



# **Keys Adventure Out Island Adventure Florida Fishing Adventure Marine Eco Expedition**



## **Participant Guide**

National High Adventure Sea Base, BSA

**Brinton Environmental Center**

23800 Overseas Hwy  
Summerland Key, Florida

*Revised Date: 11/2023*

## Mission of the Boy Scouts of America

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetime by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

### Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

### Scout Law

A Scout is:

Trustworthy. Loyal. Helpful. Friendly. Courteous. Kind. Obedient. Cheerful. Thrifty. Brave. Clean. Reverent.

## Mission Statement of Sea Base, BSA

It is the mission of the Florida National High Adventure Sea Base to serve councils and units by providing an outstanding high adventure experience for older Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, Venturers, Sea Scouts and their leaders.

Sea Base programs are designed to achieve the principal aims of the Boy Scouts of America:

- To build character
- To foster citizenship
- To develop physical, mental and emotional fitness

### Keys Blessing

Bless the creatures of the Sea  
Bless this person I call me  
Bless the Keys, you make so grand  
Bless the sun that warms the land  
Bless the fellowship we feel  
As we gather for this meal  
Amen



**Prepared. For Life.®**

# Table of Contents

<b>Payment Plan.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>General Eligibility Requirements .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<i>General Eligibility at a Glance .....</i>	<i>4</i>
<b>Adult Leader Eligibility Requirements.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Sea Base Risk Advisory .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Policies and Procedures .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Preparing for Sea Base .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<i>Travel and Preparation Plan.....</i>	<i>11</i>
Airports .....	11
Car Rental.....	11
Shuttle Services.....	12
Pre/Post High Adventure Rustic Camping at Camp Jackson Sawyer .....	12
<i>Check-In Paperwork at a Glance .....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Sea Base Training Plan .....</i>	<i>13</i>
Program Specific Training .....	13
<b>Program Overview .....</b>	<b>14</b>
Snorkeling Gear.....	14
Food/Dietary Restrictions.....	15
Fishing License .....	15
Sea Base Specific First Aid Kit:.....	15
<i>Florida Keys Adventure.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Keys Adventure Packing List:.....</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Out Island Adventure.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Out Island Packing List: .....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Fishing Adventure.....</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Fishing Adventure Packing List:.....</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Marine Eco Expedition.....</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Marine Eco Expedition Packing List: .....</i>	<i>26</i>
<b>Sea Base Traditions and Awards.....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Brinton Environmental Center Frequently Asked Questions:.....</b>	<b>29</b>

## Payment Plan

**2024 Payment Schedule:** Crews are responsible to know, understand and adhere to the payment schedule. Failure to provide on time payment will result in cancellation. Deposits are non-refundable. Fees are non-refundable unless Sea Base rebooks the cancelled crew. All cancelled crews are subject to a cancellation fee in the amount of the deposit made.

**Disclaimer:** *BSA National High Adventure Bases set baseline pricing 12-24 months prior to attendance. Additional fuel, food, utilities or other surcharges may be required based on economic conditions, increased costs, and other factors.*

**Please note:** All crews are required to become current with payment within 30 days of registering for a Sea Base Adventure, or **fully paid 90 days prior to arrival** - whichever date comes first. Any installments with due dates in the past are required to be submitted within 30 days of signing up if a crew has greater than 90 days before they are scheduled to arrive.

**Deposit:** \$250.00 per crew, required to create a reservation.

**30-Day Payment:** Within 30 days of sign up, each crew must submit their first payment. The 30-day payment is 10% of the remaining balance after the original deposit.

**Half Payment:** One half of each crew's remaining balance is due on **November 1**.

**Final Payment:** Due 90-days prior to each crew's scheduled arrival.

**Online Payment:** After the deposit, Sea Base accepts online e-check payment only. Sea Base does not accept credit cards.

**Reservation Dashboard & Payment Status:** The designated Reservation Contact and Additional Reservation Contact can view their reservation's specific payment schedule on a Reservation Dashboard through the reservation portal on our [2024 Crews Page linked here](#).

**2025 Sea Base Crews:** *The payment schedule above is outlined for 2024 Sea Base Crews. These guides will be updated in the fall of 2024 for your adventure year, and there may be changes to the payment schedule. Please refer to the Sea Base website, your confirmation emails, and your online reservation for the 2025 Sea Base payment schedule information.*

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## General Eligibility Requirements

### General Eligibility at a Glance

1. Registered member of the BSA
2. 13 years of age or older (Out Island Adventure) **OR** 12 years of age or older (Keys Adventure, Marine Eco Expedition, Fishing Adventure)
3. Completed [BSA Swim Test](#) as a Swimmer, evidenced by the [BSA Unit Swim Classification Record](#)
4. Medically Approved for Participation, evidenced by the [BSA Annual Health and Medical Record](#) & meets [Sea Base Risk Advisory Medical Requirements](#)
5. No participant can exceed 295lbs as evidenced by the medical form. No exceptions will be made. Participants exceeding 295lbs will be sent home at their own expense.
6. [Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist](#) for each attending participant.

**1. Registered:** To attend Sea Base, youth and adult participants must be registered in one of the following programs:

- Exploring, BSA
  - Learning for Life
  - BSA Merit Badge Counselor
  - Scouts, BSA
  - Sea Scouts, BSA
  - STEM Scouts, BSA
  - Varsity, BSA
  - Venturing, BSA
- Scouts, BSA programs are single gender. Male and female Scouts, BSA units can attend Sea Base if the troops are linked and each troop provides their own leadership in the Sea Base crew.
  - Exploring and Venturing programs are coed. Males and females can attend together if the unit booking is an Explorer Post or Venture Crew.

**Coed Crew Requirements Explained**

**2. Age Requirement:** Participants must be at least 13 years of age by their date of arrival at Sea Base for the Out Island Adventure. Participants must be at least 12 years of age by their date of arrival at Sea Base for the Keys Adventure, Fishing Adventure and Marine Eco Expedition. No exceptions can or will be made.

**3. Swim Test:** Every participant, youth and adult, must complete the BSA Swim Test as a Swimmer within a year of the start of their adventure. The BSA Swim Test should be documented on the BSA Unit Swim Classification Record and submitted during check in. Non-swimmers and Beginner Swimmers will not be allowed to participate and will be sent home at their own expense.

❖ *Please note that Sea Base does not provide onsite BSA Swim Tests.*

**Swim Review:** Upon arrival every participant must complete a Sea Base Swim Review in a strong manner. This swim review does not take the place of the BSA Swim Test. **Individuals who do not pass the Sea Base Swim Review will not be permitted to participate and will be sent home at their own expense. No refund will be offered to Non-Swimmers.**

**4. Completed BSA Annual Health and Medical Record:** Sea Base participants must be in good health. All participants must provide a current and complete BSA Annual Health and Medical Record (BSA AHMR). BSA AHMR's are current for 12 months from the end of the month in which they are completed. For example, if the medical form is signed and dated on June 2, 2023, it is valid until June 30, 2024. No other medical form will be accepted.

**5. Weight Requirements:** Due to rescue equipment restrictions and evacuation efforts from remote sites, under no circumstances will any individual exceeding 295 pounds be permitted to participate in a Sea Base Adventure. Anyone arriving at Sea Base exceeding 295 pounds will be sent home at their own expense. No refund will be given.

**6. Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist:** Sea Base crews must provide a completed Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist for each attending participant. This document is required at check-in.

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## Adult Leader Eligibility Requirements

1. Registered Member of the BSA
2. 21 Years of Age or Older
3. Passed [BSA Swim Test](#) as a Swimmer
4. Meets Sea Base Medical Requirements and medically approved for participation.
5. Meet BSA Height & Weight, not to exceed 295lbs.
6. Proper adult supervision
7. Completed [BSA Youth Protection Training](#)
8. Completed [BSA Safety Afloat Training](#)
9. Completed [BSA Safe Swim Defense Training](#)
10. Completed [BSA Hazardous Weather Training](#)
11. [CPR/AED Certification](#), Minimum of 1 Adult per Crew
12. [Wilderness First Aid](#) Certification, Minimum of 1 Adult per Crew

**General Eligibility Requirements:** Adult leaders must meet **all** General Eligibility Requirements (see section above).

**6. Proper Adult Supervision:** As required by [BSA Youth Protection](#), every crew must have at least two adult leaders over the age of 21. Sea Base crews with coed (male & female) youth participants, must have at least one female adult leader over the age of 21. [Coed Crew Requirements Explained](#)

**7-10. Adult Leader Training:** Every adult leader must be a registered member of the BSA and complete [Youth Protection Training](#), [BSA Safe Swim Defense](#), [BSA Safety Afloat](#), and [BSA Hazardous Weather Training](#).

