

# THE SCUTTLEBUTT

## S H I P 1 7 0 1

### **Mission Statement**

*Ship 1701 is committed to promoting the ideals of the Boy Scouts of America*

**Page 2-3**

### **Safe Scouting**

*Qualified supervision and discipline are the keys to a safe Scouting experience*

**Page 4-5**

### **Standards**

*What's expected and what to expect.*

**Page 6**

### **Our Fleet**

*Fun and adventure on the water is central to our program. Here's a quick look at our fleet.*

**Page 7**

## WELCOME ABOARD

We're really glad you've decided to join us. We'd like to take a moment to tell you a little about our Ship and your part in our program.

Ship 17011 is a brand-new Sea Scout Ship, which is a part of the Venturing program of the Boy Scouts of America. We are a coed high adventure program for youth from 14 to 21 (or 13 if you have completed the eighth grade) who enjoy sailing, power boating, kayaking, canoeing and anything else to do on the water. The program also includes learning the skills to maintain our fleet and to be safe on the water. Our program is youth led and youth run. We are chartered by Bellaire United Methodist Church and look forward to a lot of fun and adventure!

We are known as Ship 1701 S.S.S. TBA. The Ship usually meets at Bellaire United Methodist Church. We meet the second and fourth Sundays of every month from 1500 to 1700, but plan to arrive at 1445 or before. If you are unable to attend a meeting, you should call the Boatswain (Sea Scout Youth Leader) to let him/her know. Please take time to read

over the entire packet carefully. You will enjoy yourself much more and have a rewarding experience if you know what's going on.

Please take the time to visit our webpage for up to date information. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask your Boatswain or Boatswain's Mate. We're really pleased that you've decided to join us. Please don't hesitate to let us know if there is any way we can make your experience as good as it can be.



*As a Sea Scout I promise to do my best:*

- *To guard against water accidents;*
- *To know the location and proper use of*
- *the life saving devices on every boat I board;*
- *To be prepared to render aid to those in need;*
- *To seek to preserve the motto of the sea, "Women and children first."*

# SHIP 1701

## Mission Statement

The mission of Sea Scout Ship 717 is to provide a meaningful introduction to the traditions and skills of the sea while promoting the ideals of the Boy Scouts of America. To engage high school/college age young men and women of the Southwest Houston/Bellaire TX area for the purpose of developing technical and leadership skills in a dynamic nautical environment. This program is for the members and by the members. Throughout all facets of our operations we will focus on developing peer leadership, problem solving, ethics and industrious work habits while having fun at the same time. This will be done in a safe and structured environment.

## What's expected

The Ship has a year-round program that we believe you will enjoy. The Ship's Petty Officers (youth leaders) plan the program. It includes sailing, canoeing, kayaking, power boating, camping, hiking, as well as social and service events.

You will need to do a few things right away so that you will be prepared to participate in these events:

Read through this booklet completely and know what it says. Ask questions about anything you don't understand.

Obtain a copy of the Sea Scout Manual (available as a PDF on-line or in print at the SHAC Scout Ship) and leaf through it. Familiarize yourself with where things are in the Manual, as well as what you'll need to do to advance. The Ship is committed to seeing all new Sea Scout Recruits earn the Apprentice rank within six months. You are expected to make a constant, progressive effort towards advancement. Look through the Apprentice requirements. Read the

material related to each Apprentice requirement. As you progress ask one of the adult advisors to sign off on your requirements.

Get your work uniform together right away and start working on your dress whites. You will need the work uniform for ship activities, and the dress uniform for ceremonies, bridge of review, bridges of honor and other formal activities. Be in uniform and bring your Sea Scout Manual to all Ship meetings and activities.

Always be on time for Ship events. Ship meetings start at 1500 (3pm) sharp -- you should be on deck no later than 1445 (2:45 PM). Come early and we can socialize.

Keep your dues paid up. It costs something to run this operation. You're getting a great program for your dues.

Courtesy and respect is infectious! The officers of Ship 1701 will treat you with dignity and respect. Do the same in return. Use "sir" and "ma'am" always. This is a life skill that's important to acquire.

## Ship Organization

Ship 1701 is a youth-run Ship. Ship 717's program is developed and run by the Sea Scouts with adult advisory help and supervision. The Sea Scout in charge of the day-to-day operations of the ship is the Boatswain, who works with the Skipper to ensure that the Ship's program is carried out according to the wishes of the Scouts. They are responsible for making sure that the Sea Scouting program is run appropriately and that BSA rules are followed. The Ship functions with the assistance of the Troop 717 Committee that helps provide the resources and support as needed. A detailed discussion of our Ship's organization can be found in

your Sea Scout Manual on pages 2-1 to 2-11.

