

**Bylaws of
Sea Scout Ship 25
S.S.S. YORKSHIRE**



**Chartered 15 May 2000 to
Yorkshire United Methodist Church
125 Edgewood Road
York, Pennsylvania 17402**

**By
York-Adams Area Council, Inc. #544, Boy Scouts of America**

- I. **Preamble - The Venturing Code.** As a Venturer, I believe that America's strength lies in our trust in God and in the courage, strength, and traditions of our people. I will, therefore, be faithful in my religious duties and will maintain a personal sense of honor in my own life. I will treasure my American heritage and will do all I can to preserve and enrich it. I will recognize the dignity and worth of all humanity and will use fair play and goodwill in my daily life. I will acquire the Venturing attitude that seeks the truth in all things and adventure on the frontiers of our changing world.
- II. **The Venturing Oath.** As a Venturer, I promise to help strengthen America, be faithful in my religious duties, to help others, and to see truth, fairness, and adventure in our world.
- III. **The Sea Promise.** As a Sea Scout I promise to do my best:
 - To guard against water accidents
 - To know the location and proper use of the lifesaving devices on every boat I board
 - To be prepared to render aid to those in need
 - To seek to preserve the motto of the sea: Women and Children First.
- IV. **Ship's Bylaws.**
 - A. **Objectives.** The objectives of Sea Scout Ship No. 25 are to provide positive experiences to help the ship's members mature and prepare themselves to become responsible, caring adults. Our programs will be developed around six experience areas of emphasis: Citizenship, Leadership, Fitness, Social Interaction, Outdoor Activities, and Service to Others.
 - B. **Membership.** Membership shall be open to all young adults who live in the surrounding area who are not yet 21 years of age but who are at least 14 years of age and have completed the eighth grade or are at least 15 years of age regardless of grade completed. No prospective member shall be disqualified because of race, color, creed, or gender. All members must be

registered as Sea Scouts in the Venturing Division of the Boy Scouts of America and agree to abide by these Ship's Bylaws

C. Petty Officers

1. The elected petty officers shall be the Boatswain. The Boatswain shall appoint a Boatswain's Mate, a Yeoman, a Pursuer, a Storekeeper, and one or more Coxswains (if the size of the ship makes this appropriate). The Skipper plus the elected Boatswain and the appointed petty officers shall constitute the group known as the quarterdeck. The Boatswain, with the approval of the Skipper, shall appoint Specialists and make other assignments as needed. The duties of the petty officers shall be as prescribed in the *Sea Scout Manual*.

(i) **Boatswain**



- (a) Plan and conduct regular quarterdeck meetings.
- (b) Give leadership to all ship meetings and activities.
- (c) Give direction to effective communication.
- (d) Share responsibilities of leading the ship with the petty officers.
- (e) Know the needs and interests of ship members.
- (f) Control the actions and behavior of ship members.
- (g) Set an example for ship members.
- (h) Represent the ship at any Council, Wardroom, Regional, or National meetings for ship's boatswains.
- (i) Participate in council, area, and national Venturing events.
- (j) Consult with individual ship members who have problems, questions, or concerns.
- (k) Direct the planning of the ship's program.
- (l) Work closely with the Skipper.
- (m) Appoint ship members to serve as activity committee chairs.
- (n) Recruit new members into the ship.

(ii) **Boatswain's Mate**



- (a) Take over for the ship's Boatswain when necessary.
- (b) Support the ship's Boatswain and other petty officers in their leadership functions.
- (c) Give leadership to recruiting new members into the ship by
 - a. Coordinating plans for an annual open house to invite new members to join.
 - b. Encouraging all ship members to bring new prospects to ship meetings and activities.
 - c. Follow up with any ship members who might seem to be losing interest in the ship.
 - d. Admit new members into the ship, making sure they are introduced and feel welcome.
- (d) Recognize the advancements of ship members.
- (e) Conduct opening and closing ceremonies for the ship.
- (f) Collect activity ideas from ship members by:
 - a. Asking ship members what they would like to do.
 - b. Surveying ship members on their interests using the Venturing activity interest survey.
 - c. Evaluating ship meetings and activities after they take place.
- (g) Maintain an activities file of programs, activities, projects, and trips that the ship should do.
- (h) Keep the ship's Schedule of Activities up to date and be sure everybody knows what is happening.

- (i) Help the ship's activity chairs plan and conduct successful activities.
- (j) Carry out such other duties as may be assigned by the Boatswain.

(iii)

Yeoman



- (a) Support the Boatswain and other petty officers in their leadership functions.
- (b) Keep minutes of quarterdeck meetings and other ship meetings that include group decisions and plans.
- (c) Remind the Boatswain and other petty officers of items that they agreed to do.
- (d) Keep membership records for the ship.
- (e) Supervise the ship's correspondence.
- (f) Keep all ship members informed about upcoming committee meetings, activities, and projects.
- (g) Assist the Skipper with the ship's Internet web site.
- (h) Handle all publicity.

