restrictions, please fill out the [Dietary Notification Form](#) once per participant with food allergies or dietary restrictions. Please note: It may not always be possible to accommodate individual preferences (likes and dislikes) that are not of a medical or religious nature. If concerns are so strong, contact us about possibilities of supplying your own food that meets those dietary needs.



**Medications.** Individuals requiring medication should continue medications as prescribed and bring an appropriate supply. Each crew must develop a plan to secure, lock and dispense medication. If a medication needs to be kept cold, that is possible, though there may or may not be refrigeration on boats.

**Allergies.** Participants with allergies that may result in severe reactions or anaphylaxis should bring Epi-Pen's to last up to 3 hours.

**Recommendations Regarding Chronic Illness and/or Compromised Immune System.** Persons with chronic conditions and/or compromised immune systems should seek medical advice and education regarding medical risks associated with harsh marine environments before participating. Individuals with open wounds and who are at risk for chronic illness and/or immune disease should not attend Sea Base.

**Hypertension (High Blood Pressure).** Participants should have a blood pressure less than 140/90. Individuals with hypertension should have the condition treated and well controlled before attending.

**Insulin-Dependent Diabetes Mellitus.** Diabetes must be well controlled. Hypoglycemia can lead to unconsciousness and drowning.

- Insulin-dependent persons who have been newly diagnosed or who have undergone changes in delivery systems in the last 6 months are advised not to participate.
- Persons with diabetes who have had frequent problems and/or hospitalizations should not participate.
- Persons using insulin to control diabetes **will not** be permitted to **scuba dive**.
- Any HbA1c test greater than 7, in the previous 12 months, **disqualifies** a person from **scuba diving**.
- Persons with diabetes under the age of 18 who control their diabetes with exercise and diet, without the aid of medication, and can provide three sequential hemoglobin tests with HbA1c values less than 6 **may** be approved to scuba dive.
- Persons over the age of 18 who control their diabetes with exercise and diet, without the aid of medication, and can provide four HbA1c tests, each with a value less than 7, within the previous 12 months **may** be approved to scuba dive.

**Seizures (Epilepsy):** Seizures while snorkeling are extremely dangerous and often fatal.

- History of loss of consciousness often precludes snorkeling. Formal consultation with a neurologist and/or cardiologist is required.
- **No participant with a history of seizures or taking anti-epileptic medication may snorkel or scuba dive.** Participants meeting these criteria must be wearing a USCG approved lifejacket and may not be wearing a mask anytime they are in the water. Participants meeting these criteria are allowed to **swim** in the water but must be accompanied by their buddy AND an adult who is trained to recognize symptoms of a seizure.
  - Prospective participants with a history of infant febrile seizures **may** be considered for **snorkeling** after formal consultation with a neurologist.

**Asthma.** Asthma must be well-controlled. Persons requiring use of medication/inhaler must bring an ample supply.

- Persons being treated for **asthma (including reactive airway disease) are disqualified from scuba diving.**



- Persons with a history of asthma who have been asymptomatic **and** have not used medications to control asthma for 5 years or more **may** be allowed to **scuba dive** if resolution of asthma is specifically confirmed by their physician and includes provocative pulmonary function testing conducted by a pulmonologist.
  - Provocative testing can include exercise, hypertonic saline, hyperpnea, etc.

**Recent Musculoskeletal Injuries & Orthopedic Surgery.** Persons with musculoskeletal problems or orthopedic surgeries within the last 6 months must provide a letter from their treating physician to participate.

**Psychological & Emotional Difficulties.** Any condition should be well-controlled without the services of a mental health practitioner. Participants requiring medication must bring an ample supply and take as prescribed for the duration of their trip. Participants should disclose conditions or medications on their BSA Medical.

- Many psychotropic medications are not compatible with **scuba diving**.
- Persons taking more than 1 psychotropic medication **will not** be cleared to **scuba dive**.
- Persons with anxiety **will not** be cleared to **scuba dive**.

**Height/Weight Restrictions.** If you exceed the maximum weight for height as explained in the following chart and your planned high-adventure activity will take you more than 30 minutes away from rescue by USCG, you may not be allowed to participate. Due to rescue equipment restrictions and evacuation efforts from remote sites, under no circumstances will any individual exceeding 295 pounds be permitted to participate. Anyone arriving at Sea Base exceeding 295 pounds will be sent home at their own expense. No refund will be given.

Maximum Weight for Height							
Height (inches)	Max. Weight	Height (inches)	Max. Weight	Height (inches)	Max. Weight	Height (inches)	Max. Weight
60	166	65	195	70	226	75	260
61	172	66	201	71	233	76	267
62	178	67	207	72	239	77	274
63	183	68	214	73	246	78	281
64	189	69	220	74	252	79 and over	295

**Sleep Apnea:** Prospective participants with sleep apnea may participate at Sea Base if they have been medically cleared for participation, **they understand that they are responsible to provide battery support for their CPAP and may not have access to electricity** if participating in Bahamas, St. Thomas, St. Croix, Florida Keys Sailing, Live Aboard Diving, Keys Adventure or Out island programs.

## To Limit Risk and the Possibility of Harm

**Leadership:** Crew leaders must have a strong understanding of every participants' limitations and be fully prepared to administer treatment for medical conditions. Crew leaders are responsible to know and reinforce BSA Safe Swim Defense, Safety Afloat and BSA Youth Protection.

**Medical Treatment:** Wilderness First Aid and CPR/AED trained crew leaders are the first line of treatment in any medical emergency. **Crew leaders must be prepared to assume this role and**

**responsibility.** Any medical emergency requiring professional assistance will be referred to the United States Coast Guard or appropriate agency if at Sea or local EMS if on land.

**Food:** The Sea Base offers food appropriate for the experience. If a participant has specific diet restrictions, please contact the Sea Base food service department. Gluten free items are in short supply in the USVI, participants should consider bringing GF items. Please note: It may not always be possible to accommodate individual preferences (likes and dislikes) that are not of a medical or religious nature.

**Medications:** Participants who are prescribed medication, for any purpose, **should continue use as prescribed while at Sea Base unless directed by the physician.** It is the role of the unit leader to ensure that each participant takes medication as prescribed.

**Storing and Dispensing Medications:** Sea Base does not store or dispense medication. **Prior to arrival the crew must develop a system for properly storing and dispensing medication.** Consider a Pelican Case, or some other lockable, waterproof case for storing medication.