**11-12. Adult Leader Medical Training:** At least one adult leader in each crew must complete [Wilderness First Aid Training](#) (WFA) and Basic [CPR/AED](#) from an agency approved by the [American Camping Association](#) (scroll to bottom of webpage) or hold a higher professional license such as MD, DO, EMT, RN, LPN or WFR. Documentation of higher professional license must be submitted during check-in. Multiple crews require multiple trained leaders. Sea Base highly recommends that every adult leader completes WFA and CPR/AED.

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## Sea Base Risk Advisory

**Sea Base Experience:** Sea Base Adventures are not risk free. Participants must follow safety measures and take personal responsibility for their health and safety. Climate conditions include temperatures ranging from 45 to 95 degrees, high humidity, heat indexes reaching 110 degrees, and frequent, sometimes severe tropical weather. Prolonged, rigorous activities include snorkeling, swimming, kayaking, canoeing, sailing, hiking, and others.

It is the responsibility of participants, participant's parents/guardians, participant's healthcare teams and unit leaders to ensure that each individual, youth and adult, can safely participate in Sea Base Adventures.

**Adult Participants:** It is the role of accompanying adults to ensure youth safety. Because of this, adult participants must arrive in good physician condition and have no medical conditions that could result in diverting the Sea Base staff's attention away from the youth participants.



**ALL Sea Base participants must be able to:**

- Swim in a strong manner.
- Climb a 6 ft. ladder, unassisted, in inclement weather, from the water onto a rocking vessel.
- Self-rescue if found overboard in inclement weather.

**Location:** Sea Base adventures are conducted at sea, often far from land, with limited access to emergency services. **Response times can be affected by weather, seas, location, and can be delayed for hours.** Individuals with medical conditions that require immediate or nearly immediate access to professional medical care should not attend Sea Base.

**Right to Refuse:** Sea Base reserves the right to deny participation based on health and safety concerns and/or medical history.

**Special Needs or Medical Concerns:** Individuals with special needs or medical concerns must have an onsite advocate who understands the individual's condition and treatment who is prepared to provide support to the individual.

**Trained Leadership:** Each crew is required to have at least 1 adult trained in [Wilderness First Aid](#) and [CPR/AED](#) or who has a greater professional medical certification. This leader acts as the primary first response until emergency services arrive. **There are no-onsite facilities for treatment or extended care at Sea Base. Sea Base does not staff professional medical personnel.**

**Medications:** Individuals requiring medication should continue medications as prescribed and bring an appropriate supply. *Each crew must develop a plan to secure, lock and dispense medication.*

**Allergies:** Participants with allergies that may result in severe reactions or anaphylaxis should

bring an adequate supply of epinephrine auto-injectors (EpiPen) to last up to three hours.

**Recommendations Regarding Chronic Illness and/or Compromised Immune System:** Persons with chronic conditions and/or compromised immune systems should seek medical advice and education regarding medical risks associated with harsh marine environments before participating. Individuals with open wounds or who are at risk for chronic illness or immune disease should not attend Sea Base.

**Hypertension (High Blood Pressure):**

Participants should have a blood pressure less than 140/90. Individuals with hypertension should have the condition treated and well-controlled before attending.

**Insulin-Dependent Diabetes Mellitus:** Diabetes must be well-controlled. Hypoglycemia can lead to unconsciousness and drowning.

- Insulin-dependent persons who have been newly diagnosed or who have undergone changes in delivery systems in the last 6 months are advised not to participate.
- Persons with diabetes who have had frequent problems and/or hospitalizations should not participate.
- Persons with diabetes **will not be allowed to scuba dive.**

**Seizures (Epilepsy):** Seizures while snorkeling are extremely dangerous and often fatal.

- History of loss of consciousness often precludes snorkeling. Formal consultation with a neurologist and/or cardiologist is required.
- **No participant with a history of seizures or taking anti-epileptic medication may snorkel or scuba dive.** Participants meeting these criteria must be wearing a USCG approved lifejacket and *may not be wearing a mask* anytime they are in the water. Participants meeting these criteria are allowed to swim in the water but must

be accompanied by their buddy AND an adult who is trained to recognize symptoms of a seizure.

- Prospective participants with a history of infant febrile seizures **may** be considered for **snorkeling** after formal consultation with a neurologist.

**Asthma:** Asthma must be well-controlled.

Persons requiring use of medication and/or inhaler must bring an ample supply.

- Persons being treated for **asthma (including reactive airway disease)** are **disqualified from scuba diving**.
- Persons with a history of asthma who have been asymptomatic **and** have not used medications to control asthma for five years or more **may be allowed to scuba dive** if resolution of asthma is specifically confirmed by their physician and includes provocative pulmonary function testing conducted by a pulmonologist.

–Provocative testing can include exercise, hypertonic saline, hyperpnea, etc.

#### **Recent Musculoskeletal Injuries & Orthopedic Surgery:**

Persons with musculoskeletal problems or orthopedic surgeries within the last 6 months must provide a letter from their treating physician to participate.

**Psychological & Emotional Difficulties:** Any condition should be well-controlled without the services of a mental health practitioner. Participants requiring medication must bring an ample supply and take as prescribed for the duration of their trip.

- Many psychotropic medications are not compatible with **scuba diving**.
- Persons taking more than one psychotropic medication **will not be cleared to scuba dive**.

- Persons with anxiety **will not be cleared to scuba dive**.

**Weight Limits:** Due to rescue equipment restrictions and evacuation efforts from remote sites, under no circumstances will any individual exceeding 295 pounds be permitted to participate. Anyone arriving at Sea Base exceeding 295 pounds will be sent home at their own expense. No refund will be given.



**Scuba Participants:** Persons with conditions listed as severe by the Recreational Scuba Training Council (RSTC) will not be permitted to scuba dive. Persons with conditions prohibited by BSA scuba policy will not be permitted to scuba dive. Various risk factors may exclude a person from scuba diving, either temporarily or permanently. Risk factors include, but are not limited to, ear and sinus problems, recent surgery, spontaneous pneumothorax, asthma or reactive airway disease, seizure disorders, diabetes, leukemia, sickle-cell disease, pregnancy, panic disorders, active psychosis, certain medications, and narcolepsy.

**Closing:** Sea Base, BSA is an industry leader in maritime adventures with an excellent safety record. If you have questions regarding medical policies, medical concerns, or medical approval please contact Sea Base at 305-664-4173.



## Policies and Procedures

**Adult to Youth Ratios:** Sea Base Crews must have more or an equal number of youth to adult participants. Individuals under the age of 21 may be counted as youth participants.

✦ *Special Needs Scouts are counted as youth participants regardless of age.*

**Buddy System:** Adult and youth participants must adhere to the buddy system. While snorkeling, dive buddies must remain within arms distance. While onshore, participants must travel in groups of two or more. *Buddy pairs cannot be coed.*

**Unit Leader Responsibilities:** Prior to arrival, unit leaders are responsible to ensure that all paperwork and trainings are up to date and complete. **This includes inputting the crew roster 90 days prior to arrival.** [2024 roster instructions linked here](#). Upon arrival, Unit Leaders are responsible to act as the first line of treatment when medical issues arise, fulfill [Safe Swim and Safety Afloat](#) responsibilities, follow and enforce [BSA Youth Protection](#) Policies, ensure that youth participants follow Sea Base policies and direction from captains and staff members. Unit Leaders must also actively participate in the adventure; *Sea Base is not a passive experience.*

**Youth Crew Leader Responsibilities:** Sea Base should be a youth led adventure. Crews must elect a seasoned youth crew leader prior to onsite arrival. Sea Base should not be the youth's first leadership experience. Youth will make duty assignments for both youth and adults, and ensure that those duties are completed, following up with the crew when they are not.

**Scout Oath, Scout Law, Outdoor Code:** Participants are expected to act in accordance

with the Scout Oath, Scout Law and Outdoor Code.

**Alcoholic Beverages or Illegal Substances:**

There is no place in Scouting for the possession or use of alcohol or illegal substances. **Anyone found in violation of this policy will be required to vacate their adventure and may be reported to local law enforcement and their local council.** If the unit is unable to provide proper leadership to satisfy [BSA YPT](#), the entire crew will be required to vacate their adventure.

**Smoking, Vaping, Smokeless Tobacco:** Use of tobacco products and vaping is only permitted in designated areas.

**Scout Appropriate Language:** Sexual conversations of any nature including "jokes" are prohibited. Racial, ethnic, religious, sexist, and sexual orientation slurs are prohibited.

**Uniform:** All participants are expected to arrive in either field or activity uniform.

**Attire:** Clothing worn by participants must not promote illegal drugs, alcohol, violence, sexual activity, racism, sexism or bigotry.