## Activities

The Ship has a weekend activity nearly every month of the sailing season and at least one longer "cruise". We also have some week night activities. Most weekend and cruise activities have a cost associated with them over and above the cost of your dues. It is the Sea Scout's responsibility to turn in the announced fees and permission slip one week prior to the event. (Occasionally the advanced lead-time is even longer, but you will be notified if it is.) This will allow the leadership to line up appropriate transportation, make necessary registrations, and purchase food.

Each Sea Scout is also expected to take part in the maintenance and upkeep of our (growing) fleet. Each crew will have one work or service date each month.

# CUSTOMS AND COURTESIES

## Customs

Sea Scouting brings to its members a wealth of customs and courtesies based on the lore of the sea. Much like the international code flags on a ship, these customs and courtesies are very colorful, but as you consider them more closely, you find they are much more than just decorative. They carry a message of appreciation and respect for the great and wonderful achievements of the seafarers and adventurers of the past.

Customs and courtesies also furnish the background for Sea Scouting ceremonies and formalities. Their purpose is not only to add atmosphere, but to point out the value of respect among shipmates for the rights of others, for their own duties, and for the value of teamwork.

Respect developed in this way helps a Sea Scouts bridge the gap between authority and responsibility. Summed up, this is the Sea Scouts' respect for authority and, in turn, The Sea Scout leader's respect for his or her responsibility to the members.

These traditions of the sea cannot be effective unless the members and the ship's petty officers get into the spirit as they conduct these ceremonies. Some ships establish a landship with enough equipment to create the proper atmosphere.

One word of caution might be helpful. In building tradition and an atmosphere with customs and courtesies, do not overdo them. A little ceremony goes a long way; too much can become boring to those who take part and ridiculous to those who watch.

To create the most satisfactory atmosphere, try to have a happy ship. Except in ceremonies, the ship members salute their adult officers only the first time

they meet during meetings. All ceremonies are executed with snap and order, for it is better to not have a ceremony at all than to have one carried out in a sloppy manner.

No one barges aboard a Sea Scout ship. Permission is always requested from the duty officer by anyone--visitor or member--to board. Keep in mind that even though it is the custom of the sea for visitors and adult officers to come over the starboard gangway, Sea Scouts use the port gangway. If both gangways are on the same side, adult leaders and visitors use the after gangway, while the Sea Scouts use the forward gangway.

## Salute and Handclasp

Sea Scouts use the traditional military salute with all fingers extended. The salute should be executed smartly from the position of attention.

The handclasp is also the adult handshake used daily by people as they greet each other. It is given with the right hand in a firm manner that indicates sincerity.

## Double Salute

On all formal and official occasions, whenever Sea Scouts come aboard a Sea Scout ship, they perform two salutes. As they do this, they continue to carry out a custom of the sea that began centuries ago.

In the early days of Christianity, it was the custom to place on the mainmast of large vessels a statue of the Blessed Virgin, the patron saint of the ship, or perhaps a crucifix. Every seaman, upon coming aboard the ship, took off his hat or made the sign of the cross as a form of salute in the direction of the mainmast.

National flags became prominent in the 14th and 15th centuries. Ships of maritime nations soon began to fly their

national ensign and requested that it be recognized also by seamen.

So the double salute became a universal rule as each seaman, coming aboard, saluted both the mainmast and his national ensign. On all formal and official occasions, therefore, Sea Scouts, immediately upon stepping aboard, salute first the center of the ship which is the traditional salute to God. Then they turn toward the flagstaff at the stern of the ship and perform the traditional salute to the ensign of our nation. Note that this is the reverse of the Navy tradition of saluting the ensign first and then the officer of the deck. Upon going ashore or leaving the land ship, each person gives the double salute in reverse, first to the national ensign and then to the mainmast.

## Boat Etiquette

Your conduct aboard a boat, the terminology you use, the flags you fly, your knowledge of customs and courtesies, the way you hail or salute others, all identify you to the informed observer as a knowledgeable boatman or a novice. The rules of etiquette at sea are many and important. For example, nothing betrays unfamiliarity with prescribed practice quite so publicly as the unrestrained display of flags. Only a few are recognized, and they should be displayed at the proper time and in the proper place.