**Over the Counter Medication:** Sea Base does not dispense any type of medication including over the counter medication. **Each crew is responsible to bring a Sea Base specific first aid kit including any over-the-counter medications that might be needed.**

**Health Insurance and BSA Campers Accident and Sickness Plan:** Every Sea Base participant should have health insurance and provide front and back copies of their insurance card. All campers are covered by a limited Campers Accident and Sickness Plan. This plan is a secondary policy. When not insured, BSA Campers Accident and Sickness Plan becomes the primary policy. [Please review the policy for details.](#)

**Sea Base Specific First Aid Kit:** Every crew must provide their own first aid kit. A Sea Base specific first aid kit includes all items found in a [traditional back country first aid kit](#) along with SPF 35 or greater sunscreen, SPF 35 or greater lip balm, small plastic bottle of vinegar, sea sickness medication, non-spray insect repellent, swimmers ear drops, Benadryl, cooling cloths.

**Special Needs:** When required, **individuals with special needs must have an advocate who is actively participating as a member of the crew** and understands the individual's limitations and needs.

**Cleanliness:** Participants should properly wash their hands whenever possible and always after using the restroom, prior to cooking or putting their hands in their mouth.

**Ear Care:** After snorkeling, diving, or swimming, participants should tilt their head to one side, gently pull on their earlobe until confined water is released and then repeat on the opposite side.

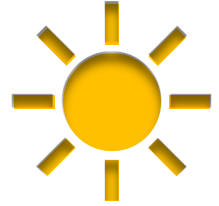
**Motion Sickness:** Due to the nature of ocean-based adventures, it is inevitable that some crew members will have issues with sea sickness. **Vessels do not return to Sea Base because of sea sickness.** Participants should speak with their physician regarding the use of sea sickness medications.

**Hydration:** Severe dehydration can lead to significant illness, and in extreme cases, death. Crews should establish and utilize a clear hydration plan and ensure that every crew member has or purchases a Nalgene style water bottle that can be clipped to a vessel.

☒ Metal and aluminum water bottles are prohibited for Sailing programs.

**Sunscreen and Sun Coverage:** Overexposure to sun can cause burns, blisters, and illness leading to discomfort and, in severe cases, suspension or cancellation of an individuals or crews adventure. In addition to biodegradable SPF 35 or greater sunscreen; Sea Base highly recommends that every participant wear a long sleeve UPF 30 or greater shirt (particularly while snorkeling), hat- preferably wide brimmed, buff, polarized sunglasses.

- Spray and aerosol sunscreens are prohibited at Sea Base.



Available at the Ship Store	
Custom Crew Long Sleeve UPF +30 Shirts	Sea Base Carabiners
Custom Crew Hats	Polarized Sunglasses
Sea Base Hats	Biodegradable Sunscreen
Bufs	Motion Sickness Medication
Swimmers Ear Drops	Sea Base Water Bottles

☒ Sea Base does not have onsite stores in St. Thomas or the Bahamas. Visit [store.bsaseabase.org](http://store.bsaseabase.org).



## Wildlife and Toxic Plants at Sea Base

**Sharks, Rays, Lionfish, Goliath Grouper and Eels:** Sharks, rays, lionfish, goliath grouper and eels pose an **extremely low** risk to humans. Participants should give all marine species a wide berth and avoid touching, harassing or provoking marine animals.



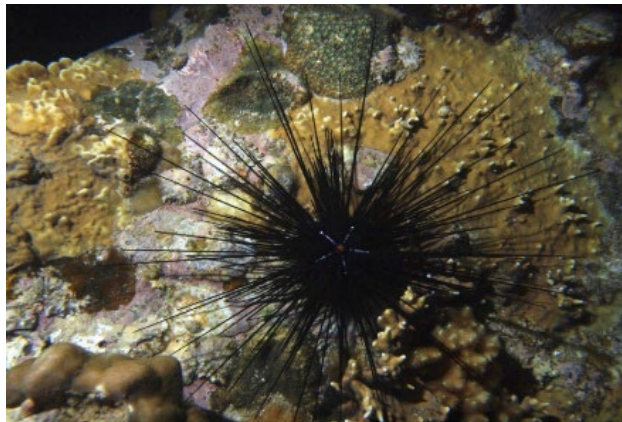
**Fire Coral:** Sea Base participants should never touch any coral or coral like structure. When touched, Fire Coral shoots a coiled barb which releases a neurotoxin upon entering either prey or predator. In humans, the toxin can cause burning skin conditions or rashes that may last several days. Treatment includes rinsing the affected area with vinegar and keeping the affected area clean and dry. Open wounds or severe scrapes require medical evaluation.



*(NOAA Photos)*

**Moon Jellyfish and Portuguese Man-O-Wars:** Jellyfish and man-o-wars pose a limited risk during Sea Base Adventures. Moon jellyfish stings can cause skin irritation and minor pain. Treatment includes rinsing the affected area with vinegar. Man-o-wars can cause skin irritation, swelling and pain. Treatment includes removing the tentacles and rinsing the affected area with vinegar. If swelling worsens or an allergic reaction occurs, medical evaluation and/or treatment may be required.

**Sea Urchins:** Covered in calcium carbonate spines; Sea Urchins pose a limited risk to divers, snorkelers, and waders who step on or attempt to grab or handle the species. Sea Urchin spines can easily penetrate skin and then break off. To avoid this risk, participants should avoid handling Sea Urchins and wear hard soled shoes or dive booties when wading in areas populated by Sea Urchins.



*(Photo Divers Alert Network)*

## Sea Base Emergency Procedures

**Medical Emergencies on Land:** Call 911, alert Sea Base staff. AED's are clearly marked and located in each program office. Secure individuals BSA AHMR for EMS.

**Medical Emergencies while at Sea:** Call Channel 16, United States Coast Guard or 911. Secure individuals BSA AHMR for EMS.

**Fire on Land:** Pull fire alarm, call 911, keep your crew together and move to the defined evacuation point, alert Sea Base staff.