(iv)

Purser



- (a) Support the Boatswain and other petty officers in their leadership functions.
- (b) Collect, deposit, and account for all money coming to the ship from dues, money-earning projects, or other sources.
- (c) Work with the adult assigned from the ship committee to set up a bookkeeping procedure, bank account, and money-handling methods.
- (d) With the help of the Skipper and petty officers, set up a budget based on the activity schedule that is being planned.
- (e) Make regular reports at the ship's quarterdeck meetings and unit meetings of the status of the ship's budget and treasury.
- (f) Be sure that expenditures are approved by your ship's petty officers and Skipper before disbursing funds.

(v)

Storekeeper



- (a) Procure and maintain the ship's equipment.
- (b) Check in and out all ship's equipment.
- (c) Keep a complete inventory of all equipment.

(vi)

Coxswain(s) (if the size of the ship makes this appropriate)



- (a) The ship is normally divided into two or more crews or watches. A Coxswain is elected as the crew leader for each crew by the members of that crew. Each Coxswain
 - a. Is responsible for the morale and conduct of his or her crew.
 - b. Leads and inspires by example.
 - c. Is familiar with each member's abilities and interests and helps to train each crewmember.
 - d. Stimulates participation and encourages teamwork.
 - e. Trains his or her assistant, assigning responsibilities so that all crewmembers have an opportunity to lead.



(vii) **Assistant Coxswain(s) (if the size of the ship makes this appropriate)**

- (a) The ship is normally divided into two or more crews or watches. The elected Coxswain for each crew shall appoint an Assistant Coxswain for that crew. Each Assistant Coxswain
- a. Take over for the crew's Coxswain when necessary.
 - b. Support the crew's Coxswain in his or her leadership functions.

2. The normal term of office for a petty officer shall be for one year starting on 1 June, or as soon thereafter as each petty officer's successor shall be elected and qualified.
 3. No member shall serve more than two successive terms in the same office.
 4. Annually in the month of May, the Boatswain shall appoint a nominating committee, which shall consist of at least three members of the crew. The nominating committee, in consultation with the Skipper, shall interview and present a complete slate of candidates who have agreed, if elected as Boatswain, to serve to the best of their abilities for the full term of the office.
 5. At the first regular weekly meeting following the Nygard Regatta held Memorial Day weekend, elections shall be held for Boatswain for the upcoming term of office. Election night shall be announced to the crew at least two weeks in advance.
 6. On the night of the elections, any member may present additional nominations from the floor. If a nomination from the floor is seconded and the candidate agrees to serve, he or she must be included on the ballot.
 7. All contested ballots shall be secret.
- D. **Ship's Business.** Ship business shall be conducted under the principles outlined in *Roberts Rules of Order*. Voting on all issues will be by simple majority, with the exception of changes or amendments to these bylaws, which shall require a two-thirds vote of the total membership. A quorum shall consist of one more than the majority of members for votes on routine matters.
- E. **General Meetings.** General meetings will normally be held weekly on Thursday nights at 1900 (7 p.m.). Special meetings may be called by the Boatswain as needed.
- F. **Petty Officers' Meetings.** Petty Officers' meetings, also known as quarterdeck meetings, will be held at least once a month, generally on the first Monday of the month at 1900 (7 p.m.) if practicable.
- G. **Web Site.** The ship will maintain an internet web site which will be updated at least monthly to include all meeting dates and other information of interest to the membership and friends of the ship.
- H. **Dues.** Dues will be \$3.00 per month, payable at the first meeting of every month. Members who are two months or more in arrears in payment of their dues are ineligible to participate in ship activities or to vote on matters of ship business or for officers until their dues are brought current. Members whose dues are delinquent for six months or more shall be dropped from the ship's roster. No member who resigns from the ship shall be entitled to a refund of dues paid by said member unless approved as a specific item of ship business at a regular or special ship meeting.
- I. **Money-earning Projects.** Dues will be supplemented by money-earning activities involving the participation of all members. Members who do not participate in the money-earning projects are not entitled to any benefits of the funds earned. All money-earning projects must be approved by the Skipper and meet the applicable requirements of the Boy Scouts of America.

Certificate of Adoption of Bylaws

We, the undersigned members of Sea Scout Ship 25, S.S.S. YORKSHIRE, do hereby unanimously adopt these Bylaws as of this, the ____ day of _____, 200_.

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Subscription of New Members to Bylaws

We, and each of us, upon becoming new members of Sea Scout Ship 25, S.S.S. YORKSHIRE, do hereby subscribe to, and agree to be bound by, these Bylaws as of the date indicated.

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