Seasonal Shipboard Position: Winter Deckhand/Educator

Accountability: Winter Mate, Captain(s) and/or Program Director and Executive Director

General Scope: The Winter Deckhand/Educator(s) are responsible for working on various maintenance projects with guidance from shipboard leadership including but not limited to sanding, paiting, varnishing, cleaning, organizing, light rigging work and more. The Winter Deckhand/Educator will also participate in monthly Volunteer Work Weekends, supporting volunteers in tasks as prioritized by the Winter Mate/Captain/Winter Engineer.

As a member of the Winter Crew you will embody Sound Experience's inclusive and positive organizational culture. All Sound Experience employees should model kindness, a welcoming and positive attitude, physical and emotional safety, and care for people and the environment. You will positively represent Sound Experience to participants, the public, parents, and teachers through upholding the organization's vision, mission, and values at all times. The same culture extends to all "Office Watch" staff, Board Members, volunteers and dedicated donors. As a leader on board, it is essential to establish, expect, and maintain a shipboard lifestyle of inclusivity, a supportive learning platform, and a welcoming community.

For an experienced Deckhand/Educator, the position of Winter Deckhand/Bosun may be available. This role would include being in charge of certain projects, with oversight from the Winter Mate. Projects would likely include maintining the blocks and rigging related tasks (if they are on the docet for that winter).

Position Start/End and hours: December 1, 2026 (flexible) - February 28, 2026
Work hours are predominantly 8am-5pm, with breaks, Monday – Friday during the winter months. Some exceptions required to accommodate work weekends. Hours not to exceed 40 hrs per week.

Location: Port Townsend, WA

Compensation: $18.00 - $20.00 per hour, depending on experience. Lodging available aboard the vessel if needed.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBLITIES:

Scope of work:

- General finish work. Surface prep and application of paint, varnish, and similar coatings to protect surfaces.
- Light rigging; transportation and installation of running and standing rigging, and sails.
- Work at height; proper adherence to safety procedures as per Sound Experience risk management policy.
- Light mechanical and electrical systems maintenance and installation.
- Cleaning and organizing, above and below deck spaces.
- Purchasing of necessary supplies
- When purchasing for the ship, get approval from Winter Mate and manage tracking of all receipts with bookkeeping in a timely manner. Keep accurate records of where and when items are purchased, research as necessary.
- Other tasks as assigned.
- Work shall not include time underway aboard the vessel. Limited to tasks aboard while the vessel is secure alongside at dock, at offsite storage locations, and general shoreside support.

General Duties:

- Maintain a clean and safe workspace.
- Participate fully and effectively in all shipboard and shoreside components of maintenance and fit out.
- Use prudent judgment at all times concerning the safety of volunteers. Serve as a role model. Be on a first name basis with all participants. Orient new crew and volunteers to safety procedures and systems.
- Keep ship clean and orderly at all times. Personal gear should be neatly stowed. Food and dishes should be put away daily. When volunteers are on board, be considerate of safety issues.
- Positively represent Sound Experience and project SE's philosophies of care and concern for the Salish Sea.

Qualifications: The qualifications listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required for this seasonal crew position. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

- 18 years or older
- Physical ability to perform daily activities including hauling, climbing, balancing, lifting, stooping/crouching, kneeling, sitting
- Ability to pass pre-employment background check
- Complete pre-employment medical form
- Be organized and self-motivated. Strong interpersonal and leadership skills.
- Communicate clearly, effectively, and appropriately to a variety of audiences.

- Ability to interpret a variety of instructions furnished in written, oral, diagram or schedule form
- Ability to maintain high level of responsibility and accountability. Ability to monitor and supervise activities of shipmates and participants in potentially hazardous situations.
- Ability to work in an outdoor environment with inclement weather conditions.
- Ability to work well both individually and as a team member, as well as independently with small groups of students/volunteers.
- Proactive work ethic: willingness to be flexible and help in any aspects of programming necessary

Mission

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.

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