

Activity Information Acknowledgement

Seafarers' Odyssey Camp

The Ocean Institute camps are American Camp Association accredited and a new requirement for this year is a signed Activity Information Acknowledgement form. This information is to make sure parents/guardians are aware of what their child will be doing in camp and by enrolling your child in this camp you are giving them permission to participate in these activities. With your registration information you should find a parent letter and a schedule for the camp your child is attending. These details will help answer some of the questions we are often asked. The Ocean Institute is very safety conscious and works hard to make your child's camp experience the safest possible, but there is always a potential for injury. We hope the information below will help you understand some of the activities at camp so your child will have a fun and unforgettable experience.

Campers participate in a variety of hands-on activities with our instructors that range from arts and crafts, to fish dissections and water chemistry testing. While the Ocean Institute makes every effort to create a safe and fun learning environment, there are some activities that might need explanation:

Outside Activities: Boat, pier, and water activities will occur outside. In the summer this usually means in the sun with the risk of sunburn. We do provide shade for some but not all activity areas. The Ocean Institute recommends that sunscreen be applied in the morning before camp and the campers will be asked to reapply sunscreen during the day. Your child will be responsible for applying the sunscreen to themselves and may ask for another camper's help. The Ocean Institute staff or volunteers are not allowed to apply sunscreen by hand.

Physical Activities: The Seafarers' Odyssey Camp is a very physical camp. Campers will be doing a variety of activities that require physical exertion. This includes, but is not limited to: rowing heavy longboats in the harbor, climbing up rope ladders, hauling on line with equipment attached, using a traditional block and tackle system to move cargo, and balancing on a moving sailing ship at sea.

Maddie James Seaside Learning Center: We use the Maddie James Maritime Boathouse; a part of the floating Maddie James Seaside Learning Center, as our home base during the course of the camp. Students are supervised at all times and the facilities have rescue equipment readily available.

Going up the Mast in the Bosun's Chair: The campers will be lifted individually 8 – 10 feet off the deck in a traditional ship's bosun's chair. The chair will have an attached safety line manned by an instructor or trained summer camp volunteer. The campers will be supervised by an instructor.

Using Block and Tackle to Raise and Move Cargo: Campers will learn to rig and use traditional wooden blocks and tackle systems to raise and lower cargo such as barrels and cargo nets. The campers will be given line handling instructions before the activity and will be supervised during the activity by an instructor.

Capstan: A capstan is a traditional shipboard tool used to raise anchor. Campers will be required to push levers on the capstan and step over a line 6 - 12 inches above the deck as they walk in a circle. Campers will be given safety instructions before proceeding and will be supervised during the activity by an instructor.

Rowing the Longboats in the Harbor: The Seafarers' Odyssey Camp uses traditional longboats for rowing purposes. All campers and instructors will be required to wear lifejackets while in the longboat. A lifeguard in a motorized boat with a first aid kit, radio and life-saving equipment will be monitoring the activity from the water.

Laying Aloft on the Practice Yard: In the Maritime Center, the campers will climb onto the foot ropes of a replica yard. The foot ropes are 1-4 feet off the ground and there is a minimum risk of falling. There are gymnastics mats under the yard and the campers are supervised at all times.

Learning Gunnery: The campers will practice the arts of 19th century gunner aboard the *Spirit of Dana Point*. Under the supervision of instructors, campers will use an unloaded replica cannon and gunnery tools to explore how ships defended themselves.

Activities on the Brig *Pilgrim*: The brig *Pilgrim* is a tall ship built in 1945. The Brig is a fully functioning sailing ship, and therefore has equipment, lines and rooms dedicated to this function. Many of these areas are marked and off-limits to the campers. Like any wooden ship, the deck can be slippery, and parts may have exposed or rough wood. There is a safety rail around the entire vessel and campers are monitored at all times while on the vessel.

Spirit of Dana Point: *Spirit of Dana Point* is a federally documented vessel which means it does not require the use of passenger life jackets. Approved Coast Guard Certified life jackets are accessible for passengers 50 lbs. and up, but are distributed *only* in the case of an emergency. There are lines and spars under pressure, hydraulics and working pulley systems. There is a safety rail around the entire vessel and campers are monitored at all times while on the vessel. As with any vessel during times at sea, the environment of the ship can be slippery and unsteady. Safety orders are given on the first day of camp and repeated when we leave dock on the third day.

I have read the description of the program for this camp and agree that my child is physically able and prepared to participate in all camp activities/program.

I, the undersigned parent/guardian, give my permission for _____
to participate in the camp activities.

Parent or Guardian's signature

Date