

Royal Navy Recognition Scheme



Item Code FS120628 July/16 Edition no 3

0845 300 1818

The partnership between Scout Groups and the Royal Navy is divided into 2 groups:

RN Recognised Groups, consisting of 103 units at present, but with scope to expand at a modest rate (referred to as **RN Recognition Scheme**).

Other Sea Scout Groups, who will be eligible to benefit from access to RN facilities and training (referred to as **RN Sea Scout Partnership**).

RN Recognition Scheme

The Scout Association may propose Sea Scout groups, Explorer Sea Scout units and Scout Active Support Units (ASU) for membership of the Scheme. In order to be part of the **RN Recognition Scheme** they would have to meet the minimum standards:

- To be an officially recognised member of the Scout Association.
- Groups to have a minimum strength of 18 Sea Scouts. Explorer Sea Scout Units to have at least 12 members. Where a Group and Unit are linked by a partnership agreement, the combined strength must be at least 24 Scouts and Explorer Scouts.
- Active participation in and promotion of waterborne activities.
- Sea Scout troops and Explorer Sea Scout units must be led by an appointed leader in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association (POR).

- Satisfactory initial inspection and periodic review by a Royal Navy Officer.

An Explorer Sea Scout unit partnered with an RN Recognised Sea Scout group may take its recognition from that of the Group providing that it is reviewed with the Group and demonstrably contributes to Group activities including fund-raising and boat maintenance.

Individual members of RN Recognised groups and units may wear the Royal Navy recognition badge on their Scout uniform. Young Leaders from a different unit who are working with an RN Recognised Sea Scout troop may also wear the RN Recognition badge and participate in the scheme on the recommendation of the section leader.

A Scout Active Support Unit (SASU) may be recognised on the recommendation of COMCORE if its primary purpose is to provide support to the RN Recognised Sea Scout scheme and authorised events. Such a unit will be in addition to the recognised Sea Scout Groups and Explorer Sea Scout Units.

RN Sea Scout Partnership

The minimum standards for participation in the **RN Sea Scout Partnership** scheme are:

- To be an officially recognised member of the Scout Association as a Sea Scout Troop, Unit or Group.
- Scout troops and Explorer Scout units must be led by an appointed leader in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association (POR).

Applying to join the Scheme

Groups and units may apply through the Scout Association to join the Recognition Scheme.

RN Recognition Scheme. Any group meeting the eligibility criteria may apply to join the RN Recognition Scheme. Subject to the information provided being satisfactory, COMCORE will arrange for an initial inspection of the group. If the group is at the required standard, it will either be offered a place or put on a waiting list, dependant on numbers.

The District Commissioner should be informed of the date of inspection, so that he or she may be present. The County/Area Commissioner and the UK Specialist Adviser for Sea Scouts should also be informed, as they also may wish to be present at the inspection. Other appropriate members of the County/Area/Regional team, such as the ACC/AAC (Scouts / Explorer Scouts) may also attend.

RN Sea Scout Partnership. Any Sea Scout group that is formally recognised by the Scout Association is automatically eligible to benefit from the Royal Navy Sea Scout Partnership.

Assurance

After admission to the RN Recognition Scheme, groups and units will be reviewed periodically, usually at intervals not exceeding two years. Groups

failing to maintain the required standard will normally be warned and given time to rectify shortcomings before being removed from RN recognition Scheme. However, under certain circumstance the recognition can be removed without taking such steps.

Reviews will be conducted by a serving officer, appointed by the Royal Navy.

Concessions and privileges of RN Recognised Sea Scout groups and units

- An annual grant is made to The Scout Association (not to individual Groups). The Scout Association then manages applications by groups and units for aid with expenses connected with the administration and delivery of the programme and activities. Grants must not be used for social or religious purposes, building construction or building repairs. Grants may only be awarded to those groups in the RN Recognition Scheme. This fund is known as the Admiralty Fund.
- Groups and units may encamp on Government ground subject to the granting of a licence by, or with other written approval from, the appropriate Naval or Military Authorities.
- Groups and units may visit HM Ships and Establishments and be accommodated therein for short periods, subject to suitable leadership supervision. On occasions, they may be taken to sea in HM Ships. No charges will be made for accommodation. A charge for food will be levied at the same rate as that for Cadet Forces.
- When requested, COMCORE HQ may arrange for Naval assistance to be given in the instruction of Groups.
- Groups and units may, on occasions, be permitted to use boats and equipment issued to other organisations within the COMCORE Youth

Training Area, subject to suitable qualifications and insurance cover being in place.

- The RN will support the 'Big 4+' major annual events described below:
 - Swimming gala.
 - Sea Scouts summer camp.
 - Soccer sixes competition.
 - Explorer Sea Scout camp.
 - Sea Scout Leader and Young Leader training and induction.
- Groups and units in RN Recognition Scheme are provided with a pennant and a defaced red ensign by the Scout Association. The ensign may be worn by the group and unit at the HQ, in camp and in craft and boats crewed by RN Recognised Sea Scouts.
- Sea Scout leaders in the Scheme will, when possible, be treated for accommodation purposes in the same way as officers of the Sea Cadet Corps. Circumstances may dictate that alternative accommodation be provided, for example at the Annual Swimming Gala and in HMS BRISTOL.

