

Frequently Asked Questions – Brinton Environmental Center

Keys Adventure, Out Island Adventure, Fishing Adventure, and Marine STEM Adventure

****All of the following information may also be found in your [Brinton Environmental Center Participant Guide](#)****

Does my crew need a tour plan? As of April 2017, the Boy Scouts of America no longer requires units to submit BSA Tour and Activity Plans.

Are scholarships available at Sea Base? Yes! Scholarships are available for those with demonstrated need. [Sea Base Scholarship Form](#)

Who can be awarded a Sea Base Scholarship? Scholarships are available to individuals or units with a demonstrated need.

Can two adult males take a crew of all female youth to Sea Base? Not unless the crew also has a female leader over the age of 21 present.

Can two adult females take a crew of all male youth to Sea Base? Not unless the crew also has a male leader over the age of 21 present.

What kind of Medical Training is required by adult leaders? It is required that *one adult leader in each crew* completes [Wilderness First Aid \(WFA\) and CPR](#) from an agency approved by the American Camping Association or hold a higher professional certification such as MD, EMT, RN, LPN or WFR. *It is highly recommended that every adult leader in each crew completes WFA and CPR.*

Must parents register with the BSA to participate at Sea Base? Yes. Without exception, every adult leader participating in a Sea Base program must be registered with the BSA and complete Youth Protection Training, BSA Safe Swim, BSA Safety Afloat.

How old must I be to participate in a Sea Base program? 13 years of age as evidenced by the [BSA Health and Medical Record](#).

What if I am not a strong swimmer? The Sea Base has no programs for non-swimmers or beginners. For your protection; if you are unable to complete the BSA Swim test in a strong manner you will not be allowed to participate. [Unit Swim Classification Form](#)

The Sea Base literature states that all participants must complete the Sea Base Swim Review upon arrival. What does this mean? The Sea Base Swim Review is exactly like the BSA Swim Test; it is a 100-yard swim that must be completed in a *strong* manner. Participants that cannot complete the Swim Review upon arrival cannot participate in any Sea Base Adventure and will be sent home at their own expense. No refund will be offered for non-swimmers. *We are conveying this information because we are trying to prevent disappointment. We want all participants to be able to stay and enjoy the adventure of a lifetime.*

Is it possible to use a sports or work medical instead of the BSA Annual Health and Medical Record? No. You will not be allowed to participate in Sea Base programs unless you use the [BSA Health and Medical Record](#).

What if my doctor has not or will not sign Part C of the BSA Annual Health and Medical Record? You will not be permitted to participate at Sea Base.

What if I arrive at Sea Base without having completed a BSA Annual Health and Medical Record? You will not be permitted to participate at Sea Base.

What if I arrive at Sea Base and weigh more than 295 pounds? No one who weighs more than 295 pounds will be permitted to participate. If a participant weighs more than 295 pounds upon arrival at the Brinton Environmental Center will be sent home at their own expense.

I am participating in a Florida Fishing, Keys Adventure, Out Island Adventure or Marine STEM Adventure. Where does my crew check in? Brinton Environmental Center, Summerland Key, Florida, Mile Marker 23.8

What time should my crew check in? Sea Base Crews should check in no earlier than 1pm and no later than 3pm.

Can we keep our rental car parked at the Brinton Environmental Center for the week of our adventure? Yes. We recommend that you keep your rental cars parked here for the week in the unlikely chance that the Florida Keys will be evacuated for a hurricane, especially during hurricane season.

I have elected to not keep my rental car(s) for the entirety of my adventure. Is there a shuttle to the rental car companies at the beginning and end of my week-long adventure? Yes, we can shuttle you to the rental companies in Key West on your arrival day and again at the end of your week. Upon check-in, we will organize times to shuttle you to Key West. Again, we do recommend that you keep your rental car(s) for the entirety of the week in case of a mandatory evacuation due to a storm, especially during hurricane season.

Should our unit travel in uniform? Absolutely. Units must arrive in BSA Uniform.

What should I pack for my adventure? A packing list is provided for each adventure. This list can be found in the [Brinton Environmental Center Participant Guide](#).

Why does Sea Base recommend that I use Reef Safe Sunscreen? 4,000 to 6,000 metric tons of sunscreen wash over coral reefs each year causing significant damage. Please plan to use biodegradable, reef safe sunscreen during your Sea Base Adventure. The brand Sun Screen sold at Sea Base has been scientifically tested by Mote Marine Laboratory (Mote) and has been deemed reef safe by [Mote](#).

Where can I find Reef Safe Sunscreen? Thank you for doing your part to protect our coral reefs! We sell Reef Safe Sunscreen in our Ship Store for your convenience. [Sea Base Ship Store - Reef Safe Sunscreen](#)

Could you describe what sort of water shoe each participant needs as indicated by the Packing List? Each Out Island, Marine STEM and Keys Adventure participant will need a pair of water shoes to wade through shallow water. This can be a shoe similar to a dive bootie. The shoe needs to be closed-toed and hard-soled. We recommend that it be something that dries in a timely manner, unlike a sneaker.

Can my crew skip part of its journey and go to Key West, Key Largo or South Beach? No. Once your unit chooses to leave Sea Base your journey is forfeited, and you may not return.

Can my crew arrive early or stay an extra day at Sea Base or aboard a vessel? No. Due to the growth and popularity of our program, we are not able to offer early arrival or late departures days any longer.

