PRELIMINARY INFORMATION
for Flagship Niagara League Trainees

Please read this information carefully. Once you arrive at the ship, an intensive orientation schedule will limit your free time, so begin your preparations well in advance.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Joseph Lengieza, Director of Sail Training, by email at marineops@flagshipniagara.org or by phone at (814) 452-2744, x202 or Brent Hanely, Marine Operations Coordinator, brent@flagshipniagara.org or (814) 452-2744, x205. Please keep us informed of any changes prior to the start of your program, including changes in phone number or address.

I. ARRIVING AND DEPARTING

Travel Arrangements. The Erie Maritime Museum is located at 150 East Front Street, Suite 100, Erie, PA 16507. We are happy to make arrangements to drive you from the Greyhound Station, Amtrak Station, or Erie International Airport (ERI) to the Maritime Museum. Tickets for travel to and from the ship should be secured after your application is accepted and you are cleared by our reviewing doctor.

Joining the Ship. You should plan to join the ship at the designated time and date, although if you need to arrive the evening prior, arrangements can be made. Shortly after your arrival you will participate in Vessel Familiarization Training, and will then be given a berthing assignment. You will not be allowed to join the crew unless you have passed the medical review, paid your tuition, and submitted all required forms.

All trainees are expected to live onboard the ship unless excused to stay ashore by the Captain. At least one crewmember will be on duty aboard the ship at all times to watch over the ship, the crew, and the trainees.

Meals. While in Erie, meals will be prepared and served from the kitchen and dining room in the Maritime Museum. While sailing, meals will be prepared in the ship’s galley. The cost of food is included in the cost of the program.

Laundry. A washing machine and dryer are available in the Erie Maritime Museum basement and can be used at no charge. We generally send out laundry at least once every 10-14 days while voyaging. Make sure to pack according to our recommended Packing List.

Pets. Please note that no pets are allowed.

Leaving the Ship. Before leaving the ship, you must transfer your belongings from the ship’s sea-bag into your own bags. Use your time in port responsibly to ensure that you have time to stow your berth properly for the next arriving trainee.
II. DURING YOUR SAIL

Itinerary and Port Calls. The precise itinerary and intermediate ports of your voyage may depend upon weather conditions, vessel maintenance or repair needs, the unpredictable timing of educational projects, etc. The ship normally meets scheduled arrival and departure times, but be prepared for the possibility of delays or changes.

On average, the ship spends two to four days in port during each scheduled port visit. While ashore, you are a guest in the community. Use common sense: be polite, respect local laws and customs, and behave appropriately. Please try to keep your family informed of your activities and whereabouts.

Academic Credit. Trainees participate in a sail training program which is designed to integrate with any academic curriculum offered by our partner institutions. Both sail training and academic components are taught as the ship’s schedule permits. Arrangements for credit vary by program, and are the responsibility of the trainee. The Flagship Niagara League does not provide transcripts, but can provide a Certificate of Seatime upon request.

Library, Computers, and Personal Electronic Devices. The Erie Maritime Museum has WiFi, and we can make arrangements for out-of-town trainees to use the public library next door to the museum. There is very limited capacity for charging personal electronic devices onboard. In general, these devices should be left at home or used only while on shore.

Physical Conditioning and Diet. We encourage you to get in shape before joining the ship. You will enjoy the voyage more and be a healthier, more effective participant. You will also be less subject to stress and injury. Please note that you may not bring food or cook individual meals aboard ship. We sometimes use canned and processed foods. Consult your doctor for further advice. If you have dietary restrictions, make sure to inform us.

Money. Most trainees bring extra cash to make small purchases in port, experience local cuisine, etc. The ship cannot cash checks, but money may be deposited with the Captain in the ship’s safe.

Mail. Ideally, you should make arrangements so that you do not need to receive mail while onboard. Otherwise, correspondence and packages may be sent to:

Attn: “Your Name- Trainee”
U.S. Brig Niagara / Lettie G. Howard
150 East Front Street, Suite 100
Erie, PA 16507

Contacting the Ship. While sailing, the ship maintains a daily email or satellite telephone communication schedule with the Flagship Niagara League office. Routine messages will not be transmitted, but urgent messages may be passed to trainees through the Director of Sail Training, Joseph Lengieza, at 814-452-2744, x202. Messages are typically delivered to the ship within 24 hours.

Emergency Contact. The following numbers are to be used only by the immediate family of trainees onboard, and only in emergency situations. If there is a serious emergency, call the captain who is not currently sailing on the ship.