**Fire at Sea:** Follow direction of captain. If captain is incapacitated, call Channel 16: "US Coast Guard, US Coast Guard, US Coast guard this is Sea Base vessel \_\_\_\_\_ located at latitude/longitude \_\_\_\_\_ we have a fire aboard." If the fire is small, the size of a wastebasket, all participants must don lifejackets and then a trained adult should use an onboard fire extinguisher to put out the fire. If the fire is larger than a wastebasket and the crew is forced to abandon ship, "May Day, May Day, May Day this is Sea Base vessel \_\_\_\_\_ located at latitude/longitude \_\_\_\_\_ we have a fire aboard and are abandoning ship. We have \_\_\_\_\_ adults \_\_\_\_\_ youth plus \_\_\_\_\_ crew." Every participant must don USCG approved life jackets and in an orderly manner abandon ship. As participants abandon ship, the crew leader should count off to ensure that there is no one left aboard the vessel. Once in the water the crew leader must take a headcount of all participants, form a circle by locking arms and stay together until rescue arrives.

**Man Overboard:** Maintain eye contact, point to the individual and yell, "Man Overboard." Continue to point and maintain eye contact until the individual is safely back aboard the vessel.

**Aggressive Individual:** Move away from the person as quickly as possible. Once at a safe distance, alert Sea Base staff or in extreme circumstances call 911.





## Sea Base Policies and Procedures

**Adult to Youth Ratios:** Sea Base Crews must have more or an equal number of youth to adult participants. Individuals under the age of 21 may be counted as youth participants when considering this ratio.

⊗ Scouts with special needs are counted as youth participants regardless of age.

**Buddy System:** Adult and youth participants must adhere to the buddy system. While snorkeling or scuba diving, buddies must remain within arms distance. While onshore participants must travel in groups of two or more. *Buddy pairs cannot be coed.* **In Key West, the Bahamas and US Virgin Islands, and at Coral Reef midweeks, units must travel as a group.**

**Unit Leader Responsibilities:** Prior to arrival, unit leaders are responsible for ensuring that all paperwork and trainings are up to date and complete. **This includes inputting the unit roster 90 days prior to arrival.** Upon arrival, Unit Leaders are responsible to act as the first line of treatment when medical issues arise, fulfill Safe Swim and Safety Afloat responsibilities, follow and enforce BSA Youth Protection Policies, ensure that youth participants follow Sea Base policies and direction from captains and staff members. Unit Leaders must also actively participate in the adventure, Sea Base is not a passive experience.

**Youth Crew Leader Responsibilities:** Sea Base should be a youth-led adventure. Crews must elect a seasoned crew leader prior to onsite arrival. Sea Base should not be the youths first leadership experience. Youth will make duty assignments for both youth and adults. Ensure that those duties are completed and follow up with the crew when they are not. For Keys Adventure Sailing (KS), a Sample Galley Duty Roster and menu can be obtained [here](#). A Sample Anchor Watch Roster can be obtained [here](#).

**Scout Oath, Scout Law, Outdoor Code:** Participants are expected to act in accordance with the Scout Oath, Scout Law, and Outdoor Code.



**Alcoholic Beverages or Illegal Substances:** There is no place in Scouting for the possession or use of alcohol or illegal substances. **Anyone found in violation of this policy will be required to vacate their adventure and may be reported to local law enforcement and their local council.** If the unit is unable to provide proper leadership to satisfy BSA YPT, the entire crew will be required to vacate their adventure.

**Smoking, Vaping, Smokeless Tobacco:** Use of tobacco products and vaping is only permitted in designated areas. Sea Base strongly suggests users of such products purchase nicotine gum or use other alternatives while at Sea Base.

**Scout Appropriate Language:** Sexual conversations of any nature including “jokes” are prohibited. Racial, ethnic, religious, sexist and sexual orientation slurs are prohibited.

**Uniform:** All participants are expected to arrive in either field or activity uniform.



**Attire:** Clothing worn by participants must not promote illegal drugs, alcohol, violence, sexual activity, racism, sexism, or bigotry. While on base, it is expected that participants will wear shirts and shorts.

**Swimming Attire:** Swimsuits must be modest. For males, tight fitting swim briefs or swim bottoms short enough to allow exposure are not allowed. For females, bikinis are not allowed. Modest tankinis or one-piece swimsuits are appropriate.

**Footwear:** Footwear is required by all participants while onshore. Footwear requirements vary by program. Please review the provided Packing List. While on base, most crews choose to wear flip flops.

**Open Scuba:** Only individuals participating in Scuba Adventure, Scuba Certification or Scuba Live Aboard may scuba dive while at Sea Base.

**Unplug:** Use of phones, tablets and other transmission electronics should be restricted to emergency or camera use. Please place phones on airplane mode and stow away.

**Lost, Stolen or Damaged Items:** Sea Base is not responsible for personal items. Please properly stow and safeguard your valuables.

**Intentional Damage to Sea Base Vessels, Facilities, Contracted Facilities, Public or Personal Property:** Anyone intentionally damaging property, including pranks that result in damage, will vacate their adventure and will be held financially liable for damages.

**Bullying, Hazing, Fighting, Play Fighting, Wrestling:** All forms of physical confrontation including “play” are prohibited.

**Sexual Contact:** Sexual contact of any kind, including public display of affection, is prohibited.

**Cleanliness:** Dorms, Base, Galley, Marinas, and Vessels are expected to be cleaned and maintained by participants. Youth and adults are expected to shower when they have the opportunity.

**Disposal of Trash:** Litter becomes marine debris and negatively impacts the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Everglades National Park, US Virgin Islands National Park, Sea of Abaco, marine life and our ocean. Participants must ensure that all recycling and garbage is secured and disposed of properly.

**Conservation:** For their own protection and the protection of the environment, Sea Base participants must not touch, harass, or harm wildlife. Sea Base participants must not take or collect rocks, shells, or marine species. Special care must be taken when snorkeling in sensitive areas such as coral reefs.

**As Scouts, you are responsible for following safe practices and the rules set forth by your Captain. The rules are designed for your safety, the safety of all participants in the crew, and safety of the vessel. Failure or unwillingness to follow the rules set by the Captain will result in the termination of your activities, potentially for the remainder of your adventure.**

## Sea Base Traditions and Awards

**Conservation:** Sea Base is recognized as the lone World Organization of Scouting Movement, [Scout Centre of Excellence for Nature and Environment](#) in the United States. As part of your adventure your unit will have the opportunity to earn the WOSM SCENE Award.

While not every unit will choose to earn the SCENE Award, it is imperative that each participant understands that Sea Base adventures are conducted in sensitive marine environments. Participants must not touch or harm wildlife including endangered sea turtles and coral. Participants must not take shells, coral, artifacts from Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Dry Tortugas National Park, Everglades National Park, US Virgin Islands National Park, Buck Island National Reef National Monument, East End Marine Park or any adjacent waters.



