

Replica Ship Half Moon and New Netherland Museum

SCHENECTADY- NIJKERK VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY, 2010



April 2010

Dear Schenectady-Nijkerk Participants and Parents:

The time for our Voyage on the Half Moon is fast approaching, and I look forward to seeing you all aboard ship. Expect to have a challenging and fun experience aboard the Half Moon – everyone will have a chance to participate in all aspects of sailing the ship, and to experience a unique view of the Hudson River and its environments.

It is important for us to be clear about two topics: first, conditions aboard the ship, and second, some cultural and legal distinctions between activities in the Netherlands and in the United States.

Regarding conditions aboard the ship, understand that everyone aboard the Half Moon is a working crew member and will join in all aspects of operating the ship - with the exception of going aloft into the rigging, which is voluntary. We work hard, but we enjoy ourselves. Remember, the Half Moon is a historical ship, and life aboard is much like it was in 1609, but with some modern amenities. The best way to think of it is like tent camping in the outdoors.

Regarding cultural differences between the Netherlands and the United States, please understand that certain social activities are more strictly regulated here than in the Netherlands. In addition, anyone below the age of 21 is a legal minor. The legal responsibility that the New Netherland Museum assumes for the care of minors aboard the ship is far more stringent than for adults, and extra care must be given for those so far from home.

For that reason, each participant and parent must complete all the medical and legal releases included with this packet, and those from The Netherlands must also provide a photocopy of the participant's passport. These forms must be provided as originals, with a photocopy of the passport, before the participant will be permitted to board the ship. If you have any questions, please contact me through the Schenectady Nijkerk Council, by e-mail at <wtr@halfmoon.mus.ny.us>, or by telephone at +518.443.1609, my office in Albany, NY.

Also enclosed are materials that provide background information about the ship, the work we do, and what to bring. I invite you to visit our web site at "www.halfmoon.mus.ny.us" on the Internet to see what it is like to sail aboard the Half Moon.

Our experience sailing with youth as crew in a “Voyage of Discovery” has been uniformly positive, and I expect the same will be true this year. It is amazing to see young people take on the responsibility of sailing a square rigged ship, and to do so maturely and competently. As you can imagine, to do so requires some preparation, which we will provide aboard the ship. The key factor is motivation: any participant who is motivated to work with us will do well aboard.

The original sailors of the Half Moon seem somewhat primitive to our modern sensibilities – but in their time, they were at the cutting edge of technology in making their own Voyage of Discovery. As the original crew did, our crew will attend to all the aspects necessary to sail a square rigged ship safely, with a combination of modern and traditional methods. The mix of intellectual and manual challenges provides exciting opportunities for the new sailors.

Please note that there will be no direct communication between the families ashore and the ship, except in case of a medical emergency or dire circumstances. If such a situation arises, please contact the Schenectady Nijkerk Council, or our ship’s telephone at +914.413.9924. There will be areas where we do not have telephone service.

In order to have a fun and enjoyable voyage, we must abide by some fundamental safety rules. It is important to note at the outset that certain rules aboard the Half Moon are inviolate; breaking any of them during the program will result in immediate dismissal from the ship. These rules apply to all crew, adult and youth. While we have had no violations of these basic rules, I would like to state them at the outset so that we have no misunderstandings.

1. Personal possession or consumption of intoxicating drugs, including alcohol, will result in immediate dismissal from the ship.
2. Failure to report the presence of illegal drugs aboard ship will result in immediate dismissal from the ship.
3. Striking another crewmember or making a threatening gesture with a knife or tool will result in immediate dismissal from the ship.
4. Failure to abide by fundamental safety procedures, or departing the ship without direct permission from the Captain will result in immediate dismissal from the ship.

I fully expect that all our crewmembers will have a safe, fun and rewarding experience. But to do so, we must all realize that sailing this ship is not a game, but a serious endeavor with very real consequences. While each participant will arrive at the ship with a range of previous experiences, all will have ample opportunity to ‘learn the ropes’ and aboard ship. Each student must participate in the overall operation of the ship, but each student will be able to progress and grow in the way that works for them.

I wish you the best of luck, and look forward to greeting the group aboard the Half Moon.

Sincerely,

William T. (Chip) Reynolds
Captain, Half Moon
Director, New Netherland Museum

WHAT EACH PARTICIPANT SHOULD (AND SHOULD NOT) BRING ABOARD THE HALF MOON

Do not purchase a lot of gear for this trip. Everything you need can be found in your home or borrowed from a friend. At most you may need to spend a minimal amount at a thrift or surplus store once here in New York. The gear needed is similar that for a camping trip. Bulky gear, such as sleeping bags and foam pads, and items such as plastic bags, will be provided by the host families and the Schenectady-Nijkerk Council.

