

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Port of Beaumont charters new Sea Scout program**

**BEAUMONT, TX (April 27, 2019)** —On April 27, 2019, the Port of Beaumont announced the launch of Sea Scout Ship 1916 at the Sail Daze event in Port Arthur, Texas. Sail Daze, an event hosted by Three Rivers Council-Boy Scouts, provided approximately 100 attendees with a weekend of sailing, camping and a chance to learn more about Scouting's second oldest program, Sea Scouts. Ships from Sam Houston Area Council, Alamo Council, and Bay Area Council participated in the event.

“The Port of Beaumont is looking forward to chartering the new unit in an effort to bring awareness to the opportunities that exist in the maritime industry,” says Port Director Chris Fisher. “We hope to act as a resource to the students who participate and show them how important maritime-related activities are to our region.”

For over 100 years Sea Scouting has promoted better citizenship and improved participants' boating skills through instruction and practice in water safety; outdoor, social, and service experiences; and knowledge of maritime heritage. The new unit, supported by Three Rivers Council-Boy Scouts, is youth led and adult mentored. Participants, also called shipmates, lead the Sea Scout program. Elected youth leaders plan and conduct the program and adult leaders guide and support their efforts as they learn important leadership and life skills. As the shipmates gain experience, they will have the opportunity to contribute to the growth of the program.

Sea Scouts are recognized and rewarded as they learn different maritime-related skills. Opportunities exist to earn certifications in SCUBA, boating safety and CPR, as well as advance in rank from Apprentice to Quartermaster. Each certification and level of advancement marks a Sea Scout's growth as a sailor and a leader. One of the most significant benefits of the program is participants gain hands-on seamanship and leadership training that will put a Sea Scout one step ahead of the rest when considering a career path in the military or the maritime industry. Sea Scouts also get a head start on the USCG captain's license, in addition to countless other skills and opportunities.

The new Sea Scouts “ship” is open to all Beaumont Independent School District high school students. The adult leadership team includes:

Chris Fisher	Port Director	Port of Beaumont	Institutional Head
Richard Evans	Attorney	Richard N. Evans Attorney at Law	Skipper
Tonya Tomplait	Veteran	U.S. Marine Corps	First Mate
Steven Meek	Account Executive	Emerson Automation Solutions	Committee Chair
Sade Chick	Manager of Corporate Affairs	Port of Beaumont	Chartered Org. Representative
Randal Ogrydziak	Dir. of Facilities Security & Regulatory Compliance	Port of Beaumont	Committee Member

For additional information on the Sea Scouts program, please contact Mr. Richard Evans, skipper of Ship 1916, at [r\\_ii@sbcglobal.net](mailto:r_ii@sbcglobal.net).

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### About Three Rivers Council

Three Rivers Council is dedicated to maintaining the high standards of the Boy Scouts of America in everything they do. The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetime by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. The council is made up of three districts; the Big Thicket District, Sabine District, Spindletop District and Trinity District.

Three Rivers Council provides a professional field staff, a service center, **1,243** trained volunteer leaders, leadership training for adults and youth, and a year-round camping facility. More than **4,335** youth in Southeast Texas will participate in Scouting activities, meetings, camping, events, advancement, and career-interest programs.

### About the Port of Beaumont

The Port of Beaumont is a deep-water port located in Beaumont, Texas, that specializes in heavy lift, project, dry bulk, liquid bulk, break bulk and roll-on roll-off cargoes. The Port generates more than 12,608 direct, induced, indirect and related-user jobs in the region and is responsible for more than \$1.8 billion in economic activity annually. The Port handled more than 4.64 million tons of forest products, bagged goods, metal articles, military cargo, project cargo, aggregate and liquid bulk in calendar year 2018, a 51.4% increase over calendar year 2017. The Port of Beaumont Channel (public and private terminals) ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation in terms of tonnage and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation in terms of growth, according to *Forbes*. For additional information, visit [www.portofbeaumont.com](http://www.portofbeaumont.com).

