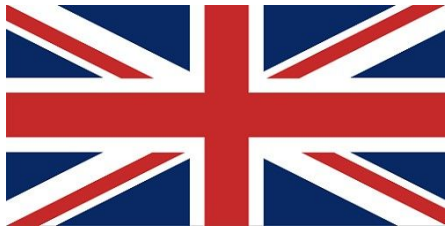


Sea Scouting in the United Kingdom

Chris Coats / Stacie-Mai Pemberton
The Scout Association





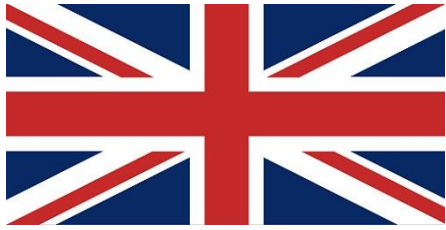
Sea Scouting in **GENERAL** in the UK

Number of Sea Scouts: about 8,000 (5% of Scouts) – 155,000

Number of local Sea Scout groups: 400

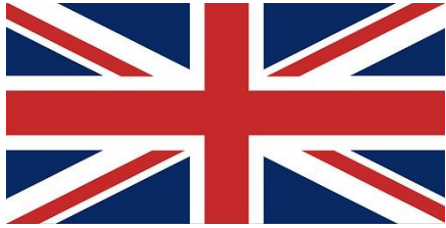
Most common sea / water scout activities:

- Sailing, Variety of boats across country some offshore.
- Powerboating, Training for Safety, RIBs, Dorries, Displacement stc
- Pulling, Using Gigs, Whalers, small boats
- Paddling, Canoeing- Open and closed cockpit boats, sit ons



Sea Scouting in **GENERAL** in the UK

- Most important things young people learn in different ages:
- Youngest age group, -Beavers, age 6-8 years: Boat safety, Taster sessions
 - Second youngest, -Cubs, age 8-10 years: Boat safety, Taster sessions
 - Third section, -Scouts, age 10-14 years: Learn to Paddle, Pull (Row), Sail. Start to power boat.
 - Fourth section, - Explorers, age 14-18 years: Learn to drive Power boats. Lead activities in Pulling and Kayaking/ Sailing
 - Fifth section, -Scout Network, age 18-25 years: Take control of leading activities, gaining qualifications.



Sea Scout EVENTS in the UK

Events in local Sea Scout groups:

-sailing/ canoe trips, local activities

Events in districts:

- Depends on area- Inland less events. Coastal Districts hold more District events. Some water activity courses organised by County Teams.
- Sea Scouts and Explorers can join courses in Canoeing/ Sailing/ Powerboating in various “Schools” around the UK. Some are Scout centres and some are NGB centres



Sea Scout EVENTS in the UK

National Sea Scout events:

- Centenary Sea Scout camp SS100, first one in 2009, next camp in 2014- Speelash!

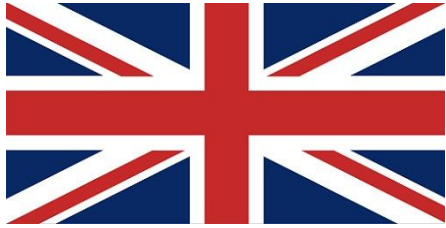
Speelash National **Sea Scout** Jamboree 2014. 2 - 9 August 2014 Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham.
Contact: info@speelash.org.uk

- 4 big events led by Royal Navy for up to 100 “Recognised” Groups- Swimming Gala HMS Raleigh (Plymouth), Scout Camp, 6 a side Football, Explorer Camp all at HMS Bristol (Portsmouth).
- National Sailing championship, and National Pulling Competition.



Sea Scout TRAINING for leaders in the UK

- Sea Scout Leaders can join courses in Canoeing/ Sailing/ Powerboating in various “Schools” around the UK. Some are Scout centres and some are NGB centres
- Leaders have chances to learn Canoeing/ Sailing/ Powerboating and Narrowboating arranged by Headquarters.
- For RN recognised Groups Leaders can train at Royal Navy centres.



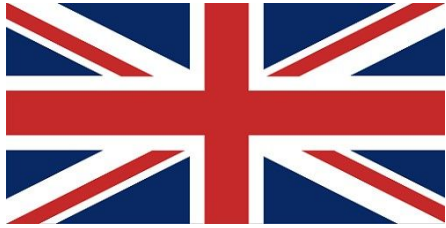
Sea Scout "ORGANIZATION" in the UK

National level:

- National Water Activity Advisor: currently vacant
- Responsibilities: Advising Headquarters Activities Staff on water activities.

In Districts/ Counties:

- Assistant District (County) Commissioner for Activities covers water issues.
- Responsibilities: Organizes training and events. Controls Permit and Boat Inspection process.



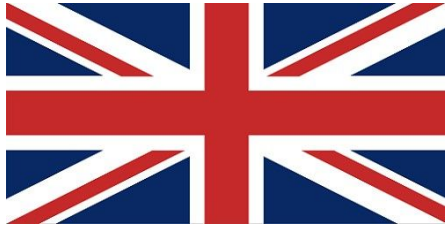
Sea Scout SAFETY in the UK

How do you take care of safety in Sea Scouting?

- National Organization: Policy Organisation and Rules sets out safety procedures.
- Districts: Districts control local safety issues.
- Local groups: Review Risk assessments and safety issues on each activity.

Our safety instructions include (among other things):

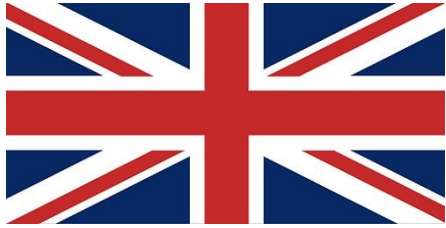
- Activity should be lead by an approved person (Permit)
- Boats should be inspected every 3 years and locally each use
- Bouyancy aids should be worn by young people when on water
- Activities should be run according to the Activity Rules (P.O.R)



Sea Scout PARTNERSHIPS in the UK

What kind of partnerships Sea Scouts have to non-scout organizations?

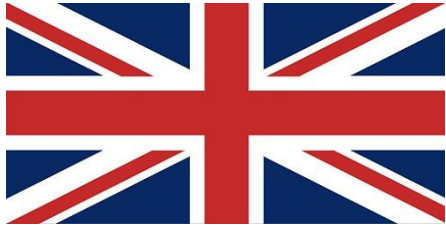
- National Organization: Affiliated to NGB organisations (RYA, BCU, British Rowing)
- Districts: Local Sailing or Canoe Clubs
- Individuals: Membership of clubs etc



Sea Scout CHALLENGES in the UK

What kind of challenges do you encounter in Sea Scouting?

- Always need more Leaders
- More craft are required in many parts of the UK.
- Sea Scouts are often seen as “elitist” and uninviting. This is a false premise because Sea Scouts are actually friendly and approachable.
- Difficult to involve more Scouts across the District/ County



Sea Scout **SUCCESS** in the UK

What kind of success do you have in Sea Scouting?

- 100 Groups are recognised by the Royal Navy and are given special privileges. RN appoint a Staff Officer for Scouts and provide Grants.
- Following the success of the first National Sea Scout Camp for the Centenary in 2009 there will be regular National Camps open to all Scouts.
- There have been new Troops starting up in Urban areas to provide Sea Scouting.
- A revised set of Activity Badges have been introduced and recently a new book has been published to support the programme.

<http://8nss.org.uk/content/nautical-skills-scouts-1>