



Age of Sail

Overnight Program

Details

The year is 1906, and the students, or “lads” are immersed in a 19-hour journey through the past. As “green” hands on their overnight stint on a historic vessel they must learn to step lively and obtain the necessary skills to set sail on the morning tide.

Under the watchful eyes of the ship’s four officers, crews receive their orders and are expected to carry them out independently. The lads must listen carefully, and then utilize their own resources to solve the problems presented to them, whether it be throwing a heaving line, rigging a bosun’s chair or cooking for the entire crew on a wood burning stove that is bolted to the deck. The program helps students to develop self-confidence and self-reliance, which in turn fosters a sense of responsibility for themselves and their community – their shipmates.



The program is staffed with 4 officers. The ship’s officers are in costume and “in character” from the time the class arrives at the pier. Once the class boards the vessel, our officers take over all organizational, teaching, and behavioral responsibilities. The teacher is considered a “Guest of the Captain” and the other adults are here for safety only – not to work with the children.

The children will work the vessel as sailors did at the turn of the 20th century. Our time frame is 1906. There has been a devastating earthquake and fire. The regular crew has gone ashore to fight the fire and assist in the rescue efforts. The Captain needs a replacement crew to sail the Balclutha to Oregon to get a load of lumber to bring back to San Francisco and help rebuild the city.

The class comes divided into 5 crews, each with specific jobs they must complete to the Captain’s satisfaction. We focus on teamwork, trust, cooperative learning, taking responsibility, and communication. Once each individual crew starts to work together as a team, we combine them with another crew. This combining continues until the entire class is working as one cohesive unit.

Tasks include line handling, moving cargo, riding a bosun’s chair, throwing heaving lines, setting hawsers, cooking on a wood burning stove, rowing a longboat, and standing night watch.

The program is offered **Sunday through Friday mid-September to the 3rd week in June.**

There is a **27-student/ 6-adult paid minimum.** Although we can accommodate up to 40 students, the quality of the experience is directly related to the size of the class. Groups with 36-40 students will have 6 crews instead of the standard 5 and will be charged an additional \$250.00 fee to cover the additional instructor costs. **Maximum group size is 40 children and 8 adults including the teacher and the historian/photographer.**

The cost of the program is **\$66.00 per child and \$36.00 per adult.** The teacher is free.

Financial Aid is available.

The program hours are **2:00 PM – 8:45 AM.** **Groups are asked to be ready to start the program at 2:00 p.m.**

The participants must bring a **sleeping bag, eating utensils, rain gear** (if rain is forecast), and a **second set of clothes.**

The school must provide a bulk **snack** (no preparation or clean up once on board – there’s no time) for 5:00 PM and a **class flag.**

Parking is an extra expense. Parking arrangements are subject to change. Please confirm parking and check-in Procedures prior to the date of your program.

For more information or to make reservations, please call (415) 292-6664 or email: mgardner@maritime.org