

Becoming a Tallship Trainee

Sail Training is an activity that involves bringing young people to sea on the Tallships for a number of days and nights. These “trainees” are the voyage crew of the ships and are involved in operating every aspect of it.

This includes:

- Keeping watch,
- Keeping the log
- Navigating
- Steering the ship
- Setting the sails
- Climbing the rig and working aloft (optional)
- Anchoring
- Cleaning the ship
- Cooking and serving
- Other tasks involved in sailing a Tallship
- At all times, the trainees are under the supervision of the permanent crew, watch leaders, and bosun’s mates

The value of the Sail Training experience to the young people involved lies in the development of “life-skills”.

- Crewing on a Tall Ship offers a challenging adventurous environment.
- For the ship to operate and perform well in a race, trainees on board have to pull their weight and contribute to the overall team effort.
- They will meet many challenges along the way, both mental and physical, individually and within the team.

Results of this experience are:

- An increase in self confidence in taking on challenges
- Development of interpersonal social skills
- Ability to work within a team in a challenging environment
- New international friends and a sense of adventure.

Research commissioned by Sail Training International and carried out at The University of Edinburgh has verified the above outcomes. The results of this research are attached to this letter.

Open Information Days – February 17th, 18th and 19th

Open information days are planned for next weekend - February the 17th, 18th and 19th. These will take place in the CHQ building in the “Irish Financial Services District” of Dublin 1, between 12.00 and 18.00 each day. Anyone that is interested in finding out more about the Tall Ships event and how young people can become trainees onboard is invited to attend. General information on the event, how to become a volunteer and information on the ships that will attend next August, will also be available on these dates.

Funding Opportunity

Limited funding is available, by application, to residents of the Dublin City Council Administrative Area (map provided). There is a specific set of criteria that these young people must meet:

- Must reside in Dublin City Council Administrative Area
- Applicants **must** be nominated by local youth organisation
- Must be aged 18-25 years
- Two references must be provided
- A minimum contribution will be required
- Fundraising may be necessary
- Trainees will be required to sign a contract/code of conduct
- Trainees will be required to provide feedback
- Closing date for applications: 11th March, 17.00

Applications

If you wish to apply for this funding please:

- Log on to www.dublinalships.ie/trainees/ and fill in the online registration form
- Within the form at question 11 there is an option to apply for the Dublin City Tall Ships Fund. Tick the box and click to reveal the application form.
- It is important to fully read and understand the application criteria (above) before applying
- All applications will be checked for eligibility and then placed in a lottery. The lottery will place applicants in a queue for funding and as opportunities arise they will be offered to applicants according to their position in this queue
- If you are involved in a youth organisation and wish to nominate young people you may assist them in filling out this application form
- If an organisation wishes to nominate a number of young people they may do so
- The organisers are dedicated to a policy of “Access for all”. In this regard, a number of places aboard “The Lord Nelson” have been reserved for trainees with varying degrees of physical disability. This ship is specially designed to cater for varying degrees of disabilities. Please see www.dublinalships.ie/trainees/ for further details.

Other Opportunities

- Other opportunities exist which may offer some financial assistance to prospective trainees
- Examples are:
 - Sail Training Ireland for Youth Development (STIYD) – Bursary Scheme – Supported by Sail Training International (STI)
 - Oman Bursary Scheme, administered by STI
 - Youth Exchange funding through Léargas
 - Youth Exchange through “At Sea Sail Training” (The Netherlands)
 - Sponsorships
- As these opportunities develop, the trainee recruitment team will administer them. Any one that has registered their interest on the website will be considered.
- Therefore it is important to fill out the first part of the registration form (Questions 1-10) regardless of whether or not you are eligible for the Dublin City Tall Ships Fund.
- Anyone that has registered online will be invited to attend the open days in February.

Comments from Past Trainees

“I was ecstatic to be heading out onto the open sea. Feeling the roll of the water underfoot again was like heaven. The sun broke out from behind the clouds making the ship (freshly painted) gleam as the water beneath sparkled.”
Chloe Cass, Lord Nelson, Tallships 2011

“Whilst at sea I climbed aloft the main mast and continued right to the top, which was slightly terrifying but incredibly satisfying at the same time, I could feel the adrenaline running through my body and it was a truly unbelievable experience”
Cormac Hederman, Lord Nelson, Tallships 2011

“Probably the most memorable and rewarding element of the entire experience was the interpersonal connections, which were made on-board among the crew. It wasn’t the hustle and bustle required to brace the yards, or the rush of adrenaline experienced scaling the mast while your life temporarily lies in the hands of your harness, nor the incredible scenery, sunrises and sunsets which became part of the daily routine.

Hearing about the crew’s various backgrounds and circumstances make you appreciate how precious our health & mobility can be at times. Hearing personal stories of the path to disability and gaining an insight into fellow crew members’ everyday courage and adversity is reward enough on a voyage such as this, never mind the pleasure of sailing on one of the most breathtaking types of ship to sail the seven seas. It is only when on-board a truly remarkable vessel such as the Lord Nelson that one begins to realise that the disabled in our community are limited solely by opportunity.”

Irish Naval Cadets O’Brien and Chute, Lord Nelson, Tallships, 2011

“The next few days of racing are just a blur of trimming sails, raising sails, lowering sails, trying to walk (and sleep) when the boat is heeled over, checking the position of

the main competition, eating, sleeping and spending free time getting to know the different people on the boat along with trying to learn as much as possible about sailing as you can (there is so much to know and the crew always have answers to your questions)."

Johnathon Backus, Wylde Swan, Tallships 2011

"I've little knowledge of anything to do with sailing and had heard little about the Tall Ships before I signed up to take part... it turned out to be one of the greatest experiences in my life.... As a trainee you learn about every part of life as a sailor, from the food, climbing the masts, mopping the deck and perhaps cleaning the odd toilet! The work can be hard at times, particularly when you get little sleep during the days. Nevertheless every second is magical."

Steven Sheehy, Sorlandet, Tallships 2011

Attached Appendices

- Map of the Dublin City Council Administrative Area
- Sail Training international "Edinburgh Report" executive summary

Related Websites

- www.dublintallships.ie
- www.irishsailtraining.com
- www.sailtraininginternational.org