

Notes for Crew Members

Sea Base Provides

- personal floatation device
- fins
- fishing gear
- eating utensils

Troop Provides

- sunscreen
- insect repellent
- first aid kit, including:
 - Dramamine (for motion sickness)
 - Pepto Bismol (for upset stomach)
 - Benadryl (for itches & rashes)
 - Mack's Dry-N-Clear (for water in ears)
 - Skin Shield (liquid bandage for cuts)
 - vinegar (for stingray stings)

Sea Base Store

There is a store at Sea Base that carries everything needed, so if you don't have something or aren't sure what to buy, you can wait to buy it from the Sea Base store (<https://store.bsaseabase.org/>). For example, they sell carabiners for about \$5.

Sunscreen & Insect Repellent

The crew will have a giant container of sunscreen (320 oz), but if you want to bring a special type for your needs, 1) the sunscreen has to be biodegradable and reef-safe, 2) sprays are not allowed, and 3) the container has to be small enough to get through TSA.

The crew will have insect repellent, but if you want to bring a special type for your needs, sprays are not allowed, and the container has to be small enough to get through TSA.

Cell Phones

Scouts may use their cell phones while traveling to and from Sea Base, but at Sea Base cell phone use is limited to taking photos – no game playing – and therefore phones should generally be packed away.

Fishing

The boats have fishing licenses, so individual fishing licenses are unnecessary. You are not allowed to bring your own fishing gear, as Sea Base provides fishing gear.

Before Departure

Make sure you've done all the required readings and watched all the required videos, on the Sea Base page of the troop's website, <http://jpltroop509.org/sea-base/sea-base.html>

Make sure you follow TSA rules regarding liquids, creams, pastes and gels (each container can

be no more than 3.4 ounces or 100 ml, and they all have to fit into a quart-size clear plastic bag).

On the Plane

We are not checking any bags. Everything has to fit in your daypack and duffel bag. Your daypack goes under the seat in front of you, and the duffel bag goes in the overhead compartment.

Outbound, we have all the seats in rows 31 and 32, and seats A-D of row 33 (total 16 seats). Sit in any of those seats, it doesn't have to be the seat on your boarding pass. You have only five hours to sleep, so don't mess around, get right to sleep.

Driving to Sea Base

Sea Base is in Islamorada, 90 miles from Miami International. The plane lands at 8:15 am, and you need to be at Sea Base at 2 pm. You'll be driving to Sea Base in two Hertz rental vans driven by Dr. Borland and Mr. Mencken. You'll make three stops on the way. The first at Everglades Alligator Farm where you ride airboats and see a wildlife show. The second in Tavernier where you eat lunch at Enrico's Pizza. The third in Islamorada where you feed the tarpons at Robbie's.

At Sea Base

Upon your arrival, there will be a paperwork check and an orientation. Get your crew photos taken in front of the Sea Base sign with a bench underneath. Then everyone changes into swimsuits and goes into the pool for a swim check and a check of the fit of your mask & snorkel.

After getting out of the pool, put on your crew shirt and remain in your swimsuit and sandals. Put all the stuff you won't be taking on the boat into your daypack, and all the daypacks go into a crew locker at Sea Base. Only your duffel bag is allowed on the boat. The items that go in your daypack for storage in the locker are:

- class A uniform
- worn underwear & socks
- fresh underwear & socks
- sneakers
- neck pillow
- blanket (or take it on the boat to use as a pillow)
- sleep mask
- reading material
- face masks
- some money (keep some of your money on the boat, for your mid-week shore excursion)

The captain will instruct you on what needs to be loaded onto the boat, including food, fins and fishing gear. Dinner will be at 5 pm in the Sea Base cafeteria, and after dinner you'll head out to sea.

On the Boat

There is no set itinerary, instead, the crew and captain decide together where to go, what to do, and what to see.

You'll spend nearly all your time barefoot in your swim trunks and crew shirt. You'll be sleeping

on the deck with not a lot of space between you and others since there's not a lot of deck space. If it rains or your boat spends a night close to shore so there are bugs flying around, you can sleep below deck, but it's hot and humid there.

Scouts will rotate through the daily jobs of cooking, clean-up, wheel watch, anchor watch, sail hoisting, bathroom scrubbing and boat cleaning, as assigned by the crew leader. **You must be disciplined and work as a team**, listening attentively to the crew leader and boat captain. Remember, this isn't a vacation, it's a High Adventure outing.

When you go onshore mid-week at either Key Largo or Marathon, don't wear your crew shirt and swimsuit. Instead, wear your shorts, sandals and troop t-shirt. It's possible you'll have the opportunity to shower there.

Return to Sea Base

The boats return to Sea Base around 10 am on the last day, Friday. After unloading and cleaning the boat, get your daypack out of the crew's locker and take a shower. After the shower, put on your Class A uniform, then eat lunch at Sea Base before getting in the rental vans and driving directly to Miami International for your 5:40 pm flight.

Return Flight

On the return flight, we have all the seats in rows 35 and 36, and seat D in row 34 (total 13 seats, as the Menckens aren't flying back with the troop). Again, sit in any of those seats, it doesn't have to be the seat on your boarding pass.

Return to LAX

Arrival at LAX is 8:22 pm. Make sure to tell your lead advisor, either Mr. Lee or Mr. Shapiro-Scharlotta, that your parent is there and you are leaving with them (or with another if so arranged).