**Sea Base Custom Crew Gear:** Sea Base provides the opportunity for units to order customized, official apparel at [Sea Base Ship Store](#), like long sleeve UPF shirts. Designs and Colors are subject to change. Go to [www.store.bsaseabase.org](http://www.store.bsaseabase.org) for updated information on making your crew order.

**Duty to God:** Sea Base encourages individuals and units to celebrate creation. The Duty to God Award is designed to enhance your units adventure by propelling participants to find evidence of Higher Purpose in the oceans, reefs and marine species encountered at Sea Base. Patches are available for purchase.



**Triple Crown and Grand Slam Award:** Individuals who attend Sea Base and two other BSA National High Adventure Bases are eligible for the Triple Crown Award. Individuals who attend all four BSA National High Adventure Bases are eligible for the Grand Slam Award. Applications for these awards can be found at [www.nationalhighadventureawards.org](http://www.nationalhighadventureawards.org).

**Advancement at Sea Base:** Advancement is not part of the formal Sea Base experience. Sea Base does not offer structured merit badge programs or merit badge instructors. If your unit is interested in advancement while at Sea Base, your crew will need to develop a plan for advancement prior to arrival.

## Preparing for Sea Base

**Paperwork:** Participation for Sea Base requires significant paperwork. It is essential that your crew compiles all necessary documents and travel information in an easy to use and understand format. The following documents are required:

- Printed Crew Roster (Crew Roster must be uploaded 90 days prior to arrival)
- [BSA Safe Swim Certificates](#) for each adult leader
- [BSA Safety Afloat Certificates](#) for each adult leader
- [BSA Youth Protection Certificates](#) for each adult leader
- [BSA Hazardous Weather Certificates](#) for each adult leader
- Wilderness First Aid Certificate

- CPR/AED Certificate
- [BSA Unit Swim Classification Record](#) with each participant listed
- [Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist](#) with each participant listed
- [BSA Annual Health and Medical Records](#) for each participant (older versions of the BSA AHMR will no longer be accepted, so please use this link)
- Copies of Insurance Cards (front and back) for each participant
- [Sea Base Vessel Liability Waiver](#) for each participant

Required Paperwork at a Glance	
Crew Roster	<a href="#">Safe Swim Defense</a> Certificates
<a href="#">BSA Annual Health and Medical Records</a>	Front & Back Copies of Insurance Cards
<a href="#">Safety Afloat</a> Certificates	<a href="#">Youth Protection</a> Certificates
<a href="#">Hazardous Weather</a> Certificates	<a href="#">Sea Base Vessel Liability Waiver</a>
<a href="#">Unit Swim Classification Record</a>	<a href="#">Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist</a>
<b>Minimum of 1 Adult Leader Must Have</b>	<b>Minimum of 1 Adult Leader Must Have</b>
CPR/AED Training Card	Wilderness First Aid Training or Greater Certification

Sea Base highly recommends that all forms are duplicated and held by an adult leader who is not accompanying the crew to Sea Base. This adult leader should be available on the date of check in in case forms are lost, misplaced, or forgotten.

*Notify Sea Base of any food allergies or dietary restrictions at least 2-4 weeks prior to arrival [HERE](#).*

## Sea Base Payment Plan

**2024 Payment Schedule:** Crews are responsible to know, understand and adhere to the payment schedule. Failure to provide on time payment will result in cancellation. Deposits are non-refundable. Fees are non-refundable unless Sea Base rebooks the cancelled crew. All cancelled crews are subject to a cancellation fee in the amount of the deposit made.

**2025 Sea Base Crews:** The payment schedule published here is outlined for 2024 Sea Base Crews. These guides will be updated in the fall of 2024 for your adventure year, and there may be changes to the payment schedule. Please refer to the Sea Base website, your confirmation emails, and your online reservation for the 2025 Sea Base payment schedule information.

- **Disclaimer:** BSA National High Adventure Bases set baseline pricing 12-24 months prior to attendance. Additional fuel, food, utilities or other surcharges may be required based on economic conditions, increased costs, and other factors.

**Please note:** All crews are required to become current with payment within 30 days of registering for a Sea Base Adventure, or **fully paid 90 days prior to arrival** - whichever date comes first. Any installments with due dates in the past are required to be submitted within 30 days of signing up if a crew has greater than 90 days before they are scheduled to arrive.

**Deposit:** \$250.00 per crew, required to create a reservation.

**30-Day Payment:** Within 30 days of sign up, each crew must submit their first payment. The 30-day payment is 10% of the remaining balance after the original deposit.

**Half Payment:** One half of each crew's remaining balance is due on **November 1**.

**Final Payment:** Due 90-days prior to each crew's scheduled arrival.

**Online Payment:** After the deposit, Sea Base accepts online e-check payment only. Sea Base does not accept credit cards.

**Reservation Dashboard & Payment Status:** The designated Reservation Contact and Additional Reservation Contact can view their reservation's specific payment schedule on a Reservation Dashboard through the reservation portal on our [2024 Crews Page linked here](#).

## Sea Base Travel Plan

**Preparation:** Each crew is responsible to plan, secure and finance travel to Sea Base including ground transportation. Travel Insurance is highly recommended. The unit chartering organization, unit committee, local council, parents and participants should be made aware of all travel plans.

**Air Travel:** Florida Sea Base Crews can choose from multiple S. Florida Airports. Key West International Airport (EYW), Miami International Airport (MIA), Ft. Lauderdale International Airport (FLL).



**Car Rental:** Below is a list of rental car companies with locations on the Florida mainland and in the Florida Keys:

- [Avis Rental Car](#) 800-230-4898
- [Budget Rental Car](#) 800-218-7992
- [Enterprise Rental Car](#) 800-261-7331

**Shuttle Service** Several agencies provide travel to and from the Florida Keys. Sea Base Crews are responsible for researching tour providers and choose those that best suit crew needs. When booking, it is extremely important to demand that your unit arrive at Sea Base between 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm. Units arriving late may have their Sea Base Adventure delayed up to 24 hours. Below is a list of service providers.

