



SOUND STUDIES
PARTICIPANT PACKET

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WELCOME!

Sound Experience welcomes you to the historic schooner *Adventure* for a voyage of exploration on Puget Sound. Thank you for choosing this memorable learning experience. Our staff looks forward to sailing with your group.

Mission

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

Vision

We envision a future where everyone values Puget Sound/Salish Sea and the world's oceans and chooses to act as stewards of their treasured waters.

Values

- Transformative Education - changing our youth, our communities, and our world
- Learning Organization - evolving for and with our people
- Living Sustainably - acting for our waterways
- Partnering - sharing our collective strengths
- Integrity - doing the right thing
- All Are Welcome



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child's class will be joining Sound Experience for an exciting, informative and fun learning experience on the Salish Sea. Sound Studies programs are environmental and maritime educational field trips which involve hands-on exploration of the Salish Sea from the deck of a 133-foot sailing vessel.



Sound Experience shares with you the goal of a safe, enjoyable education experience for your child. Our ship, the historic schooner *Adventuress*, is large, stable and certified by the US Coast Guard to carry passengers. *Adventuress* meets or exceeds all applicable Coast Guard and FCC regulations, is inspected annually for safety by the Coast Guard, and carries all required safety equipment, including life jackets for all participants. Sound Experience crew are fully trained in safety procedures. *Adventuress* carries full liability insurance for all participants while on board the vessel and additionally insures the school as well.

The Program

Before boarding, students will assemble ashore to meet the crew. Students are divided into small groups, with approximately 4 to 7 students per group. Each group has a designated Sound Experience crew member who will be their teacher and supervisor for the entire program. Before motoring away from the dock, the entire group will receive a safety orientation from the Captain informing them of appropriate behavior, where they may and may not be, safety equipment, etc.

Once the vessel is underway, students may help set up sampling devices, such as a plankton tow. They will be asked to haul on the halyards while singing sea chanteys to help set *Adventuress*' sails. The groups rotate to each learning station, participating in hands-on activities which may include examining marine life, plankton, as well as assisting in steering and navigating the vessel.

What we ask of you:

- Please read, sign, and return the [Release Form](#) and [Covid Guidelines Form](#)
- Please assist your child in preparing for their trip by reviewing the "What to Wear and Bring" list
- If your child has medications for bee stings, allergies, asthma, etc, please ensure that they bring these with them.

The Sound Studies program is a special opportunity for your child to have an on-the water experience that will help them develop an appreciation and better understanding of the Salish Sea ecosystem, and an enthusiasm for science and maritime as subject areas of great importance and fun. All of us at Sound Experience look forward to your child's class joining us.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact your child's teacher or our office.

Come sailing again!

Sound Experience is a membership supported organization. Membership includes 30% discount on all Public Sails, 25% discount on our merchandise, 10% discount on program fees, be first to hear about our schedule, seminars, events, festivals and volunteer opportunities and a beautiful Member sticker. With your membership dues, you can help us protect the Salish Sea and the Puget Sound through education and preserve our maritime heritage. Memberships help offset program costs, enabling us to offer educational experiences to Puget Sound youth and adults. For more information visit www.soundexp.org/membership.

Sincerely,



Amy Kovacs

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WHAT TO WEAR AND BRING

It is not necessary for students to buy these items. Please let us know if anyone in your group needs to borrow any gear, there is extra rain gear on the ship as well. When preparing for your trip, remember that it is often 10 degrees cooler on the water, and the sun's effects are magnified due to reflection, even on cloudy days. This is a hands-on program, so wear and bring clothes you don't mind getting dirty.

Clothing and other gear

- ☐ Mask (optional)
- ☐ Warm coat
- ☐ Sweater and/or sweatshirt
- ☐ Long-sleeved shirt
- ☐ Long pants
- ☐ Pair(s) of warm socks
- ☐ Soft-soled, closed-toed shoes (tennis shoes or hiking boots)
- ☐ Warm hat that covers your ears
- ☐ Waterproof rain gear (regardless of weather predictions)
 - ☐ Rain coat, with hood or rain hat
 - ☐ Rain pants
- ☐ Sun block (it is preferred that sun block is administered prior to boarding)
- ☐ Water bottle with your name on it
- ☐ Bag or knapsack for the above items

Please do NOT bring:

- Personal music devices, digital game or web devices.
- Personal communication devices: *Phones may be stowed or used for taking pictures*
- Drugs or alcohol
- Any products containing marijuana (THC or CBD): *Although legal in WA, it's still illegal federally and under US Coast Guard regulations.*
- Weapons
- Cigarettes, legal smoking devices: *Smoking in any form is not permitted on the vessel*
- Candy, gum, or personal snacks: *It inevitably ends up on the deck and is very difficult to remove*

Food

On five-hour programs only, bring bag lunches – they will be eaten mid-program. Ideally all lunches are in a large tote/bin for easy access. Having students get their lunches from their individual backpacks takes a lot of extra time and will likely mean a longer lunch and therefore shorter learning station time. Please inform our office if there are any food allergies in your group that we can prepare for on the ship.

