

Summary of Changes to the Sea Scout Manual

When it became clear that the *Sea Scout Manual* had to be revised due to cost of printing, Charles Holmes directed the task force to do three things – reduce the size of the manual by at least 100 pages, increase our focus on safety, and add an environmental component to advancement. It quickly became clear that before revision could begin, the first thing that had to happen would be an analysis of advancement.

Ray Derk was chairman of an advancement task force that included leaders and Sea Scout youth from around the country and a variety of programs. The task force recommendations were introduced to the National Sea Scout Support Committee six years ago, and were voted on five years ago. Once the advancement was adopted, it became the driving force behind the revision of the *Sea Scout Manual*.

The new edition of the *Sea Scout Manual* was organized to support core advancement requirements. To facilitate that organization, advancement is now clustered in strands.

Apprentice	Ordinary	Able	Quartermaster
1. Ideals			
2. Active Membership			
3. Leadership			
4. Swimming			
5. Safety			
6. Marlinspike Seamanship			
7. Boat Handling			
8. Service	8. Anchoring		
	9. Navigation Rules		
	10. Piloting and Navigation		
	11. Practical Deck Seamanship		11. Weather
	12. Environment		
	13. Cruising		13. Electives
	14. Boater Safety Course	14. Electives	
	15. Service		
16. Electives			

Summary of Changes to Advancement

Note: The previous manual had many tasks imbedded in lengthy paragraphs. Now, each task has its own number.

Apprentice:

- Ideals 1.b** Discuss Venturing Code was replaced with BSA Mission and Vision statements and the Boy Scout Oath and Law
- Ideals 2.b** “Describe Sea Scout Uniform” was clarified with the addition of “work and dress” before uniform.
- Leadership 3
Swimming 4** All are new, but the information is important to know for new Sea Scouts. This requirement is identical to what must be accomplished to classified as a “swimmer” according to *Safe Swim Defense*.
- Safety 5c** The old requirement asked that youth demonstrate the procedure to send a VHF call. The new requirement asks them to use the tool “Distress Communication Form” to send Mayday, Pan Pan, and Security calls. The committee felt by giving novice Sea Scouts a tool, meeting this requirement would produce more accurate and less stressful results.

Ordinary

Active Membership 2.b

An option was added to “recruit a new member” – Youth can now assist in planning and carrying out a ship recruiting activity. The old requirement allowed a skipper to waive this requirement. By asking a youth to help plan a recruitment activity, we are giving them a chance to be proactive and possibly bring in more than one recruit.

- Leadership 3.b** This requirement was embedded in the old manual under cruising, “take part in planning and then make a two-day (including overnight) cruise. The new requirement, while more general, (“serve as an activity chair for a major ship event”), also moves a youth from planning through execution to evaluation.

- Safety 5.d** The old requirement was too broad - “know the man overboard, fire, abandon ship, and all other drills used by your ship.” Keeping the safety mandate in mind, the new requirement asks that the youth plan and practice man overboard, fire, and abandon ship. The requirement to “list equipment in an abandon ship bag” and “list duties to be performed before abandoning ship” was deleted. These actions are met as part of the abandon ship drill planning process.

- Anchoring 8.c** Calculating necessary anchor rode for storm and normal conditions was added to support and reinforce what is taught in boating safety courses.

Navigation Rules 9 All of these requirements were moved out of Able and are new to Ordinary. A youth working on Ordinary will be operating a vessel, and state laws require that operators pass a NASBLA approved course. Since the requirement to complete a state boating course was added to Ordinary (requirement 14), the committee felt that moving these requirements to Ordinary made sound, educational sense. This move should facilitate mastery of these concepts.

Piloting & Navigation

- 10.a** Demonstrating an understanding of latitude and longitude must occur before a youth can plot a course on a chart.
- 11.c** Naming relative bearings in points was deleted.
- 11.d** Serving as lookout for one watch is new.
- 11.f** The log requirement for Ordinary was changed. The old requirement asked that a youth plan and make a two-day cruise and submit a suitable log. The new requirement has a bit more latitude for completion.

Environment 12 This requirement is new.

Boating Safety Course 14

This requirement was added because of state vessel operator laws.

Able

Ideals 1.b Parts of the old requirement were moved to Apprentice and Ordinary. The discussion about how our maritime history has contributed to our way of life became an essay.

Marlinspike Seamanship

- 6.a** Back and long splices were added to this requirement.
- 6.c** Describing types of tackle and reeving a double purchase tackle was added.

Anchoring 8.b The old requirement asked the youth to “identify and explain the fittings used to handle chain.” This requirement was made more universal by asking the youth to identify parts of the anchor cable.

Practical Deck Seamanship

- 11.a** Youth are asked in 11.d to demonstrate the use of surface and coating preparation, cleanup and storage. 11.a asks them to demonstrate knowledge of personal safety equipment before beginning to work. It just seemed to make sense that we expect them to work safely.
- 11.e** The old requirement only addressed fiberglass. The new requirement doesn’t assume that everyone has fiberglass decks and hulls.

Environment All requirements are new.

Quartermaster

Ideals 1.a The discussion under the old requirement concerned participatory citizenship. This was changed to a discussion of the ideals stated in the Sea Promise.

Leadership

3.b New requirement – serve as an officer or serve as an activity chair for three events.

3.c Quartermaster cruise was changed from 48 hours to 40. A 48 hour cruise meant that a long weekend, school break or summer was needed to meet the requirements. A 40 hour cruise affords time to meet all the requirements and they can be finished on a weekend.

OR – completion of SEAL can be substituted for a Quartermaster sail. This is new.

Boat Handling 7.a

Instead of coming alongside and getting underway, the new requirement requires picking up a mooring buoy and properly mooring.

Environment All new requirements.