- [Ace Tours](#) 888-641-4389
- [Blue Sky Adventures](#) 877-225-8375
- [Padrino Limousine](#) 888-385-5466
- [Keys Shuttle](#) 888-765-9997
- [Florida Keys Express Shuttle](#) 305-743-7475

**THE BSA DOES NOT GUARANTEE THE QUALITY OF ANY SERVICE PROVIDER NOR DOES THE BSA RECOMMEND ANY PROVIDER.**

**Arrival:** It is essential for Sea Base Crews to arrive between 1:00pm and 3:00 pm. Crews arriving after 3:00 pm will be unable to complete the necessary pre-adventure training and could force their adventure to be delayed up to 24 hours. **Winter & Holiday Crews:** *Expect to add 1-2 hours to your travel time* due to heavy traffic on the roads. **Winter & Early Spring (before DST) crews:** Please arrive between 12:30 and 1:00 pm to take full advantage of your adventure.

**Departure:** Sea Base Crews may depart as early as travel dictates. Early breakfast is served at 7:00 am and regular breakfast at 8:00 am. **All crews must vacate no later than the listed departure time in the program overview for their specific adventure.** **Winter & Holiday Crews:** *Expect to add 1-2 hours to your travel time* due to heavy traffic on the roads.

**Pre/Post High Adventure Rustic Camping at Camp Jackson Sawyer:** As you prepare to embark on your adventure, we would like to invite you to extend your stay or accommodate your travel plans by booking Pre/Post Adventure Accommodations through Sea Base. We have several options available exclusively to Sea Base crews:

- Pre/Post Premium- A discounted hotel stay near either FLL and MIA Airport with free Shuttle service to/from the airport to the hotel
- Pre/Post Deluxe- Deluxe tent camping- Stay in a platform tent facing the ocean featuring air conditioning, electricity and bunk beds with food provided at Camp Jackson Sawyer on Scout Key
- Pre/Post Traditional- Stay in traditional dome tents in the shadiest area of the camp with food provided at Camp Jackson Sawyer on Scout Key



**Transportation to Sea Base is not provided to crews; you will need to arrange this on your own.**  
**For more information on these options, please visit our booking site: [www.bsaseabase.org/prepost](http://www.bsaseabase.org/prepost)**

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## Sea Base Training Plan

**Prepared:** Sea Base Adventures are aquatics based and require participants to be fit, competent swimmers and hikers. It is recommended that your unit, in consultation with your local council BSA Aquatics Director or qualified swim instructor, develops a crew training regimen that includes both swimming and snorkeling. An adequate plan includes:

### All Crews:

- [Safe Swim Defense Training](#)
- [Safety Afloat Training](#)
- [BSA Swim Test](#)
- Monthly Swimming Sessions beginning 6 months prior to arrival
- Complete 3 strenuous 2-3-mile hikes
- [Snorkeling BSA](#)
- Watch: [A Reef Etiquette](#) Video produced by NOAA.
- [Review Florida Fishing Practices](#)

### Keys Adventure Sailing Crews:

- [Review Guide to High Adventure Sailing](#)
- Watch US Sailing Video: [Parts of a Boat](#)
- Watch US Sailing Video: [Parts of a Rig](#)
- Watch US Sailing Video: [Points of a Sail](#)



## Sea Base Program Overview

**Planning:** Epic Adventure begins with planning and preparation. Upon arrival (1:00pm - 3:00pm), each crew will have its paperwork reviewed and complete a gear shakedown. Any participant who exceeds 295 pounds or has not passed the BSA Swim Test prior to arrival will forfeit their adventure. **Please vet your crew well in advance to ensure that no one is disappointed.**

Required Paperwork at a Glance	
Crew Roster	<a href="#">Safe Swim Defense</a> Certificates
<a href="#">BSA Annual Health and Medical Records</a>	Front & Back Copies of Insurance Cards
<a href="#">Safety Afloat</a> Certificates	<a href="#">Youth Protection</a> Certificates
<a href="#">Hazardous Weather</a> Certificates	<a href="#">Vessel Liability Waiver</a> (first 2 spaces left blank)
<a href="#">Unit Swim Classification Record</a>	<a href="#">Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist</a>
<b>Minimum of 1 Adult Leader Must Have</b>	<b>Minimum of 1 Adult Leader Must Have</b>
CPR/AED Training Card	Wilderness First Aid Training or Greater Certification

*Notify Sea Base of any food allergies or dietary restrictions at least 2-4 weeks prior to arrival [HERE](#).*

**Length of Adventure:** Keys Adventure Sailing, and Island Expedition crews will stay 5 nights, 6 days including arrival and departure days. Crews may not arrive early or depart later than scheduled unless they make offsite accommodations.



**Crew Size:** The United States Coast Guard dictates crew size and allows no more than 8 total paid participants aboard Sea Base vessels.

**Arrival Time:** Crews must arrive **between 1:00pm and 3:00pm having already eaten lunch**. Crews arriving later than 3:00pm may have their adventure delayed by 24 hours. If your crew is delayed due to flights or island transport, alert Sea Base Islamorada as soon as possible. **Winter & Early Spring crews (before DST)**, please arrive between 12:30 and 1:00 pm to take full advantage of your adventure.

**Departure Time:** Crews may depart as early as necessary but must **depart no later than the listed departure time in the program overview for their adventure**.

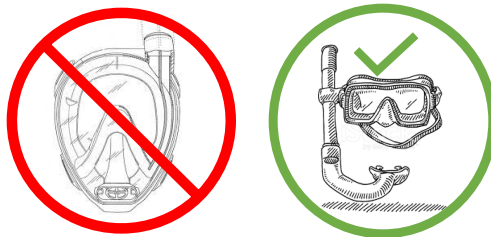


**Vessel Assignments for Keys Adventure Sailing (KS):** Sea Base charters several types of vessels. Crew vessel assignments are made in advance but can change due to program requirements.

**Bringing Gear Aboard:** All personal items brought aboard, other than sleeping and snorkeling gear, must fit into a Sea Base approved duffel bag. We provide a mesh duffel bag upon arrival, or you can pre-purchase an approved [duffel bag](#) through the Ship Store. **Please do not source your own bags. Space on a sailing vessel is limited and our bags have been size tested to work on all of our vessels.** In addition to personal bags, each crew may bring 2 military style duffel bags to carry first aid kits, sunscreen and crew sleeping gear. The size of the military style duffel is irrelevant as long as the bag is fully collapsible.

**Snorkel Gear:** Each participant will be responsible for bringing their own mask and snorkel. The only snorkeling gear provided by Sea Base is a mesh bag, fins, and PFD. Crew members can purchase masks and snorkels from the [Sea Base Ship Store](#) if they choose.

