

## Welcome Aboard!

Your child is about to disembark on an adventure of a life time at the Santa Maria. Life on board ship is not easy and sailors need to be prepared for whatever happens. Listed here is information that can help you get your crew member ready for smooth sailing.

We have found that some children need to be prepared with certain information before they arrive. Discuss with your child the excitement of trying new things, experiencing new environments. Activities like climbing the rigging are likely a once in a life time opportunity and should, at least, be tried.

Children often find that sleeping outside, on board ship, intimidating. Children who experience homesickness will often struggle the most with with this. Pointing out that they will be with their friends and adults that they can trust, will help.

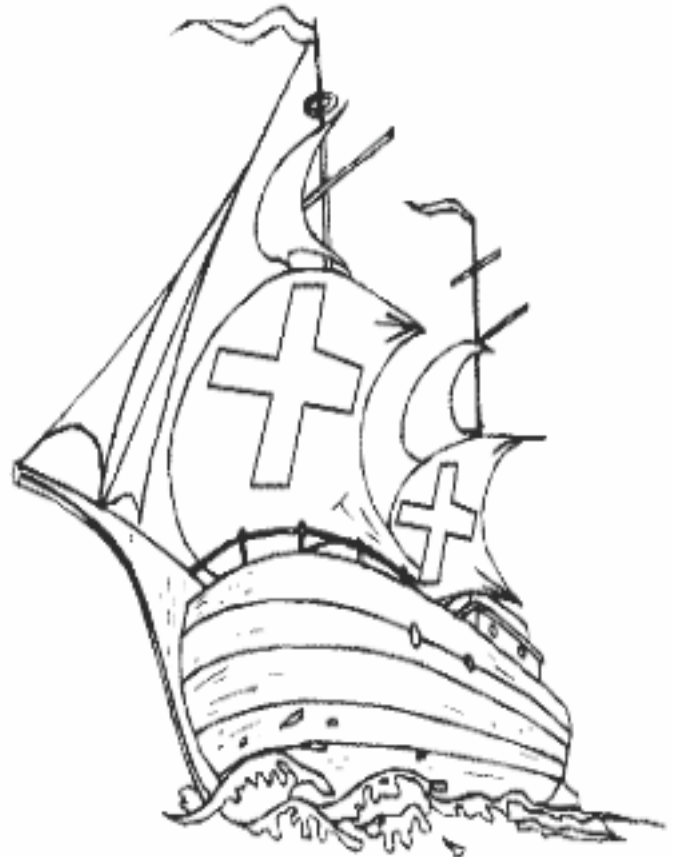
Inclement weather can also be difficult for children to face. The Santa Maria is outside, and all activities, including sleeping, are done outside. Sending your child with enough warm weather gear or extra dry clothes will help get everyone

through rough seas

### What to bring.

- Warm sleeping bag
- Plastic mug
- Weather gear
- Warm clothes: hat, gloves, jacket if weather warrants
- One change of clothes
- Toothbrush, small towel, miscellaneous hygiene articles
- Signed permission, emergency medical forms
- Tennis shoes that tie tight

\*Pack *all* gear in a large trash bag with crew member's name taped on the outside. This keeps all belongings together and dry from possible river water splash. Consider packing a second trash bag incase first bag tears.



### What not to bring.

- Jewelry
- Games or toys
- Weapons; real or toy
- Gum, candy, sodas, ect.
- Electrical anything: iPods, phones, ect.
- Matches, lighters, fireworks
- Watches
- Sandals, flip flops, any shoe that has an open toe and does not tie.
- Flashlights (adults may bring one)
- Sleeping cots

## Letters From Home

Consider writing a letter to your children as if it were the year 1492. These should be secretly delivered to your group leaders, and then passed to Santa Maria Overnight Staff to deliver when time allows.

Imagine the amazement of the crew when they read a letter to them from their parents telling of life back in Spain. They can be comical, written by an abandoned loved one, like the child's pet or sibling, but should attempt to recreate the news and atmosphere of 1492.

### -Topics that can be included

- Columbus' sailors were away from home for over a year.
- Women are not aboard the Santa Maria (did your daughter sneak aboard to find adventure?)
- The Roman Catholic Church governs all aspects of these sailors lives, daily prayers and all religious holidays were strictly celebrated
- All Jews and Moors(Northern African Muslims) have just been evicted from Spain or forced to convert to Christianity.
- Ferdinand and Isabella, the King and Queen, have just united Iberia (Spain) for the first time, by fighting the Moors out of Spain. They needed the profits of trade with the East Indies and were eagerly awaiting news from Columbus and his crew
- The Spanish Inquisition was in full swing.
- Life on ship could be dull, and dangerous.
- Food on ship was very bland. Ship Biscuits (A very hard cracker) made up two of a sailor's meals each day, and if the weather allowed, the cook would make a bean and rice stew that was very salty. Fruit was part of the meals, while it lasted.

If you have the time, use a thick paper and stain with tea, or burn the edges. Paper can be rolled up and tied with a ribbon.

Make sure the sailor's name is on the outside, so that it can be delivered correctly.