Concessions and privileges of Sea Scout groups and units

- Groups and units may encamp on Government ground subject to the granting of a licence by, or with other written approval from, the appropriate Naval or Military Authorities.
- Groups and units may visit HM Ships and Establishments and be accommodated therein for short periods, subject to suitable leadership supervision. On occasions, they may be taken to sea in HM Ships. No charges will be made for accommodation. A charge for food will be levied at the same rate as that for Cadet Forces.
- When requested, COMCORE HQ may arrange for Naval assistance to be given in the instruction of Groups.
- Groups and units may, on occasions, be permitted to use boats and equipment issued to

other organisations within the COMCORE HQ Youth Training Area, subject to suitable qualifications and insurance cover being in place.

- The RN will endeavour to supply additional capacity on activity camps or courses, specifically for Sea Scouts that are not members of the RN recognition scheme.

Powers and duties of the Scout Association

The Scout Association will hold the Scout Leader in charge of a recognised group or unit responsible for:

- Complying with the conditions laid down in this memorandum (and any supplements or subsequent amendments to it).
- Keeping records showing the strength of their group or unit, the age of each young person, their badges, challenges and permits, and the date they joined and left.
- Reporting the required annual census information.

Royal Navy Recognition Reviews

Reviews aim to assure the training and activity standards of troops and units in the normal range of Sea Scout activities. They should also serve to strengthen existing links with the RN and ensure groups are engaged. Groups may include representatives of their Cub packs and Beaver colonies in the review, provided that this does not significantly reduce the amount of time spent with the Scouts and Explorer Scouts. Cubs participating in the Moving On award should be present with the Scouts.

An outline review programme and completed self-assessment and review proformas must be submitted to reach the reviewing officer by 2 weeks prior to the event.

The format of the review will depend on a variety of conditions including time of sunset, weather and tides which will dictate whether the activities review is ashore or afloat and the order of events. Groups and units are responsible for arranging their review programme, consulting the reviewing officer as appropriate. Each review shall include, as a minimum:

- Review of written assessment with GSL.
- Colours (or flag break).
- Practical activities (afloat when possible).
- Patrol activity presentations
- Sunset (or flag down).

The reviewing officer is not entitled to the side being piped. This ceremonial should be reserved for exceptional circumstances, for example if a flag officer or ship's commanding officer attends.

The reviewing officer may request to see evidence of leader training, adventurous activities permits and boat certificates.

For reviews afloat, the reviewing officer will expect to join Scouts on the water and to witness normal activities afloat and at the waterfront including, if appropriate, activities briefings and the launch and recovery of boats.

Reviews conducted ashore should demonstrate typical activities that would be conducted on a normal meeting night.

During the patrol activity presentations, the reviewing officer will expect the Sea Scout patrol leaders to introduce patrol members and help them explain their badges. Presentations can be informal but the reviewing officer will expect to find out what activities the patrol has been doing over the past year. The Explorer Sea Scout Unit will be expected to provide a representative to perform similar duties for the Unit.

Groups and units may invite local Scouting and civic dignitaries and other guests but the reviewing officer's priority is to meet the Sea Scouts, Explorer Sea Scouts and leaders. The reviewing officer will participate in publicity interviews and photographic opportunities, subject to any necessary MOD approvals.

The reviewing officer will require about 10 minutes at the end of the event to address the group and provide some immediate feedback. A short written report will be forwarded to the Scout Association and the group or unit within 2 weeks. The Scout Association will forward copies to the County Commissioner and the UK Specialist Adviser for Sea Scouts.

RN Recognised Sea Scouts 'big 4+' activities

Subject to any conditions imposed by the MOD, the Royal Navy will make facilities available for four large annual youth events and additional training opportunities known as the 'big 4+'.

Swimming gala. The RN recognised Sea Scouts swimming gala will be held in HMS RALEIGH over a weekend in (usually early February). The capacity is approximately 240 youth plus 80 adults.

Sea Scouts summer camp. The RN recognised Sea Scouts summer camp will be scheduled to take place in the Hampshire schools' summer half term break. The camp draws on resources of HMS BRISTOL, HMS EXCELLENT, the Royal Navy Sailing Centre and CCF (equipment). URNU cadets may be invited as a leadership opportunity. The capacity is approximately 210 youth and 80 adults. 10 of the youth places will be made available to non-recognised Sea Scout groups to encourage interest in the RN recognition scheme.

Soccer sixes. A soccer sixes tournament will be staged in HMS EXCELLENT over a weekend in

early October involving approximately 280 youth and 80 adults.

Explorer Scout camp. The RN recognised Sea Scouts Explorer Scout camp will be scheduled to take place in the Hampshire schools' autumn half term break. The camp draws on resources of HMS BRISTOL, HMS EXCELLENT and the Royal Navy Sailing Centre and CCF (equipment). The capacity is approximately 130 youth and 65 adults. 8 of the youth places will be made available to non-recognised Sea Scout groups to encourage interest in the RN recognition scheme.

Leader training. The RN will support at least one annual leader or Young Leader training and induction weekend drawing on the resources of HMS BRISTOL, HMS EXCELLENT and the Royal Navy Sailing Centre. The course capacity will be approximately 80. Spare capacity on these courses should be offered to all Sea Scout group leaders.