

VENTURING MAGAZINE

Sea Scout Base, Galveston, TX by Eric Steele

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ARE YOU READY TO GET ON BOARD? If so then plan now to sign up for Sea Scout Base ~ Galveston in the summer of 2014! When most think about Sea Base, their attention naturally goes directly to the Florida Sea Base located in the Fabulous Florida Keys. However, few folks are even aware that currently under construction is one of the premier facilities of it's kind just off the gulf coast of Texas on historic Galveston Island.



The program and facility which are operated through the Bay Area Council has actually been going on for several years, but after the key work of some dedicated volunteers the vision of a unique facility that Sea Scouting can actually call home is almost a reality

The first few questions that probably come to mind are:

- We are a Boy Scout Troop, are we even allowed to go to a Sea Scout Base? The answer is yes. The primary goal is to introduce Sea Scouting traditions to Boy Scout Troops, Varsity Teams and Venturing Crews.
- What is the difference between Florida Sea Base and Sea Scout Base ~ Galveston (SSBG)? Several things actually, for starters simple geography, this facility sits on the west side of the Mississippi River and is very obtainable for Scout units from different regions besides the east and southeast corridor of the United States. Secondly the Florida Sea Base focuses on Live Aboard Large Boat Sailing, Island Camping, SCUBA and offers some programs out of the Bahamas. Where as SSBG will have a heavy emphasis on actual Sea Scouting introduction, will offer weekend programs to local councils, and have a heavy emphasis on small boat sailing to go with Large Boat Sailing programs as well. In addition there is some really unique technology and "Going Green" aspects of the program that will be introduced. Finally another great option that will be available will be the BaySmart Express. The BaySmart is 110 foot floating classroom that has been designed to bring the ocean directly on board for not only Scouts, but for the school communities that surrounds Galveston and the greater Houston area.

Without a doubt, Sea Scout Base ~ Galveston is one of the greatest things currently getting ready to launch throughout the Scouting Community and we want to have you Get on Board!!!

For more information check out the the following:

- Bay Area Council website at www.BACBSA.org
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/seascoutbasegalveston
- Twitter: @SSBGalveston
- Sea Scout Base, Galveston: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/xJH6oQDqP18>
- BSA Sea Scouts: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/56va3WmKjsw>