**At Anchor** — The ensign on the stern flag staff, the ship's flag on the bow or mainmast

**Under way** — The ensign on the mainmast or bow, the ship's flag on the stern mast or mainmast to the port side and just below the ensign



# BSA SAFE SCOUTING

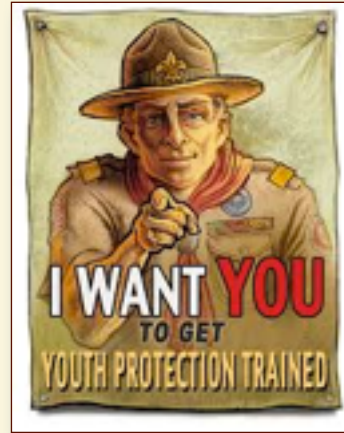
## Aquatics

Before a BSA group may engage in aquatic activities of any kind, a minimum of one adult leader must have completed Safe Swim Defense training within the previous two years and agree to use the eight defenses in the plan. The two most important defenses are qualified supervision and discipline:

- All swimming activity must be supervised by a mature and conscientious adult age 21 or older who understands and
- Scouts should respect and follow all directions and rules of the adult supervisor

Safe Swim Defense applies to all whenever participants enter water over knee deep or when submersion is likely. The BSA swim test demonstrates the minimum level of swimming ability required for safe deep-water swimming. The various components of the test evaluate the several skills essential to this minimum level of swimming ability. Each member must pass the test prior to being allowed to participate in any water activities.

The requirements of the swim test are: Jump feet first into water over the head in depth, level off, and begin swimming. Swim 75 yards in a strong manner using one or more of the following strokes: sidestroke, breaststroke, trudgen, or crawl; then swim 25 yards using an easy, resting backstroke. The 100 yards must be completed in one swim without stops and include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating.



## Youth Protection

*BSA and Ship 1701 are committed to promoting a safe environment and protecting our youth from sexual, physical, and emotional abuse. All adult volunteers are required to take the on-line BSA Youth Protection Training (YPT) and Venture Specific YPT courses in order to be registered adult leaders and participate in any activities. Ship 1701 will abide by BSA policies in preventing abuse and reporting possible offenses. We encourage all parents to take the training as well.*



*Ship 1701-Adventure underway!*

## Safety Afloat

Safety Afloat has been developed to promote boating and boating safety and to set standards for safe unit activity afloat. Before a BSA group may engage in an excursion, expedition, or trip on the water (canoe, raft, sailboat, motorboat, rowboat, tube, or other craft), adult leaders for such activity must have completed Safety Afloat Training within the previous two years and be dedicated to full compliance with all nine points of Safety Afloat.

Parasailing, kitesurfing, and recreational use of personal watercraft (small sit-on-top motorboats propelled by water jets) are not authorized BSA activities.

The use of a Personal Flotation Device is mandatory on all water related activities. For most of our activities either a Type II or a Type III is acceptable.

# BSA SAFE SCOUTING

## Medical Information

It is required that all members of the Boy Scouts of America have periodic medical evaluations by a licensed health-care practitioner. In recent years, in an effort to provide better care to those who may become ill or injured and to provide youth members and adult leaders a better understanding of their physical capabilities, the Boy Scouts of America established minimum standards for providing medical information prior to participating in various activities.

Because we are a high adventure activity performed under strenuous conditions (heat, cold water, weather and physical stress) we require a Class 3 medical every 12 months. The class 3 medical is required for any event involving strenuous activity such as backpacking, high altitude, extreme weather conditions, cold water, exposure, fatigue, athletic competition, adventure challenge, or remote conditions where readily available medical care cannot be assured. Medical information required includes current health history supported by a medical evaluation within the past 12 months performed by a licensed health-care practitioner.

Form 34605 is to be used by youth for Class 3 activities. Adults age 40 or older will use this form for Class 2 and Class 3 activities.

Note: Due to the unique and specific activities of each high-adventure base, the Annual Health and Medical Record will not be accepted at any of the High Adventure Bases (Philmont Scout Ranch, Florida Sea Base, Northern Tier). We will make the necessary forms available if we plan activities to these.



## Driving Policy

It is Ship 1701 policy that all drivers to, from and during scouting activities be at least 18 years of age. Scouting activities include fund-raising events, and all other activities planned by the Ship, the council, the region, or any other entity under the auspices of the Boy Scouts of America, other than regular meetings.

Under no circumstances may a Scout:

1. Operate a vehicle to, from, or during a scouting activity or meeting while under the influence of drugs or alcohol or while otherwise physically or mentally impaired.
2. Have other scouts in his vehicle going to, from, or during a scouting activity or meeting without prior written consent of the other scout's parents.

