

California Sea Scout Crew Named BoatU.S. National Flagship

Redwood City on San Francisco Bay is home to a lot of maritime heritage and this year it added a new honor as the port city's Sea Scout Ship 33, *Gryphon*, was awarded the BoatU.S. Sea Scout National Flagship Award for 2003.

A delegation from the Ship, including Skipper Mike Marzano, the adult leader, traveled to Philadelphia to accept the specially designed trophy at the Boy Scouts of America National Annual Meeting, May 29. BoatU.S. created the award last year to mark the 90th anniversary of Sea Scouting. It recognizes excellence in program quality, youth achievement and adult commitment. *Gryphon's* name will be added to a perpetual trophy housed in the BSA National Museum in Irving, TX.

Sea Scouts in SSS *Gryphon*, sponsored by Redwood City Elks Lodge 1991, conducted 40 days of on-the-water activities, and its crewmembers contributed more



Skipper Mike Marzano (standing 2nd left), accepts the BoatU.S. Flagship Award with Boatswain Jason Lawrence (right) and crew.

the 400 hours of community service while also finding the time to participate in 10 regional scouting events.

According to Boatswain Jason Lawrence, the Ship's youth leader, the 19 crewmembers have earned 33 awards in the last 18 months including four Quartermasters, the Eagle equivalent for Sea Scouting. The Ship qualified to send a

sailing team to compete in the BoatU.S. Sea Scout Cup and the William I. Koch International Sea Scout Sailing Championship held concurrently in Chicago last June. The crew also performs all maintenance and repair on the 65-foot motor vessel they use on San Francisco Bay.

"These activities help each of the crewmembers learn teamwork and self-sufficiency, and increase their self-esteem," said Marzano. "Our ability to earn such a national honor is due to an exceptional group of young adults who are dedicated to this program and to each other."

Sea Scouting is a co-ed program for youth age 14-20 that uses boats, seamanship and nautical skills to develop character and leadership qualities in young people. Nearly 7,000 youth participate in Sea Scouting as members of 550 Ships nationwide. For more information, contact: SeaScouts@BoatUS.com.