



# Virginia Maritime Heritage Foundation

## 2008 Youth Sail Training

### Parent/Student Information Guide

#### Vessel Boarding Information

Trip: \_\_\_\_\_

Boarding date: \_\_\_\_\_ Boarding time: \_\_\_\_\_

Port: \_\_\_\_\_

Dock Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Boarding notes:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Welcome Aboard

Thank you for your interest in *Virginia*, The Commonwealth of Virginia's Goodwill Ambassador. *Virginia* is the only existing example of the pilot schooner that sailed on the Chesapeake Bay over 80 years ago. The vessel sails the globe on a mission to promote maritime heritage and the education of its youth.

*Virginia* is owned by the Virginia Maritime Heritage Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, and is governed by a Board of Directors. She depends on state, city, corporate and individual contributions, along with honorary crew memberships, souvenir sales, charter, and guest crew fees, to continue her mission around the globe.

The original *Virginia* was a pilot schooner used on the Chesapeake Bay to provide navigation services to the ship traffic entering and leaving the Chesapeake Bay. The service was vital to the safe transit of shipping. She was the last sailing pilot schooner on the Chesapeake Bay and serviced the Virginia Pilot Association from 1917 until 1926 as a station vessel off the Virginia Capes.

#### Student Travel Itinerary

The Virginia Maritime Heritage Foundation is not responsible for the transportation of sail trainees to and from the vessel. Student Transportation Forms must be completed and submitted to the Virginia Maritime Heritage Foundation office at least 30 days prior to boarding. We will provide you with ample information as to the docking location of the vessel so that it may aid in making transportation arrangements easier.

#### Emergency Contacts

The office is in daily contact with the vessel. We have various communication options available that allow instant contact with the vessel if needed. All parents will be provided with 24 hour emergency contact information while their student is on board *Virginia*.

#### Weather

*Virginia* is a well built and sturdy vessel. She was built to sail the oceans and is equipped with the latest state of the art radar and satellite system to help the captain and crew keep up with the area's weather. One of the main questions that we get from parents/guardians is "What do we do in case of a storm". We assure you that we will take precautions based on the severity of the storm and will provide up to date information on our website. Of course, you are welcome to inquire by calling the foundations office at 757-627-7400.



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#### **Students Progress**

Parents/Guardians may view student's progress during sail training by visiting our website at [www.schoonervirginia.org](http://www.schoonervirginia.org). From the front page, click on the "Where is VIRGINIA Now?" icon, this will take you to our interactive map, video's and web BLOGS. We will make updates to the site as often as we receive them from the vessel. You will also have the ability to post comments on the blogs that the kids make. We will also take pictures of the students as well as "action" pictures while the kids are underway. Please be patient, all the kids pictures will show up through out the week, some kids are shy then others and we have to work at getting their pictures.

#### **What to expect aboard Virginia**

- Sleeping quarters are amidships in the Main Salon, bunks are assigned based on watches. Like other crew accommodations, guest crew space is communal.
- Always remember that it is colder on the water. Dress wisely and bring plenty of layers of clothing. The vessel's only heat is provided by the galley stove, and there is no air conditioning!
- *Virginia's* supply of fresh water is limited. There is plenty of drinking water but hot showers may be restricted while underway depending on the length of the voyage.
- Participating in the watch system is one of the most rewarding parts of the experience. You will be able to take part in the day-to-day operations of the vessel by handling sail, standing watch, maintaining the vessel and fulfilling the other duties of a deckhand.
- While the ship is underway, there is to be quiet after 2200 hours (10:00 PM)
- Sailing aboard a traditional vessel such as *Virginia* is a unique experience. Because of the close quarters, we ask that you be courteous and respect the rights and privacy of your shipmates.
- Meals are served family style aboard *Virginia*. The vessel's cook, galley layout and the storage of supplies do not facilitate or support accommodations of individual dietary desires or religious desires of food served aboard *Virginia* other than medically known and verified allergies.

#### **Bunk Assignments**

Another one of the popular questions is "What about the sleeping quarters". *Virginia* was originally design to be a station vessel for the Virginia Pilots in 1917. They did not spend a lot of time in their bunks, so the sleeping area is in the main salon of the vessel, and is communal. There are no private cabins but each bunk has a privacy curtain and a reading light. Bunks assignments vary based on the watch schedule.

#### **Electronic Devices**

We do allow the students to bring their cell phones but they are to remain OFF while the student is on board the vessel. Because of safety concerns, students will not be allowed to wear head phones, which mean no electronic devices, MP3 players, IPODS, CD Players etc., will be allowed on the vessel. Both cell phones and other electronic devises can detract from the over-all experience.



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#### TRAVEL CHECK LIST

There are a number of items you will need to bring with you during your passage aboard *Virginia*. In order to better prepare you for the journey, we have provided you with a list that we feel is a must, we have compiled this list based on all types of weather conditions. Please keep in mind that you may get “dirty” on board the boat. Do not bring clothing with you that you do not want to get messed up. However we do suggest that you bring one set of clothing that can be saved and used for when we go ashore.

Please remember, just because it is summer time where you are, does not mean the boat is in the same type of climate or will remain in the same climate all the time.

#### Bring WARM clothes, and coats.

Foul weather gear - Rain Jacket <b>No ponchos please</b>	Sturdy Jeans or Khakis	Water proof Boots	2 Twin bed sheets (flat only)	Toiletries including sunscreen
Heavy weight sweater or sweatshirts	T-Shirts long and short sleeve	Long Johns	Pillow case for standard size pillow	Towels
Hoodies/Wind Proof Warm Jackets	Under clothes	Shorts	Hat (ball cap)	Water Bottle
Sandals with back straps	Warm hat, gloves, and scarves	Socks	Sneakers	Extra Medication

\*\*Valid passports are required for all international passages or specially if indicated by a trip\*\*

**A copy of your passport needs to be included with your application**

**Your gear should be packed in a duffle bag or other soft luggage.**

**Bunk space is ample but not generous.**

- All recreational items (camera, books, games, cards, musical instruments etc.) can be brought with you. Remember however that the gear you bring must stow in your bunk.
- Do not bring hair dryers, electric razors, or other small electric appliances that require electricity.
- A pillow and wool blankets are provided; you may bring an additional towel for swimming if applicable. If the weather will be cold, we recommend that you bring a sleeping bag.
- To fully participate in the watch system, you should bring **full foul-weather gear**. At minimum, a warm waterproof jacket or slicker is required. Remember, you will be exposed to the elements while on watch.

**If you have any questions concerning any of the information included in the packet, please call the office at (757) 627-7400. We are happy to assist you in any way we can.**