

Royal Navy Recognition Scheme



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0845 300 1818

General

As a result of an agreement between the Ministry of Defence (Navy) and The Scout Association, Sea Scout Groups and Explorer Sea Scout Units who fulfil certain conditions are granted Recognition by the Royal Navy.

The scheme is administered by the Programme and Development Department of The Scout Association and Naval Recruiting & Training Agency. Those Groups and/or Units who achieve the necessary standard at their initial inspection are issued with a Certificate of Recognition signed by the Royal Navy Director Youth, and a special Pennant. Active Members are entitled to wear a special insignia on their uniform (in accordance with Policy Organisation and Rules).

To retain Recognition, Groups and/or Units are required to maintain their standard, which is assessed at regular intervals of between eighteen months and two years.

The Navy pays a significant Proficiency Grant to The Scout Association each year into the Admiralty Fund.

Benefits of Recognition

An important benefit to the Groups and/or Units is the honour of being recognised as efficient by the Royal Navy.

Specifically, Recognised Groups and/or Units are permitted to:

- Wear the Royal Navy Pennant.
- Fly the defaced Red Ensign.

- Visit and camp at HMS Bristol in Portsmouth and at certain other military establishments, by prior arrangement.
- Visit other HM Ships, subject to available leadership supervision.
- Attend Sea Cadet and CCF Units for lectures and instruction by prior arrangement with the local Officer in Charge.
- Use equipment provided by the Royal Navy.
- Access Sea Cadet stores for Caps and other clothing.
- Apply for grants from the Admiralty Fund towards training and new equipment.
- Participate in the Annual 'Big 4', RN Sponsored events, namely the Swimming Gala held in February at HMS Raleigh, the Sea Scout Summer Camp held during the May Bank Holiday period, the Soccer Sixes Competition held in late September and the Sea Explorer Scout Camp held in late October, the latter three events all being held at Whale Island, Portsmouth.
- Participate in Leader afloat training weekends held at the Royal Naval Sailing Centre, Whale Island, Portsmouth.

Qualifications for Recognition

To be eligible for RN Recognition, a Group, Troop or Unit must fulfil the following qualifications:

- Have been registered as a Sea Scout Troop or Explorer Sea Scout Unit or Sea Scout Group for at least one year.
- Have either a minimum of 24 invested Sea Scouts (including Explorer Sea Scouts linked to the Group by a Partnership Agreement) and/or Young

The Scout Association

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Leaders working within the Troop; or in the case of a Explorer Sea Scout Unit, a minimum of 12 invested Members, established as part of the District or local provision. Those Explorer Sea Scout Units holding a partnership agreement with an RN Recognised Sea Scout Group are automatically recognised as part of the Group's recognition and will be inspected at the same time as the Group.

- Have sufficient adult Leaders and Instructors to enable them to maintain and improve on the standards quoted in the bullet point below.
- Have achieved the following standards with a Balanced Programme:

Sea Scout Troop

- 1 The Troop must be able to demonstrate that all members have the opportunity to participate in a Balanced Programme covering all the Programme Zones and using a full range of methods.
- 2 50% of the Troop should hold at least one Challenge Award, and 25% of the Troop should hold at least four Challenge Awards.
- 3 Each member of the Troop should have progressed towards gaining the Basic Nautical Skills, Nautical Skills or Advanced Nautical Skills activity badges.
- 4 Young Leaders working in the Troop must have completed at least three Modules of the Young Leader scheme, including Module A.

Explorer Sea Scout Unit

- 1 The Unit must be able to demonstrate that all members have the opportunity to participate in a Balanced Programme covering all the Programme Zones and using a full range of methods.
- 2 Each member of the Unit should have progressed towards gaining the Chief Scout's Platinum Award; the Chief Scout's Diamond Award or the Queen's Scout Award.
- 3 50% of the Unit members should have demonstrated their interest in water activities through one of the following;

- Completing the Explorer Scout Nautical Skills or the Explorer Advanced Nautical Skills Award;
- Gaining one of the Water Activities activity badges;
- Completing the Skills, Physical Recreation or Community Service Challenges with an "water bias".
- Holding one or more Authorisations for Water Activities

Procedure For Gaining Recognition

Initial Inspection

Sea Scout Groups and/or Units who consider that they have reached the standard required, should seek the approval of their District Commissioner and then apply to the Scout Office, Programme and Development Department at Gilwell Park.

If the application is supported, this is forwarded to Staff Officer Scouts, who will arrange to carry out an initial inspection. If the Group meets the required standard, it may either be granted Recognition immediately, if there is space within the scheme, or be placed on the reserve until space in the scheme is available. If the Group does not pass the inspection, it will be given guidance on what actions it needs to take to reach the required standard within an agreed timescale, so that a further inspection can be arranged.

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.

Re-Inspections

RN Recognised Groups are re-inspected at approximately 18-month intervals to assess whether they have maintained standards and are worthy of retaining their Recognition. The annual programme for inspections is promulgated by the RN Staff Officer Scouts who is also the Inspecting

Officer. He will expect to meet representatives of both the County/Area and District, as well as members of the Group's Executive, parents and other local officials.

To retain Recognition the Group and/or Unit must satisfy the Inspecting Officer that it continues to achieve the minimum standard required, in appearance, dress, bearing and badge work, as well as showing progress in efficiency.

Approval

The Staff Officer Scouts and the Director of Programme and Development at Gilwell approve initial and annual retention of RN Recognition. Potential applicants are advised that there are only a limited number of Recognised Groups and/or Units in the scheme and the competition for Recognition results in a very high standard.

Public Relations

This scheme provides a considerable public relations opportunity to both The Scout Association and the Royal Navy. Groups/Units should make every effort to get local press coverage by providing a press release and photographic opportunity at inspections.

Applications

All applications for initial information should be made in the first instance to:

The Programme Team (RN Recognition)

The Programme and Development Department

The Scout Association

Gilwell Park

Chingford

London

E4 7QW