**Swimming Attire:** Swimsuits must be modest. For males, tight fitting swim briefs or swim bottoms short enough to allow exposure are not allowed. For females, bikinis are not allowed. Modest tankinis or one-piece swimsuits are appropriate.

**Footwear:** Footwear is required by all participants while onshore. Footwear requirements vary by program. ***Please review the provided Packing List for your chosen adventure under Program Overview in this guide.*** While on base, most participants choose to wear flip-flops or sandals.

**Open Swimming:** Open Swimming at any Sea Base owned or contracted marina is prohibited.

**Open Scuba:** Only individuals participating in Scuba Adventure, Scuba Certification or Scuba Live Aboard may Scuba dive while at Sea Base.

**Unplug:** Use of phones, tablets and other transmission electronics should be restricted to emergency or camera use. Please place phones on airplane mode and stow away. Sea Base is not responsible for damage to phones or electronics by salt, sand, water, or wave motion damage. ***Please keep Big Munson Island native and keep phones stowed away.***

**Lost, Stolen or Damaged Items:** Sea Base is not responsible for personal items. Please properly stow and safeguard your valuables. Sea Base is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items.

**Intentional Damage to Sea Base Vessels, Facilities, Contracted Facilities, Public or Personal Property:** Anyone intentionally damaging property, including pranks that result in damage, will vacate their adventure, and will be held financially liable for damages.

**Bullying, Hazing, Fighting, Play Fighting, Wrestling:** All forms of physical confrontation including “play” are prohibited.

**Sexual Contact:** Sexual contact of any kind, including public display of affection, is prohibited.

**Cleanliness:** Dorms, base, galley, marinas, and vessels are expected to be cleaned and maintained by participants. Youth and adults are expected to shower when they have the opportunity.

**Disposal of Trash:** Litter becomes marine debris and negatively impacts the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Everglades National Park, marine life, and our ocean. Participants must ensure that all recycling and garbage is secured and disposed of properly.

**Conservation:** For your own protection and the protection of the environment, Sea Base participants must not touch, harass, or harm wildlife. Sea Base participants must not take or collect rocks, shells, or marine species. Special care must be taken when snorkeling in sensitive areas, such as coral reefs.



# Preparing for Sea Base

## Travel and Preparation Plan

Please place copies of all necessary check-in paperwork in a notebook or folder to be submitted on your arrival day. *Plastic sleeves are discouraged to ensure a timely check in process.* Sea Base Crew Number, Participant Emergency Contacts, Travel Information, and Training Certificates should be duplicated and placed into a secondary book held by a unit leader or



parent *who is not accompanying* the crew to Sea Base, and should be available to contact on the day of check in. Parents, guardians, spouses should keep a copy of the [BSA Annual Health and Medical Record](#) for each participant. Please remember, while you are traveling you are not only representing your unit, but also the Boy Scouts of America.

**Travel:** Each crew is responsible to plan, secure, and finance travel to Sea Base. Travel Insurance is strongly recommended. The Unit Chartering Organization, Unit Committee, parents of participants, and participants should all be made aware of travel plans.

**Arrival:** All Sea Base Crews are to arrive between 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm, *having already eaten lunch.* Crews arriving after 3:00 pm may be unable to complete necessary pre-adventure training and will force their adventure to be delayed. **Winter/Holiday Crews:** *Expect to add 1-2 hours to your travel time due to heavy traffic on the roads.*

Please arrive at:

**Brinton Environmental Center  
23800 Overseas Highway  
Summerland Key, FL 33042**

**Departure:** Crews may depart the Brinton Environmental Center as early as travel dictates. Early, continental breakfast can be served any time before regular breakfast. Regular breakfast is at 8:00 am. All crews must vacate Sea Base before 10:00 am. **Winter/Holiday Crews:** *Expect to add 1-2 hours to your travel time due to heavy traffic on the roads.*

**Airports:** Sea Base Crews can choose from multiple South Florida Airports, with estimated travel time indicated below:

- Key West International Airport (EYW); 30 - 45 minute drive
- Miami International Airport (MIA); 3 - 3.5 hour drive
- Ft. Lauderdale International Airport (FLL); 3.5 - 4 hour drive

**Car Rental:** Below is a list of rental car companies with locations on the Florida mainland and in Key West:

- [Avis Rental Car](#) 800-230-4898
- [Enterprise Rental Car](#) 800-261-7331
- [Budget Rental Car](#) 800-218-7992

**Shuttle Services:** Several agencies provide travel to and from the Florida Keys. *Sea Base does not provide a shuttle to or from the airports.* Sea Base Crews are responsible to research tour providers and choose those that best suit crew needs. When booking, it is extremely important to demand that your unit arrive at the Brinton Environmental Center between 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm. Please do not arrive earlier than 1pm. Below is a list of service providers:

- [Ace Tours](#) 888-641-4389
- [Blue Sky Adventures](#) 877-225-8375
- [Emerald & Padrino Transportation](#) 305-852-1468
- [Keys Shuttle](#) 305-289-9997
- [Florida Keys Express Shuttle](#) 305-743-7454
- [Florida Keys Group Transportation](#) 305-296-1800
- [Southern Bus Line](#) 1-888-352-2873
- [Keys Luxury Transportation](#) 305-240-9757
- [Stella's Taxi](#), local only 305-292-0496
- [A Family Limousine & Coaches](#) 954-522-7455

THE BSA DOES NOT GUARANTEE THE QUALITY OF ANY SERVICE PROVIDER NOR DOES THE BSA RECOMMEND ANY PROVIDER.

**Side Trips and Additional Adventures:** South Florida is an amazing location for discovery. Side trips can add depth to your unit's experience. However, do not plan to leave Sea Base until your adventure is complete. If you or your unit chooses to leave Sea Base for any reason other than medical emergency or religious observance your adventure will be vacated, and you will not be permitted to return.

**Pre/Post High Adventure Rustic Camping at Camp Jackson Sawyer:** As you prepare to embark on your adventure, we would like to invite you to extend your stay or accommodate your travel plans by booking Pre/Post Adventure Accommodations through Sea Base. We have several options available exclusively to Sea Base crews:

- Pre/Post Premium- A discounted hotel stay near either FLL and MIA Airport with free Shuttle service to/from the airport to the hotel
- Pre/Post Deluxe- Deluxe tent camping- Stay in a platform tent facing the ocean featuring air conditioning, electricity and bunk beds with food provided at Camp Jackson Sawyer on Scout Key
- Pre/Post Traditional- Stay in traditional dome tents in the shadiest area of the camp with food provided at Camp Jackson Sawyer on Scout Key



**Transportation to Sea Base is not provided to crews; you will need to arrange this on your own.**  
**For more information on these options, please visit our booking site: [www.bsaseabase.org/prepost](http://www.bsaseabase.org/prepost)**



### Check-In Paperwork at a Glance



All crews should arrive with *copies* of the following check-in paperwork. Paperwork should be organized in a notebook or folder. *Plastic sleeves are discouraged to ensure a timely check-in process.* All paperwork will be submitted upon arrival. The following documents are required:

1. Completed Roster (**submitted 90 days prior to arrival**): [2024 Roster Instructions](#)
2. Copies of Training Certificates for each adult leader ([Safe Swim Defense](#), [Safety Afloat](#), [Hazardous Weather](#), [Youth Protection](#))
3. [Wilderness First Aid](#) (WFA) Certificate (One adult leader per crew)
4. [CPR/AED Training](#) Certificate (One adult leader per crew)
5. [BSA Unit Swim Classification Record\(s\)](#) with each participant listed
6. Completed [BSA Annual Health and Medical Records](#) for each participant
7. Copies of Medical Insurance Cards for each participant
8. Completed [Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist](#) with each participant listed

Notify Sea Base of any food allergies or dietary restrictions at least 2-4 weeks prior to arrival [HERE](#).

### Sea Base Training Plan



Sea Base Adventures are aquatics-based and require participants to be fit, competent swimmers. It is recommended that your unit, in consultation with physicians and local council BSA Aquatics Director or a qualified aquatic professional, develops a crew training regimen. **This regimen should include frequent pool training sessions, basic snorkeling instruction, paddle craft sessions, upper-body strength training and the [BSA Swim Test](#), which is a requirement.**

### Program Specific Training

1. Become strong, competent swimmers (monthly swimming sessions are recommended).
2. Snorkel. Practice clearing a mask and snorkel. ([Snorkel BSA](#))
3. Practice fishing knots. Ex. Palomar Knot, Uni Knot, Uni-to-Uni Knot
4. Become proficient with nautical map and compass navigation.
5. Seek local instruction regarding the use of VHF marine radios, safety flares, man overboard procedures and drill potential emergency situations.
6. Become proficient with paddle crafts (kayaking, stand-up paddleboard and/or canoe)
7. Practice gaining upper-body strength to lift oneself onto a dock/kayak/paddleboard/canoe.
8. Adult leaders play an important role in ensuring safety aboard and in the water. Adults must understand [BSA Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat](#) Guidelines and be prepared to assist in emergency situations.
9. Watch: A [Reef Etiquette Video](#) produced by NOAA.



