



PORT TOWNSEND SCHOOL DISTRICT

LEARNING THROUGH A SENSE OF PLACE

Summer Skills Center Program - 2018

Maritime Studies/Vessel Operations Aboard *Schooner Adventuress*

“Adventures at Sea” Contract course through West Sound Tech

Students earned 0.5 of a CTE credit in Maritime Studies/Vessel Operations aboard the Schooner *Adventuress* through a week long overnight program (www.soundexp.org).

- 10 hours of independent and online studying (for Washington State Boaters Card and Food Handler Permit)
- 80 instructional hours aboard *Schooner Adventuress* (6 days at 14+ hour days including anchor watches)
- 2 Programs offered this year (only one offered in 2017).

Students Served: 36 students served over two week long courses. 16 total students served from Port Townsend High School. Students came from Bainbridge Island, Central Kitsap, Gig Harbor, North Kitsap, Peninsula, Port Townsend, and South Kitsap School Districts.

Logistics: This was the second year of this West Sound Technical Skills Center Program. The program was run through a contract with Port Townsend School District. Kelley Watson was the lead teaching staff and curriculum organizer. Sound Experience (*Schooner Adventuress*) and West Sound Tech handled all registration. The June trip started on Bainbridge Island and cruised South Puget Sound, and the journey concluded in Seattle with a visit to Seattle Maritime Academy. The August Trip started and finished its voyage in Anacortes and the ship cruised the San Juan Islands, and completed its program with a visit to the Skagit Valley Center for Maritime Excellence.

Funding: The program is funded primarily through West Sound Tech summer school funding (FTE claimed from skills center). Each program runs at an approximate \$5000 shortfall that was funded through a private donation “Compass Courses” during the June course and through Carl Perkins Reserve Funding from the PT School District for the August course. Students paid a \$100 course fee. At least two scholarships were provided for this fee.

Content: Students fully immersed themselves in the world of sailing and working aboard the 103-year old, 133 foot sailing tall ship *Schooner Adventuress*. Students worked in watches with crew members, mates, and the captain to staff all aspects of the ship: running the deck, maintaining the vessel, standing deck and anchor watch, navigating, docking, setting and striking sails, cooking and cleaning. Students also completed a rigorous set of tasks chronicled in their “sheet anchors” through which they learned safety, knots, terminology, splicing, and navigation. Students also kept a journal of their work, job shadowed a crew member and participated in drills for crew overboard. The evening program consisted of a study of maritime careers as well as the arts of the sailor. Students left with an incredible understanding of how shipboard life works, incredible teamwork skills, and a greater sense of possible maritime careers in our state. Both trips concluded with a tour and guest speaker at a maritime trade school.

This is a powerful learning model where students immerse themselves in life aboard a historical sailing ship and gain hands on skills that are directly applicable to shipboard maritime careers.



Course Evaluations and Feedback

Student Quotes:

"That anything is possible if you try and really want it. It's a lot of work, but it is worth it."

"I learned so many things, I can hardly count them, and therefore I know this is an experience I will never forget. Every day aboard the Schooner Adventuress was a new challenge, filled with excitement, hard work, and the happiness of overcoming an obstacle."

Before I got on this boat, the Adventuress, I have had self-hatred and I always talked down to myself. I thought I would always be the same felon that every other boy in my family is. On this trip I had a lot of experience with really beautiful people and they have showed me that I have good in me, and that I have way more skills than I ever knew. Thank you for helping a kid from the gutter have strength and courage and the will to do better. P.S. Yea Boi. (an experience from the ship)

"I've learned that I can work harder and longer than I expected in 1 day and I can survive without a shower for 6."

"... it is ok to fail or not know everything, but it is not acceptable to not try."

"I really like the water and I want to have a job on it."

"Teamwork is not effective if there is no communication."

"I had always looked at the shoreside component of the maritime industry and always considered the underway side to not be for me, but after this trip and how much it taught me about something I had never really considered, I will be looking into the underway side much, much more."