**Full face masks are not permitted at any Sea Base location.**



**Storage for Keys Adventure Sailing (KS):** Sea Base provides a limited amount of storage on land adequate for a single piece of checked luggage per crew and a single piece of carry-on luggage per person for items not going aboard the vessel. Please limit items to those listed on the packing list. Not all the items on the packing list will travel aboard your vessel. As a result, **it is imperative that crews not bring hard side luggage or unnecessary items**. The dimensions of the storage locker for 8-person crews are around 3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft.

**Sea Base Captains:** Every captain under charter at Sea Base is experienced and vetted. Their primary responsibility is to ensure the safety of the vessel and crew. It is essential that each crew understands that a request by their captain is an order delivered kindly. The captain is the final authority while aboard the vessel.

**Sea Base Vessels:** Every vessel chartered by Sea Base completes a safety examination prior to providing charters. Only vessels deemed safe and capable by the United States Coast Guard are chartered.

**Crew Leaders:** Adult crew leaders are responsible for ensuring that all BSA and Sea Base Policies, including Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat, are followed. This means that an adult leader is required to stay on board with the captain to be the lookout during snorkel stops. Adult crew leaders are also the first line of treatment in a minor or major medical event.

**Working Vessel for Keys Adventure Sailing (KS):** Sailing Adventure boats are working vessels. Youth and adult participants will cook, clean, hoist sails and more. Be prepared to assume tasks given by the youth crew leader and captain.

**Anchor Watch and Galley Duty for Keys Adventure Sailing (KS):** Anchor Watch is mandated by the United States Coast Guard. Every member of your crew will take part in anchor watch. Your unit's safety depends on you being awake and alert. Every crew member should also participate in cooking and cleaning. A sample Galley Duty Roster and Menu can be found [here](#). A sample Anchor Watch Schedule can be found [here](#).

**Onboard Sleeping Arrangements for Keys Adventure Sailing (KS):** Due to heat, humidity and close quarters, most sailing participants choose to sleep on deck. **Be advised that in inclement weather, below deck housing will be cramped.**

**Marine Head:** Using a marine head is much different than using a household toilet. Nothing other than personal waste may be deposited into the toilet. Paper products, including toilet paper, must be bagged and deposited in a trash receptacle.

**Snorkeling:** The Florida Keys are home to some of the most beautiful mangrove and reef snorkeling in the world. While snorkeling, participants must wear a snorkeling PFD, stay within arm's reach of their buddy, and never take, touch, or harass underwater species including coral. Participants must provide their own mask and snorkel. Snorkel fins and PFDs are provided for all participants.

## Keys Adventure Sailing (KS)

**Overview:** Keys Adventure Sailing participants will enjoy their adventure in the most diverse ecosystem in North America. The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary is home to thousands of underwater species including dolphins, sea turtles, fish and the Florida Reef. This program is modeled after the incredibly popular Keys Adventure. Setting sail from Islamorada, crews will embark on three days of adventure at sea. During that portion of the adventure, they will sail, snorkel and fish in the beautiful waters of the Florida Keys. Upon returning to base, they will be housed in our glamping tents with bunk beds and air conditioning. The remainder of the adventure will include days of snorkeling, kayaking, paddle boarding and a visit to historic Indian Key which is only accessible by water. Below you will find an overview of your week at Sea Base. Please note that the program is dictated by weather, tides and the ability of the crew. Your float plan can vary, sometimes widely, due to these factors.

**Keys Adventure Sailing Crew Size:** 6- 8 individuals. This number includes both youth and adult participants. Due to US Coast Guard Regulations crews may not exceed the maximum number allowed.

**Length of Adventure:** 5 nights, 6 days including arrival and departure dates, boarding the vessel their first night. For example, crews arriving at Sea Base on Sunday will depart Sea Base on the following Friday.

**Arrival:** Crews must check in between 1:00pm and 3:00pm on their arrival day. We ask Early Spring (before DST changes) crews to arrive between 12:30pm and 1:00pm so that they can set sail the first night. This is because of the early sunset during that time of year.



**Schedule:** Crews must check in between 1:00pm and 3:00pm (12:30-1:00pm for early Spring crews). Crews will complete the arrival process of paperwork check-in, snorkel review, and gear shakedown. Crews will board the vessel the night of their arrival.

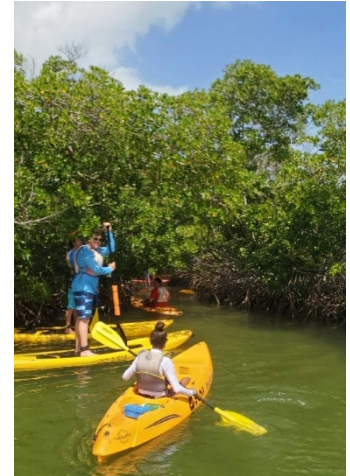
- They will enjoy sailing, fishing, and snorkeling on days 1, 2 and 3 and will return to dock at approximately 3:00pm on day 3. Dinner will be in the Sea Base galley that evening.
- Crews will spend night 3, 4, and 5 in our glamping tents with bunk beds and air conditioning.
- Days 4 and 5 will consist of scenic kayaking and paddle boarding from our base in Islamorada, a snorkel trip aboard our 46 ft. power vessels, small boat sailing, and a trip to Indian Key where crews will learn rich history about the Florida Keys.
  - Fishing License: All participants ages 16 and older must purchase a valid Florida Fishing License to participate in any fishing while at Sea Base (not including time aboard sailboat). Visit [gooutdoorsflorida.com](http://gooutdoorsflorida.com) for information on the licenses. On day 3, your boat's arrival back to Sea Base, you will be prompted to purchase a 3-day saltwater license if you choose to fish during the rest of your time.
- After their final activity on day 5, crews will check in any provided gear and bags and participate in a luau that evening. While on base, crews will have the opportunity to shower, access laundry facilities, and visit the Ship Store.

**Departure:** Crews may depart as early as necessary. A continental breakfast is offered at 7:00am and hot breakfast is offered at 8:00am. Crews must depart prior to 10:00am.

## Island Expedition (IE)

**Overview:** Island Expedition participants will enjoy their adventure getting a firsthand look at how the different ecosystems of the Florida Keys work together to create the beauty that surrounds them. Crews will paddle through mangrove forests, hike on a Florida State Park eco trail, fish from one of our 28 ft. fishing vessels, and spend two full days on the water snorkeling from one of our Newton dive boats. Not to be confused with the Out Island Adventure at the Brinton Environmental Center, crews participating in the Island Expedition will be spending their nights in air-conditioned dormitories at our Islamorada location. If you're looking for an action-packed adventure, look no further.

