

# Sea Scout Ship 25 History

**THE SHIP** - in 1910, Lord Baden Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts, at the urging of his brother Warrington decided to combine the best attributes of seamanship with the character training of Boy Scouts and created Sea Scouts in England. In 1912, Sea Scouting came to America. Today, Sea Scouts is world-wide and has been coed in the United States since the 1970's.

Based on Lake Cayuga in New York's Finger Lakes, Ship 25 focuses on sailing, paddlecraft, and scuba diving from late Spring to early Fall. In the cooler months, we camp, hike, climb mountains and even go skiing. When travel is not a concern we participate in land- and water-based training with other Sea Scouts from all over the Northeast.

Ithaca, NY has been the base for a number of ships and SSS Spear, Ship 25 is by far the longest-lived. It was first organized in the 1920's and has operated several boats over the years, including Lucy T (a former WWII motor launch) and the Spear (a 33' Newport sailboat). The Ship made many long trips, up the lake to the Erie Canal, and then onward. In 1939 we cruised to the Worlds Fair and participated as part of the Scout Service Corps. In 1940, 1941 and 1943 the ship earned Regional Flagship honors.

The Spear eventually disbanded in the 1980's before being resurrected in 2010.

For more information visit [seascout.org](http://seascout.org) or [ithacaseascouts.org](http://ithacaseascouts.org).

## Uniforms:

Uniforms identify members as Sea Scouts. They help us look and feel like we are part of the group, encourage good behavior, and are a handy place to display awards. Uniforms can be new or "experienced." We also offer a Ship 25 t-shirt for all registered members. Many adult volunteers also wear uniforms.

**For uniform details, visit:**

[www.ithacaseascouts.org/html/Uniforms.htm](http://www.ithacaseascouts.org/html/Uniforms.htm)

## For more info:

**Please visit [IthacaSeaScouts.org](http://IthacaSeaScouts.org) or call Jim Graney, Committee Chair Ship 25 and Venturing Crew 25, work/cell:**

607-327-1226 [jgraney@twcny.rr.com](mailto:jgraney@twcny.rr.com)

Ed Plesnar - Skipper Ship 25 and Advisor of Venturing Crew 25:

607-341-3745 [eplesnar@stny.rr.com](mailto:eplesnar@stny.rr.com)

## Membership Fee:

As of June 2026, all registered members under age 21 pay \$97 annually. Those age 21 and above pay \$77. This covers BSA's national registration and insurance. A scout's uniform and manual are the responsibility of each scout's family. The manual can be downloaded from the link at <http://ithacaseascouts.org/index.htm> Awards and badges will be covered by fundraising. Scout Life Magazine is available for \$15. Each scout is expected to participate in the unit fundraisers. The cost of other activities is assessed to the participants.

# Learn to Sail and Leadership Skills Sea Scout Ship 25

**Join us**

**for fun on the water  
in Ithaca and beyond!**

**Open to Young Men and Women  
ages 14-20 or age 13 and who  
have completed 8th grade.**



**[www.IthacaSeaScouts.org](http://www.IthacaSeaScouts.org)**

# Activity Highlights

## **Sailing, Motorboats & Canoes/Kayaks**

We sail on Cayuga Lake aboard our 33' Newport sailboat the "Sensei." Depending on planned activities we may sail for an afternoon, evening, overnight, or for multiple days.

We have taken trips through the inter-lake canal from Seneca to Cayuga Lakes. Going through the lock system can lead all the way through the Erie Canal to the Atlantic Ocean.

We have canoed on the Tioughnioga River from Whitney Point to Chenango Bridge, and on Fall Creek between Freeville and Cornell University.

## **Switzerland, France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Liechtenstein and Iceland**

We have camped, hiked, gone whitewater rafting, paragliding and canyoning in the Swiss Alps through Scouting's International High Adventure Base in Kandersteg Switzerland. Side trips to Iceland, Paris, Italy, Liechtenstein and Austria provide cultural opportunities.

## **Puerto Rico Trips**

We have enjoyed two trips to Puerto Rico with a combination sailing and cultural trip. We visited the rainforest, Arecibo Observatory, historic forts, Old San Juan, and sailed aboard a 50' catamaran off the coast to two islands where we went snorkeling. We have gone caving and enjoyed visiting with Sea Scouts from Arecibo.

## **Scotland**

Many of our members have attended the Blair Athol Jamborette, a gathering of around 1200 Scouts from around the world at the Blair Athol Castle in Scotland.

## **BSA's Florida Sea Base**

We have made many trips to the Florida Keys to go sailing and Scuba Diving for a Week at a time.

## **Ocean Sailing/Mountain Climbing**

We have sailed on the Atlantic and done an overnight canoe trip in Maine. Plus we've climbed Mt. Monadnock, Mt. LaFayette, & Mt. Washington in NH among others.

## **Regattas and Camporees plus Year Round Camping**

Sea Scouts have attended numerous area camporees and plan activities year-round including a year-round camping program.

## **Other skills**

Sea Scouts have attended multiple events to learn skills like Small Boat Sailing, Jet Ski use, Lifesaving, First Aid, earning their NYS Boater License, & much more.

## **National Jamboree**

In 2013 and 2017 Ship 25 was part of the Baden-Powell Council contingent to the National Scouting Jamboree at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia.

# Regular Meetings

Ship 25 meets most Fridays at 6:30 at the Ithaca Coast Guard Auxiliary Base. For a complete calendar contact Jim Graney at [jgraney@twcny.rr.com](mailto:jgraney@twcny.rr.com) or call 607-327-1226. Meetings focus on teaching leadership skills plus boating safety and other important skills so we can have fun on the water, experience fellowship, have a chance at leadership, while participating in an advancement program designed to show that you have the skills to lead others safely while having a fun time out on the water.

When circumstances require, we have held meetings via zoom or offer a *zoom option for those farther away.*

# Sea Scouts is for families

Sea Scout ships are staffed entirely by volunteer parents & adults and every family counts. Training and support allow each parent to be successful.

## **Adults can help:**

- drive and supervise for events including sailing, service projects, camping, training, and more
- help with fundraisers
- Adult volunteers should plan to take youth protection training each calendar year at [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org) and provide a completion certificate.

# Recognition

Ship 25 was named a member of the prestigious 2025 National Flagship Fleet, and has received the Northeast Region Commodore's Award of Excellence for several years in a row. Several of our youth achieved Quartermaster which is the highest rank in Sea Scouts. Youth can also earn Venturing Awards till age 21, and Scouts BSA ranks including Eagle and Eagle Palms till they turn 18 if previously they attained First Class in a Troop.

# Advanced Training

Several Sea Scout youth have participated in the National Youth Leadership Training, NAYLE - National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience, Sea Scout SEAL training, and the Seabadge Advanced Leadership Course. Additional training is with the Red Cross, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Power Squadron.