Proctor Academy Ocean Classroom.

Please Read thoroughly prior to filling out release forms!

This information is for students and parents to review thoroughly prior to signing and submitting the required release forms.

Ocean Classroom began in 1994 with the major goal to provide students with a truly unique hands-on immersion life experience. While onboard a traditional schooner, students are placed in challenging and rewarding positions throughout their voyage as the vessel moves along the eastern seaboard of the United States and into Caribbean waters.

The Ocean Classroom program is run in partnership with the World Ocean School (offices in both Boston, MA and St. Croix VI). In this partnership, both Proctor Academy and WOS work together in hiring crew and providing staff training in preparation for Proctor’s voyage. Beyond professional licensure, the schooner Roseway is fully certified and inspected as a Sailing School Vessel (SSV). Roseway is an impressive vessel and the perfect ship for our program! Take a few minutes and check out the website. You can learn all about the schooner’s history and restoration as well as how the World Ocean School functions. https://worldoceanschool.org/

The backbone of the program is centered around the practice that students are not passengers during their term on Ocean Classroom! Rather, they are active crew members aboard the vessel. From the first day of the term, students are divided into “watches”, which is the core working group on this and any ocean-going vessel. Answering directly to their professional watch officers, each student begins a training period that really never ends. Students’ progress from being novices relative to vessel handling and overall seamanship skills to experienced “salts” by the end of the voyage. In addition to their crew responsibilities, students take on a full academic load and earn credits in the following courses: marine science, maritime literature, maritime history, navigation and applied mathematics, and Ocean Classroom seamanship skills. Additional skill development revolves around all of those things incumbent in simply living and working together on a ship in a way that ensures a safe, productive and enjoyable environment.

In order to achieve the goals of the program it is very important at the outset of the program that both students and parents clearly understand the following regarding communications and visitations during the program. These Rules are designed to enhance the students experience by allowing them to unplug and focus during their time at sea and in port.

1. When the students arrive at Camp Kenwood for the beginning of the Program, the student’s cell phones will be collected. Their phones will be returned to them at the end of the voyage prior to their departure from the airport at the port of destination.

2. during the voyage one (1) phone call will be allowed home on a World Ocean School phone.

3. Parents are encouraged to come to the send-off in Boston on September 17 and are certainly welcome to greet the ship when it comes into the port of destination. During the voyage we ask that all family members, friends and acquaintances stay clear of the ship during the course of the voyage. There are ample opportunities to view the progress of the voyage by viewing daily blogs that are posted on the WOS web page, Proctor’s web page and to track the vessel on One of the Marine traffic applications.

4. During the course of the term there will be two designated mail drop and pick up locations.
Program Cost
For Boarding students, the program cost is built into the boarding tuition structure. For Day students the cost for the coming year will be $8500.00

Preterm Reading
We have selected two books that we think will give you a very good introduction to being immersed in the marine environment aboard a tall ship. The first is “Oceans of Life” by Callum Roberts and the second is the classic tale of the Whaleship Essex “In the Heart of the Sea” by Nathaniel Philbrick.

Start of the Term
The first day of the term are at Camp Kenwood in Wilmot N.H. The camp is 3.4 miles away from the Proctor campus.

• Students should arrive in Andover with only the gear that will be going with them on Ocean Classroom
• Upon arrival, all students should have their summer reading requirements completed.
• Additionally, students will turn in all medicines (prescription and otherwise), cell phones, and all other electronics to the Ocean Classroom Educators.
• Computers are not allowed on Ocean Classroom. Please don’t arrive with them. They will be left behind!