**Island Expedition Crew Size:** 6- 8 individuals. This number includes both youth and adult participants. Due to US Coast Guard Regulations crews may not exceed the maximum number allowed.



**Length of Adventure:** 5 nights, 6 days including arrival and departure dates. For example, crews arriving at Sea Base on Sunday will depart Sea Base on the following Friday.

**Schedule:** Crews must check in between 1:00pm and 3:00pm on their arrival day. Crews will complete the arrival process of paperwork check-in snorkel gear checkout, and a snorkel review. They will then move into their dormitories. Breakfast and dinner each day will be on base, and lunch will be packed.

- The first full day (Day 2) will either be spent with a trip to Long Key State Park where crews will kayak through a mangrove forest learning about the fauna of the Florida Keys mangroves. Crews will cook their own lunch at the park and then go on a 1.1-mile hike (the Golden Orb Trail) learning more about the flora and fauna of the mangrove ecosystem.

**OR**

- The first full day (Day 2) will be spent aboard one of our 28 ft. fishing vessels learning about backcountry fishing and attempting to make it out to the reef to potentially catch their dinner. There will also be shark-tagging equipment on the boat in case they get lucky.
- Day 3 will be spent doing the above activity that crews did not do on Day 2.
- Days 4 and 5 will be spent aboard one of our Newton dive boats bound for the world's third largest barrier reef. They will learn about fish identification and the importance of the coral reef not only locally, but also globally.
- Evenings will consist of building SeaPerch underwater robots to race on their final day.
- After their final activity on Day 5, crews will return any provided gear and participate in a luau that evening.

**Departure:** Crews may depart as early as necessary. A continental breakfast is offered at 7:00am and hot breakfast is offered at 8:00am. Crews must depart prior to 10:00am.

## Gear and Packing List

**Prepared:** Sea Base provides meals, eating utensils, cooking equipment, and fishing gear along with nearly everything else a participant might need on their adventure. Participants must bring their own snorkel gear. However, Sea Base does not allow full-face snorkel equipment. Participants **should not** bring personal fishing gear.

**Snorkeling Gear:** Each participant is responsible for bringing their own Mask and Snorkel. Swim fins, snorkel vests and snorkel equipment bags will be provided on base if requested.

**Fishing Gear:** Fishing gear is provided. Participants should note that while fishing is offered, it is not a primary activity. Units may or may not catch fish.

**Packing List:** Participants should limit personal and crew items to those listed below. There is limited onsite storage available. Not every item on the list will be used in a given week, but all are required. Long sleeved shirts and Buffs are intended to reduce the need for sunscreen. Some participants prefer jogging shoes to sandals and vice versa. The packing list relies on judgement for items such as underwear.

Packing List Personal	Packing List Personal
<b>Required</b>	<b>Required</b>
2 UPF +30 Long Sleeved Shirts	Prescription Medication
Wide Brimmed Hat	Polarized Sunglasses
Buff	Water Bottle
Biodegradable Sunscreen, No Sprays	Toiletry Kit
1 Pair Regular Shorts	Headlamp
1 Pair Swimming Shorts	2 Towels
2 Pairs Regular Socks	Light Weight Sleeping Pad
1 Carabiner- For Water Bottle	Light Weight Sleeping Cover
1 Pair Sandals and 1 Pair Water Shoes	Small Pillow
Raingear	Spending Money (\$150- \$200)
Mask and Snorkel	
<b>Personal Fall, Winter, Spring</b>	<b>Personal Fall, Winter, Spring</b>
1 Fleece	1 Medium Weight Sleeping Bag
<b>Suggested</b>	<b>Suggested</b>
1 Pair Neoprene Socks for Fins	Waterproof Camera
1 Hawaiian Shirt for Final Dinner (SE and KS)	Mug for coffee or tea (not provided at base)

Crew Packing List	Crew Packing List
Unit Roster	<a href="#">BSA Youth Protection Training</a> Copies
<a href="#">BSA AHMR</a> for Each Participant	<a href="#">Unit Swim Classification Record</a>
Wilderness First Aid & CPR Training Cards	Front & Back Copies of Insurance Cards
<a href="#">Safe Swim Defense</a> Training Copies	Crew First Aid Kit (2 for STEM Eco)
<a href="#">Safety Afloat</a> Training Copies	1 Medium Size Dry Bag
<a href="#">Hazardous Weather</a> Training Copies	Excitement!
<a href="#">Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist</a>	Standard size padlock (key or combination)

## Sea Base Frequently Asked Questions

**Are scholarships available at Sea Base?** Yes! Scholarships are available for those with a demonstrated need. Visit <http://www.bsaseabase.org/resources/forms> to access the Sea Base Scholarship form.

**Who can be awarded a Sea Base Scholarship?** Scholarships are available to individuals, youth and adults, with a demonstrated need.

**Can two adult males take a crew with any number of female youth to Sea Base?** Not unless the crew also has a female leader over the age of 21 present.

**Can two adult females take a crew of all male youth to Sea Base?** Yes.



**Can we attend Sea Base as a coed crew?** [The guidelines for units to attend as a coed Sea Base crew](#) per BSA Policy are below. Your unit can attend coed by one of the two options listed:

1. **Attending as a linked male and female Scouts BSA troop in the same Sea Base crew:**
  - Scouts BSA is a single-gendered program; as such, a male and female Scouts BSA troop can attend together in the same crew **IF each troop** provides their own leadership in the Sea Base crew. Each troop must have a minimum of 2 adult leaders age 21+ attending in the crew. This is a total of 4 adult leaders age 21+ for a Sea Base crew composed of 1 female troop and 1 male troop that are linked.
  - Units who do not share the same charter partner must have local council and charter partner approval per the BSA Guide to Safe Scouting.
  - **Scouting's Barriers to Abuse** require buddy pairs to be single gender. At least 2 youth members of each gender must be present in each Sea Base crew to meet requirements for buddy pairs.
  - **Scouting's Barriers to Abuse** require 2 adult leaders age 21+ to attend with each Sea Base crew. If female youth are present, at least one of those leaders **MUST** be female.
2. **Attending as a Venturing Crew, Sea Scouting Ship or Exploring Post**
  - Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring are coed programs.
  - Members of these programs can attend coed as long as Scouting's Barriers to abuse (below) are met.
  - **Scouting's Barriers to Abuse** require buddy pairs to be single gender. At least 2 youth members of each gender must be present in each Sea Base crew to meet requirements for buddy pairs.
  - **Scouting's Barriers to Abuse** require 2 adult leaders age 21+ to attend with each Sea Base crew. If female youth are present, at least one of those leaders **MUST** be female.