## Program Overview

Epic Adventures begin with planning and preparation. Upon arrival (1:00pm- 3:00pm), each crew will have paperwork reviewed, complete a gear shakedown and then complete a Sea Base Swim Review and snorkel lesson. The crew will have dinner on site. The following morning, each crew will have their photo taken. Photos are available for purchase onsite at the [Ship Store](#). Any participant, youth or adult, who does not meet eligibility requirements listed on pages 4 – 6 will not be permitted to participate and will be sent home at their own expense. **Please inform your crew to ensure that no one is disappointed.**

**Sea Base Captains:** Every captain under charter at Sea Base is licensed by the United States Coast Guard. Their primary responsibility is to keep your unit safe. It is essential that each crew understands that a request by the captain is an order delivered kindly. The captain is the final authority while aboard.

**Sea Base Vessels:** Every vessel chartered or owned by Sea Base either goes through a United States Coast Guard Inspection or Examination prior to providing charters. Each vessel is also pre-screened by Sea Base. Only vessels deemed safe and capable are chartered.

**Youth Crew Leaders:** Sea Base Adventures should be youth led. Please elect a seasoned youth crew leader prior to arrival. The youth crew leader will work hand in hand with Sea Base Staff to ensure that all duties are assigned and completed.

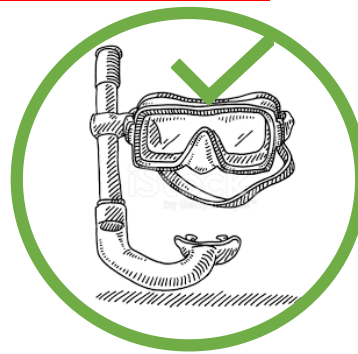
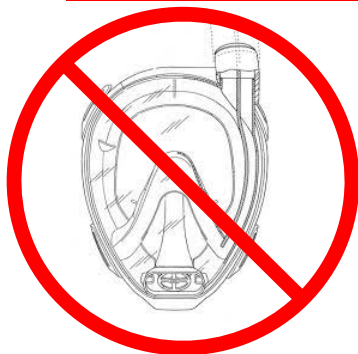
**Cell Phones/Electronic Devices:** We strongly encourage all participants to “unplug” for the entirety of their Sea Base Adventure, especially on primitive Big Munson Island. Please keep in mind that the ocean environment is not conducive to phones and other electronic devices.

**Dorm Sleeping Arrangements:** Both male and female dormitories are available at Sea Base. All dormitories are air-conditioned. Dormitories sleep three crews each and are divided into three sections. One section is for adult participants and the other two sections are for youth participants.

**Tent Sleeping Arrangements:** For Out Island and Keys Adventures, participants will be provided with tents during their stay on Big Munson Island. Youth and adults may not share tents unless the adult is a legal guardian of the youth. Youth more than 2 years apart in age cannot share a tent. Non-married males and females may not share a tent.

**Snorkeling Gear:** Individuals are required to use their own mask and snorkel at Sea Base. The only snorkeling gear provided by Sea Base is a mesh bag, fins and PFD. Crew members can purchase masks and snorkels from the [Sea Base Ship Store](#) and pick-up items upon arrival, if they choose.

**Full face masks are not permitted at any Sea Base location.**





**Food/Dietary Restrictions:** The Brinton Environmental Center Galley offers food appropriate for the experience. If a participant has specific diet restrictions, please fill out the [Dietary Notification Form](#) once per participant with food allergies or dietary restrictions at least two weeks prior to the start of the adventure. *Please note: It may not always be possible to accommodate individual preferences (likes and dislikes) that are not of a medical or religious nature.*

**Fishing Equipment:** All fishing tackle and equipment is provided by Sea Base. Please do not bring personal fishing gear.

**Fishing License:** All participants ages 16 and over must purchase a valid Florida Fishing License to participate in all Brinton Environmental Center Adventures. This includes Florida Keys Adventure, Out Island Adventure, Florida Fishing Adventure, and Marine Eco Expedition. Visit [gooutdoorsflorida.com](http://gooutdoorsflorida.com) and purchase the appropriate saltwater fishing license for the dates of your adventure:

- Winter & Spring Crews (December - April): Purchase a 7-day, saltwater fishing license.
- Summer Crews (May - August): Purchase a 3-day, saltwater fishing license, beginning on the third day of your adventure.
- Fishing Adventure Crews (Spring & Summer): All Florida Fishing Adventure crew members, ages 16 and over, must purchase a 7-day saltwater fishing license regardless of which season the adventure takes place.

If you are participating during lobster season from *August 6 through March 31*, you may wish to purchase a lobster tag as a part of your fishing license. Sea Base does not participate in the lobster mini season in July. **Sea Base does not sell fishing licenses on site.** Fishing licenses must be purchased through the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, or the FWC; [gooutdoorsflorida.com](http://gooutdoorsflorida.com).

**Storage:** Sea Base provides a limited amount of storage adequate for a single piece of checked luggage per crew and a single piece of carry-on luggage per person. Please limit items to those listed on the packing list.



**Sea Base Specific First Aid Kit:** Every crew must provide their own first aid kit. A Sea Base Specific First Aid Kit includes all items found in a [traditional back country first aid kit](#) along with the following items:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • SPF 35 or greater sunscreen (non-aerosol) | • Sea sickness medication (non-drowsy) |
| • SPF 35 or greater lip balm                | • Non-aerosol mosquito repellent       |
| • Small bottle of vinegar (less than 3oz.)  | • Swimmers ear drops                   |
| ▪ For jellyfish stings                      | • Benadryl                             |
|   | • Hand sanitizer                       |

## Florida Keys Adventure

**Overview:** The Florida Keys Adventure is our most diverse program and offers a sample of all the activities provided at Brinton Environmental Center. Crews will spend sunny days sailing, fishing, paddle boarding, kayaking, snorkeling, camping on primitive Big Munson Island, and sightseeing in Key West and local State Parks. This adventure allows crews to explore the diverse environment and culture of the Florida Keys. Please note that daily activities are dictated by weather, tides, and the ability of the crew. Your activity plan can vary, sometimes widely, due to these factors.

**Key West:** Your adventure will include a trip to the southernmost city in the continental United States, rich in history and culture. Brinton Center Staff will provide lunch and transportation for Fort Zachary Taylor State Park in Key West, and after lunch, crews will have time to explore the city on their own. Keys Adventure crews should research activities to do in advance but be sure not to miss the Sunset Festival at Mallory Square! Dinner in Key West is the only meal not provided during your adventure.



**Big Munson Island:** Your adventure includes an overnight stay on Big Munson Island. Big Munson Island is a barrier island comprised of hardwood hammocks, low mangrove swamps and sandy beaches. Your crew will wade to shore from our vessels and depending on the tide, the water may be knee high to chest deep. Your campsite will already be set up, including tents. All cooking equipment needed for your stay is provided.

**Keys Adventure Crew Size:** 6–8 individuals. This number includes both youth and adult participants. Because of US Coast Guard Regulations, crews may not exceed the maximum number allowed.

**Length of Adventure:** 6 nights, 7 days including arrival and departure dates.

**Fishing License:** All participants ages 16 and over must purchase a valid Florida Fishing License. See page 15 for details. [www.gooutdoorsflorida.com](http://www.gooutdoorsflorida.com)

**Accommodations:** All Keys Adventure participants will stay in air-conditioned dormitories for all but one night of your adventure. The dorms are equipped with bunk beds and twin-size mattresses. The dormitories are divided into three sections; one section is for adult participants and two sections are for youth participants. Each dormitory sleeps three crews. Linens are not provided. Shower and laundry facilities are available.

**Storage:** Each Keys Adventure dormitory is equipped with one footlocker per crew. The footlocker is provided to stow valuables during day trips and the single overnight trip on Big Munson Island. Please provide a lock if preferred.

**Packing:** All Keys Adventure participants will be provided a 50-liter, 24”L x 12”W dry bag for their island gear. Keys Adventure crews will be provided a dry bag the evening before their fishing day. Remaining crew gear not taken out to Big Munson Island is stored in their assigned dormitories.