Sample Voyage Itinerary
• Sunday September 13- Ocean Students Arrive Camp Kenwood
• Monday September 14- Ocean Students Depart for Hurricane Island- 1:00 PM Ferry
• Thursday September 17- Ocean Students Depart Hurricane at 7:00 AM arrive Fan Pier Boston at 1:00 PM
• 3:00 PM-4:00 PM Open ship for Family visits- Departure Event at the Fish Pier following open ship
• Depart Boston for the Gulf of Maine
• Time in/around Maine--focus on seamanship, getting to know The Roseway, day trip into Castine. Hike Somme Sound.
• Gloucester--deck tours of Adventure, Gloucester Heritage Museum and Aquarium
• New Bedford--Whaling Museum, walking tours, Panorama
• New York (pending dockage in Colgate): Ellis Island and Liberty Island
• Enter Chesapeake at Southern entrance.
• Norfolk--Naval Museum, Nautilus, provisioning and laundry, YMCA showers for students?
• Charleston--aquarium, plantations, mid-terms. Probable Brooks visit.
• Savannah--donor things, ghost tour to kick off Halloween- Students receive mail!
• Depart for St. Croix, do finals while underway
• St. Croix--service projects, snorkeling (students can plan out final stops around USVI and Puerto Rico)
• San Juan--exploring Old San Juan, El Morro, etc., Swizzle, students Depart.
• Saturday November 23- Jet Blue 3:10 Boston 6:17 Pm Flight #462
• Please no parental visits during journey- see Brooks’ letter.

Clothing and Equipment List- Subject to updating
• A good place for one stop shopping is “Grundens” for foul weather gear.
  https://shop.grundens.com/
• These products are also sold through such distributors as West Marine.
• Also keep in mind that you can borrow gear from past Ocean students.
• Students will be limited to one (normal!) duffel bag-sized pack for their clothing items on the ship. In addition, students should have a day pack to carry their academic books and supplies.
• Remember, everything that you bring lives in your bunk area!!!
• No scented deodorant or cologne!!!!

Clothing
• Sturdy work pants 2 pair of Carhart’s
• 2-3 pairs of shorts.
• Warm outer layers for cool weather/night sailing (e.g., wool sweater, wool hat, fleece/pile clothing, etc.).
• Long underwear for northern parts of the voyage.
• Soft-soled shoes –Teva’s or Chaco’s and a pair of sneakers for running, hiking, work on deck.5 pairs of sock.
• Smart wool no cotton
• Hat w/visors (ball caps).
• T-shirts (5) that you don’t mind getting dirty.
• Underwear (8 pair).
• Light towel and facecloth (1).
• Swimming suit.
• DRESS CODE QUALITY CLOTHES! This is for excursions ashore. You must have a nice pair of khakis button down shirt skirt and blouse. Also, appropriate tops are required when ashore. In many parts of the Caribbean it is considered an insult to the local culture if you wear revealing clothes around town.

Equipment
• Inexpensive waterproof analog watch with backlight to tell time at night
• Insulated Mug with a handle
• Chapstick SPF
• Polarized Sunglasses with croakies
• Burt’s Bees towelettes- Or non-scented baby wipes
• Sturdy, mid-sized knife (approximately 4” blade) for rigging work. No folding knives please.
• Sea bag or duffel as luggage. No hard suitcases please.
• Headlamps with infrared bulb.
• Battery powered clip-on small fan (really nice in the Caribbean…). Not needed
• Crazy Creek-type chair (great for class on deck…).
• Foul weather gear and sea boots.
• Light gloves for up north
• Mid-weight sleeping bag.
• Personal hygiene items/toiletries.*
• Extra pair of eyeglasses/ extra contacts (if appropriate).
• Sturdy pair of sunglasses.
• Sunscreen- Lotion only not spray as it leaves a sticky surface.
• Mal de mar medicine (motion illness) – Bonine is good as its non-drowsy
• Musical instrument – Penny whistle Yuke- Guitar
• Go pro type camera optional
• Gear hammock – small mesh for over bunk.- Not needed provided.
• Academic supplies (pens, pencils, notebooks, etc.).
• Snorkeling equipment – the ship carries gear. It’s a matter of personal preference if you want your own.
• Several gallon-sized Ziplock-type bags. A wide range of uses!
• Water bottle.
• No Coffee and No personal Food

Return Flight Information
Proctor arranges group flights. The Ocean Classroom term ends in San Juan, Puerto Rico coinciding with the start of Proctor’s Thanksgiving vacation. All students will disembark from the ship at voyage end and will either be part of the group flight back to Boston (Logan Airport) or make their own flight arrangements. For students who are part of the group flight, tickets will be purchased with your program deposit and additional balance. The return flight from Puerto Rico to Boston will be determined.

