



Mark Dukas <mrdukas@gmail.com>

[Seabase] Coral Reef Sailing

Steve Summers <sjrjsummers@verizon.net>

Wed, Jan 2, 2008 at 5:08 PM

Reply-To: seabase@troop47.com

To: Seabase List Member <Seabase@troop47.com>

Our troop did Coral Reef Sailing (CRS) the last week of June 2007, with 2 crews (i.e., 2 boats). The CRS program is advertised very flexible, and it is - within limits. They have a fairly set itinerary they like to follow, and the distances that have to be covered dictate that your crew more or less follow the itinerary. The flexibility comes in what you do along the way - fishing, snorkeling, sailing skills, etc. Here's the itinerary we followed:

Day 1: Arrive at Seabase. A very busy day, much like your arrival at any BSA camp. Complete the following activities (not necessarily in this order):

- (1) Complete paperwork and registration check-in.
- (2) Gear check. Pack seagoing personal gear in Seabase-provided bags. (No extra gear - there won't be room for it on the boat!)
- (3) Stow gear not going aboard the boat in your crew's locker. (Pack light - one locker per crew!)
- (4) Check out snorkeling equipment.
- (5) Swim check. (In the boat basin - not in a pool.)
- (6) Snorkeling familiarization in the boat basin.
- (7) Meet your skipper, and get orientation for your boat, including the skipper's "ground rules" for life on his/her boat.
- (8) Stow personal gear bags on your boat.
- (9) Eat dinner at Seabase chow hall.
- (10) Board boat and get underway toward first night anchorage.

Day 2: Breakfast and underway from anchorage. Spend the day sailing/motoring (depending on wind) along the Keys to the south. Stop and moor to buoy at 2-3 reefs for snorkeling along the way. Fish as desired while underway. As evening approaches, anchor for the night.

Day 3: Arrive Key West marina by 9:00 am, and tie up dockside. Crew free to spend the day ashore exploring Key West. Back to boat by 9:00 pm. Spend the night dockside in Key West.

Day 4: Underway from Key West by 9:00 am, and begin heading back northward along the Keys. Once underway, same routine as Day 2.

Day 5: Underway from anchorage early. Our crew headed into anchorage at Bahia Honda State Park, where we snorkeled ashore (50 yards at most) and spent the day hanging out on the beach. We brought food ashore by sealing it up in plastic bags and towing it ashore with us as we snorkeled, and had a cookout at the park. Underway from Bahia Honda late afternoon, on our way to refuel and head to final night anchorage.

Day 6: Underway from anchorage, head back to Seabase. Clean the boat and repack all gear enroute. Arrive Seabase early afternoon. Turn in snorkeling gear, check into barracks-style dormitory. Shower, and free time. Evening

luau on beach by Seabase boat basin.

Day 7: Breakfast at Seabase, and depart by 9:00 am for home.

The CRS leader guide is pretty good, so read it carefully for advice on gear, etc. Your crew will want good footwear for use on the boat. Crocs seemed to be the footwear of choice. Everyone in our 2 crews wore them and they worked very well. Plan ahead to get a small gift for your skipper. (Gratuities are not allowed, however!) Make sure everyone has a sleeping pad, because most folks sleep topside most nights. It's too warm and steamy to sleep below deck in the summer months! Most crews have crew t-shirts with a distinctive color and design of their choice, which are especially helpful for the day ashore in Key West.

Finally, be sure that your crew leader makes the crew's desires known to your skipper. The CRS boats are all private boats that are chartered by Seabase. The skippers follow more or less the same itinerary each week, but they are quite willing to accommodate the crew's desires by emphasizing the aspects of the CRS program that most interest your crew.

Hope this helps!

Steve Summers
Troop 1518
Springfield, VA

-----Original Message-----

From: Seabase@troop47.com [mailto:Seabase@troop47.com] On Behalf Of Kathie & Jim
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2008 4:02 PM
To: Seabase List Member
Subject: [Seabase] Thanks to all who participate in this venue

We have a crew going this summer to Coral Reef Sailing.

Does any have a journal they put together they would like to share.
What are the daily activities etc.

Thanks
Jim Maloney
Troop 234
Longwood FL.

Scouting E-mail Discussion Lists @ usscouts.org
Listserv Commands at <http://usscouts.org/lists/lc.asp>

Send listserv commands to: listserv@troop47.com
Send postings to: seabase@troop47.com
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