

*United States Naval Academy Chapter
of the
National Eagle Scout Association*

Updated: 28 August 2009

Following are a few points concerning the National Eagle Scout Association at the United States Naval Academy.

History

- In 1983, there had been a NESAs Club as an ECA at USNA for a number of years (10 and more).
- Late in 1984, ADM Larson together with some other distinguished service members, (including Admirals McNitt, Turner, and Zumwalt, all Eagle Scouts) requested that the National Scout HQ allow an exception in their rules and grant to USNA a NESAs Chapter charter. Up until that time, all NESAs Chapters were chartered to and through the local Boy Scouts of America Councils. But, given that our (then) Club was larger in membership than any other local council, and that our Midshipmen could not attend meetings held by any other local chapter, National BSA Headquarters agreed, and that year we were granted full Chapter status.
- The following year a Chapter status was granted to both Army and Air Force at their Academies. The year after that, the Coast Guard Academy was granted Chapter status.
- In the early 1990's, NESAs National HQ became greatly concerned that the NESAs Chapters belonging to local councils were becoming "too socially oriented" and "had lost sight of their original purpose, service." Accordingly, in 1993, the National office rescinded the charters of all chapters but those at the Service Academies. Because of their high level of service to the local communities and to Scouting, the NESAs Chapters of the Service Academies were the only ones allowed to keep their charters in a move "back to basics." USNA-NESAs was specifically mentioned as an example of a chapter that National HQ believed was "... delivering the promise of Scouting ..." and "... doing exactly the service that Scout Spirit requires!"

General Information

- The chapter moto of USNA-NESAs is "*The honor is to serve!*"
- At any given time, there are on average just under 400 MIDN Eagle Scouts here at USNA (an exception is between graduation and I-Day).

- At any given time, about 300 Midshipmen are actively involved in USNA-NESA events.
- Our NESA Midshipmen members give free tours to over fifty Scout Troops every year from all over the USA (as well as some foreign countries). The number is almost twice this in those years in which there is a National Jamboree.
- They work as Assistant Scoutmasters in several troops in the Annapolis area as well as participate in three to four Camporees and Jamborees in the local area.
- As Eagle Scouts, they continue to perform their "Good Turn Daily" by actively participating in the Mids-For-Kids, the Habitat-For-Humanity, MAG (Midshipmen Action Group) programs.
- Together with NAAA, they host "several thousand" Scouts and Scouters (Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Explorers, etc.) for *Scout Day at Navy Football* and *Scout Day at Navy Basketball* in which they give personalized tours of the Academy as well as spend the entire day with their Scouting guests.
- Due to the events of 12 October, 2000, our 14th NESA Merit Badge Jamboree was dedicated to "Our Fallen Shipmates and Eagle Scouts" of the U.S.S. Cole (DDG 67). Among those known lost in the attack on the Cole were at least two Eagle Scouts (one officer and one enlisted). Through proceeds from the sale of the Cole/Jamboree-2001 patches at \$5 and other contributions, USNA-NESA was able to make a contribution of \$10,000 to the "Foundation for the Families and Children of the U.S.S. Cole".
- For the past twenty years, over the Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Holiday weekend, members of USNA-NESA have held the largest Merit Badge Jamboree in the country, annually hosting approximately 1000 Scouts age 14 and older and 300-350 Scouters. Merit badges are offered in some relatively high-tech topics such as *Astronomy, Atomic Energy, Aviation, Chemistry, Computers, Electronics, Energy, Engineering, Firemanship, Machinery, Engineering, Oceanography, Space Exploration, and Weather*. These are badges which our NESA Midshipmen are well suited to instruct here at USNA, and approximately 63% of the Scouts complete with the rest receiving "partials" for credit. Over the past thirteen years, our MIDN Eagle Scouts have hosted over 10,000 Scouts and 2,600 adult Scouters at our annual USNA-NESA Merit Badge Jamboree.
- Our Jamboree in 2009, for the first time, was held entirely outdoors, and features some exciting new events. We taught Merit Badges such as *First Aid, Forestry, Emergency Preparedness, Wilderness Survival Forestry, Geology, Wilderness Survival, Orienteering, and Pioneering*. Additionally, had a "Trail to First Class," a focused program for inner city Baltimore Boy Scouts to experience the outdoor aspects of Scouting they normally have so little access to.

As a result of a study that Superintendent Larson had commissioned, we have the following additional information

A Few Brief High Points

- Eagle Scouts at USNA have a higher probability of completing the 4-year program than any other demographic group including
 - high scholastic indicators (SAT's, etc.)
 - a family tradition of military service.
- Eagles begin their Plebe year at approximately 11% of their class and complete the four years as approximately 14% of their graduating class. Their rate of attrition is very low!
- On average, Eagles are in the top 17% of their graduating class.
- Because of the above statistics, all four Service Academies send out "unsolicited application packages" to any Eagle Scouts that join the roles of NESAs National.