



The Seafarer Collective's vision is to provide accessible maritime learning platforms, career mentorship, USCG licensing support and crew volunteer opportunities to underrepresented populations on the water today. Over the past year TSC has developed a variety of outreach and educational offerings that include self-paced online courses, community industry panel experiences, vessel open houses, mariner mentorships, volunteer crew placement, and USCG endorsement and licensing support.

TSC offers scholarships, grants, and free community events to support equal access to TSC resources. Depending on interest and experience, TSC students join one of three self-paced online course paths to increase their knowledge and understanding of the maritime industry. The programs that we have created and implemented in our first year include:

1) The Entry-Level Merchant Mariner

This blended curriculum uses an impactful mix of online coursework, hands-on volunteer crew opportunities, professional development coaching, and USCG credential support to set students up for successful careers on the water. The Entry-Level Merchant Mariner Courses take place in two phases - Online Coursework & Volunteer Crew:

Phase 1 - Online Coursework. Students complete eight modules of uniquely designed distance learning curriculum on Eliademy, where they work through entry-level maritime education with an online instructor. This phase is expected to take 8 weeks and is self paced throughout each week. At the end of this phase, students will submit the necessary paperwork for their Merchant Mariner Credential with an OS rating, have developed a maritime resume and will have already investigated jobs in the maritime field.

Phase 2 - Volunteer Crew. Once students complete their online coursework, they receive a formal evaluation from their instructor. If ready to continue their education, students are encouraged to join a GHHS vessel or alternate tall ship as Volunteer Crew for 2-8 weeks to gain hands-on experience. Students serve as crew members on their assigned vessels, and participate in the daily activities and responsibilities of a working ship. See full course catalog [here](#)

2) The Online Able Bodied Seaman The Seafarer Collective's Online AB is a USCG approved distance learning course. Study material is designed to be completed in four



weeks, at the student's convenience on the distance learning platform, *Eliademy*. Students can access the course online any time of day from a laptop or tablet, wherever they are based. This course is geared towards motivated learners who want to work at their own pace with the support and encouragement of an instructor and other classmates. Students will complete an in-person exam with an approved proctor at the conclusion of their course.

3) The Recreational Marlinspike

The Recreational Marlinspike course is an online program for the recreational mariner to learn the basics of tall ship sailing. Participants log in to the online learning platform, Eliademy, to complete the distance learning content and the Marlinspike Module within one week. Participants will review the resources they need to make their time onboard a vessel as successful as possible. They will learn the basics of marlinspike seamanship, docking, how to handle shipboard emergencies, sail theory, navigation, and watchstanding.

4) TSC Crew Development Grant

Crew Development Grants are need based financial awards designed to support experienced Grays Harbor Historical Seaport Sailors in earning USCG licensing and credentials. See full application [here](#).

5) Entry-Level Mariner Scholarships

Seafarer Collective Student Scholarships are need based tuition relief awards for new mariners wishing to join the Entry Level Merchant Mariner Course. See full application [here](#).

In order to fulfill our mission to change the face of the maritime industry, we must take into account our society's inequalities, including those based on race, class, gender, sexuality, ability, and geography. Through the direct support of women, people of color, LGBTQ+ people, registered tribal members and the coastal residents of the waters that we impact, we will continue to break barriers and create opportunities that challenge the status quo.

Program outreach and exposure included:

1. 550 Industry Panel Attendees: Accessible community events to educate new mariners.
2. 2580+ Social Media Connections: Instagram, Facebook and Website subscribers



3. 33 Recreational Marlinspike Students: Initial exposure, online program and onboard hands on volunteer opportunity to determine the level of interest in more advanced training.
4. 25 Entry-Level Mariners: Included Pilot Students, and “green” mariners that have earned an OS or are working towards their licensing.
5. 8 Online Able Seaman Students: USCG Domestic Able Seaman, after 4 weeks of online curriculum. All graduates passed with over 90% scores.
6. 11 Crew Development Grant Awards: Provided Financial aid and mentorship support for maritime training and USCG licensing that will create professional paths.

Special Events:

TSC ASTORIA INDUSTRY PANEL, PORT TOWNSEND WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL, EMPOWER CONFERENCE, OLYMPIA HARBOR DAYS, SEATTLE MARINE EXPO, TSC OLYMPIA INDUSTRY PANEL, OREGON TRADESWOMEN INDUSTRY PANEL, PNW APPRENTICESHIP CONFERENCE, PADDLE TO PUYALLUP

Project Shift: During the development of The Seafarer Collective we shifted our program from a pure onboard training program to an online school with post graduation volunteer placement. The motivation to develop an online school was to increase program sustainability, provide greater access to the information that new mariners need, and expand partnership opportunities in the industry. By placing students in 8 weeks of online coursework they are better prepared for their onboard experiences, and further along in the process of becoming licensed mariners.

Challenges: TSC experienced the challenge halfway through year one of a required name change. We had to transition from the operating name of “Sea School Northwest” to “The Seafarer Collective” after gaining national visibility for our Online Able Seaman program. An institution in Florida operating under the name Sea School had claim to the word mark. The change in program name forced us to completely re-write all developed material, create new marketing assets and seek new course approval from the USCG.