- Captain William Sabatini’s mobile telephone: (508) 930-9519
- Captain Christopher Cusson’s mobile telephone: (860) 989-9510

Preliminary Information (Version 10-21-2019)
III. Packing Guidelines

**Weather Expectations.** Generally, the Southern Lakes (the southern 2/3 of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron, and all of Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair, and Lake Ontario) will be warmer than the Northern Lakes (Lake Superior and northern 1/3 of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron).

Temperatures can get as low as 30-40˚F at night, and as high as 85-95˚F during the day. Since the lakes heat more slowly than the land, you can expect a 1-2 month lag in the weather; in other words, if you are sailing in June, pack as if it were still April or May.

**What to Pack.** Space aboard is limited. EVERYTHING you bring, with the exception of foul weather gear and bedding, must fit in your seabag on Niagara or in your berth on Lettie G. Howard. Pack in crushable luggage such as a duffel bag or backpack. Do not bring roll-aboard or hard suitcases.

The key to clothing on the ship is layering. Clothes that can be worn over or under other layers will serve you well. For outer layers, synthetic fibers such as polar fleece, polyesters and nylons that dry quickly are better than heavy cotton. Make sure that whatever you bring is comfortable and easy to move in. Your clothes will be put to hard use, and things will get torn, stained, etc. Nevertheless, you will change your clothes much less frequently than you do on land; a pair of shorts might last seven days on the ship. Change your underwear and socks daily.

If you wear contact lenses, bring your glasses as well, and don’t forget saline and cleaning solution.

You may bring a laptop to the ship for academic use, at your own risk. Be advised, however, that the ship can be a harsh environment for sensitive electronics.

**DO NOT BRING** food, alcohol, or SCUBA gear.
The Lettie G. Howard is owned by the South Street Seaport Museum and is operated as a programmatic collaboration between the South Street Seaport Museum and Flagship Niagara League.

The US Brig Niagara and the Erie Maritime Museum are owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission with the assistance of the Flagship Niagara League, a private 501-C(3) corporation chartered as an associates group by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

**REQUIRED.** Waterproof foul weather gear (top & bottom, Harbor Freight brand or similar is fine), passport (on some routes), light jacket, towel, sheets and/or light sleeping bag or blankets (if sailing on Niagara you will be provided with a hammock and seabag), small camping or travel pillow, sunblock, toiletries, notebook/pen/pencil, water bottle.

**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.** Use the following list to guide your packing decisions. For voyages in the Southern Lakes, bring more warm-weather clothes: shorts, cotton socks, short-sleeved shirts. For voyages in the Northern Lakes, bring more cold-weather clothes: long pants, heavier socks, long-sleeved shirts. Bring clothes you are prepared to get dirty or stained. Sea Boots are highly recommended for voyages aboard the Lettie G. Howard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Underwear</td>
<td>15 pairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoes (non-skid/rubber-soled)</td>
<td>2 pairs – one pair of sandals with heel strap (no flip-flops) and one pair of sneakers or boots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunglasses</td>
<td>2 pairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hat</td>
<td>2 – one warm wool/fleece and one broad-brimmed/ ball-cap</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheath knife or pocket knife</td>
<td>A straight blade sheath knife with attachment point for lanyard, the blade being not more than 5” long, is best. Niagara can loan you a knife for your program, knives may also be available for purchase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloves/Mittens</td>
<td>1 pair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shore clothes for port stops</td>
<td>1 outfit (at least)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimsuit</td>
<td>1 swimsuit for showers / swim calls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pants &amp; Shorts</td>
<td>4-5 pairs total, at least one long pair, at least one presentable pair (no holes/paint etc.) Quick-dry or cotton is best.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shirts</td>
<td>5-8 at least one long sleeve – change once per day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Socks</td>
<td>10-14 pairs – some wool/ polypropylene and some cotton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweater/Fleece</td>
<td>1-2 wool or polar fleece. Cotton not recommended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long underwear</td>
<td>1-2 pairs</td>
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**Optional.** Marlinspike, writing material, reading material, camera, small daypack for port stops, small musical instruments, Ziploc bags for use as waterproof packaging, insect repellent, thumb drive to copy digital pictures or personal files from the ship’s computers, flashlight with red lens cap, baby wipes.

**If you have any questions, please contact Joseph Lengieza, Director of Sail Training, at (814) 452–2744 extension 202, or at marineops@flagshipniagara.org.**