We encourage you to use recyclable materials in packing your lunch. We sometimes catch bottles, cans, plastic wrappers, and other trash in our plankton and microplastic sampling nets. You can help reduce that litter by re-using containers and recycling your trash.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS POLICY

At Sound Experience and aboard the schooner *Adventuress*, we are focused on reducing the risk of illness aboard the vessel by monitoring for signs and symptoms of illness as well as practicing general NPI's (non-pharmaceutical interventions; i.e. handwashing, air circulation, daily cleaning of high touch areas, etc.).

If someone is showing symptoms of illness before their trip, our policy is to request that they do not come to the ship and instead stay home. Symptoms include, but are not limited to, fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, headache, muscle or body aches, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, etc.

Participants on overnight programs are required to take a Covid test before arriving at the ship; this includes crew and all adults on the trip due to the close nature of shipboard life. All crew are current on Covid-19 vaccinations. Sound Experience prefers that students and adults are vaccinated against Covid-19, but it is not required for overnight program participation.

Strategies to support shipboard health:*

1. General:

- Pre-program questionnaires
- Pre-overnight program Covid testing for participants and crew
- Crew are vaccinated and boosted

2. Face Coverings/Masks: Face masks are optional on and below decks unless someone is experiencing symptoms or otherwise directed.

3. Practice and Model Hand hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette:

- We will provide resources to practice heightened hygiene
- Hand sanitizer will be provided in various locations around the vessel

4. Cleaning and Disinfecting:

- The ship will go through a pre- and post- program cleaning.
- All high traffic surfaces, such as handrails, ladder, etc, will be cleaned and disinfected multiple times during a program
- Ventilation fans will be utilized whenever possible to fully exchange the air below decks.

**If a child or staff member develops symptoms or signs of COVID-19 while on program, that person will be separated from the group and will be supervised from a safe distance until we can get them off the vessel. The parents and school will be called and we will follow the local protocols for testing, contact tracing, cleaning and quarantining.*



SHIPBOARD RULES & GUIDELINES

Safety is always our highest priority! In over 30+ years of educational sailing programs, Sound Experience has provided safe field trips for more than 60,000 participants. The following is an outline of safety policies and procedures aboard *Adventuress*.

Adventuress is annually inspected by the U.S. Coast Guard to make sure she's in safe operating condition and able to provide safe programs for participants of all ages. Our Captain and Chief Mate are licensed by the Coast Guard, and all of our staff are trained to prevent accidents and to respond in the event of an emergency. As a participant, you will play an important role in making the ship a safe environment: keeping safety in mind at all times, being aware of the hazards of the ship's environment, and taking precautions to be sure no accidents happen.

Here is a partial list of rules that all participants and crew must follow while on board. Each trip begins with a safety orientation which will explain procedures in more detail.

- 1 The Captain is in charge of all matters aboard the ship.
- 2 Do not climb in the rigging or on the lifelines unless instructed to do so by a crew member.
- 3 You must wear a life vest whenever you are forward of the lifelines, on the main boom, or in one of the small boats.
- 4 Tuck in any loose clothing, remove dangling jewelry, and tie up long hair to prevent getting caught in the ship's rigging.
- 5 Use the handrails and face the ladders when going up or down.
- 6 Listen carefully to instructions—questions are encouraged!
- 7 Keep hands, hair, and clothing away from blocks and belaying pins.
- 8 Never handle a line unless you are instructed to do so. Always assess the load before you handle a line.
- 9 Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs are not allowed on board under any circumstances.
- 10 Closed toed shoes are required on deck at all times.

Safety Procedures during Sound Studies Voyages

When students arrive at the marina, and before they step on the dock, they are gathered in a group and given their first welcome and safety orientation. Our Program Coordinator asks the students to adhere to a full value contract (5 finger contract) including safety, respect and having fun.

At the end of this on shore safety orientation, we will divide the group into five small Watches, or groups. Students then make their way to the boat with their crew Watch Leaders. The Chief Mate will greet the group at the ship and will go over a few more safety items before welcoming everyone on board.

