



Florida National High Adventure Sea Base Spring 2006



Venturing Crew 24
Easton, Massachusetts

When you are sailing around the Florida Keys, bathing in the sun, and listening to live music, you begin to think to yourself, could life get any better? From April 15th through April 22nd, eleven youth and nine adults had the opportunity to fly down to Fort Lauderdale, drive to Islamorada, and then sail around the Florida Keys for the week. As a co-ed high adventure crew, which is organized by the Boy Scouts of America, Venturing Crew 42 (chartered by the Natural Resource Trust) was able to go on a vacation of a lifetime.

The adventure began when we loaded the plane at Logan Airport. Everyone was unsure of what to expect. What would it be like living on a sailboat for a week? When we arrived in Islamorada, we met Martin, who would be our Sea Exploring mate for the week. We got our snorkel gear and listened to the rules. No Ipods or MP3 players were one of the first rules. We were there to sail, relax, build teamwork, and enjoy snorkeling in the reefs. Putting headphones on would interfere with teamwork building. At first, we were not pleased with this rule, but as we set sail and began our adventure on the ocean, we were able to listen to live music played by Martin, and first mate, Melodie. This was better than expected.

We sailed from Islamorada to Key West on the Heritage of Miami, which is an eighty-five foot schooner. We learned how to navigate the waters, raise the sails, drop the anchors, and how to become true sailors. Docking in Key West on Tuesday for the day gave everyone an opportunity to walk around and explore the island. Although we were all excited to be on land for the day, we could not wait to get back on the ocean to see what would happen next. Our week went by too quickly. We became a team of twenty people who were all able to learn what it was like to give up simple pleasures in life, such as flush toilets and showers, to enjoy their week on the water. Whether we were snorkeling around the numerous reefs, watching dolphins swim alongside our boat, fishing, watching tuna jump in the water, having a sing along, or just relaxing on the deck of the schooner, it is clear to say that we had an extraordinary vacation that will be talked about for years to come!



Venturing Crew 42, from Easton, MA, participating in the Sea Exploring Adventure, which is part of Florida Sea Base.