**Must parents register with the BSA to participate at Sea Base?** Yes. Without exception, every adult leader participating in a Sea Base program must be registered with the BSA and complete Youth Protection, BSA Safe Swim, BSA Safety Afloat, and BSA Weather Hazards trainings.

**How old must I be to participate in a Sea Base program?** For Florida Sailing Programs, 12 years of age as evidenced by [Annual Health and Medical Record](#).

**Why doesn't Sea Base allow 12 year old participants to Scuba Dive?** BSA National Camp Accreditation prohibits Sea Base from allowing anyone under the age of 13 to scuba dive in its programs.



**Why Doesn't Sea Base allow 12-year-old participants to participate in Bahamas or St. Thomas Sea Base programs?** Offshore (outside of the continental United States) programs require a high level of physical, mental, and emotional maturity to successfully travel and participate.

**Why does Sea Base require 12-year-old participants to be physically, mentally, and emotionally mature to participate?** Sea Base is a high adventure program that can be physically, mentally, and emotionally challenging. Programs are offered in sometimes harsh marine environments. Youth must be capable and prepared to safely navigate travel and programs.

**Why does Sea Base strongly suggest that all 12-year-old participants be accompanied by a parent or guardian?** High Adventure programs are challenging. Having a parent or guardian present who best understands a Scout's needs best prepares them for success.

**What if I am not a strong swimmer?** The Sea Base has no programs for non-swimmers or beginners. For your protection, if you are unable to complete the BSA Swim Test and/or Sea Base Swim Review in a strong manner you will not be allowed to participate and will be sent home at your own expense.

**Where do I check in?** 73800 Overseas Highway, Islamorada, Florida 33036, Mile Marker 73.8

**What time should my crew check in?** Sea Base Crews should check in no earlier than 1:00 pm and no later than 3:00 pm.

**Should our unit travel in uniform?** Units should arrive in either field or activity uniform.

**Can my crew skip part of its adventure and go to Key West, Key Largo or South Beach?** No. Once your unit chooses to leave Sea Base your adventure is forfeited and you may not return.

**Is it possible to use a sport or work medical instead of the BSA Annual Health and Medical Record?** No. You will not be allowed to participate in Sea Base programs unless you use the BSA Annual Health and Medical Record found at [www.bsaseabase.org/resources/forms](http://www.bsaseabase.org/resources/forms).

**What if my doctor has not or will not sign Part C of the BSA Annual Health and Medical Record?** You will not be permitted to participate at Sea Base.

**What if I arrive at Sea Base without having completed a BSA Annual Health and Medical Record?** You will not be permitted to participate at Sea Base.

**What if I arrive at Sea Base and exceed the Maximum Weight Limit for my height and do not have a note from my physician?** If you exceed maximum weight for height as explained in the Height and Weight chart and your planned high-adventure activity will take you more than 30 minutes away from rescue by US Coast Guard, you may not be allowed to participate. Those who exceed the Maximum Weight Limit for their height by more than 20 pounds may not be permitted to participate. Anyone who weighs over 295 pounds regardless of height will not be permitted to participate.

**What should I pack for my adventure?** Only those items listed on the Sea Base Sailing packing list. Please keep in mind that we provide limited storage for any items brought with you but not traveling with you aboard your vessel.

**Can my crew arrive early or stay an extra day at Sea Base or aboard a vessel?** No.

**What about hurricanes?** Program interruptions due to hurricanes are extremely rare. If Sea Base is under evacuation orders, generally given 24- 36 hours prior to potential landfall, programs are cancelled and participants are evacuated. Sea Base refunds program fees for missed program dates only. Travel Insurance is highly recommended to cover the cost of travel expenses, especially June- November.

**What about inclement weather that keeps us off the water while at Sea Base?** Your safety is paramount. Occasionally inclement tropical weather forces Sea Base to delay or cancel activities. Attempts will be made to reschedule activities when possible. Refunds will not be issued for activities including sailing, scuba diving, paddle-boarding, kayaking, fishing, camping or others cancelled due to inclement weather.

**Should I Buy Deck Shoes?** No. Most captains do not allow shoes of any kind, including deck shoes, while onboard.

**Why should sailing crews not bring metal or aluminum water bottles?** They clang against the side of the vessel making it difficult for participants to sleep. Additionally, they tend to damage the decks of vessels.

**Where do I sleep on the sailing vessel?** Due to heat and humidity most participants will choose to sleep on deck.

**How much money should I bring to Sea Base?** \$150- \$200.

**Should my crew buy snorkel or fishing gear?** Fishing Gear is provided as part of your adventure. Participants must bring their own mask and snorkel. **Full face masks are not permitted at any Sea Base location.** Participants may bring their own fins or use the ones provided.

**Where can I find a detailed itinerary?** One is not provided. Programs are weather and tide dependent. There are no required destinations other than arrival and departure points. We make every attempt to include Sailing, Snorkeling, and Fishing every adventure.

**Do we need to purchase a fishing license?** All sailing vessels carry their own fishing license. If your adventure includes a fishing aspect from base, you may **be prompted** to purchase a three-day license from [Official Florida Fishing and Hunting Licenses | Go Outdoors Florida](#).

**What are the dimensions of the duffel provided by Sea Base for our personal items?** Please do not source your own duffel bag for the adventure. We require that you use the mesh bag that we provide or the one we sell through the Ship's Store. It can be found at [Duffel Bags \(bsaseabase.org\)](#). Space on a sailing vessel is extremely limited and the bags we use have been tested for use on all of our sailing vessels.

**Does Sea Base provide drinking cups or coffee mugs for on base meals?** No. Participants must bring a Nalgene style water bottle. Adult Leaders wishing to drink coffee or tea must bring their own mug or purchase one from the Ship's Store.

**Can I bring my CPAP Machine on my Adventure?** Participants who sleep with a CPAP machine may participate at Sea Base if they have been medically cleared for participation. **CPAP users must understand that they are responsible to provide battery support for their CPAP and may not have access to electricity** if participating in Bahamas, St. Thomas, St. Croix, Florida Keys Sailing, Live Aboard Diving, Keys Adventure or Out island programs.

