



Joseph Conrad
OVERNIGHT SAILING CAMP
CAMPER HANDBOOK

MYSTIC SEAPORT

THE MUSEUM OF AMERICA AND THE SEA

TM

Welcome aboard!

We're excited that you will be joining us at the *Joseph Conrad* Overnight Sailing Camp at Mystic Seaport this summer.

Since 1949, the *Joseph Conrad* Overnight Sailing Camp experience has included daily sailing instruction on the Mystic River, traditional seamanship activities throughout Mystic Seaport's campus, and accommodation aboard the historic full-rigged ship *Joseph Conrad*. Built in 1882, the ship was originally used to train youth for the Danish merchant service and later circumnavigated the world with an international crew of boys; we are proud to continue the *Conrad's* tradition of youth maritime training to this day.

This handbook will help prepare you for your week-long adventure, but please don't hesitate to contact us (860-572-5322, ext. 1 or 860-572-5369) with any further questions.

We look forward to sailing with you!

The *Joseph Conrad* Crew

Program History

The Mariner Training Program, which later became the *Joseph Conrad* Overnight Sailing Camp, was established in 1949. Today, the camp hosts approximately 300 campers every summer.

The *Joseph Conrad*

The *Joseph Conrad*, originally named *Georg Stage*, was built in Copenhagen in 1882 as a training vessel for youth preparing to enter the Danish merchant marine. The ship later changed owners, was rechristened *Joseph Conrad* after the famed maritime writer, and then circumnavigated the world with a youth crew. She eventually ended up as dockside barracks for the U.S. Maritime Commission during the Second World War. In 1947, the U.S. government deeded the *Joseph Conrad* to the Marine Historical Society to run youth seamanship programs at Mystic Seaport.

Dyer Dhows

The core instructional boat at the *Joseph Conrad* Overnight Sailing Camp is the 9' Dyer Dhow, which is a multi-use sail and rowing boat originally developed as life boats during the Second World War. The boats are durable and fairly easy to operate, which makes them ideal platforms for new sailors. The Dyer Dhows and their colorful sails are a summertime fixture on the Mystic River, and have been the learning vessel of choice for thousands of sailors.

Before Arriving

Registration & Paperwork

Once you have registered for camp, you will receive an email confirmation and an invitation to create a profile on CampDoc.com for completing additional paperwork. If you have not received either email within five business days, please call our office (860-572-5322, prompt #1).

We must receive the following by **May 1**:

- Complete tuition
- Signed registration form
- Completed profile & health forms on CampDoc.com

Packing for Camp

All gear (except sleeping bag and pillow) should be packed in a duffel bag. There isn't enough space on the ship for hard suitcases. Please label your belongings.

- Sleeping bag & bottom sheet
- Pillow
- Shorts and t-shirts (for land and sailing activities)
- Sweatshirt
- Long pants
- Pajamas
- Swimsuit (2)
- Rain jacket
- **Closed-toe shoes for sailing**
- Sneakers for on land
- Toiletries
- Shower towel
- Beach towel
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Water bottle
- Flashlight
- Small backpack or drawstring bag to use daily

Optional: book, waterproof camera, stationary & stamps, journal, insect repellent, a small amount of spending money

Please do not pack cellphones and other electronics, knives, or food\gum. (A 24-hour phone number will be provided if you need to reach your child at camp.)

Medications

If your camper requires over-the-counter or prescription medications while at camp, please upload the appropriate paperwork (signed by a doctor) to your CampDoc account. State regulations require that all medications remain in their original packaging and are signed in with camp staff upon arrival. We cannot accept medications with incomplete paperwork.

Arriving at Camp

Please park in the south parking lot (across the street from the red tugboat). Enter the Museum through the south gate and head to the Sailing Center (#30 on your Map & Guide) for check-in.

Check-in begins promptly at 3 p.m.. If you arrive early, you may drop off your belongings at the Sailing Center and explore the Museum until that time. There will be a brief meeting in the classroom at the Sailing Center at 4 p.m. to welcome campers and parents.

Camper Pick-up

Camp will end with a brief closing ceremony on Friday afternoon at 1 p.m. Campers must be signed out by an authorized adult before departing.

Additional Information

Accommodations and food

The *Joseph Conrad* has been outfitted with comfortable and modern living quarters for up to 50 campers and staff. Each camper has a bunk with a comfortable mattress. The ship has flush toilets, hot water showers, electricity, heat and air conditioning, and a fire suppression system. Healthy, balanced meals are served at The Galley restaurant in the Museum. Given advance notice, we can accommodate most dietary restrictions.

Health & Safety

Safety is our first priority at the *Joseph Conrad* Overnight Sailing Camp. All staff are certified in CPR, first aid, and medication administration, and have been trained to prevent and respond to emergencies on and off the water. We adhere to strict policies regarding safe powerboat operation, concussion response, and on-the-water management. Our staff includes lifeguards and US Sailing certified instructors. All staff and campers wear PFDs and sunscreen and carry water bottles at all times while on the waterfront. The Sailing Center operates a well-equipped first aid station. In the event of a more serious incident parents will be contacted and your child will be transported to Pequot Medical Center or L & M Hospital, both less than 10 miles away.

Homesickness

It is not unusual for a camper to be a little homesick for a day or two after their arrival. By the second or third day, campers are usually so absorbed in our activities that they forget having felt homesick at all. Our staff will try to work with homesick campers to help them make friends and adjust to their new environment. Only in severe and persistent cases of homesickness will we call home. Avoid making deals with your child about coming home if they try camp. If they know they have the option to come home, they may be less likely to try to adjust to camp.

Camper Mail

If you wish to send your camper mail, please use the following address:

Camper Name
Week they are attending camp
Joseph Conrad Overnight Sailing Camp at Mystic Seaport
Haynes House
75 Greenmanville Ave.
Mystic, CT 06355

Visiting Camp

We believe camp provides an opportunity for youth to acquire self-reliance and bond through immersion in a new environment. We ask that family and friends refrain from visiting campers during their stay.

Camp Photos

Camp staff take hundreds of photos during each week of camp. Photos are uploaded to our secure Shutterfly account and shared with parents at the end of the week.

Community Standards

Conrad campers and staff are expected to meet high standards of character and responsibility. All campers participate in keeping our facilities “shipshape” and caring for our sailboat fleet. Even if attending camp with a close friend or family member, campers are expected to engage with the entire camp community and model a friendly, respectful, and open-minded attitude toward everyone. Teamwork and kindness are fundamental to everything we do at *Conrad* Camp. Please ensure that these expectations are clear to your child before their arrival.

Please note that any camper who exhibits behavior that is harmful to themselves or to others, including but not limited to bullying, theft, dishonesty, or disrespectful actions or language, or whose behavior persistently violates camp community standards, will be dismissed without refund of tuition. Camp administrators assume the right to determine when such an incident has occurred.

Any camper found possessing or using alcohol, illegal drugs, or weapons will be dismissed from camp immediately without refund of tuition.

A Typical Day

Our schedule varies day to day and week to week depending on camper ages and the weather. We have plenty of exciting activities to make each week a unique experience!

6:30 a.m.	Wake up & rig sailboats
7:00 a.m.	Clean up ship and Sailing Center
8:15 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	Morning sail activity/maritime programming
12:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:15 p.m.	Explore the Museum
2:00 p.m.	Afternoon sail activity/maritime programming
5:00 p.m.	Ship liberty (free time)
6:15 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 p.m.	Evening activities
9:30 p.m.	Lights out

We look forward to a wonderful summer with your camper!