Keys Adventure Tentative Schedule						
Day 1	Day 2	Day 3 or 6	Day 4	Day 5	Day 3 or 6	Day 7
Arrive 1-3 PM	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
Check In	Paddle Boarding	Snorkeling	Fishing	Kayak through Mangrove Lagoon	Sailing	Clean Dorm Room
Base Tour	Lunch at Fort Zachary Taylor in Key West	Lunch on Snorkel Boat	Lunch on Fishing Boat	Island Tour	Lunch on Sail Boat	Depart by 10 AM
Swim Review Snorkel Lesson	Free time to explore in Key West	Visit Bahia Honda State Park	Dropped off at Big Munson Island	SCENE Project	Conch Luau	
Dinner on Base	Dinner in Key West & Sunset Festival	Dinner on Base	Dinner on Big Munson Island with fresh catch	Dinner on Base	Dinner at Conch Luau	
Opening Program	Return to base 9 - 9:30pm	Bridge Fishing	Overnight on Big Munson	Night Snorkel	Closing Ceremony	

*Please note that program is dictated by weather, tides and the ability of the crew. Your activity plan can vary, sometimes widely, due to these factors.*



## Keys Adventure Packing List:

Sea Base provides meals, dry bags, fishing equipment and nearly everything else you will need on your adventure. Below is a list of personal and crew items required or recommended for your adventure.

### WHAT TO BRING: (Personal Items)

- Wide brimmed hat with strap
- 16oz +45 Biodegradable sunscreen  
**NO AEROSOLS. REEF SAFE.**
- Mosquito Repellent, non-aerosol
- Oil-based skin product for no-see-ums repellent (i.e., Skin-So-Soft)
- Polarized Sunglasses with strap
- Wide-mouth water bottle with carabiner
- Neck Gaiter/Buff (for sun & bug protection)
- 2 UPF +30 long sleeve shirts
- Casual, non-scouting shirt for trip to Key West (optional)
- 3 Pairs of shorts: (1) swim trunks or swimsuit (2) dry pair for land
- 1 Light pair of pants, zip off trek pants recommended
- 3 Pairs of socks
- 2 Pairs of shoes
  - (1) Teva or Chaco style sandals
  - (1) Good walking shoes (open-toed shoes are permitted)
- 1 Pair of water shoes or dive booties. Participants will be wading in shallow water around Big Munson Island. *Water shoes need to be hard-soled and closed-toe.*
- 1 Conch Luau Shirt
- Rain Jacket
  - Winter/Early Spring Crews: Rain Jacket and fleece
  - Late Spring/Summer Crews: Light Rain Jacket
- 1 Sleeping cover
  - Winter/Early Spring Crews: Middle weight sleeping bag.
  - Late Spring/Summer Crews: Sleeping bag insert
- 1 Small pillow, backpacking recommended
- 2 Towels:
  - (1) Regular
  - (1) Microfiber sham/Camp Towel
- Toiletry Kit
- Flashlight, red headlamp recommended
- Prescription Medications
- Spending money (\$150-\$200)
- Camera, waterproof recommended
- Sleeping pad (optional)
- Hammock (optional)
- Mask & Snorkel (can be purchased from the [Sea Base Ship Store](#))
- **FULL Face Mask/Snorkels are NOT Permitted at Sea Base**

### WHAT TO BRING: (Crew Items)

- Sea Base Specific First Aid Kit (see page 15)
- Combination Lock for Crew Foot Locker (optional)
- Copies of all required paperwork (see page 13)

### WHAT NOT TO BRING:

- We encourage ALL participants to “unplug” during the entirety of their adventure. Phones and all electronic devices are strongly discouraged, *especially* on Big Munson Island.
- Firearms or fireworks
- Skateboards or bicycles
- Aerosol sunscreen or aerosol insect-repellent
- Personal music players or video games
- Mess kits
- Valuable or unnecessary items
- Spear Guns are prohibited
- Full Face Mask/Snorkels are prohibited



## Out Island Adventure

**Overview:** The Out Island Adventure is a once-in-a-life-time opportunity to live on a rugged barrier island. You begin your adventure by paddling roughly 6 miles out to Big Munson, an island only inhabited by Scouts. During your stay you have opportunities to fish for your dinner, fish for sharks, snorkel, kayak through a mangrove lagoon and around the island, explore the island, and work on your survival skills. Please note that activities are dictated by weather, tides and the ability of the crew. Your activity plan can vary, sometimes widely, due to these factors.



**Big Munson Island:** Your adventure includes 4 nights, 5 days camping on Big Munson Island. Big Munson Island is a barrier island comprised of hardwood hammocks, low mangrove swamps and sandy beaches. Your crew will wade to shore from our vessels and, depending on the tide, the water may be knee high to chest deep. Your campsite will already be set up, including tents. All cooking equipment needed for your stay is provided.

**Accommodations:** Your crew will be staying in air-conditioned dormitories on the first and last night of your Out Island Adventure. The dormitories contain bunk beds with twin-size mattresses. The dormitories are divided into three sections; one section is for adult participants and two sections are for youth participants. Each dormitory sleeps three crews. Linens are not provided. Shower and laundry facilities are available at the Brinton Center, but NOT on primitive Big Munson Island. Your crew will be staying in tents on Big Munson Island for the other 4 nights, 5 days of your adventure.

**Storage:** There is a 4' x 4' x 4' storage locker available for each Out Island Adventure crew to stow bags, suitcases, gear and other items not taken to Big Munson Island. Please provide a lock if preferred.

**Out Island Adventure Crew Size:** 6–8 individuals. This number includes both youth and adult participants. Because of US Coast Guard Regulations, crews may not exceed the maximum number allowed.

**Length of Adventure:** 6 nights, 7 days including arrival and departure dates.

**Fishing License:** All participants 16 and over must purchase a valid Florida Fishing License. See page 15 for details. [www.gooutdoorsflorida.com](http://www.gooutdoorsflorida.com)

**Packing:** All participants in the Out Island Adventure program will be provided a 50-liter, 24"L x 12"W dry bag for their island gear. Crew members will be issued dry bags on the evening of their arrival day.

Out Island Adventure Tentative Schedule						
Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Arrive 1-3 PM	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
Check In	Gear & Food Shakedown	Kayak through Mangrove Lagoon	Fishing	Snorkeling	Clean campsite and pack up	Clean Dorm Room
Base Tour	Early Lunch	Lunch	Lunch on Boat	Lunch on Boat	Paddle to Brinton Center	Depart by 10 AM
Swim Review Snorkel Lesson	Paddle to Big Munson Island	Shark Fish	Dropped off at Big Munson Island	SCENE Project	Lunch at Base	
Dinner on Base	Settle into Camp	Island Tour	Cook your Catch for Dinner	Dinner	Dinner & Conch Luau	
Opening Program	Island Campfire	Dinner	Night Snorkel	Crab Race	Closing Ceremony	

*Please note that program is dictated by weather, tides and the ability of the crew. Your activity plan can vary, sometimes widely, due to these factors*





## Out Island Packing List:

Sea Base provides meals, dry bags, fishing equipment and nearly everything else you will need on your adventure. Below is a list of personal and crew items required or recommended for your adventure.

### WHAT TO BRING: (Personal Items)

- Wide brimmed hat with strap
- 16oz +45 Biodegradable sunscreen  
**NON-AEROSOL. REEF SAFE.**
- Mosquito Repellent, non-aerosol
- Oil-based skin product for no-seeums repellent (i.e., Skin-So-Soft)
- Polarized Sunglasses with strap
- 2 Wide-mouth water bottles with carabiner
- Neck Gaiter/Buff (for sun & bug protection)
- 2 UPF +30 long sleeve shirts
- 3 pairs of shorts: (1) swim trunks or swimsuit (2) dry pair for land
- 1 Light pair of pants, zip off trek pants recommended
- 3 Pairs of socks
- 2 Pairs of shoes:
  - (1) Teva or Chaco style sandals
  - (1) Good walking shoes (open-toed shoes are permitted)
- 1 Pair of water shoes/dive booties.  
Participants will be wading in shallow water around Munson Island. *Water shoes need to be hard-soled and closed-toe.*
- 1 Conch Luau Shirt
- Rain Jacket
  - Winter/Early Spring Crews: Rain Jacket and fleece
  - Late Spring/Summer Crews: Light Rain Jacket
- 1 Sleeping cover
  - Winter/Early Spring Crews: Middle weight sleeping bag.
  - Late Spring/Summer Crews: Sleeping bag insert
- 1 Small pillow, backpacking recommended
- 2 Towels:
  - (1) Regular
  - (1) Microfiber sham/Camp Towel
- Toiletry Kit
- Flashlight, red headlamp recommended
- Prescription Medications
- Spending money (\$150-\$200)
- Camera, waterproof recommended
- Sleeping pad (optional)
- Hammock (optional)
- Mask & Snorkel (can be purchased from the [Sea Base Ship Store](#))
- **FULL Face Mask/Snorkels are NOT Permitted at Sea Base**

