Joseph Conrad Overnight Sailing Camp Apprenticeships 2020

The Apprenticeship Program is designed to allow campers to dive deeper into a subject they find interesting during their week at camp. Small groups allow for more opportunities to do hands on activities. On Sunday evening counselors will present each apprenticeship describing the potential activities. Campers will rank them based on interest and counselors will assign them to one. The apprenticeship time blocks are Monday-Thursday, typically 4-6pm, but subject to change based on weather or scheduling around other activities.

Maritime Craftsmanship and Seamanship: Learn seamanship and other maritime trade skills. Sailors who become proficient at knot tying, splicing, and sewing earn the the right to be known as marlinspike seamen. In this apprenticeship campers will learn traditional maritime skills, explore the museum, make a ditty bag, and become a knot master! Activities also include maritime crafts such as scrimshaw, wood carving, and blacksmithing.

Marine and Environmental Science: Explore the River through the lens of science! Campers will learn about the environment, ecology, and biology of the Mystic River and Long Island Sound. Net for small fish, conduct water quality testing, and take a trip to Mystic Aquarium! Campers will gain new insights to the world around them by learning more about the environment in which they sail – science principles learned here can be applied to any waterway around the world.

Astronomy and Navigation: Explore the night sky and learn how sailors used the sun, stars and planets to guide their way. Stars were the original GPS! In the Treworgy Planetarium at Mystic Seaport Museum, you will learn celestial navigation using historic instruments, such as the sextant. Campers will learn the skill of charting and navigating using nautical instruments such as a compass, ruler and dividers, sextant, lead line, chip log, and others. Campers will gain a deeper understanding for the universe and an appreciation for how sailors explored the globe.

Boat Handling: Boost your time on the water with this apprenticeship that allows for extra time on the water. Learn the finer points of boat handling skills in a small group, and a have a chance to sail other types of boats in the fleet. Depending on the skill and interest of the group, dive deep into the racing rules of sailing or learn about rowing or powerboating.