



COUNCIL BOATSWAIN APPLICATION

December 2025

Dear Sea Scouts and Skippers:

The Great Smoky Mountain Council invites applications for eligible Sea Scouts to serve as the Council Boatswain for our council Sea Scout Quarterdeck for a one-year term beginning February 1, 2026.

The Quarterdeck's purpose is to provide support and guidance to maintain and grow the Sea Scouting in our Council. The Quarterdeck is a youth-led union of our Sea Scout Ships, supported by adult Scouters, that organizes events, provides training, and leads forums to support Sea Scouting across our council.

The title of Boatswain dates to 10th-century England, where they were the chief standing officer on deck, in charge of maintenance, rigging, cordage, anchorage, sails, flags, cargo, and all other aspects of the ship's stores. In modern times, a ship's bosun's duties are similar, with them serving as the foreman to the deck crew, performing frequent inspections as to the well-being of the vessel, as well as guiding programs to ensure its well-being. The duties of our Council Boatswain are the same, but instead of being responsible for a Ship's company, their crew is instead the Ships themselves. A growth mindset is imperative to success, not just seeking growth in units, but also in what programs those Ships can provide.

All nominees must be registered with Scouting America as a member in a Ship within the Council for the entire duration of their term and be under 21 for the entirety of the term. Nominees must be positive representatives of Sea Scouts within their community. Self-nominations will be accepted.

Boatswain applicants must (1) have held or currently hold a position of responsibility at the unit, district, council, territory, or national level and (2) submit a completed nomination form on or before **January 15, 2026**. The selected candidate will be notified and announced by January 29, 2026. Boatswain nominees who are not selected will have the opportunity to be considered for a Boatswain's Mate position.

Nominations must be made using the enclosed form. Submit completed forms by mail to Great Smoky Mountain Council, Attn: Council Quarterdeck, 1333 Old Weisgarber Road, Knoxville, TN 37909, or via email to David Williams, at David.Williams@scouting.org.

Thank you for your interest in helping to strengthen the Sea Scouting program in our Council!



Council Boatswain Application

Name _____ Preferred Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mobile Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Email _____

Unit Number _____ Sea Scout Rank _____

Birthdate _____ BSA ID _____ (If Over 18) YPT Date _____

I believe I can fulfill the duties of Council Boatswain for the following reasons:

If appointed Council Boatswain, I would work to promote the Sea Scout Program offered in the following ways (SMART Goals):

As a Council Boatswain, I understand the leadership positions require me to attend all council Sea Scout events and Quarterdeck meetings, and that the role is not an honorary role; the position requires that I perform the tasks of the position. I also understand that I will have competent adult advisors to help me fulfill these duties. Upon the recommendation and approval of the council nominating committee, the Council Boatswain may be appointed to the council executive board. This will require attendance at approximately four board meetings each year.

Applicant Signature Date

Parent/Legal Guardian Approval (if <18yo)

Unit Leader Approval

Signature Date

Signature Date

Council Commodore Approval

Council Executive Approval

Signature Date

Signature Date