### WHAT TO BRING: (Crew Items)

- Sea Base Specific First Aid Kit (see page 15)
- Combination Lock for Crew Storage Locker
- Copies of all required paperwork (see page 13)

### WHAT NOT TO BRING:

- We encourage ALL participants to “unplug” during the entirety of their adventure. Phones and all electronic devices are strongly discouraged, *especially* on Big Munson Island.
- Firearms or fireworks
- Skateboards or bicycles
- Aerosol sunscreen or aerosol insect-repellent
- Personal music players or video games
- Mess kits
- Valuable or unnecessary items
- Spear Guns are prohibited
- Full Face Mask/Snorkels are prohibited

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[www.store.bsaseabase.org](http://www.store.bsaseabase.org)

## Fishing Adventure

**Overview:** The Fishing Adventure will immerse you into the world of saltwater angling of the Florida Keys. You will spend most days fishing for mahi-mahi, tuna, mackerel, snapper and much more! You will also have the opportunity see fish in their natural habitat while snorkeling at our majestic coral reefs and enjoy some local seafood while exploring Key West. Fishing Adventure is a great opportunity to learn more about the sport, conservation, and fish in one of the greatest fishing destinations in the world. Please note that daily activities are dictated by weather, tides, and the ability of the crew. Your activity plan can vary, sometimes widely, due to these factors.



**Key West:** Your adventure will include a trip to the southernmost city in the continental United States, rich in history and culture. After the crew snorkels at one of the nearby reefs, your Brinton Center mate will provide transportation to Key West. Crews will have time to explore the city on their own. Fishing Adventure crews should research activities to do in advance but be sure not to miss the Sunset Festival at Mallory Square! Dinner in Key West is the only meal not provided during your adventure.

**Accommodations:** Your crew will be staying in air-conditioned dorms for the duration of your adventure. The dormitories are equipped with bunk beds with twin-sized mattresses, large enough to sleep three crews. The dormitories are divided into three sections; one section is for adult participants and two sections are for youth participants. Linens are not provided. Shower and laundry facilities are available.

**Storage:** The Fishing Adventure dormitory is equipped with one footlocker per crew. The footlocker is provided to stow valuables during day trips. Please provide a lock if preferred.

**Fishing Adventure Crew Size:** 6–8 individuals. This number includes both youth and adult participants. Due to US Coast Guard Regulations, crews may not exceed the maximum number allowed.

**Length of Adventure:** 6 nights, 7 days including arrival and departure dates.

**Fishing License:** All participants 16 and over must purchase a valid 7-day saltwater Florida Fishing License. See page 15 for details. [www.gooutdoorsflorida.com](http://www.gooutdoorsflorida.com)

Fishing Adventure Tentative Schedule						
Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Arrive 1-3 PM	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
Check In	Reef Fishing	Offshore Fishing	Back Country Fishing	Snorkeling	Shark Fishing	Clean Dorm Room
Base Tour	Lunch on Boat	Lunch on Boat	Lunch on Boat	Lunch on Boat	Lunch on Boat	Depart by 10 AM
Swim Review Snorkel Lesson	Clean Boat and Filet Catch	Clean Boat and Filet Catch	Clean Boat and Filet Catch	Explore Key West	Clean Boat and Filet Catch	
Dinner on Base	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner in Key West	Dinner & Conch Luau	
Opening Program	Knots & Fishing Skills Lesson	Night Snorkel	Bridge Fishing Cook your Catch	Sunset Festival in Key West	Closing Ceremony	

**Please note that program is dictated by weather, tides and the ability of the crew. Your activity plan can vary, sometimes widely, due to these factors.**

## Fishing Adventure Packing List:

Sea Base provides meals, fishing equipment and nearly everything else you will need on your adventure. Below is a list of personal and crew items required or recommended for your adventure.

### WHAT TO BRING: (Personal Items)

- Wide brimmed hat with strap
- 16oz +45 Biodegradable sunscreen  
**NON-AEROSOL. REEF SAFE.**
- Mosquito Repellent, non-aerosol
- Polarized Sunglasses with strap
- Neck Gaiter/Buff (for sun protection)
- 3 UPF +30 long sleeve shirts
- Casual, non-scouting shirt for trip to Key West (optional)
- 2 Pairs of shorts: (1) swim trunks or swimsuit (1) dry pair for land
- 1 Light pair of pants, zip off trek pants recommended
- 3 Pairs of socks
- 2 Pairs of shoes:
  - (1) Teva or Chaco style sandals
  - (1) Good walking shoes (open-toed shoes are permitted)
- Wide-mouth water bottle with carabiner
- 1 Conch Luau Shirt
- Rain Jacket
  - Early Spring Crews: Rain Jacket and fleece
  - Late Spring/Summer Crews: Light Rain Jacket
- 1 Small pillow, backpacking recommended
- Twin-size linens or Sleeping bag
- 2 Towels:
  - (1) Regular
  - (1) Microfiber sham/Camp Towel
- Toiletry Kit
- Flashlight, headlamp recommended
- Prescription Medications
- Spending money (\$150-\$200)
- Camera, waterproof recommended
- Mask & Snorkel (can be purchased from the [Sea Base Ship Store](#))
- **FULL Face Mask/Snorkels are NOT Permitted at Sea Base**

### WHAT TO BRING: (Crew Items)

- Sea Base Specific First Aid Kit (see page 15)
- Combination Lock for Crew Foot Locker (optional)
- Copies of all required paperwork (see page 13)

### WHAT NOT TO BRING:

- We encourage ALL participants to “unplug” during the entirety of their adventure. Phones and all electronic devices are strongly discouraged.
- Firearms or fireworks
- Skateboards or bicycles
- Aerosol sunscreen
- Aerosol insect-repellent
- Personal music players or video games
- Mess kits
- Valuable or unnecessary items
- Spear Guns are prohibited
- Full Face Mask/Snorkels are prohibited



[www.store.bsaseabase.org](http://www.store.bsaseabase.org)

## Marine Eco Expedition

**Overview:** Have you always dreamed of being a marine biologist or a deep-sea explorer? This is the program for you! Your crew will snorkel through coral reefs, fish, tag sharks or Mahi-Mahi, kayak, explore Big Munson Island, spend a day in Key West and work in our land-based coral nursery to help with restoration throughout the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary! During the evenings, the crew will design and construct an ROV submarine to race at the end of the week! This program allows you to participate in citizen science projects to earn the citizen science award! Please note that daily activities are dictated by weather, tides, and the ability of the crew. Your activity plan can vary, sometimes widely, due to these factors.



**Key West:** Your adventure will include a trip to the southernmost city in the continental United States, rich in history and culture. Brinton Center Staff will provide lunch and transportation for Fort Zachary Taylor State Park in Key West. After exploring the park, crews may visit the Eco Discovery Center and then explore the city. Marine Eco Expedition crews should research things to do in advance but be sure not to miss the Sunset Festival at Mallory Square! Dinner in Key West is the only meal not provided during your adventure.

**Marine Eco Expedition Crew Size:** 6–8 individuals. This number includes both youth and adult participants. Due to US Coast Guard Regulations, crews may not exceed the maximum of 8 people.

**Accommodations:** Your crew will be staying in dorms at the Brinton Environmental Center for the duration of your adventure. Dorms are air-conditioned and contain bunk beds with twin-size mattresses. The dormitories are divided into three sections; one section is for adult participants and two sections are for youth participants. Each dormitory sleeps three crews. Linens are not provided. Shower and laundry facilities are available onsite.

**Storage:** The Marine Eco Expedition dormitory is equipped with one footlocker per crew. The footlocker is provided to stow valuables during day trips. Please provide a lock if preferred.

**Fishing License:** All participants 16 and over must purchase a valid Florida Fishing License. See page 15 for details. [www.gooutdoorsflorida.com](http://www.gooutdoorsflorida.com)

**Length of Adventure:** 6 nights, 7 days including arrival and departure dates.



Marine Eco Expedition Tentative Schedule						
Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Arrive 1-3 PM	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
Check In	All Day Snorkel aboard BSA Discover	Work in Land-based Coral Restoration Nursery	Shark or Mahi Fishing/Tagging	Island Day at Big Munson Island	All day Snorkel aboard BSA Discover	Clean Dorm Room
Base Tour	Lunch on Boat	Picnic Lunch in Key West at Ft. Zachary Taylor/ visit coral restoration site	Lunch on Boat	Picnic Lunch on Island	Lunch on Boat	Depart by 10 AM
Swim Review Snorkel Lesson	Water Quality Sampling & Fish Surveys	Explore Key West	Shark or Mahi Fishing/Tagging	Island Day and beach clean-up	Coral Bleaching & Disease Surveys	
Dinner on Base	Dinner on Base	Dinner in Key West & Sunset Festival	Dinner on Base	Dinner on Base	Conch Luau Dinner	
Opening Ceremony	ROV Building	Return to base by 9:00 pm	Night Snorkel	ROV Building	ROV Race, Luau Ceremony	

*Please note that program activities are dictated by weather, tides and the ability of the crew. Your activity plan can vary, sometimes widely, due to these factors*



## Marine Eco Expedition Packing List:

Sea Base provides meals, fishing equipment and nearly everything else you will need on your adventure. Below is a list of personal and crew items required or recommended for your adventure.