Passports
• Valid with at least three months to expire.

Spending Money
• Please be somewhat conservative with regards to spending money. While there are opportunities to spend money at various ports of call, there is no need to be extravagant. Somewhere in the vicinity of $350 (US) should suffice. ATMs will be available at all ports.

• Additionally, students are responsible for paying for their baggage check fee at the airport at program end. All students must plan accordingly.

Health and Immunizations
There are no additional required immunizations to participate in Ocean Classroom beyond standard immunizations. However, it is certainly appropriate to consult with your family doctor with regards to the fact that you will be entering parts of the Caribbean that are in various states of development. After more than 25 years of programming, we have not had any issues with regards to standard immunizations.

• You may choose to acquire travel insurance in the off chance that your child needs to be evacuated from the program. This is not a requirement. This is simply something that you may want to consider. You may already have this level of coverage in your insurance policy.

Shipboard Safety Issues
The Ocean Classroom program holds safety as its top priority. The professional crew who work in our program are trained and licensed in accordance with United States Coast Guard regulations.

Professional positions manned on board include:
1. Master of the Vessel
2. Chief Mate
3. Second Mate
4. Third Mate
5. Engineer
6. 5 Deck Hands
7. 3 Academic Instructors
8. Cook
9. Medical Officer – Wilderness First Responder level at minimum.

Crew of 15 and 21 Student shipmates = 36 aboard vessel

Rules and Regulations
• It is absolutely critical that any student wishing to participate in Ocean Classroom understands and abides by the rules and regulations established for this program. Life at sea demands that decision-making by each student is sound. Issues of trust and safety are directly linked to this. As Program Director, I will not waver in enforcing these rules. As such, please read the following sections carefully!

Ocean Classroom is a one-strike program
• Failure to abide by the rules and regulations outlined in Proctor’s Green Book will result in removal from the program at the earliest prudent opportunity at parents’ expense and the loss of academic credit for the Ocean Classroom term. The statement above relates to, but, is not restricted to: the use and/or possession of illicit drugs, alcohol and tobacco products. In addition, social behaviors that put oneself and/or others at risk or jeopardizes the integrity of the program will result in dismissal from the program and loss of academic credit.

Please understand that the severity of this response is due to the following:
• Your behavior plays a direct role in the lives of fellow crew members.
• Trust is critical in the safe and successful operation of this program.
• You will be making port stops in foreign countries where the legal response to certain violations will result in incarceration. Really!

Academic Overview
Proctor’s Ocean Classroom program embodies the concept of “experiential education”. The academic curriculum dovetails with everyday life aboard the ship and is integrated in a way that allows for transferability from one course to the next. For example, coastal marine resource issues are clearly tied to regional socioeconomic issues. Navigation skills are directly tied to the work that takes place during watch. And so forth…

Ocean Classroom earn credits in the following areas: Marine Science, Maritime Literature, Maritime History, Applied Mathematics/Navigation, and Ocean Classroom Skills. The academic courses are graded with both numerical and effort grades. Ocean Classroom Skills encompasses all of the seamanship work that is done during the voyage and is reflected in an effort grade.

Due to voyage scheduling, there is not a formal midterm grade that corresponds to Proctor’s calendar. Rather, each family will receive a broad academic performance notice approximately halfway through the voyage.

When all the required paperwork is submitted, we will require a copy of your son or daughter’s passport. We will also have an informational meeting Spring Family Weekend and an orientation for the group in the final weeks of the spring term.

If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 603-344-1488.

Regards,
Brooks Bicknell
Program Director