

Frequently Asked Questions – Bahamas Sea Base

All of the following information may also be found in your [Bahamas Sea Base 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, youth and adults, 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 Bahamas Sea Base will be sent home at their own expense.

I am participating in a Bahamas Sea Base Adventure. Where does my crew check in? Your crew will fly to Marsh Harbour (MHH), Abaco, Bahamas and then board the first available airport taxi to Conch Inn and Marina.

How long is the taxi ride from the airport to the Conch Inn and Marina? It is about a 15-minute taxi ride.

What is the average cab fare from the airport to the Conch Inn and Marina? Crews should plan on the cab fare being \$5 - \$9 per person, each way.

What time should my crew check in? Sea Base Crews should check in no earlier than 2pm and can be as late as they arrive.

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. Only items listed on the Sea Base Sailing Packing List located in your [Bahamas Sea Base Participant Guide](#). Please keep in mind that all items brought will travel with you aboard your vessel. Crews traveling to Bahamas Sea Base should bring:

- (1) 24 inch duffle bag per person
- (1) Oversize duffle bag per crew containing necessary items only.

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](#)

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 any activities cancelled due to inclement weather.

Should I Buy Deck Shoes? No. Most captains do not allow shoes of any kind, including deck shoes,

while on board.

Why should sailing crews not bring metal or aluminum water bottles? They clang against the side of the vessel making it difficult for participants to sleep.

Where do I sleep on the sailing vessel? Due to heat most participants will choose to sleep on deck.

How much money should I bring to Sea Base? \$150- \$200. Please keep in mind that you will need to save a portion for travel and a portion for expenses in the Bahamas.

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

Where can I find a detailed itinerary? One is not provided. Programs are weather and tide dependent. There are no required destinations other than arrival and departure points.

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.

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](#)

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?

Captains Club - BSA Sea Base Crews participating in any sailing program will have the opportunity Captains Club Awards. To earn this award units must: properly prepare for the adventure, elect a seasoned Youth Crew Leader, assume all vessel responsibilities, utilize proper sailing techniques, become proficient snorkelers and adhere to the Scout Oath and Law.

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](#).

Snorkeling BSA- 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](#)