

## CYA SEA SCOUT OF THE YEAR CHRISTINE VO



Christine has been a member of Sea Scout Ship Challenge #5111, chartered by Columbia Yacht Club, since 2014. From the beginning she has been active and exemplary in activities, advancement, service to the Ship, the Charter organization, the Council and the community. In fact, service is Christine's overriding goal, repeatedly involved in the Chicago Christmas Ship project, Columbia's Children's Holiday and Employee Holiday parties, Ship

yard work projects, and projects across the lake on long cruises, most recently helping to build and install a wooden fence enclosure for the propane tank and satellite dish array at the Big Sable Point Lighthouse in Ludington, MI.

Sea Scout of the Year Christine has also demonstrated sailing, safety and Sea Scouting skills for Boy Scout troops, igniting their interest in becoming future Sea Scouts. Her activities have included big boat sailing

### “Attitude: the difference between an ordeal and an adventure”

and racing; shooting sports training and marksmanship; Long Cruise planning and participation; Bridge of Honor planning and participation; and Venetian Night planning and participation. She has held Ship office as Crew Leader, and was recently elected to

Ship's Boatswain, completing Quarterdeck Training and helping to plot the Ship's future course, all while graduating from high school and preparing for college.

In July of 2015, Christine participated in Sisters Under Sail aboard the tall ship SV Denis Sullivan, with 15 other young women and their adult leaders, sailing seven days from Mackinac Island, MI, to Milwaukee, WI. This experience fostered and enhanced her experience and devotion to teamwork, leadership, self-confidence and responsibility.



Bridge of Honor

Christine is currently attending the University of Tampa as an undergraduate, majoring in pre-med. During breaks, she will be back with her Ship, her family and friends, and her home in Naperville, IL.



Big Sable Lighthouse Service Project

# SEA SCOUTS

## THE NEXT GENERATION OF BOATERS



We, the adult Sea Scout leaders, have a serious responsibility, and the stakes are high. We don't get paid, we give hundreds of hours of our time each year, and we give up our family time. On the positive side we get to hangout with a bunch of high school kids. We love what we do for one overriding reason: we are helping create the next generation of boaters.

Sea Scouting is a co-ed division of Boy Scouts of America that teaches cooperation and leadership via boating and using nautical traditions to 13 to 20 year olds. Participation is almost free as the only required fee is \$25 annually. Founded in 1912, the Sea Scout program has been active in our area almost that long. We have taught and mentored literally thousands of Chicago youth in our program, and inspired many with a life-long love of boating and the maritime ways. In fact, several of your dock-mates were likely part of our numbers.

In 2016 we had 10 active units, which we call Ships, in and around the Chicago area. Four are sponsored by yacht clubs (BYC, CYC, CoLYC, and JPYC) with the others sponsored by area schools, churches, and civic organizations. We sail several different vessels including an Aura 40' ketch, a J-35 sloop, and the smaller J-24s, all from our 31<sup>st</sup> Street Harbor base. Next year will bring more J-24s (four total), and a new-to-us powerboat that will be used as both a coach/safety boat and a water sports vessel.

The youth members run the Sea Scout units, with only basic guidance offered by the adult leaders. Elected youth officers are the ones that plan and conduct the program. They listen to their shipmates and plan a yearlong program of their choosing. Being part of the vessel's crew teaches teamwork. Sailing requires crewmembers to work together for a collective goal, whether racing around the course or cruising to distant harbors for the weekend.

If you know a high school aged young adult that could benefit from our program, or an adult willing to give some time to influence young lives, please have them check us out at [www.facebook.com/ChicagoSeaScouts/](http://www.facebook.com/ChicagoSeaScouts/) or [seascout.org](http://seascout.org) or contact our Commodore Tim Harrington, [barchgo@aol.com](mailto:barchgo@aol.com).