Space is limited aboard a vessel such as the Half Moon. Just as they were 400 years ago, our sailors are limited to the equivalent of one duffel bag's worth of gear. Sailors must carry all their own gear. Pack the gear in soft bags – **hard suitcases, backpacks with internal or external frames, and sea chests are inappropriate**, as they are cumbersome to handle and stow.

Pack sturdy clothing, such as you might use in any outdoors recreation. You will need protection from sunburn. The weather might get cold in a storm. Bring long pants, a sweater and a warm hat or watch cap, and gloves or mittens. Clothing should allow freedom of movement, but not be so free-flowing as to interfere with work (for example, ponchos are not allowed as rain gear; rain jacket and rain pant combinations are required).

A special note about shoes: sturdy, low-heeled shoes are the best option. Running shoes provide no lateral stability and can lead to injury. True tennis shoes or basketball shoes (the old Converse All Stars, for example) work well, as do lightweight work or hiking boots. Loafers and slip-on shoes are unsuitable for going aloft; shoes that lace are required. Sandals, even the Teva-style, do not provide protection for toes and feet aboard ship. Foul weather boots should be waterproof (you can get suitable rubber boots for \$10 at an army-navy surplus store).

Plan for wet conditions. We work rain or shine, night or day. In addition to foul weather gear (see below), it can be very helpful to use large zip-lock plastic bags for packing small items, and large black plastic garbage bags are quite useful for keeping bulky gear dry, not to mention keeping wet and dirty clothes segregated from the clean clothes.

Sunscreen is always necessary aboard ship. Each participant must bring a sunscreen with a high level of UV protection. Select one that does not burn the eyes. Seasickness is a temporary malady and is not usually a problem on a voyage like this. All seasickness medications have side effects, primarily sleepiness. We avoid such medications, and in the rare event that someone gets seasick, we will just let it run its course (meaning throw up).

All prescription drugs and over-the-counter drugs must be approved by your physician, noted on the forms, and checked in with the medical officer when you board ship. Personnel aboard the Half Moon will not administer any medication, including aspirin, unless authorized by you and your physician. If you have a question, please contact me in advance.

HALF MOON
VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY
GEAR CHECKLIST

DO NOT BRING:

Radios, hair driers, C/D or cassette players, food, candy, non-prescription drugs (except as pre-arranged), very baggy clothing, jewelry, expensive or dressy clothing. No tobacco products are permitted.

DO BRING:

- Identification
- Needed prescription medications
- Sea bag, duffle bag or soft pack for packing
- Small pack for smaller items
- Foul Weather Gear (no ponchos; best is jacket with hood or souwester, pants, boots)
- Jacket (it is colder on the water than on land, and windy)
- Sweater/sweatshirt (layers for warmth)
- Towel and washcloth (1 lightweight)
- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping pad (waterproof foam camping style, as you will sleep on a wooden deck)
- Toiletries
- Sunscreen
- Hat or watch cap
- Sunglasses that block UV (attach a retainer)
- Belt or suspenders (pants cannot fall down and cause a safety hazard)
- Long pants (jeans or khakis)
- Shirts (sturdy)
- Underwear
- Sturdy shoes (two pair, running shoes are not acceptable)
- Socks (heavy and warm)
- Gloves (leather are best)
- Knife (small sheath or if folding, must have a lock)
- Flashlight (mini-mag light size with AA batteries is fine; larger is also O.K.)
- Extra batteries for flashlight
- Notepad and pen or pencil
- Camera (if desired)
- Binoculars (if desired)

PARENTAL/GUARDIAN LETTER OF CONSENT
HALF MOON VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY
PARTICIPATION AND MEDICAL TREATMENT PERMISSION

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As part of the Schenectady-Nijkerk Exchange, your teenage son or daughter will sail aboard the Dutch ship of exploration, the replica Half Moon. The Half Moon is a modern replica of the first European ship to explore the Hudson River, doing so in 1609. This will be a once in a lifetime experience for all concerned, and should be both a fun and educational experience for your son or daughter. It is important that you and your son or daughter understand the nature of the trip and agree to abide by the terms of this consent.

No participant will be permitted to board the ship without this form and the medical history forms properly signed and completed. The ship will not delay its departure awaiting delivery of these forms. **COMPLETE THE FORMS AND RETURN THEM TO YOUR CONTACT PERSON BEFORE DEPARTURE TO BOARD THE SHIP.**

Participation in this event does include the risk of injury. Every effort will be made to sustain the safety of all involved, but activity on a large sailing vessel should be undertaken only after careful consideration of this risk.

- The Captain in charge of this vessel will establish the rules for all activity conducted during the trip. All participants must follow these rules at all times. The signature at the end of this consent form by both you and your teenage son or daughter shall be considered confirmation of agreement to comply with this condition. Failure to follow such rules may result in termination of the privilege to continue the voyage.

