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INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

ABOUT SHIP TO SHORE

Ahoy! We at Mystic Seaport Museum are looking forward to welcoming you, your classmates, and your teachers to Ship to Shore, our School Overnight Program. We hope this sheet will answer some of the questions you may have about the program and your stay with us. Please take some time to read these pages with your teachers or parents, so you can be best prepared for your adventure!

WHAT IS MYSTIC SEAPORT MUSEUM?

Mystic Seaport Museum is the nation's leading maritime museum in Mystic, Connecticut. Our beautiful 19-acre campus is nestled along the banks of the Mystic River. The grounds are home to several historic vessels, a recreated 19th-century village, exhibit galleries, and a working shipyard. As part of the Ship to Shore program, you can explore vessels, old buildings and learn how people lived, worked, and played on America's waterways. Not only will you see great stuff, you'll also meet great people - musicians, role-players, historians, and teachers, who help make the past come alive!

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ALL DAY?

During the day, we'll travel around the Museum, touring vessels and buildings. At night, we'll have games, special visitors, and craft activities. We've designed the trip so you'll be as busy as a 19th-century sailor! There is break time twice a day, but make sure you come ready to spend most of your time exploring and discovering. Remember, this is a school trip, so it will be both fun and educational!

WHERE WILL WE SLEEP?

You'll stay aboard the 1882 training ship *Joseph Conrad*. The ship has two large cabins which you'll share with other students. Each cabin has at least 25 bunks, which hang in sets of three from chains attached to the ceiling. There are mattresses, but you'll need to bring your own sleeping bag. Each cabin has a bathroom with showers, sinks, and toilets. Even though the ship is old, it has been modernized to provide heat, hot water, and lights.

WILL I GET SEASICK?

No one has ever become seasick during our program. The *Joseph Conrad* is firmly tied to the dock, and most people don't notice any motion at all.

WHAT'S THE FOOD LIKE?

We will eat meals at the Galley, Mystic Seaport Museum's cafeteria. The Galley serves buffet meals, providing choices whenever possible. Most students really enjoy the food. If you have any food allergies or are vegetarian or have special dietary needs, please tell your teacher so we can plan ahead.

WHAT'S THE WEATHER LIKE?

Mystic Seaport Museum is close to the ocean, and the weather can change quickly. It's usually windier here than inland. Dress in layers, so you can add or subtract clothing whenever you need to. We do nearly all of our activities no matter what the weather is like. If you don't have a raincoat that is fully waterproof, we recommend you borrow one for the trip. You'll be happiest if you are as dry and as warm as possible.

HOW SHOULD I PACK MY STUFF?

When you arrive, you'll carry your luggage just under ½ mile from the parking lot to the ship.

Pack only what you are able to carry! Please follow these packing tips:

- Stuff your sleeping bag into a stuff sack or plastic bag, so it won't unroll or get wet.
- Bring bags with straps or handles, not rolling luggage. Wheels don't work well on our gangways, stairs, and dirt roads!
- Two smaller bags are usually easier to carry than one big bag.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO MYSTIC SEAPORT MUSEUM?

Here's a list of what you should bring on your trip. Bring old clothes, and think comfort instead of style – you'll be outdoors a lot and might encounter tar, soot, mud, and ink. You'll have a better time if you don't have to worry about your clothes.

- 2 pairs of pants, and 3 shirts
- Lace-up shoes, or boots
- 3 pairs of socks
- Sweater or sweatshirt
- Raincoat
- Pajamas or sleep clothes
- Sleeping bag or sheets, and a pillow
- Towel
- Toiletries
- Books and/or a journal
- Small backpack or waist pack
- Camera
- During cold weather, also pack:
 - Heavy coat or jacket
 - Hat and gloves or mittens
 - Long underwear

WHAT SHOULD I NOT BRING WITH ME?

The following items should be left at home:

- Things that plug in: due to fire regulations, we do not plug any appliances into the outlets on the ship. If you have special equipment for medical reasons, let your teachers know and we'll find a place for it.
- Electronic games, cell phones, and personal stereos: these items are not part of the 19th-century atmosphere. You will not be permitted to use them during the program.
- Food, gum, or candy: these would attract bugs or animals to your bunk room. NO food is allowed in your luggage. We will feed you well while you're here!
- Sandals and flip-flops: these are not safe footwear for our activities. You must wear lace-up shoes, sneakers, or boots while here.
- Valuable and treasured belongings: Mystic Seaport Museum cannot be responsible for lost or damaged items.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for taking the time to read over this information. Please bring any further questions to your classroom teacher, who can discuss them with our staff if needed. We hope that you are excited to participate! Ship to Shore is a fun, adventurous and unforgettable school program. We look forward to seeing you soon!