

Kids across our country have fun in, on and under the water.

They swim, paddle, fish, sail, dive, enjoy water sports and boating and connect with the environment. No matter where a child lives, a lake, stream, river or stretch of shoreline is waiting nearby to be enjoyed and explored.

To honor the 100th birthday of Boy Scouts of America, Venturing and Sea Scouts have been challenged to give 1,000,000 hours of community service to preserve and protect our nation's waterways. In collaboration with the *National Youth Marine Alliance* these scouts will lead the way in the largest youth service initiative for our aquatic environment ever undertaken in this country.

The success of this national effort is dependent upon your participation!

The NYMA is reaching out to government agencies, marine related organizations, conservation groups and State partners to put forth meaningful service projects. Projects may include (but not limited to) debris clean up, monitoring water quality, watershed restoration and protection, storm drain marking, erosion control, invasive species education or projects that address a specific community need.



Sea Scout Ship 41

Serve the Adventure



Sea Scout Ship 41



Connecting Youth to Service In, On & Under The Water!

National Youth Marine Alliance— A Project Blue Initiative

www.pawaterways.org

Serve the Adventure

Service Project Leadership

Venturing and Sea Scouts are youth led programs where young people are taught the leadership skills of planning, goal setting, communication, problem-solving and teamwork. These young adults hone their leadership skills by planning high adventure experiences, community service and activities that are fun for their entire crew or ship.

The Preserve America's Waterways Initiative offers Venturers and Sea Scouts an opportunity to put leadership skills into action in a way that celebrates the adventure of 100 years of scouting while continuing the journey for generations to come through projects that protect and improve the state of America's waterways. In addition these Scouts will act as mentors for non-scouting youth that wish to participate in this national effort. In cooperation with the NYMA, youth from many local organizations will be invited to participate under the direction of our lead partners Sea Scouts and Venturing.

What can an organization expect when Sea Scouts and Venturers adopt and implement a service project?

- ✦ Dependable youth with a variety of skills and interests
- ✦ Volunteers who are energetic and capable of strenuous work
- ✦ Young adults who love nature and are committed to preserving its beauty
- ✦ Service that ranges from four hours to multiple weekends depending on the project chosen and the needs of the community

What are some of the possibilities?

- ✦ Beach, Bank & Marina cleanup
- ✦ Water quality monitoring
- ✦ Coral reef restoration
- ✦ Wetlands and watershed education
- ✦ Habitat restoration
- ✦ Storm drain marking
- ✦ Erosion control
- ✦ Motor oil and hazardous substance disposal
- ✦ Projects that address a specific community need

** Many organizations already have strong volunteer structures with ongoing conservations projects. It is very easy to simply designate one or more of these existing projects as a Preserve America's Waterways Project.*



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How it works..... 1-2-3

1). Each USACE Site is being asked to propose a project that will help preserve or protect our waters. (many sites already have active volunteer projects so it will be very simple to just designate one or more of these projects as a PAW activity). Now is the time to think about your site and how a group of eager youth could lend a hand on a project that would protect a water based site or help provide better access for the public. The scouts are the real project leads but they need **YOU** to identify where they can help. Each scout group provides two deep adult leadership and will work with the site host to coordinate completing the project which is proposed.

2). In October the USACE., working in cooperation with the National Youth Marine Alliance will release a simple "How To Guide" for each potential site. The guide will walk each site provider through the very easy process of logging on to the web site and entering information about your service project. This information about your project will include the number of volunteer hours you anticipate the project will require, location, dates you would like the project done and any special requirements you wish to mention. You will be able to edit and or revise your projects at any time. (we are seeking projects during the period of March 30, 2009 thru December 31, 2009). The process of entering service projects on to the web site will begin in late October and continue through December 31st. We need to get 2500 projects entered. Many organizations with water sites will be contributing projects to help us reach this ambitious goal. Sites may enter more than one project as well. Some sites may need volunteers in the spring and fall thus more than one project will be required. It is estimated that it will take no more than 10 minutes of your time to enter a service project into the on-line system.

3). Beginning January 1, 2009, scout units (and youth organizations that work along side the scouts) will have the opportunity to view all of the available projects on the web site. They may select one or more project and "ADOPT" it. Once they do this, each service project site will receive an email notification that their project has been "Adopted" and you will be provided with all of the contact information about the youth organization that will be participating in your service project. Projects begin March 30th, 2009 and may continue until December 31, 2009. This is a pilot program and we hope to continue the program in future years making the important connection between *Youth, the Outdoors and a Commitment to Service & Stewardship*.

The Goal is 1 Million Community Service Hours From America's Youth

A Call To Action

Get Started Today

Project Timeline

August / September 2008—Introduction of the National Youth Service Project to All USACE sites.

October 17, 2008—"HOW TO GUIDE" communicated to all USACE sites.

October 22, 2008—December 31, 2008—USACE sites can enter Initial service projects in to the on-line system.

January 1– March 31, 2009—Scouting & Youth Organizations will "Adopt" service projects that are in the system. Sites will be notified that their service projects have an assigned youth organization.

April 1—December 31, 2009—Service projects underway. Scouts and Youth organizations will fulfill their duties and log completed service hours through the on-line system.

January 2010—USACE sites will be asked to complete a brief on-line follow up as to the success of the service projects.

National recognition awards will be presented to all USACE sites that put forth a service project.

1 Million Youth Community Service Hours for America's Waterways!