



ScoutFleet 2002 New York City -Sea Scouts Lay Wreath- Governor Declares Sea Scout Day

On Saturday, July 27th, 2002, a fleet of Sea Scout vessels formed a parade stretching more than a mile, sailed the Hudson River in celebration of Sea Scouting's 90th Anniversary. With four-hundred Sea Scouts and officers manning vessels from fifteen States and Washington, D.C., flags a-flying, New York City got a glimpse of America's future—capable young men and women with character. Escorting the Fleet was a Waterways ferry boat for parents and those who came by land or air, and the schooner Pioneer from South Street Seaport.

The Northeast Region's ScoutFleet 2002 celebration was hosted by the Intrepid Sea - Air - Space Museum in Manhattan. Thirty-five vessels from Northeast Region (and one 20' schooner that was towed all the way from Houston, Texas!) tied along three barges set aside for our use by the museum.

Sailing up from the Statue of Liberty, the Fleet paused to lay a wreath of flowers which was placed into the river as the parade passed "Ground Zero", in memory of those who lost their lives in the September 11 attacks. An anniversary ceremony, commemorating 90 years of Sea Scouting in the United States was conducted aboard the Intrepid. National Bo's'n Cyrus Lawyer, served as the MC. Featured addresses were made by Charles Holmes, National Director of Venturing and Vice Admiral John Craine, former Interim-president New York State Maritime College who read a proclamation from Governor George Pakaki making July 27 Sea Scout Day in the State of New York. During the closing ceremony Sunday morning, NE Region Commodore Bruce Johnson and Regional Bo's'n Gary Cutler presented the Scout Fleet commemorative medals to the Skipper and Bo's'n of each Ship in the Fleet.

In order for the Fleet to assemble, Ships' Committees prepared their boats and crews for what would likely be the longest journey they would ever make. The Chesapeake Flotilla formed an organizing committee to help its members prepare for their long journey. For many boats coming from the southern part of the Region, the cruise turned out to be several days of heavy seas in the North Atlantic.

A task force of what turned out to be more than a dozen very dedicated Sea Scouters was formed officially on a cold winter morning in February of 1999 when Dave Mosher, Bill James and Bob Legg huddled together at the NE Region's offices to chart a course to this great celebration. From there, those Sea Scouters and many other helpful volunteers took on the specific tasks which made ScoutFleet 2002 a success. Together, we were guided by the vision of what this event could become, and worked together to bring that vision to life. The Fleet of Sea Scout vessels dressed in flags sailing around Liberty was a vision. On that Saturday morning, the vision become a reality.