

You could help as —

Captain: If you have a coast Guard Captain's license, please call.

Engineer: Inquire about becoming a licensed engineer (requires on-board training, boiler operator course for state license, first aid and CPR certificate, medical exam and random drug testing).

Mate: Call for information about becoming a licensed deckhand (requires on-board training and random drug testing).

Helper: inquire about helping with boat maintenance (fun on Saturdays or Sundays working on the steamboat).

Writer: We need help with grant applications.

Teacher: You could be of great service by putting together lesson plans for use in the classroom before and after a field trip on the steamboat SPLASH.

Organizer: If you could help us recruit and organize school groups to come to the steamboat, it would be extraordinarily helpful in meeting our goals.

Call Prof. Bart Hoebel: President
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www.SteamboatClassroom.org

The Mission. The “Steamboat Floating Classroom” provides an exciting and unique location for creative, environment-based learning on a real steamboat. Here students of all ages will strengthen their academic skills and knowledge. They will expand their understanding of the world by using the river as a means to learn problem-solving techniques as applied to ecology (clean water), science (water physics and chemistry), and American history (George Washington and the Revolution).

Population served. We will use the steamboat to educate (1) school classes, scouts, 4-H clubs, summer camps and related educational groups, (2) disadvantaged and handicapped groups, (3) bus tours of senior citizens, religious and business groups, environmental and historical groups and (4) school teachers who come to the steamboat for a seminar in environmental education for state credit. The educational theme of this project is the role of the river in the lives of the 17,000,000 people in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania who drink water from the Delaware River (7% of the U.S. population).

Description. Passengers will enjoy a 50-foot sternwheeler that is large enough to hold up to 49 passengers and to allow water quality experiments as well as discussions, role playing and musical events. We expect this program to grow into a popular element in regional efforts to build public understanding and commitment to environmental conservation, public health, historic preservation, and sustainable community development.

Skills needed and location. We primarily need volunteers to organize youth groups and adults for steamboat trips. Anyone versed in public relations, lesson plan writing, grant writing and related organizational skills could be a great help. Boat crew (deckhand, engineer, or captain) and on-board teachers are also needed as we expand this operation.

Duration. Volunteers are always welcome. Call to discuss the opportunities that would be fun for you.

Other affiliations. We are allied with the Delaware River Greenway Partnership. The steamboat is certified by the U.S. Coast Guard. A list of sponsors is on the web site.