### WHAT TO BRING: (Personal Items)

- Wide brimmed hat with strap
- 16oz +45 Biodegradable sunscreen  
**NON-AEROSOL. REEF SAFE.**
- Mosquito Repellent, non-aerosol
- Wide-mouth water bottle with carabiner
- Flashlight, headlamp recommended
- Polarized Sunglasses with strap
- Neck Gaiter/Buff (for sun protection)
- 3 UPF +30 long sleeve shirts
- Casual, non-scouting shirt for trip to Key West (optional)
- 2 Pairs of shorts: (1) swim trunks or swimsuit (1) dry pair for land
- 1 Light pair of pants, zip off trek pants recommended
- 1 Conch Luau Shirt
- Rain Jacket
  - Early Spring Crews: Rain Jacket and fleece
  - Late Spring/Summer Crews: Light Rain Jacket
- 3 Pairs of socks
- 2 Pairs of shoes:
  - (1) Teva or Chaco style sandals
  - (1) good walking shoes (open-toed shoes are permitted)
- 1 Pair of water shoes or dive booties.  
Participants will be wading in shallow water around Big Munson Island. *Water shoes need to be hard-soled and closed-toe.*
- Twin-size linens or Sleeping Bag
- 1 Small pillow, backpacking recommended
- 2 Towels:
  - (1) Regular
  - (1) Microfiber sham/Camp Towel
- Toiletry Kit
- Prescription Medications
- Spending money (\$150-\$200)
- Camera, waterproof recommended
- Mask & Snorkel (can be purchased from the [Sea Base Ship Store](#))
- **FULL Face Mask/Snorkels are NOT Permitted at Sea Base**

### WHAT TO BRING: (Crew Items)

- Sea Base Specific First Aid Kit (see page 15)
- Combination lock for Crew Foot Locker (optional)
- Copies of all required paperwork (see page 13)

### WHAT NOT TO BRING:

- We encourage ALL participants to “unplug” during the entirety of their adventure. Phones and all electronic devices are strongly discouraged.
- Firearms or fireworks
- Skateboards or bicycles
- Aerosol sunscreen or insect-repellent
- Personal music players or video games
- Mess kits
- Valuable or unnecessary items
- Spear Guns are prohibited
- Full Face Mask/Snorkels are prohibited

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[www.store.bsaseabase.org](http://www.store.bsaseabase.org)



## Sea Base Traditions and Awards

**Leave No Trace:** Take only memories and leave only bubbles. Sea Base Adventures are conducted in ecologically sensitive environments. Participants must not touch or harm wildlife including coral. Participants must not take coral, artifacts, or shells from the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Participants must properly dispose of and when possible, recycle all trash and refuse.

**Flag Ceremonies:** Flags Ceremonies Assembly for raising begins each morning at 7:45am. Assembly for retreat begins at 5:45pm.

**Council Shoulder Patches and Unit Numbers:** Units completing a Sea Base Adventure may affix its unit numbers to the galley walls at the Brinton Environmental Center. BSA unit numbers are available for purchase in the [Ship Store](#).

**Uniforms:** Sea Base requires units to arrive on site in uniform. Uniforms, field or activity, must be worn to flag ceremonies. *Customized Sea Base crew shirts can be used as Class A uniforms for flag ceremonies.*

**Scholarships:** Every youth deserves the opportunity to accompany their unit to Sea Base regardless of financial position. Scholarships are available to individuals with a demonstrated need. Learn more here: [Sea Base Scholarship Application](#)

**Sea Base Custom Crew Gear:** Sea Base provides the opportunity for units to order customized, official apparel at [Sea Base Ship Store](#), like long sleeve UPF shirts. Designs and Colors are subject to change. Go to [www.store.bsaseabase.org](http://www.store.bsaseabase.org) for updated information on making your crew order.

**Conch Luau:** On the last night of your Florida Sea Base Adventure your crew will participate in a Conch Luau. This is a special dinner festival complete with fun, music and games. Dress for the Conch Luau should be Florida Keys or Hawaiian style. Floral shirts are available for purchase on site at the [Sea Base Ship Store](#). Crews should be ready with a short, Scout appropriate song or skit.

**Advancement and Merit Badges:** Advancement is not part of the formal Sea Base experience. Sea Base does not have structured merit badge programs or merit badge instructors.

### Triple Crown and Grand Slam Awards:

Individuals who attend Sea Base and two other BSA National High Adventure Bases are eligible for the Triple Crown Award. Individuals who attend all four BSA National High Adventure Bases are eligible for the Grand Slam Award. Learn more here: [www.nationalhighadventureawards.org](http://www.nationalhighadventureawards.org)



**Project SCENE:** Florida Sea Base became the only Scouting facility in the US to be designated as a Scout Center for Excellence of Nature and Environment (S.C.E.N.E.). Through participation in environmental programs like exotic plant eradication, potential and actual marine debris removal, fish ID and counts, Sea Base crews can earn a Project SCENE Award. Patches are available for purchase at the [Sea Base Ship Store](#). Learn more here: [Project S.C.E.N.E. & Project S.C.E.N.E. Form](#)

**Duty to God Award:** Sea Base encourages



individuals and units to celebrate creation while at Sea Base. Sea Base Duty to God Award is designed to enhance adventure by propelling participants to find evidence of Higher Purpose in the oceans, reefs, and marine species encountered at Sea Base. Patches are available for purchase at the [Sea Base Ship Store](#). Learn more here: [Duty to God](#)

**BSA Snorkeling Award:** Every Sea Base participant should arrive at BSA Sea Base having



already become a proficient snorkeler. Upon arrival each participant will have the opportunity to earn the BSA Snorkel Award, and

throughout their Sea Base Adventure. Patches are available for purchase at the [Sea Base Ship Store](#). Learn more here: [BSA Snorkeling Award](#)

**Stand Up Paddle Boarding BSA Award:** A limited number of Florida Sea Base participants will have the opportunity to earn the Stand-Up



Paddleboard Award. Patches are available for purchase at the [Sea Base Ship Store](#). Learn more here: [BSA SUP Award](#)

**Kayaking BSA Award:** Some Florida Sea Base



participants will have the opportunity to earn the Kayaking Award. Patches are available for purchase at the [Sea Base Ship Store](#). Learn more here: [BSA Kayaking Award](#)

**Club Cayo Hueso:** Keys Adventure participants may earn this award during their stay. Patches are available for purchase at the [Sea Base Ship Store](#). Learn more here: [Club Cayo Hueso](#)



**Castaway Club:** Out Island Adventure participants may earn this award during their adventure on Big Munson Island. Patches are available for purchase at the [Sea Base Ship Store](#). Learn more here: [Castaway Club](#)

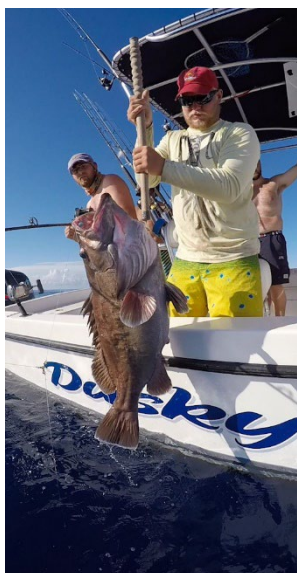


**Citizen Science Award:** Marine Eco Expedition participants may earn this award during their adventure. Patches are available for purchase at the [Sea Base Ship Store](#). Learn more here: [Citizen Science Award](#)



## Brinton Environmental Center Frequently Asked Questions:

**Are scholarships available?** YES! Scholarships are available to those with a demonstrated financial need. Sea Base has limited scholarship funds; complete and forward all applications in a timely manner. Scholarship Forms can be found at [Sea Base Scholarship Form](#).



**Who can be awarded a Sea Base Scholarship?** Any youth or adult with a demonstrated financial need.

**I have a youth who will turn 18 years of age prior to arrival at Sea Base. Will the youth count against our youth to adult ratio?** No. Participants may be considered as youth or adults until their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday as they are eligible to register in Exploring or Venturing as youth participants.

