

COLUMBUS SANTA MARIA SAFETY OFFICER INTRODUCTION

Welcome aboard! You will soon be participating in an exciting voyage aboard the Santa Maria. The program is uniquely designed to teach history using a hands-on approach. Students will be reliving the life of a 15th century sailor as he "explores" the mysteries of the New World. In addition to the program's historical instruction, students are encouraged to learn problem-solving skills and experience lessons in responsibility. Group involvement is stressed.

As a safety officer, you will sign aboard as one of the "geenhands" (inexperienced crew) with the understanding that you are a passive participant. The student first mate will be told that you are another hand on his/her crew. Play along with the role; always be ready to lend your help, but let the children do the problem solving. It is the process, not the progress that our program encourages. The students will look to you for answers and other behavioral clues. We can't stress enough that your attitude influences the flavor of the entire voyage.

NIGHT WATCH

A major responsibility as safety officer is to assist your crew standing night watch. A logbook contains some helpful hints as to what is involved, but basically you will keep an eye out for the safety of the watch and motivate the students during their duty.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Read up on Columbus and his times.
2. Familiarize yourself with the basic terminology: Aye, avast, carry on, etc. - Consider signing on for a crew other than your child's.
3. Dress the part: a sailor of the era would have worn a loose linen smock and tights of a sort. Anything nautical is great: striped shirt, watch cap, bandana. It all adds to the flavor of the voyage.
4. Bring foul-weather gear in case of rain (watch is stood rain or shine).
5. Bring a sleeping bag and pillow. Safety officers may use the straw mattresses to soften the hard decks!

Participants in the program are meant to recreate the austere life of a sailor in 1492. However, they are 20th century children and will be extremely uncomfortable if they do not bring adequate warm clothing, proper rain gear, and tennis shoes for safety on the decks and other appropriate attire.

Since this is an in-depth experience, we recommend that participants wear old clothes. Remember, each member of all the crews will stand a 45-minute night shift outside on the deck of the ship. Also, all participants will sleep outside on the decks of the ship. They should be prepared for all types of weather. A sunny day can turn into a foggy, windy, wet night. Covered areas are provided for inclement weather.