

Sound Experience sails the historic schooner *Adventuress* to educate, inspire, and empower an inclusive community that works to improve our marine environment and celebrates our maritime heritage.



Shipmates Together - A Letter to the Sound Experience Community

Dear friends,

All of us at Sound Experience are hoping that you and your families are safe and staying healthy during this time of unprecedented heavy weather as together we navigate the Covid-19 crisis in our communities. I wanted to take a few moments to share with you what we're doing here at Sound Experience to stay connected to you – our beloved *Adventuress* community – in the weeks ahead.



All of us are making decisions in a rapidly changing environment, and it's helpful to look to our personal values to guide our decisions and our actions. In times of crisis, our values can be our North Star. One core value at Sound Experience is to "do the right thing." We look to that simple value to guide decisions by our board of directors, our staff and ship's crew.

A few weeks back, with news of the virus' spread in Washington State, we made the decision to delay the start of the education program season aboard *Adventuress*. We could not ensure the health and safety of our crew and students. The closure of all Washington State K-12 schools followed, and we are now preparing for a two-week Governor's order to "Stay Home and Stay Healthy."

You may be heartened to know that *Adventuress* is secure in Port Townsend, looked after and being steadily readied for the start of the sailing season once the storm passes, and it's safe to get underway.

In the meantime, our small but dedicated staff team – the "Office Watch" – is working from the safety of their homes to ensure that *Adventuress*' youth environmental mission will remain an important education resource to our schools, our community partners and all of you. If you have any questions at all, feel free to reach out to me by email catherine@soundexp.org or phone (360) 379-0438 x3.

Many of you have asked how you can help. The only way we're going to get through this

is by helping each other whenever and however we can. In that spirit, below are a few ways that would be terrifically helpful at this time to keep *Adventuress* sailing strong.

First though, we hope you'll let us give something to you. Today, we're rolling out an initiative we're calling **Shipmates Together** to bring you some of the magic that you may remember having experienced aboard *Adventuress*. It might be a recipe from our delicious veggie galley, a chantey, a story or some of the ship's fascinating history. We might even help you get a moment to yourself from the kids with a maritime-inspired puzzle or word search. While we can't make the hard things go away, we do hope we can bring a tiny bit of *Adventuress* magic to your day. Please visit our social media platforms ([Facebook](#) , [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)) for our Shipmates Together postings, and we'll have a web link up shortly with lots of fun content.



Finally, we know you'll do what you can to help the nonprofits in your communities that you depend on. We're all in this together...shipmates together. If you'd like to support Sound Experience, here are a few ways:

- Do you have a particular "remote skill" you'd like to offer? Some ideas could include grant-writing, curriculum development, fun ideas for Shipmates Together (above), music videos...you name it! [Click here](#) to sign up to be a **Remote Volunteer**.
- Become a **Sound Experience Member**! Our Membership March campaign is nearly over. Your membership is the anchor that supports our youth programs – and gives you and your family the opportunity to sail on *Adventuress*. [Click here](#) to renew or become a Member.
- Make a **tax-deductible contribution**. Your gift will support those young people who otherwise could not sail aboard on life-changing programs and fund important pre-season shipboard maintenance projects. *Adventuress* will sail again soon – for all young people – with your help. [Click here](#) to donate now.

The only thing we know for sure in this scary and uncertain time is that we need each other. We'll get through this together (though apart). We'll get through this as *shipmates*.

Keeping you all in our thoughts,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Catherine Collins".

Catherine Collins
Executive Director