Insurance on the driver's vehicles must be current and comply with state minimums. (BSA recommends 50/100/50). The automobiles must meet all state safety equipment requirements. Seat belts are required for every Scout in the vehicle. Where special circumstances require it, an exception may be made by the adult advisor for the effected activity in consultation with the Skipper, who may allow a Scout who is a licensed driver to drive alone to an activity, provided the Scout's parent or guardian submits written permission before each such activity. Where such an exception is made, it shall be the Scout's duty, when he or she arrives at the activity, to turn over custody of all keys for the vehicle to the Skipper or adult advisor. All Scouts' vehicles shall be designated as off limits until departure.

Any violation of this policy will be treated with the utmost seriousness. The Ship recognizes each parent or guardian's right and responsibility to decide how their Scout will be transported to meetings and activities where transportation as a group is not provided.

# STANDARDS

## Ship Standards

This list is published for the general information of everyone in our Ship. Make a point to also become familiar with standing operating procedures, regulations, orders, and drills the ship will prescribe from time to time.

1. We are chartered by the Boy Scouts of America and sponsored by Bellaire United Methodist Church and operate subject to all of the rules established by Scouting and our sponsor.
2. We will know the Sea Promise by memory, and be familiar with Venturing ideals.
3. All Sea Scouts will make a continuous and progressive effort in advancement.
4. The uniform, when prescribed, will be complete and worn in the proper manner. Covers will be worn out of doors and indoors during ceremonies. Wearing the uniform proudly of Sea Scout Ship 1701 is both a privilege and a responsibility. The Boatswain will keep the Ship's Company aware of the "Uniform of the Day".
  - Work Uniforms will be worn at monthly meetings and special meetings off Ship
  - Class B Uniforms for Kayaking/Canoe/Power boating in humid conditions
  - Dress Uniforms are to be used for Ceremonies and special events. Scouts must keep their Dress Whites in very good condition
5. At any meeting or event, be on deck wearing prescribed uniform and equipment required not later than the time announced. Check with the Boatswain for the prescribed uniform of the day.
6. An officer will be addressed as "sir" or "ma'am."
7. The authority and responsibility of your petty officers and officers will be respected. Deal with your immediate superior. Secure your immediate superior's permission if you want to take a problem to higher authority. Such a request will not be denied, but must be made first. If an order is objected to, carry it out before requesting such permission.
8. On all outings when girls will be part of the Ship's Company we will have female advisors (Mates) as per BSA Policy. On trips, girls are not allowed in the boys' berthing area at all, and boys are not allowed in the girls' berthing area at all. Boundaries as well as an agreeable social area will be designated at the time of the trip.
9. Official communications with outside, affiliated, or related organizations or individuals will be conducted through the Skipper or Boatswain or their designee. No other person can make any commitment for the Ship.
10. General meetings of the Ship are mandatory formations. If absence is unavoidable, notify your immediate superior. Special activities, with the exception of fund-raisers, are not mandatory formations. However, if you sign up, you should attend. If absence is unavoidable notify the person in charge in advance. **Class work for school is your highest priority.** Getting it done when given versus the last day before it is due builds character.
11. Wherever a question or uncertainty exists about proper conduct, rules and orders, you should ask the person in charge. If he or she does not have the answer, he or she is obligated to admit so first, make a temporary ruling only if circumstances require and find the correct answer as soon afterward as possible.
12. The Skipper's word is final and is used as required during extreme conditions where safety is concerned. Follow these orders at the time and later we will debrief the event and how we can avoid the situation in the future.

# OUR FLEET

## Sailing history

### Joshua Slocum (1844-1909)



In 1899, Joshua Slocum became the first man to sail solo around the world. He did so in a boat (the *Sprey*) he built by himself. Starting from Boston, MA, on April 24, 1895, he weighed anchor and set sail alone, returning more than 3 years later. He did so with out modern technology, relying on dead-reckoning to determine latitude and a cheep tin clock to estimate time.



**The Scuttlebutt** is the news letter for Sea Scout Ship 1701, Bellaire TX.

*Eric R Bittner: Skipper*

*Gordon Start: Committee Chair.*



#### Mercator 30

*Thanks to the generosity of Reggie Blinkhorn, Ship 1701 has a vessel literally capable of sailing around the world! In fact, this boat has crossed the Atlantic Ocean at least 3 times.*

*Over the next few months, this will be our primary training vessel and center-point of our activities. The boat is currently slipped in Seabrook, TX.*

