

## Sea Scout Ship 25 PDA Policy

### **BACKGROUND:**

SSS YORKSHIRE – Sea Scout Ship 25 is a coed older youth program of the Boy Scouts of America. It is therefore first and foremost guided by the Scout Oath and Law and BSA’s Guide to Safe Scouting. The Ship is further guided, subject to the foregoing, by the Ship 25 By-Laws, as amended. Sea Scout Manuals throughout the years have noted that the SSS prefix to a Sea Scout ship’s name stands for Scouting, Seamanship, and Service. The manuals have also consistently added, “with a fourth little “s” thrown in for “social”.

Ship 25 desires to be a place where teenagers can interact socially in a supportive, caring, and nurturing atmosphere that is still safe and non-threatening for all concerned. It is recognized that the teenage years are a time when young adults are beginning to develop their own attitudes and values regarding interaction with members of the opposite sex. Towards this end, experience has shown that teenage crew members need and desire guidance as to what kind of social interaction is appropriate with members of the opposite sex during Sea Scout activities and what interactions are correspondingly inappropriate. It is recognized that some Sea Scouts in the ship may from time to time be romantically involved with other members of the Ship outside of and away from Ship activities. It is further recognized that some other Sea Scouts in the ship may have little or no interest in social activities with opposite-sex members of the ship.

To provide guidance on this subject for all members of the Ship 25 crew, the Ship 25 Quarterdeck and the Ship 25 Parents’ Committee, after reviewing policies and practices in this area followed by other Sea Scout Ships, adopts the following policy for Ship 25 members regarding public displays of affection (PDA’s) during Ship 25 activities:

### **POLICY:**

During all official Sea Scout Ship 25 activities (meetings, trips, work parties, etc.), members of the ship shall conduct themselves in accordance with the Scout Oath and Law, the BSA Guide to Safe Scouting, and the Ship 25 By-Laws. Public Displays of Affection (hereinafter PDA’s) are defined as conduct more generally, but not necessarily exclusively, defined as kissing, holding hands, snuggling, close intimate personal contact, and the like. **It is the policy of Sea Scout Ship 25 that PDA’s are inappropriate during official Sea Scout Ship 25 activities.** As in the business and military world, a cordial, caring, and supportive but professional demeanor is expected of Sea Scouts on “ship time”. The phrase, **“Park your PDA’s at the door,”** may be considered an accurate shorthand summary of this policy.

### **IMPLEMENTATION:**

All current members of the ship, and well as those members who join the ship in the future, will be expected to sign an acknowledgment that they are aware of this policy. All members of the ship, youth as well as adult, are expected to informally enforce this policy though gentle, discrete, and polite reminders when necessary. Significant verified violations of this policy brought to the attention of the Skipper, the Quarterdeck, or the Ship 25 Parents’ Committee shall result in a written warning to the violator, with a copy being sent to the Skipper, the Quarterdeck, and the Ship 25 Parents’ Committee. A second such violation shall result in suspension of the violator from all Ship 25 and other Sea Scout Activities for a period of 30 days, with written notice of same being sent to the violator’s parent or guardian. A third such violation may result in termination of the violator’s membership in Sea Scout Ship 25 in the discretion of the Skipper and the Ship 25 Parents’ Committee.