

Seamanship Badge

Introduction: This badge aims at helping Badgers to acquire nautical knowledge, experience the sweet and sour of sea-life.

Course Outline

1. Stage 1 Badge

i. Theory

- Understanding about ports in Hong Kong and works of Marine Department
- Understanding the meanings of common jargons for vessels (displacement, length, width, depth, waterline, staff gauge etc.)
- Understanding works on the ship and the division of work
- Knowing the names of different parts of a ship
- Understanding common navigation lights(masthead light, sidelights, stern lights), sound signals and regulations for preventing collisions at sea
- Understanding buoys and lights for the four directions
- Understanding the meaning of international maritime signal flags
- Understanding the importance of the weather forecast for sailing
- Understanding the basic principle needed for being at the helm

ii. Practical training

- Rowing techniques (can row along a route like the number - 8, weighing anchor, berthing, mooring, docking)
- Knots: Halt-Hitch, Overhand Knot, Figure Eight, Reef Knot, Clove Hitch, Round Turn & Two Half Hitches, Bowline, Sheet Bend
-

2. Stage 2 Badge

i. Theory

- Learning about and understanding how to use nautical charts and compass
- Learning about International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea
- Understanding the development of Hong Kong Port Facilities Scheme
- Understanding types of anchors, uses and methods for mooring
- Common knowledge for marine escape
- Common survival skills when encountering catastrophe
- Understanding factors affecting tide and the formation as well as change of a typhoon
- Learning about Beaufort Wind Scale

ii. Practical trainings

- Rowing or using motorized boats to do the practices below(saving people on the sea, towage, anchoring, docking, mooring)
- Knots: Fisherman's Knot, Common Whipping, Eye Splice, Short Splice, Back Splice

3. Stage 3 Badge

i. Theory

- Nautical charts: Knowing the definition of longitude, latitude, measuring distance, speed and calculation for accommodation
- Positioning the ship by compass cross positioning method
- Understanding the Global Positioning System (GPS)
- Journey plan on the sea, writing a sailing record, learning about the equipment needed for a journey
- Emergency response in the sea(stranding, crashing and offering help to ships encountering accident)
- Preventive measures for sailing in heavy fog or unstable weather condition
- Understanding the fire prevention work on a ship, use and maintenance of fire extinguishers
- Basic techniques for repairing ships
- Understanding the basic structure and operation for outboard engine

ii. Practical training

Practical training: Sailing along a pre-set route, conducting a journey which is not less than two days and a night and eight nautical miles along the coast

Assessment Criteria

1. Theories will be examined by written tests.
2. A Brigadier should attend at least 80% of the theoretical lessons.
3. A Brigadier is required to attend practical lessons which last for at least 6 hours.