



Background

All young people in Scouting have the opportunity to enjoy water activities, but in Sea Scouting, considerable emphasis is on these activities, and many aspects of naval and nautical traditions are incorporated. Without the funding from The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights, many young people would not have the chance to gain these valuable skills on the water. In 2023 we remain exceptionally grateful for the opportunities you've given young people to explore and experience the thrill of being on the water.

Last year, we identified three Sea Scout groups who deliver meaningful on-the-water experiences for young people. The groups nominated for the funding have a track record of delivering high-quality seafaring activities for young people. As you will see, the funding has been used in different ways by the groups. The funds supported groups in Colchester (Adventures Offshore), Lancing (3rd/5th Lancing Sea Scout Group) and Hampshire (Discovery Sailing Project) with grants totalling £10,000. Each group had a specific need for funds across training, maintenance, repair and accessibility.

3rd/5th Lancing Sea Scouts

3rd/5th Lancing Sea Scout Group is Royal Navy Recognised (RN 23) and well established within the community of Adur. During this funding period the training yacht SUPETA has been going from strength to strength.

Over 1,000 young people have taken part year – an amazing number! For the first time this included 4-6 year olds from 'Squirrels' who were engaged with activities such as Count the Jelly fish and Spot the Pirate. Sometimes the boat pulls a small net behind to scoop up rubbish to emphasise the importance of keeping the water clean.



The older age groups have had a chance to try out and a range of skills - from basic knots to steering the yacht, sail trimming, navigation, and engine maintenance so at the end of their time on-board have made significant entry into the RYA Competent Crew qualification and beyond. SUPETA is now without a doubt the most used yacht in the area.

As part of their diversity and inclusion work, the group often hosts young people with BESD (Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties) or have SEND (Special educational needs and disabilities). The crew make sure that they get to experience the same fun and challenges as all other participants.

Often, the group split the day into two sessions to get maximum use during the holidays. The lock keepers at Shoreham are often surprised at the quick turnaround! A great rapport has been established between the Port and all the users because of the use.

On the longer trips, the young people really learn to gel as a crew living and working together. It is nice to hear them shout together "Heave Ho Pull" while hauling up sails or anchor.

The yacht is due to be lifted out in October for a couple of weeks to redo antifouling and other work that cannot be done in the water. The group is looking at ways that the young people can be involved in this process too.

All support for SUPETA is very gratefully received and as always any members of the Company are very welcome to visit this group.

Offshore Sailing

Adventures Offshore run a scheme that selects young people aged 16 -18 who have sailed on one of their voyages. The aim of the scheme is to provide training and sailing opportunities to give selected young people additional skills for life, confidence boosting and teamwork experience, all of which are great additions to a young person's personal statement that they use for university and employment applications.



The scheme uses the RYA Cruising scheme qualifications as framework for providing training. The candidates are invited to attend the RYA Watchkeepers course and on completion of the course the candidate are offered further subsidised voyages to build on the skills learnt. In the 2023 season we grant funding was used to subsidise places for seven young people on the RYA Watch Leaders Course.

Offshore Sailing also provided a funding to five Scouts to enable them to participate in in voyages. This was in addition to a bursary to enable three Scouts from families with financial hardship to sail on a group voyage.

Discovery Sailing

The Discovery Sailing Project delivers offshore sailing experiences for young people. We give Scouts, Youth Organisations and others the opportunity to develop through sail training.

After a busy 2022 programme of delivery, Discovery Sailing have confirmed that they have already filled their 2023 programme calendar.

With the appointment of a new Project Explorer Scout Leader, they remain excited about the focus that the funding will allow them to give to increased training opportunities is 2023 and beyond.



Feedback from Program Participants

Before I went, I was really anxious because I find it quite hard to make friends, but both weeks were great fun and I made some good friends. A few of us, including our skipper who was brilliant, were on the same courses and it was great to meet up with them again and to learn some new skills

I have gained a lot more knowledge of sailing and loved the night time sailing in particular. I have a better understanding of the charts and engine maintenance as we had to change a filter before sailing back on the last day. I would love to progress even further with my sailing.

By the end of the week I feel like I made friends for life and we are already talking about possibilities in the future.

The course developed and interest in Navigation and I am interested in going on to complete Day skipper theory course before Day skipper qualification but I need more experience first.

The voyages I have experience this past year have given me many skills and confidence. As well as gaining the knowledge to play my part as crew, I have been encouraged to progress and, thanks to the calm clear instructions by you staff I have progressed to Watchleader,

As a group which has no access to water this was a completely new experience for us all and one that the young people had decided upon themselves. As part of our group, we had children who would never have been able to experience such an adventure if it was not for the grant we received.

In one case, the young person would never have been able to afford such an experience and was not the type of person who would naturally do something like this. The experience that this young person had was remarkable, and we have as a group seen them develop into a more confident young person who is now undertaking a lot more challenges back at home within our group.

Moving Forward

The Scout Association remain committed to preparing more young people with skills for life, and we are only able to do this with the amazing support of organisations like The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights. Having seen how much young people have gained from taking part in activities on the water, we are looking forward to offering more young people the opportunity to get involved in a wide range of water activities as part of their Scouting Programme.

For any further information, or if there is anything you would like to discuss further, please contact Wendy May (wendy.may@scouts.org.uk).