

Policy Concerning Joint Houston Sail and Power Squadron and Sea Scout Activities

Background. United States Power Squadrons (USPS) and Boy Scouts of America (BSA) executed a [Memorandum of Agreement](#) (MOA) to govern joint activities between the two national organizations. The goal of the MOA “is to create a mutually beneficial program that would allow the members of the Sea Scouts to increase their boating education opportunities and permit the members of USPS to share their educational expertise and guidance to America’s youth.” Sea Scouts are eligible for the reduced USPS membership rate for youth between 12 and 18 years of age, and all educational classes and courses taught by USPS units are available to Sea Scouts – whether or not they have joined USPS. Houston Sail and Power Squadron (HSPS) is developing a close working relationship with Sea Scout Ships within the Sam Houston Area Council (SHAC) of BSA. This document has been created to help guide operations in order to achieve a successful partnership at the Squadron-Ship level.

Policy. The following specific tenets shall be met in planning and executing joint activities which may or will involve participants from both HSPS and the Sea Scouts, including leaders:

1. [USPS Guidelines for Partnering with Sea Scouts](#) will be followed.
2. [USPS On the Water Guidelines](#) will be followed.
3. All activities must be consistent with the defined missions of HSPS/USPS and Sea Scouts/BSA.
4. Joint activities should be beneficial to HSPS and participating Sea Scouts.
5. Activities should contribute to Sea Scout advancement and/or Merit Badge attainment. However, exceptions will be made for select social events.
 - HSPS will use USPS educational materials.
6. Prepare an annual planning calendar of joint activities, developed and approved by both HSPS and the affected Ship leaders..
7. HSPS and Sea Scout Ships will exchange planning information
8. Commitments must be honored by HSPS members, Sea Scout leaders, and Sea Scouts.
9. Activity Categories under consideration this fall include:
 - Education
 - On-the-water activities which supplement education
 - Cross-participation in service initiatives by either HSPS or Sea Scouts
 - HSPS members becoming Sea Scout leaders/Ship Mates
 - Social activities.
 - Joint activities focused on leadership of larger USPS or Sea Scout organizations (e.g., presentations at D/21 or other conferences).