Once students are on board the vessel but before the ship leaves the dock, they are addressed by the Captain, who will share Sound Experience's priorities:

- 1 Safety
- 2 Learning
- 3 Having Fun



The Captain then discusses basic safety protocols, delineates the off-limits areas of the vessel, answers questions, and demonstrates the proper way to wear a life jacket. Our vessel carries 60 Type 1 PFDs or lifejackets. Because we are a USCG inspected passenger-carrying vessel operating on the navigable waters of the United States, participants are not required to wear a life jacket during our programs (similar to a ferry).

We motor and sail during the program. The vessel motors when leaving and returning to the dock and at any other time the Captain determines it is prudent to do so. When under sail with youth groups, the Captain determines how many of the four working sails the ship will set. This decision varies from program to program and is based on weather conditions, vessel traffic in the area, and program goals. *AdventureSS* is always operated in a safe manner.

For more information or clarification of our safety procedures, please call the Sound Experience office at (360) 379-0438.

Staff to Participant Ratio

Our low student to crew ratio (6:1 or lower) ensures that students remain under constant supervision at all times during the course of the programs. Our crew have been trained in a variety of techniques to work with conflict that might arise, but will also rely on the Trip Leader and Captain for additional support and communication during any participant conflict.



Our Crew

Sound Experience crew consists of a Captain, First/Chief Mate, Program Coordinator Engineer, Galley Coordinator and at least three Environmental Educators. Each crew member is selected on the basis of environmental and marine science background, ability to teach and work with youth, ability to supervise, and sailing skill. Every crew member is required to have current First Aid and CPR or greater certification and undergoes State and Federal background checks. Before participating in programs aboard the ship, crew members complete extensive training designed for safety and operation of the ship as well as program implementation. Every crew member is required to be fully vaccinated.

More important than any of the quantifiable criteria is our requirement that the crew be mature, responsible, and able to provide a safe, enjoyable learning experience for your students. The Captain and First Mate are primarily responsible for the safe operation of the vessel. The Program Coordinator organizes what happens during the trip and makes learning opportunities available to you.

Emergencies

All of our crew are trained and certified in First Aid and CPR. In addition, several crew are trained in emergency response and remote medicine. The ship is close to onshore emergency facilities by rescue boat or the Coast Guard. Medication brought to the ship must be clearly labeled with participants' full name and dosage. For youth trips, all medications will be kept and distributed by the Medical Officer aboard.



SAFETY OVERVIEW

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Questions and Emergency Contact

For general questions during trip, please call (360) 379-0438 x1 and leave a message at the office line and someone will call you back. You can also email the Program Director (jenny@soundexp.org) or Partnership Director (amy@soundexp.org) and they can help you.

If you have an emergency and must contact the ship or reach your child, please call the Executive Director Catherine Collins at (206) 353-6119. We can relay emergency messages to the ship as necessary and coordinate any additional steps that might be needed.

Lost and Found

Items left on the ship are returned to the office on a semi-regular basis. Please note that if you leave something on board, it may not be brought to our attention until two or three weeks after your trip. Please email the Program Director and let us know if you think you've left something behind, and we'll do our best to find it. Any usable items that are not claimed after two months are donated to local charities.



GOALS FOR STUDENT LEARNING & ACTIVITIES



Environmental Understanding

- Identify where their home is in relation to the ship on Puget Sound by using charts and navigation tools.
- Research an aspect of Puget Sound Ecology to present to the group using on-board resources (books, guides, crew interviews, data collection using observation tools)
- Participate in hands-on activities, games, observation and discussions around the topics of: watersheds, ocean/estuarine features, marine foods webs, human impact on the environment, biodiversity, marine animal (mammals, invertebrates, birds) ecology, natural history, climate and habitat.
- Have a positive, direct, and prolonged on-the-water experience sailing aboard Adventuress on Puget Sound.

Leadership

- Come up with a personal or small group project they can present during an evening program based upon some thing they have learned during the trip.
- Identify personal and group learning goals and objectives and actively work toward them.
- Engage in community building activities, including singing, skits, and group presentations.
- Participate in setting sails, taking the helm, and community duties (evening program entertainment)

Stewardship

- Take the time to get to know the members of their Watch and the whole crew and how each contributes to collective goals.
- Monitor the daily use of resources aboard the ship and present them to the group.
- Participate in daily stewardship duties (chores, dishes, meal prep, etc.).
- Learn something of the cultural and maritime history of the area as it relates to natural resources (consumption, trade, transport, conservation, etc.)
- Stand at least one hour of anchor watch.
- Live in close proximity to others.
- Reflect on the needs of others and engage in care of those needs.