

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

New Sea Scout Ship: Adventure on the Potomac River awaits Colonial Beach youth!

Colonial Beach, Virginia - December 1, 2013 - Whether you are looking to the sea for a career or a lifetime of recreation, Sea Scouting is for you! Sea Scouts learn all aspects of seamanship under sail and power—from routine maintenance to handling the helm on a long cruise.

Our new Sea Scout Ship 258, chartered by the VFW, will “launch” with two Open House events this month: Saturday, December 14th, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, and Tuesday, December 17th, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Both events will be held at The Boathouse Marina, one of our community sponsors. Join us in TBM Captain’s Lounge, 829 Robin Grove Lane, Colonial Beach, Virginia.

According to Committee Chair Boone Hichborn, retired U.S. Navy Master Chief, “The Sea Scout program is youth lead, adult guided, and committee supported. All activities will meet Scouting and U.S. Coast Guard safety standards. All events will fall within and be supported by the ship’s budget so that anyone can afford to participate.”

The adult committee came up with a basic tee shirt design for Plank Owners—those who join a Ship during its first year. Plank Owners who register with Ship 258 at either of the two open house events will receive a free tee shirt. Youth members will decide on the Ship’s uniform, just one example of how this program is run for the youth by the youth.

Other members of the adult committee include: Mr. Frank Alger, Jr., well known in Colonial Beach for his involvement with Scouting; Mr. Bill Bowman, experienced boater and owner of The Boathouse Marina; Mr. Glenn Newcomb of Kinsale, U.S. Navy Veteran; and Dr. Caryn Self-Sullivan, local marine scientist and animal behaviorist.

“There are so many opportunities for youth who join the Ship. Learning to sail is just the beginning. Colonial Beach Sea Scouts will learn about the history, ecology, and diversity of the Potomac River, the Chesapeake Bay, and beyond to our global marine ecosystem, which has a tremendous impact on all of our lives,” said Dr. Caryn.

Several private owners have agreed to loan their boats to the Sea Scouts until Ship 258 acquires its own vessel. “This is a huge benefit to the Ship. The youth get to use a variety of sailboats, from a small Sunfish to a large boat suitable for the ‘long cruise’—an annual event planned for and executed by the scouts after they master basic seamanship. That’s what we are offering to the youth of Colonial Beach and Westmoreland County,” said Mr. Bowman.

Sea Scouting and Venturing are co-educational Boy Scouts of America programs, open to all youth—male and female—ages 14-20. The BSA registration fee is \$21. Ship 258 dues will be determined by the youth as they develop their annual budget. Limited need-based scholarships are available.

For more information about this new unit—Ship 258, or other Scouting events please contact: Mr. Martin Shirilla, Rivers District Chairman, Heart of Virginia Council, Boy Scouts of America. Phone: 804-436-7289 Email: martin.shirilla@facebook.com URL: <http://hovc.org/>

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