

Introduction to On-the-Water Leader Skills – IOWLS at GTBAC hosted by Ship 185 and TSS

Course aims and goals:

This course aims to help Sea Scouters develop the skills needed to safely and successfully mentor youth as they run Sea Scout programs on board cruising sailing vessels.

Course details:

There are far too many on the water skills to cover in a weekend. This course will focus on the skills adult Sea Scout leaders need to help a youth achieve Ordinary rank. There are many rank requirements that are better taught on shore, and since there are many more opportunities for shoreside instruction this course will skip many of these requirements. Swimming is an essential skill to Sea Scouts but practical swimming skills are much better taught in a dedicated course, and will not be covered.

In order to simplify the instruction the course is divided into Modules. Some instruction will be in the form of lecture but most will be practical and done both underway and while at anchor. Before we can leave the dock participants will need to complete the Planning a Sailing Trip form, complete with Watch Schedule, menu, course plot, and weather forecast. Once crew assignments are made, the participants will need to complete a USCG Vessel Safety Check at their assigned vessel.

Participants will be organized into crews. Each crew will have a boat skipper, a mate, and four participants. The boat skippers are chosen from the Scouters of Ship 185, and each has many years experience on the water as a sailor and as a Sea Scouter. The mates will be familiar with operating sailing vessels on the water and will help the boat skippers run the boat and instruct the participants. It is anticipated that the participants will have little to no experience operating and living aboard a 35' cruising vessel so the course seeks to have two instructors per four participants. This course will be scalable by either adding or subtracting crews as needed.

In order to make sure each participant has a chance to experience getting underway from each position, we will stop and anchor for lunch. The Watch Schedule shall have this consideration.

A little about Tampa Sailing Squadron and Ship 185:

Tampa Sailing Squadron was founded in 1964 and is very active in racing, regattas, and cruising. TSS's facilities include a clubhouse, kitchen, restrooms, secured parking, and a sizeable marina and marina facilities. The membership of TSS enthusiastically supports Ship 185 and many of Ship 185's Scouters are also TSS members.

Ship 185 was first chartered in 1988 and has a very storied history. Ship 185 "Valhalla" has been sailing boats around Tampa Bay for several decades, running an annual Sea Scout Regatta for the past 36 years, and partaking in an annual Long Cruise every June. Currently there are just over two dozen registered and active youth, and almost a dozen registered and active Scouters. We have three racing boats about 22' long and access to four larger cruising boats 33' to 40'.

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Participants will receive a binder before the course with the modules, schedule, and forms.

Friday

1500 Arrival, registration, change to Class A
1900 Landship ceremony, INTRODUCTION, crew introductions and assignments
1930 MODULE (Lecture) – CEREMONIES, PROMISES, AND OATHS
1945 Sunset
2030 MODULE (Lecture, w/ practical) – PLANNING A TRIP
2200 Cracker Barrel
2300 Retire aboard vessels, LIGHTS OUT

Saturday – Class B all day

0700 Breakfast
0721 Sunrise
0800 Colors (aboard vessels)
0830 MODULE (Lecture, w/ practical) – MARLIN SPIKE SEAMANSHIP
1000 MODULE (Lecture, w/ practical) – VESSEL SAFETY (using USCG VSC form at boats)
1100 Depart the dock
1200 Lunch while underway
1300 MODULE (Practical underway) – BOAT HANDLING
1400 MODULE (Practical underway) – COLREGS
1800 Dinner at anchor
1945 Sunset, retire the colors
2000 MODULE (Lecture w/ practical) – PILOTING AND NAVIGATION
2300 Lights out

Sunday – Class B to start the day

0700 Breakfast
0720 Sunrise
0800 Colors
0830 Scout's Own – interfaith religious service
0900 Weigh anchor
0930 MODULE (Practical underway) – PILOTING AND NAVIGATION (cont'd)
1200 Lunch
1300 Arrive TSS, clean boats, change to Class A
1400 Review
1600 Closing ceremony