

COMMISSION AGENDA

Item No: 4A

Meeting: 5/9/19

DATE: April 19, 2019

TO: Port Commission

FROM: John Wolfe, Chief Executive Officer

Sponsor: Leslie Barstow

Presenter: Monique Trudnowski, Youth Marine Center/Sea Scouts

SUBJECT: Youth Marine Center/Sea Scouts

A. ACTION REQUESTED

This presentation is intended to recognize the eight local Sea Scouts who achieved the rank of Quartermaster (equivalent to an Eagle Scout) this year. This presentation was requested by the Youth Marine Center.

B. BACKGROUND

The Sea Scouts in Tacoma operate out of the Youth Marine Center, a tenant of the Port of Tacoma located on the Foss Waterway. Youth enrolled in the Sea Scouts operate and maintain the Charles N. Curtis, Sea Scout Ship 110, and are a branch of the Boy Scouts of America.

The Tacoma Sea Scouts were established in 1924 and have been operating continually for 95 years. The Sea Scouts is a diverse and inclusive youth character development program that is focused on building leadership, fitness, discipline, self-esteem, teamwork and good citizenship to area youth ages 14 to 21 years old. They do this through quality maritime training programs utilizing the Coast Guard licensed passenger ships Odyssey and Charles N. Curtis. The Tacoma Sea Scouts promote the maritime history of our community using both classroom, boats and the waters of Commencement Bay as their training platform for boating and maritime skills. The non-profit is largely funded by grants and community support.

This high-quality youth marine program is the go-to organization and a recognized leader in the marine community of Tacoma, working in concert with Tacoma Public Schools, Metro Parks, and South Sound Universities.

The Quartermaster Award is the highest award a Sea Scout can achieve and is equivalent to the Eagle Scout Award from the Boy Scouts of America. The scout advances through multiple rankings that intensify and culminate with the addition of a Quartermaster service project. They must also take long-term command of a vessel and crew while conducting critical drills. Since both of the Tacoma Sea Scout ships are Coast Guard inspected sub-chapter T small passenger vessels, the Tacoma Quartermasters are trained with strict Coast Guard compliance.

Nationally, only about 13 Sea Scouts obtain the highest rank of Quartermaster per year. To have 8 individuals from one community achieve this high honor in one year is a monumental achievement, and one the Port of Tacoma is honored to acknowledge and celebrate with the Youth Marine Center and the Tacoma Sea Scouts.