What about hurricanes? Program interruption due to hurricanes are extremely rare. If Sea Base is under evacuation orders, generally given 24- 36 hours prior to potential landfall, programs are cancelled and participants are evacuated. Sea Base refunds program fees for missed program dates only. Travel - trip insurance is highly recommended to cover the cost of travel expenses, especially July - August.

When is hurricane season? June 1 through November 30.

What about inclement weather that keeps us off the water while at Sea Base? Your safety is paramount. Occasionally inclement- tropical weather forces Sea Base to delay or cancel activities. Attempts will be made to reschedule activities when possible. Refunds will not be issued for activities including sailing, scuba diving, paddle boarding, kayaking, fishing, camping or others cancelled due to inclement weather.

How much money should I bring to Sea Base? \$125- \$175.

Should my crew buy snorkel gear? No. Snorkel gear is provided as part of your adventure. However, if you have a personal mask, snorkel or fins that you would like to use, you are more than welcome to bring those items along.

Should my crew buy fishing gear? No. Fishing gear is provided as part of your adventure.

Where can I find a detailed itinerary? One is not provided. Programs are weather and tide dependent. An overview of each Adventure's schedule is located in the [Brinton Environmental Center Participant Guide](#).

Important Facts to Review Ahead of Attending Sea Base

Conservation- Take only memories, leave only bubbles- Sea Base Adventures are conducted in marine and historic sensitive environments. Participants must not touch or harm wildlife including coral. Participants must not take coral, artifacts, shells from the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary or US Virgin Islands Coral Reef National Monument or any marine or historical sensitive environment. Participants must properly dispose of and when possible recycle all trash and refuse. [Reef Etiquette Video](#)

Flag Ceremonies- Florida Adventures Only- Assembly for raising begins each morning at 7:45. Assembly for retreat begins at 5:45.

Council Shoulder Patches and unit numbers- Units completing a Sea Base Adventure may affix or have its unit numbers affixed to the galley walls at Sea Base. BSA unit numbers are available for purchase in the Sea Base Ships' Store. *Please do not hang shirts, hats or handkerchiefs.*

Uniforms- BSA Sea Base requires units arrive onsite in uniform. Uniforms, field or activity, must be worn to flags.

Sea Base Custom Crew Gear- Every Sea Base participant should arrive with a long sleeve SPF 45 or greater shirt and wide brimmed hat. Sea Base provides the opportunity for units to order customized, Official BSA Sea Base apparel. [Sea Base Ship Store](#)

Conch LUAU - On the last night of your Sea Base Adventure your crew will participate in a Conch LUAU. This is a special dinner festival complete with fun, music and games. Dress for the Conch LUAU should be Keys - Hawaiian style. Floral shirts are available for purchase onsite at the [Sea Base Ship Store](#).

Advancement and Merit Badges- Advancement is not part of the formal at Sea Base experience. Sea Base does not have structured merit badge programs or merit badge instructors. A list of merit badges and/or advancements you may wish to consider preparing for ahead of your journey can be found [here](#).

What Awards Can We Earn?

Project S.C.E.N.E - Does your unit participate in service? Florida Sea Base became the first Scouting facility in the US to be designated as a Scout Center for Excellence of Nature and Environment (S.C.E.N.E.). Through participation in environmental programs like exotic plant eradication, potential and actual marine debris removal, fish ID and counts and by completing a project prior to arrival at Sea Base crews can earn a Project S.C.E.N.E Award. Information regarding S.C.E.N.E. can be found [here](#).

Castaway Club - Out Island Crews- BSA Sea Base Crews participating in Out Island Adventure will have the opportunity to earn Sea Base Castaway Club Awards. To earn this award units must: properly prepare for the adventure, elect a seasoned Youth Crew Leader, assume all base and campsite responsibilities, utilize proper paddling and fishing techniques, become proficient snorkelers, exhibit enthusiasm and a positive attitude while adhering to the Scout Oath and Law. [Castaway Club Requirements](#).

Cayo Hueso Club - Keys Adventure Crews- BSA Sea Base Crews participating in Keys Adventure will have the opportunity to earn Sea Base Cayo Hueso Club Awards. To earn this award units must: properly prepare for the adventure, elect a seasoned Youth Crew Leader, assume all base and campsite responsibilities, utilize proper adventure techniques, become proficient snorkelers and exhibit a positive attitude while adhering to the Scout Oath and Law. [Club Cayo Hueso Requirements](#).

Duty to God - BSA Sea Base encourages individuals and units to celebrate creation while at Sea Base. Sea Base Duty to God Award is designed to enhance adventure by propelling participants to find evidence of Higher Purpose in the oceans, reefs and interdependence of species. [Majestic Depth Books](#) and [Duty to God Requirements](#).

BSA Snorkeling Award - Every Sea Base participant should arrive at BSA Sea Base having already become a proficient snorkeler. Upon arrival each participant will complete the BSA Snorkel Award. [BSA Snorkeling Requirements](#).

BSA Stand Up Paddleboard - Limited Florida Programs Only- A limited number of Florida Sea Base participants will have the opportunity to earn the BSA Stand Up Paddleboard Award. [BSA Stand Up Paddleboard Requirements](#).

BSA Kayaking Award - Limited Florida Programs Only- A limited number of Florida Sea Base participants will have the opportunity to earn the BSA Kayaking Award. [BSA Kayaking Requirements](#).