- In the event of an injury to your teenage son or daughter, appropriate first aid will be administered. In the event of a serious injury requiring professional medical treatment, authorities will be contacted immediately and the injured person taken to the nearest medical facility as appropriate. All reasonable efforts will be made to contact you to obtain any required permission for emergency medical care. In a situation where you can not be contacted for specific consent to treatment, and such delay creates a risk to your son or daughter's health, I will use the authority you grant me by this form to obtain appropriate emergency medical care and treatment for your son or daughter.

Parents and friends should not contact the ship during the voyage, except in cases of family emergency (death or dire circumstances) or in response to a message left by the ship. The cellular number aboard the Half Moon is 914-433-9747; additionally, the ship may be reached by VHF marine radio on channels 13 and 16, or through the U.S. Coast Guard.

William T. Reynolds, Captain
Half Moon

PARENTAL AUTHORIZATION FOR PARTICIPATION AND MEDICAL TREATMENT:

PARTICIPANT _____

AGE AT BOARDING SHIP _____

I/We _____, the parent/guardian of the minor named above, hereby acknowledge that I/we have read and understand the foregoing Parent/Guardian letter of consent, are aware of the risk involved in our son/daughter joining this Voyage of Discovery, and give our permission for him/her to participate in the program. I/We acknowledge receipt of this form and agree to its terms. I/We also agree that should a claim arise related to participation in this program, we will submit the claim for resolution by binding third party arbitration.

In the event of a medical need for our son/daughter, I/We understand that the Captain of the Half Moon or his designee will make every reasonable effort to contact us at the telephone numbers listed below. I/We acknowledge that I/We may not be available to provide timely consent for medical treatment in the event our son or daughter becomes sick or is injured during this event. In the event that I/We are not available, I/We do desire to have the best available medical treatment for my/our son/daughter. I/We hereby authorize William T. Reynolds, Captain of the Half Moon, who will be aboard during the voyage, to act in my/our behalf with respect to any required medical treatment decisions and consents until Capt. Reynolds is able to provide such. Notice is hereby given to any qualified medical personnel that this authorization is currently in effect, and such personnel are directed to act upon such authorization without delay.

Signatures: _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Participant _____

Parent/Guardian Address (Please print clearly)

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parent/Guardian Telephone Numbers (with country and area code)

Home1: _____ Home2: _____

Work1: _____ Work2: _____

Other1: _____ Other2: _____

Participant Name _____

Age _____

MEDICAL INFORMATION

To the physician: Please be advised that _____, your patient, seeks to serve as a crew member aboard the replica ship Half Moon. The Half Moon is a full-sized, operating replica of the Dutch ship of exploration sailed by Henry Hudson in 1609. Crew members aboard the ship engage in significant physical exertion within each person's own reasonable limits. Crew members must stand watch in rotation day and night, and function in all weather conditions. Those crew members who so desire, and demonstrate competence to do so, may work aloft in the rigging handling sails and lines. Living conditions are close, sanitation facilities are limited and basic, and each crew member must actively guard against the spread of communicable diseases. We ask that you evaluate your patient in the context of this service, and inform us of any medical conditions that may require attention or limit their service aboard ship.

Height: _____ Weight: _____ B.P. _____ Age at Exam: _____

Illnesses within the previous five years requiring hospitalization or prolonged treatment:

Current Medications: _____

Surgeries: _____

Allergies: _____

Injuries: _____

Current illnesses: _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

Contagious diseases: _____

Disabilities: _____

Restrictions on activities: _____

Vision: _____ Hearing: _____

Please note any pertinent observations, limitations _____

I certify that the above named person is physically capable of service aboard the sailing ship Half Moon; any medical conditions that may affect this service are noted above.

Physician's name (print): _____

Physician's signature: _____

Physician's address: _____

Physician's telephone: _____

GENERAL MEDIA RELEASE

I/We the parent(s) or guardian of _____, and I the participant named below, do agree by signing our names below, to allow the use of our visual image (photographs, digital images, video, etc.) and/or quotations in any media coverage related to activities of the sailing vessel Half Moon. Such use may include electronic media, visual or voice recordings, written accounts of activities, printed material, and other methods of communication. We understand that this agreement is purely voluntary, and any participant may decline to be photographed or interviewed with no negative effect on their participation with the Half Moon. We also understand that the Half Moon is of considerable interest to the media and the general public, and that journalists, documentary film makers, and others may meet and board the ship, and desire to interview and record activities aboard. We understand that the Half Moon and its parent organization, the New Netherland Museum, operates as a non-profit educational institution, and that while related publicity benefits the on-going educational operations of the organization, none of these media operations are for a profit making purpose. While the Captain of the Half Moon will make every reasonable effort to ensure accurate portrayal of activities related to the Half Moon, no guarantee can be made about the content of reportage outside the editorial control of the Half Moon and the New Netherland Museum. We understand that this agreement is for use at any time now and in the future.

Parent or Guardian Printed Name

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date

Participant Printed Name

Participant Signature

Date