

Scout Boating Code



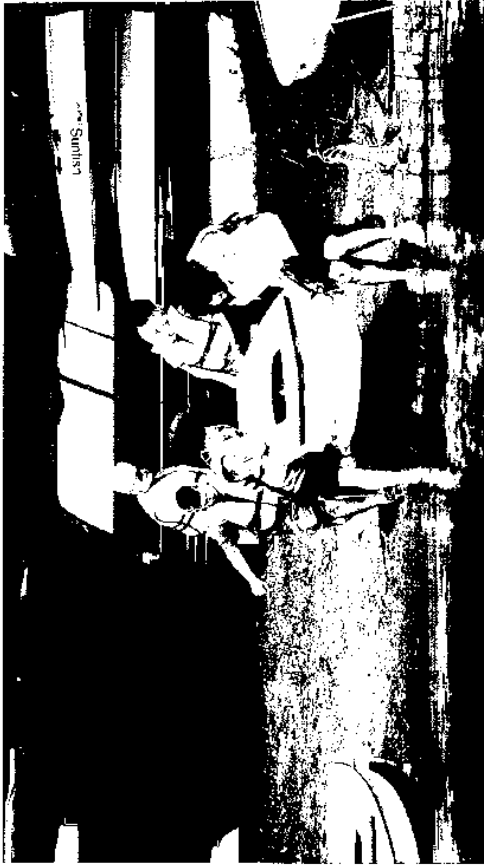
As a Scout and a boater:

I will do my best to maintain my boat and its equipment in a seamanlike manner and operate my boat safely, not only for myself and passengers, but for all others.

I will keep my boat clean at all times, inside and out: the bilges free of water and dirt, the waterline and bottom free of marine growth, topsides free of marks and damage, and the cockpit and decks free of loose gear.

I will **practice Safety Afloat** by

- Providing a Coast Guard–approved personal flotation device (PFD) for each person on board and by requiring that all persons wear PFDs when afloat
- Carrying a Coast Guard–approved fire extinguisher when required and knowing how to use and maintain it
- Never allowing anyone to stand in the boat or to change seats until all on board are alerted
- Being alert to weather conditions and changes and by heading for shelter when storms threaten
- Avoiding the wake of larger craft and by avoiding crossing them at an unsafe angle
- Never navigating my boat through swimming areas or moving at unreasonable speed through crowded anchorages
- Carefully observing the rules of the road both in letter and spirit
- I will be **considerate and courteous** by
- Operating my boat in accordance with my responsibilities as a helmsman and with consideration for the comfort and safety of others
- Rendering assistance promptly to those in trouble or distress and in all respects being faithful to the customs and traditions of the sea
- Never throwing garbage, rubbish, or other waste material overboard at any time
- I will learn the boating laws of my locality and will do my best to obey them at all times.



How a Sailboat Works

Everybody knows how a sailboat works, don't they? It's simple: You put a boat in the water, it floats. Then you raise a sheet of canvas to catch the wind. The wind blows against the canvas, pushing the boat ahead. And that's it, isn't it? Not necessarily.

If, by chance, you want to go in the same direction the wind is blowing, fine. But suppose you want to go left or right. Now you have to add a way to steer the boat—a *rudder*, for instance. And the sail has to be adjustable so that you can move it about to catch the wind in the most favorable way.

Suppose you want to sail crosswise to the wind—if the wind is coming from the north, say, and you want to sail east. But you find that as you steer the boat east it begins to slip sideways—and why shouldn't it? After all, the wind is blowing not only against the sail, but against the broadside of the boat itself.

This means you have to add something to resist or counter this sideways slippage—and ancient mariners figured out how to do this