



Bayshore Center at Bivalve
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Student Information and Permission Slip

Welcome Aboard! You will soon be boarding the award-winning schooner A.J. MEERWALD, New Jersey's official Tall Ship. We wish to acquaint you with our education programs and provide you with the information you will need to have a safe, enjoyable and educational sailing trip. During your time on the schooner, if you have any questions about the boat or something you see, please ask a crewmember. They are there for your safety, education and to make sure you have the best time possible.

About the Estuary/Your Watershed - If you are coming onboard the schooner, most likely you live in the Delaware Estuary watershed. That is all the land that drains into the Delaware River and Bay. If you traced the course of a raindrop from your home, it would eventually flow into the Delaware Estuary. In recent years, in cleaning up the pollution of the Delaware, people have come to realize that the actions of each of us on land, affects the health of the estuary. When you leave the schooner, we hope that you will have a new appreciation for your surroundings, your watershed, your heritage, and your role in their conservation.

About the Schooner – The A.J. MEERWALD is a historic oyster schooner, built specifically for oystering on the Delaware Bay. She was built in 1928 at Charles Stowman & Sons Shipyard in Dorchester, NJ on the Maurice River. The Maurice River cove, where the Maurice River meets the Delaware Bay, was the center of the prosperous South Jersey oyster industry for many years; at one time as many as 500 boats and 4,000 people oystered on the Bay.

The schooner served as a U.S. Coast Guard fireboat on the Delaware during World War II. After the oyster industry collapsed in the late 1950's, she was converted to a clamming vessel. By 1979, she was idle. In April 1996, after an eight-year historically accurate restoration, she began a new career as a sailing classroom in the Delaware Estuary and throughout the region. In 1998, the schooner was designated as New Jersey's official Tall Ship.

What to Wear – We sail rain or shine; cancellation for weather is rare. Wear old clothing that can get dirty! Wear a windbreaker or preferably rain gear with a sweatshirt or multiple layers underneath that can be taken off if you get too warm. It is always cooler and windier on the water than it is on land. Wear comfortable shoes or sandals with heel straps, no leather-soled shoes or flip flops as they are dangerous on deck.

What to Bring – You may bring a small backpack if you wish. Bring a mug or water bottle (non glass)—we have drinking water but you must bring your own container. Other suggested items are sun protection, sunglasses, sunscreen, hat or a cap, binoculars or a camera with a wrist strap.

(Permission Slip requires parent or guardian signature.)

Safety – The schooner is equipped with all safety equipment required by the U.S. Coast Guard, and the crew is fully trained in its use. The Captain will give a short safety talk before leaving the dock; you **MUST** pay close attention for everyone’s safety. There are life jackets onboard for everyone. The Captain will show you where they are and how to wear them. All students in groups that include children in the 8th grade and younger will be required to wear life jackets.

For safety, please obey these rules:

1. Follow all instructions of the Captain and crew.
2. No running on the schooner docks or anywhere else on the property.
3. Speak quietly and pay attention to what’s going on around you. Be especially quiet when the boat is leaving or coming in to the dock.
4. Do not litter! Trash, especially plastic, is dangerous to many animals; birds, fish and turtles can be hurt or killed by it. It is also ugly. We have a “carry in, carry out” policy; please take all of your trash with you when you leave.
5. No gum chewing or smoking onboard.
6. If you break or lose something, don’t worry about anyone getting upset. However, please report it to a crewmember so it can be fixed or replaced.
7. Do not go below decks except with a crewmember; that space is crew living quarters.
8. Please do not trespass on our neighbor’s property.

DO NOT BRING! Chewing gum, Cigarettes, illegal drugs or alcohol, CD players, iPods, or weapons of any kind including knives

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BAYSHORE CENTER AT BIVALVE PERMISSION SLIP

I hereby grant permission for (name of minor) _____, age _____ to board the A.J. MEERWALD and take part in an educational expedition on the Delaware Estuary and/or its tributaries, other coastal rivers, and/or the Atlantic Ocean, sponsored by the **Bayshore Center at Bivalve, Inc.** I agree to release and forever discharge the **Bayshore Center at Bivalve, Inc.**, their Officers, Board of Trustees, Employees, Agents and Volunteers, the A.J. MEERWALD and it Officers, Crew and Volunteers (herein after “Released Parties”) from any and all liability, damages, claims or causes of action, arising out of or in any way connected with the minor’s boarding, participation in the expedition or any transportation or unnamed visitations. I acknowledge that the **Bayshore Center at Bivalve, Inc.** reserves the right to videotape, photograph or record any activity associated with this educational trip for documentary or promotional use. I further agree to indemnify and hold forever harmless liability, damages, claims or causes of action made or brought by the said minor or by anyone on behalf of the minor as a result of or in any way connected with the minor’s boarding or participation in the expedition.

Please Print
Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Signature _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Group/School _____ Sail Date _____