

FRIENDSHIP OF SALEM VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Volunteers are essential to *Friendship of Salem*. We meet all year-round at work sessions held on Salem's historic waterfront. The following questions and answers will give you more information about what we do.

What do *Friendship of Salem* volunteers do?

Friendship of Salem volunteers engage in a wide variety of activities. Some take place on land in the Rigging Shed near where the ship is berthed; others take place aboard ship. All volunteers work under the supervision of the National Park Service riggers, who also serve as the ship's officers (mates).

Volunteers make sailing of the *Friendship of Salem* possible because they are the crew. They climb the rigging, set and furl the sails, haul the lines and do all of the things that sailors have been doing for hundreds of years. Not all volunteers climb the rigging; you can work on deck, yet still get great enjoyment from helping to sail this beautiful ship.

There are no words to express the feeling that comes from being aboard when *Friendship of Salem*'s heeling, her 17 sails are full of wind, and she's surging forward through the sea. It is for just this experience that each year, many volunteers donate both their time and labor to maintaining the handsome full-rigged wooden vessel.

When *Friendship of Salem* is in port, volunteers perform a myriad of jobs, including making and repairing all types of lines, repairing sails and yards, and much, much more. Here's a list of just a few of the jobs volunteers may do at a work session:

- Make or repair belaying pins and cleats
- Make or repair nets and sword mats
- Make or repair Jacob's ladders
- Prep and paint surfaces
- Carpentry
- Sweep the ship's decks
- Oil wood blocks and deadeyes
- Send yards aloft
- Clean the ship's bilges
- Marine electrical or plumbing

When *Friendship of Salem* sails, volunteers serve under her captain and three mates. When she takes part in special events, such as the annual Salem Maritime Festival or events at other ports, volunteers also welcome visitors aboard and answer their questions. On these occasions, many volunteers dress in period clothing of the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century.

Is training available?

Training is a vital element in the safe operation of *Friendship of Salem* and to that purpose the NPS staff is very much dedicated.

Because *Friendship of Salem* operates primarily with a volunteer crew, and the levels of knowledge and capability can vary considerably from individual to individual, we have

implemented Seamanship Standards of Training (SST) to ensure that crew members perform using safe, consistent methods of operation.

Training is provided mostly during work sessions by the NPS staff and is concentrated in three major areas: Safety, Seamanship and Navigation. Eventually this training will be carried out by volunteers who have been selected and trained by NPS staff.

The NPS staff maintains a volunteers' database that includes records of attendance at training sessions, demonstrations of knowledge, and a note of individuals' abilities. All volunteers are encouraged to attend trainings and to earn a Rating of either Ordinary or Able-Bodied Seaman.

Where do volunteers meet?

Volunteers meet at work sessions aboard *Friendship of Salem* on Derby Wharf or at the Rigging Shed on Central Wharf in Salem. The mates assign and supervise the work to be done. Occasionally, such as when the ship is in the dockyard for an overhaul, work is done away from Salem.

How often do volunteers meet?

Volunteers are active all year round. Work sessions are held on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 9 PM and on Saturdays from 9 AM to 3 PM. There are usually no work sessions the first week of the month, nor when the ship is away from Salem (out sailing).

There's no "attendance requirement" for volunteers. But the NPS staff maintains a record of attendance at work sessions and of the total number of hours each volunteer logs. This is because space aboard ship for sailing events is limited, and priority is given to those volunteers who have attended most. Also, the more often you attend, the more you learn!

What's a typical work session like?

When you arrive at a work session, the mate in charge will have a list of jobs that need to be done. Some can be completed in an hour or less, and others in an evening, while some require days or weeks. The mate will assign you to a job. For example, you and several other volunteers might be scraping peeling paint off the jollyboat and then sanding the surface so the boat can be repainted.

If you finish your job before the work session ends, the mate will give you another task. There's no need to worry if you don't know how to do it; you'll work with a more experienced volunteer. Volunteering aboard *Friendship of Salem* is a great way to learn new skills and to make new friends.

Do I need to know much about boats to become a volunteer?

Seamanship experience is certainly an advantage, but it's not required. Many volunteers have little or no knowledge of the sea or of boats before joining. It's more important to be able to work well with others and to be willing to learn new skills. As mentioned earlier, Seamanship Standards Training (SST) is available, and every volunteer is encouraged to take advantage of it.

What are the physical requirements to be a volunteer?

Working on *Friendship of Salem* can be strenuous, especially for those who choose to climb the rigging to work the sails on the yards. If volunteers have any health concerns or known limitations, it is important for them to let the NPS staff know. This way the staff can assign them work that won't compromise their safety or good health.

Do I have to climb the rigging to be a volunteer?

No; climbing is not required. Many of our current most active volunteers choose not to climb. Climbing, which is always done wearing a safety harness, is open to both men and women.

How often does *Friendship of Salem* sail?

Friendship of Salem currently sails three to five times a year, between May and September. Trips can last a single day, in the case of sail training, or as long as a week, especially when the ship is invited to take part in a special event. On extended sails, during the night the ship is normally either at another distant dock or lying at anchor. At least once during the sailing season, the ship has one full-night sail that entails the use of watches.

What do I need to do to get to sail on *Friendship of Salem*?

At the present time, *Friendship of Salem* is not yet certified to take members of the public to sea, so only active volunteers and National Park Service staff are permitted to sail. We hope she'll be certified within another year.

How do I sign up to become a volunteer?

Use the sign-up form available on this web site or come to one of the Tuesday evening or Saturday daytime work sessions to see what a session is like. If, at the end of the session, you think you'd like to sign up as a volunteer, you can ask the mate for a volunteer form.