

# RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SHIP PETTY OFFICER

As a Petty Officer (elected youth officer) in your Sea Scout Ship, you have specific responsibilities which include:

- Taking responsibility for the leading of your Ship with the assistance of your Skipper, Mates, and other adult leaders.
- Working in a spirit of partnership with all the adult leaders of your Ship.
- Participating in an ongoing discovery of the interests and needs of the members of your Ship.
- Developing a program of activities for the year in your Sea Scout Ship and continually fine-tuning this program throughout the year.
- Helping promote the conditions that contribute to the growth and development of people.
- Setting a good example for the Ship Membership in your attitude, acts and deeds.
- Regularly attending Ship meetings, Quarterdeck meetings, and activity events.
- Applying problem-solving and constructive controversy skills to interpersonal conflicts and to decisions involving ethical considerations.
- Using reflection as a means to think about things that have happened in your Ship and to use these reflections when considering upcoming decisions and activities.

To help make these responsibilities take on practical meaning, it's important that you continually discuss these responsibilities in terms of activities that you've completed and decisions and activities you're contemplating.

For example, in your planning this weekend, use these responsibilities as a way to assess the activities you have selected for the year's program. Do you have a program that is balanced around the six experience areas? What kind of leadership do you think is needed to make your activities succeed? Will your members have the opportunity to advance in rank? Are you fully using the resources of your Ship? How are you going to promote the growth of all your members...by giving *them* responsibilities?

In addition, at every Quarterdeck meeting, you should always be using these responsibilities as you look back over activities completed and ahead to the next meeting and the next activity.

Keep in mind that these are challenging responsibilities. They are not outcomes that you can achieve right away. They are part of a process. If you keep on talking about these responsibilities together, you will discover that you can look back after three months, six months, nine months, and realize that you're carrying out these responsibilities better and better. *You're becoming more and more a leader!*