

Welcome to Britannia Sea Scouts

Welcome to Britannia Sea Scouts. In this pack you will find everything you need to know about us.

Britannia is a fun and safe environment where your son or daughter can take part in water activities and learn to sail under the supervision of other young people and leaders. Water activities include sailing, rowing, kayaking and swimming.

Britannia is a member of Scouting New Zealand and is run by experienced and qualified volunteer Scout leaders. They are supported by a parents' committee, parent helpers and scout associates.

Our scouts and venturers meet each Wednesday 7pm to 9pm at the hall for scouting activities. Scouts move up to the venturer section at around age 15 and can stay until the end of year 13.

On Sunday from 1 pm to 5 pm there is sailing, rowing, kayaking etc in the summer and also help with refit and boat maintenance in the winter (1pm – 4:30 pm).

The Britannia website is a useful source of information and resources. Here you will find photos of recent activities, useful links, information on our committee, fundraising updates, regatta information, and much more. Our website address is www.britanniaseascouts.org.nz. Most communication with parents is via email. We also have a Britannia Sea Scouts Facebook group on which we post informal updates for scouts and their parents. It is a closed Facebook page, so ask a leader to send you an invitation.

There are many activities and all are lots of fun

Water activities

In the summer, the scouts and venturers are out on the water around Evans Bay sailing, rowing, kayaking, swimming and even learning to capsize the boats. They learn to sail in sunbursts and cutters, and Britannia is fortunate enough to own a historic whaler that is used for sailing and rowing. It is big enough for 13 scouts to sail. All these activities are taught and supervised by leaders and parent helpers. We also have a small number of kayaks.

There is a midwinter swim, which is optional, but very popular. We also organise pool-based activities involving swimming skills.

Scouting activities

On Wednesday nights, leaders and parent helpers run a varied programme. This includes teaching scouting and boating skills, games, guest speakers, visits and badge work. Scouting New Zealand's programme includes the bronze, silver, gold and chief scout awards as well as interest badges. Information on badges can be found in the Scouting New Zealand Scout Awards and Badges booklet that is available on the downloads page of our website. Venturers can work on their bronze, silver and gold awards and complete the Queen Scout award.

Regattas

During the summer months (Terms 4 & 1), the sea scouts compete against other troops in regattas held around the Wellington region. Regattas are generally a mix of sailing and rowing and are always fun with a healthy dose of competition thrown in.

Here is the latest regatta timetable: www.britanniaseascouts.org.nz/regatta-s

Annual camp

Britannia holds an annual week-long camp that usually takes place during the first school holidays of the year. There are many activities including building fires, cooking, tramping, bush craft, and teamwork. The scouts and venturers prepare and cook all of their own meals. There is a cost associated with attending camp. There are also smaller regional camps or training course throughout the year organised with other scout troops.

Fees

At the moment the annual fee for Scouts and Venturers is set at \$360 per year or \$90 a term

Fees are subject to increases at the discretion of the committee in order to cover the costs associated with such a full programme. A large portion of this fee goes directly to Scouting New Zealand and the rest is used to help cover daily running costs of our troop, as well as boat and hall maintenance.

If fees are not paid, your young person will not be eligible to attend camp or any other offsite activities.

Uniform

As part of Britannia, we ask that you purchase the sea scout uniform shirt from Scouting New Zealand before your son or daughter is invested. Black shorts or trousers along with black socks and black shoes are also required. When available, scout hats are provided on loan for \$20. Scarf, woggle, and badges are supplied by Britannia. There is sometimes the opportunity to buy second hand uniform shirts, so please ask if interested. Uniform can be bought here: <https://scoutsdirect.co.nz/products/sea-scouts-uniform-keas-through-to-leaders?variant=2382795669517>

Scouts will also require suitable sailing gear and you will find a list enclosed in this pack. Ideally, this is a wetsuit along with thermals and a waterproof jacket. Lifejackets are supplied by Britannia.

Parents' help is essential

Parent help rosters are sent out via email each term. There needs to be a suitable amount of adult supervision for troop activities, and all families are rostered on as a parent help. If you are unable to help on your allocated slot, please make arrangements to swap with another parent. There are many other ways in which parents can help – such as joining the committee, being on the rescue boat roster, taking badge groups, helping with hall maintenance, teaching boating skills, helping with fundraising and becoming a leader.

Boat refit

During the winter months (Terms 2 & 3) our main focus on Sundays is boat maintenance. This is a great chance to learn about how to look after and fix out boats. It is expected that your son or daughter will attend and help with boat maintenance. Help from parents is also appreciated. Without doing this maintenance work we are unable to sail and row during the summer.

Fundraising

It is very important that we carry out fundraising events throughout the year to ensure we have enough funds to help cover the cost of boats, equipment, group activities and hall maintenance. We require the assistance of parents and scouts with these fundraising events.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about our programme, how you can help, or how your son or daughter is doing. We are here to help! We look forward to working with you to create a memorable time at Britannia Sea Scouts.

Warm regards

The Leaders of Britannia.