**What kind of Medical Training is required by adult leaders?** It is required that *one adult leader in each crew* completes [Wilderness First Aid \(WFA\)](#) and [CPR/AED](#) from an agency approved by the [American Camping Association](#) (*scroll to bottom of webpage*) or hold a higher professional certification such as MD, EMT, RN, LPN or WFR. *It is highly recommended that every adult leader in each crew completes WFA and CPR/AED Training.*

**Must parents register with the BSA to participate at Sea Base?** Yes. Without exception, every adult leader participating in a Sea Base program must be registered with the BSA and complete [Youth Protection Training](#), [BSA Safe Swim](#), [BSA Safety Afloat](#) and [BSA Hazardous Weather](#).

**How old must I be to participate in a Sea Base program?** For the Out Island Adventure: 13 years of age as evidenced by the [BSA Health and Medical Record](#). For Keys Adventure, Marine Eco Expedition & Fishing Adventure: 12 years of age as evidenced by the [BSA Health and Medical Record](#).

**Can we attend Sea Base as a coed crew?** [The guidelines for units to attend as a coed Sea Base crew](#) per BSA Policy are below. Your unit can attend coed by one of the two options listed:

1. **Attending as a linked male and female Scouts BSA troop in the same Sea Base crew:**

- Scouts BSA is a single-gendered program; as such, a male and female Scouts BSA troop can attend together in the same crew **IF each troop** provides their own leadership in the Sea Base crew. Each troop must have a minimum of 2 adult leaders age 21+ attending in the crew. This is a total of 4 adult leaders age 21+ for a Sea Base crew composed of 1 female troop and 1 male troop that are linked.
- Units who do not share the same charter partner must have local council and charter partner approval per the BSA Guide to Safe Scouting.
- **Scouting's Barriers to Abuse** require buddy pairs to be single gender. At least 2 youth members of each gender must be present in each Sea Base crew to meet requirements for buddy pairs.
- **Scouting's Barriers to Abuse** require 2 adult leaders age 21+ to attend with each Sea Base crew. If female youth are present, at least one of those leaders **MUST** be female.

## 2. Attending as a Venturing Crew, Sea Scouting Ship or Exploring Post

- Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring are coed programs.
- Members of these programs can attend coed as long as Scouting's Barriers to abuse (below) are met.
- **Scouting's Barriers to Abuse** require buddy pairs to be single gender. At least 2 youth members of each gender must be present in each Sea Base crew to meet requirements for buddy pairs.
- **Scouting's Barriers to Abuse** require 2 adult leaders age 21+ to attend with each Sea Base crew. If female youth are present, at least one of those leaders **MUST** be female.



**What if I am not a strong swimmer? The Sea Base has no programs for non-swimmers or beginners.** For your protection, if you are unable to complete the [BSA Swim Test](#) in a strong manner you will not be allowed to participate. [Unit Swim Classification Record](#)

**The Sea Base literature states that all participants must complete the Sea Base Swim Review upon arrival. What does this mean?** The Sea Base Swim Review is similar to the [BSA Swim Test](#); it is a 100-yard swim that must be completed in a *strong* manner. **Participants that cannot complete the Swim Review upon arrival cannot participate in any Sea Base Adventure and will be sent home at their own expense. No refund will be offered for non-swimmers.**

**Is it possible to use a sport or work medical instead of the BSA Annual Health and Medical Record?** No. You will not be allowed to participate in Sea Base programs unless you use the [BSA Annual Health and Medical Record](#).

**What if my doctor has not or will not sign Part C of the BSA Annual Health and Medical Record?** You will not be permitted to participate at Sea Base.

**What if I arrive at Sea Base without having completed a BSA Annual Health and Medical Record?** You will not be permitted to participate at Sea Base.

**What if I arrive at Sea Base and exceed the maximum weight limit of 295 lbs.?** You will not be permitted to participate and will be sent home at your own expense.

**I am participating in a Florida Fishing, Keys Adventure, Out Island Adventure or Marine Eco Expedition. Where does my crew check in?** Brinton Environmental Center, Summerland Key, Florida, Mile Marker 23.8. See physical address on page 11 of this guide.

**What time should my crew check in on arrival day?** Sea Base Crews should check in no earlier than 1pm and no later than 3pm. *Please eat lunch prior to arrival.* Please do not arrive earlier than 1pm to ensure our staff are prepared for your arrival.



**What time should my crew depart on departure day?** Sea Base Crews are more than welcome to leave as early as they would like but must depart by 10am on departure day. Crews departing before the regular 8am breakfast have the option of requesting an early, continental breakfast. Crews can request this early breakfast upon check-in. All Brinton Environmental Center Adventures last for a duration of seven days; the seventh day is your departure day.

**Should our unit travel in uniform?** Units should arrive in either field or activity uniform.

**What should I pack for my adventure?** A packing list is provided for each adventure in this participant guide. Please pack needed personal hygiene items. *Keys Adventure*, page 18. *Out Island Adventure*, page 21. *Fishing Adventure* page 23. *Marine Eco Expedition*, page 26.

**Could you describe what sort of water shoe each participant needs as indicated by the packing list?**



Each Out Island, Marine Eco and Keys Adventure participant will need a pair of water shoes to wade through shallow water. *This can be a shoe similar to a dive bootie.* The shoe needs to be closed-toed and hard-soled. We recommend that it be something that dries in a timely manner, unlike a sneaker. Flip-flops will not hold up while wading through the water and are not recommended for use as a water shoe.

**Can I bring my CPAP Machine on my Adventure?** Participants who use a CPAP machine may participate at Sea Base if they have been medically cleared for participation. **CPAP users must understand that they are responsible to provide battery support for their CPAP and may not have access to electricity if participating in Keys Adventure or Out Island programs.**

**Can my crew skip part of its journey and go to Key West, Key Largo or South Beach, etc.?** No. Once your unit chooses to leave Sea Base your journey is forfeited, and you may not return.

**Can my crew arrive early or stay an extra day at Sea Base or aboard a vessel?** No. Due to the growth and popularity of our programs, we are not able to offer early arrival or late departures days. **Please see page 12 in this guide for crew camping options at Camp Jackson Sawyer before or after your adventure.**

**What about hurricanes?** Program interruption due to hurricanes are extremely rare. If Sea Base is under evacuation orders, generally given 24- 36 hours prior to potential landfall, programs are cancelled, and participants are evacuated. Sea Base refunds program fees for missed program dates only. Travel - trip insurance is highly recommended to cover the cost of travel expenses, especially July – August, the peak of hurricane season.



**When is hurricane season?** June 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup>.

**What about inclement weather that keeps us off the water while at Sea Base?** Your safety is paramount. Occasionally inclement - tropical weather forces Sea Base to delay or cancel activities. Attempts will be made to reschedule activities when possible. Travel Insurance is highly recommended. Refunds will not be issued for activities including sailing, scuba diving, snorkeling, paddle boarding, kayaking, fishing, camping or others cancelled due to inclement weather.

**How much spending money should I bring to Sea Base?** \$150-\$200.

**Do my crew members need to purchase snorkel gear?** Yes. Each participant is required to bring their own mask and snorkel. Sea Base will provide fins, mesh bag and PFD, *only*. For your convenience, masks and snorkels can be purchased online at our [Sea Base Ship Store](#). **Full face masks/snorkels are NOT permitted at Sea Base.**



**Should my crew buy fishing gear?** No. Fishing gear is provided as part of your adventure.

**Where can I find a detailed itinerary?** Programs are weather and tide dependent and therefore, activities and schedules can vary widely. An overview of each Adventure's schedule is located in this participant guide (pages 17, 20, 22 & 25).

**What is my Expedition or Crew Number?** Every crew is assigned a number when they register e.g., KA061024-A. The first two letters represent the adventure you are registered for: KA (Keys Adventure); FA (Fishing Adventure); OI (Out Island); ME (Marine Eco Expedition). Then comes the date you arrive 061024 (June 10, 2024) Finally, the last letter or letters represent your crew's assigned identification letter(s).

Available at the Ship Store:	
Custom Crew Long Sleeve UPF +30 Shirts	Sea Base Carabiners
Custom Crew Hats	Polarized Sunglasses
Sea Base Hats	Biodegradable Sunscreen
Bufs	Motion Sickness Medication
Swimmers Ear Drops	Sea Base Water Bottles
Masks & Snorkels	Hand Sanitizer
Small Bottles of Vinegar	Toiletries

**Visit our Sea Base Ship Store at [www.store.bsaseabase.org](http://www.store.bsaseabase.org)**