

COLUMBUS SANTA MARIA OVERNIGHT PROGRAM ADULT PARTICIPATION

Night Watches: 2:00 to 6:00 a.m.

Swabbing Decks: Morning

Cooking: Evening

Although there are many ways to divide up the workload for the participating adults, winging it at the last minute is one of the weaker approaches. A suggestion would be to split the load into activities and the night watch. This way, the night watch can get some sleep early and be ready to stand a watch by 2 a.m. Or the watch could be split amongst two adults. A good book or some activity to help the time pass is nice. There is so little free time these days, it's worthwhile too look at it as an opportunity.

Night Watch:

Someone will be awake aboard, at all times.

The function of the night watch is to: maintain security, take kids to the bathrooms and give our crew a bit of sleep, too.

Someone pulling a night watch would want to get sleep early, say at the end of evening activities until 2 a.m. We have a coffee pot and a place to get out of the weather.

Our staff is to be awakened for any reason necessary. Some common ones would be: a shift in wind direction or speed, people in the park making them nervous, threatening weather, etc. The night watch must have a clear view of the gangway at all times, a good view of the park wouldn't hurt. We've never had anything approaching trouble, but we feel the best way to avoid trouble is to not tempt people. You'll have a portable phone, or one in the ticket booth.

Swabbing Decks:

Be aware of work going on around you and the people around you. Don't let yourself get hurt and don't let others get hurt. Don't assume they see you, or they know what you're doing. Take responsibility for other participants' safety.

Adults in the group will pick up directing the deck swab element. Our staff will be on deck as well (doing the climbing element). So, we'll be there for advice and quality control. Our primary focus will be on climbing and rope making, however.

Cleaning gear will be out and there will be a checklist to guide you. We want the ship swept and swabbed. For each group to get in some swabbing, quality control needs to be fairly high.

Some thoughts:

Spend a bit of time showing the dexterity of sweeping. Onboard, we need to sweep downwind.

Every job has inspection elements to it. Does something look wrong? Please tell us. Rot shows up most often in everyday maintenance. That's by design. Far better to discover rot before it's had a couple of years to propagate.

Salt water is swabbed onto decks. The salt soaks into the wood and provides a hostile environment for the rot spores to grow in.

We all know water flows down hill. Why is the boat shaped like this? Standing water is like sailors with nothing to do- sooner or later, there's gonna be trouble. Water should have a continuous path off the ship. This detail provides much work for the ship builder. Can you find the detail where a design mistake was made?

Cooking:

We'll have a snack available before dinner of apples, oranges, cheese, or whatever we could procure in our last port.

This will entail cutting food. We'll have butter knives and a few sharp knives. The rule for sharp knives is: THEY STAY ON THE TABLE. If they must travel away from the table, than they will be placed in their container- be it sheath, or box.

Once the firebox is lit, the decks will be kept continuously wet. 2 five gallon buckets will be on hand. There must be one full bucket at all times. A wet mop is a good fire extinguisher. Also, in the immediate vicinity, will be a true canister fire extinguisher.

Let's keep the fire as small as will stay hot while we're cooking. This is a risk. Let's minimize it. Cooking is done on coals, not flames.

The deck is wet. Slipping is a possibility. Walk, don't run and maintain stable footing. The menu and recipe are onboard, as will be everything else needed to get the meal cooked.

Have a Great Voyage!