

The instrument he must use for this is his force of character.

In Scouting, the leader tries to teach the boy how to develop his character in such a way that it will help him in an emergency, just as the quartermaster at sea is taught to use the wheel of his vessel to keep her on her course.

EVERY VOYAGE MUST COME TO AN END

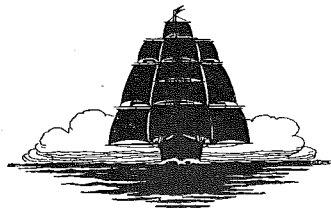


The third part of this badge is—the anchor. Every voyage must come to an end. This end is signified by letting go of the anchor. Every life must come to an end. The anchor on this badge is a constant reminder of this. But the Supreme Skipper of the Universe has said that there is a reward for those who make their voyages well. So this anchor is an emblem of hope for them.

The Scout emblem, the keystone of this badge, serves to recall the three great points of the Scout Oath—

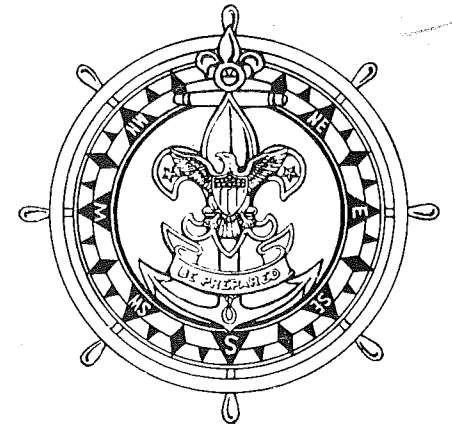
1. Duty to God and to Country
2. Duty to Others
3. Duty to Self.

If the Sea Scout Quartermaster is true to these three things, there is nothing for him to fear. He is on the threshold of a great adventure. The ship on which he is about to embark is God's greatest gift—Life. Fortified by his experience in Scouting, he can plot his course, unfurl his sails, stand by the wheel and whether the winds be fair or foul, look forward to a happy and successful voyage.



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THE BADGE OF THE SEA SCOUT QUARTERMASTER



WHAT IT MEANS

The Badge of the Sea Scout Quartermaster

By

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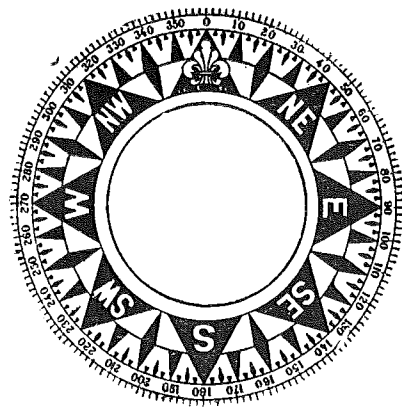
THE Sea Scout Quartermaster is the highest rank in Sea Scouting, and of the many who start with the hope of reaching this goal, only a few arrive. For some the difficulties have been too great—for others, circumstances have been against them. Some overcome the difficulties, use the circumstances to suit their purpose, stand steadfast towards their object, and reach their goal. They are to be congratulated most heartily.

During the years that boys are in Scouting, they are given the opportunity to learn the worth of many things, spiritual and material. They are taught how to make a choice between the things that are of real value and those of no value. This is an invaluable training. Men of high character have been happy to have been associated with them as leaders, giving them an opportunity to form their own ideals of what a man should be.

During this time also, older Scouts have been able, through the Sea Scout Program, to learn of the sea and ships, of the great navigators and explorers who gave their lives for the advancement of human knowledge. Men who showed by their determination, daring and courage that success is within the reach of all who work hard enough to attain it.

Before setting out on their voyages, these men were prepared. They learned to take care of themselves on the water by practicing the handling of boats and small sailing vessels around the harbors and along the shores of their native places.

So it is with life. The adolescent has been sailing around in the harbor of life, close to the shore, protected by many sheltering influences, but he must now venture upon the great ocean of experience where he will make a long voyage. Whether he will reach the harbor on the other side will depend entirely upon himself. No shipmaster would attempt a voyage without a rudder, without a compass, without an anchor. He knows how essential these things are to the success of his passage across the sea. He knows he must have instruments to



guide him. So with the Sea Scout. He, too, must be prepared and supply himself with instruments.

The instruments that he uses, however, are spiritual as well as material, and in order to be reminded of them, he is presented with the Sea Scout Quartermaster Badge. This badge is a recognition of accomplishment in the past and a guide for him in the future. One of its essential parts is a compass card.

Of all the things around, in, and aboard ships, the compass is the only thing that points constantly in one direction. The north point of the compass card always points to the north—a faithful guide to the navigator, who plots his course before he leaves port; sets the prow of his ship in the direction he wishes to follow and, by means of the compass, knows whether he is on his course or not.

Scouting has taught the Sea Scout that he must plot his course if he is to complete his voyage safely and happily, and the compass that it gives him is the Scout Oath and Law, always pointing in one direction—the right one.

Another element of this badge is the ship's wheel. In every life, as in every voyage, storms and contrary winds arise, sometimes unexpectedly. No matter how carefully a course is plotted, the ship may be driven off. The shipmaster brings his ship back on her true course by means of the wheel. A Scout's life purpose may be diverted, but like the ship, it may be brought back on the right course.