

Ahoy there!

My name is Sharon Litcofsky, and I am the Port Captain of the sailing ship *Kalmar Nyckel*. The Kalmar Nyckel is a recreation of a 17<sup>th</sup> century square-rigged ship which is maintained and sailed mainly by a volunteer crew. We have over 300 active volunteers who support the ship and Foundation, complimenting the four ship's staff, and four office staff. The crew comes from all walks of life, bringing various skills and experiences to the organization.

Maintenance occurs mainly in the fall-spring months in Wilmington, DE at our shipyard. Volunteers helping with maintenance come on both weekend and weekday work days. There is always work to do! To become involved in maintenance, e-mail me during the maintenance season (November-April). No experience necessary, we'll teach you how to maintain this wooden vessel.

We also train volunteers to become sailing crew twice during the year. One class is in Wilmington, DE in the winter for 11 all-day Saturdays, and the other class is in the summer for 2 ½ weeks (class size limited, location TBD). The crew training class is required for all volunteers who are interested in volunteering as sailing crew. Once trained, volunteers may sail as crew for week long "voyages" to other ports, or day sails in Delaware, as their schedule allows. There is a small fee for materials and for a drug test, required by the Coast Guard. Sailing crew must maintain active crew status each year by putting in 40 hours of volunteer time each year, and by taking a 3 hour crew refresher class before sailing each year. This is not difficult to do over the course of a year, even for out-of-state crew! Sailing crew must be at least 18 yr. old, or 14-17 with a parent/guardian. There is no upper age limit. All crew must be physically able to safely perform all skills needed to sail the ship, and keep our guests safe. Expect to spend time studying at home, and practicing knot tying regularly (daily!). Homework assignments include reading the manual, practicing knots, worksheets and hands on studying on the ship. Please Register for the next winter class by going to our web site [www.kalmarnyckel.org](http://www.kalmarnyckel.org) and click on "Join the Volunteer Crew" link which is at the top of the home page. There you will find directions for what to do! If you're interested in the summer class, please e-mail me directly.

**DATES FOR WINTER CLASS, 2010: TBD (11 Saturdays starting early Jan, thru mid-April)**

**Location:** Kalmar Nyckel Shipyard, Wilmington, DE (check our web site for directions)

**Dates of Classes:** Jan. 9, 16, 23, Feb 6, 13, 27, March 6, 20, 27, April 10, u/w training sail TBD

**Time:** 9am-4pm Come early on the first day! Registration begins at 8:30am

**Register:** On our web site, click on "Become a Member" and fill out the form, click on "Register for Jan '2010 Crew Class"

**Cost:** \$30 materials fee (payable cash, check, charge); There is also a one-time fee of \$35 for a initial drug test, as require by the Coast Guard.

**Lunch:** Provided for \$3 (vegetarian option available)

**Bring:** Pencil/pen, picture ID, 3 page Volunteer Application (filled out already! Downloaded from website [www.kalmarnyckel.org](http://www.kalmarnyckel.org) and click on "Join the Volunteer Crew", staple together, etc.).

**Absences:** Not recommended, as new material comes each week. More than 2 absences are not permitted.

**Wear:** Warm clothes-layers, sturdy shoes, dress for precipitation if needed (you may haul lines, participate in team work activities, get dirty, walk thru rain/mud, etc.). We have class rain or shine, or cold!

**What else:** You will have fun, meet new people, learn something new, and expand your horizons!

**Warning:** Some people find tall ship sailing addictive! Plan accordingly; have your entire family join the class! Selling your house and quitting your job-optional!

**Questions?:** E-mail me! [captainsharon@kalmarnyckel.org](mailto:captainsharon@kalmarnyckel.org)

**DATES FOR SUMMER CLASS 2010:**

**Location:** Delaware, TBD

**Dates:** TBD

**Times:** Weekdays, Weeknights and Weekends

**Cost:** \$40, cost includes tee-shirt to be worn onboard

Space limited, sign up today!

For those of you who are experienced square-rig sailors (and there are a few of you out there), we have an independent study crew training opportunity available. This program is designed for volunteers who are able to live aboard as trainees, then crew for several months during the sailing season. If this program fits you, please request an application and prepare a resume of your education and experience/sailing time on other ships. (Space limited)

There are also opportunities for volunteers to help in the office, with the visitors center, cooking, lawn work, carpentry, and as educators for school groups, so if sailing crew or maintenance is not your thing, but you'd like to become involved, we'll try to fit your skills/interest with a job that needs doing! We look forward to having you join our Foundation and having you work with the ship and the crew. No experience is necessary; we'll teach you everything you need to know.

Hope to see you sailing!

Capt. Sharon Litcofsky, Port Captain *Kalmar Nyckel*

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Preferred method of contacting me is e-mail