

Thank you so much for your interest in being the mess mate aboard the schooner Mary Day. This is an entry level position that allows individuals to get their feet wet as crew without too many of the pressures and responsibilities that fall upon the deck crew or cook. At the same time, we use our messmate on deck as much as possible according to aptitude and attitude so learning the ropes is a part of the job description to every extent possible.

ASSISTANT COOK/MESSMATE JOB DESCRIPTION

POSITION

Assistant Cook (fondly called the Mess Mate)

Season: April 1- mid- October. Work sometimes available thru the fall and winter.

Salary: starting at \$450/wk. based on experience, accommodations aboard, meals while sailing, equal share of gratuities

QUALIFICATIONS

Enthusiasm for life.

Join our vibrant team aboard a Maine windjammer as an Assistant Cook, where your culinary skills will complement the thrilling experience of sailing the beautiful coastline. We are seeking individuals with a passion for cooking and a spirit of adventure, who thrive in a collaborative environment.

The ideal candidate will possess a positive attitude, adaptability, and strong communication skills, enabling them to work harmoniously with the crew and interact warmly with our guests. In addition to assisting with cooking duties, you will have the opportunity to learn the art of sailing a schooner, gaining invaluable maritime skills while contributing to the overall experience of our voyage.

If you have a zest for teamwork and an eagerness to learn in a dynamic maritime setting, we invite you to bring your enthusiasm and creativity to our galley, helping to create memorable meals that enhance our sailing experience.

Requirements

- Ability to work below decks underway without getting motion sickness.
- Food service experience a huge plus.
- The ideal candidate has great interpersonal skills, the ability to communicate effectively with other crew and be gracious hosts to our guests.
- Able to balance personal needs while making sure the team comes first.
- Must be physically fit, able to lift 40 lbs., haul on lines.
 - *(please read Physical Capability document, link provided above)*
- Certified in first aid and CPR.
- The ability to play a musical instrument and entertain guests is valuable but not required.

Important Notice Regarding DRUG & ALCOHOL USE

At the Mary Day, we're proud to be a USCG-inspected vessel, which means we adhere to all the necessary federal laws to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone on board. To maintain a positive atmosphere, we have a policy in place that supports a drug-free environment. We don't hire anyone involved in illegal drug or alcohol use, and we uphold a strict no-tolerance policy.

All crew members in safety-sensitive positions must successfully complete a pre-employment drug screening. In the case of an accident, all crew will be required to undergo a post-incident drug and alcohol screening. If any crew member exhibits inappropriate behavior, the captain has the authority to request a probable cause drug and alcohol screening.

Our amazing crew is encouraged to take some time to relax on their days off; however, we ask that they avoid consuming alcohol while we are on a cruise. This ensures a safe and enjoyable experience for all our guests. We appreciate your understanding.

When returning from shore while guests or the public are on board, you must be able to pass a drug and alcohol screening. On evenings when guests are not on the vessel, if you are intoxicated, we strongly encourage you to plan to stay off the vessel for the night.

Thank you for your cooperation in maintaining a safe and professional environment for everyone on board.

CELL PHONE POLICY

We want to keep you and our guests safe while enjoying our beautiful time on the water! Since cell phones can easily fall overboard, we ask that you avoid carrying or using them while you're working to help you stay focused on the task at hand.

During our cruises, please keep your cell phone turned off or in airplane mode while you're in your bunk. We also ask that you refrain from using your phone in front of our guests to maintain a welcoming atmosphere. If you absolutely need to use your phone, discreet usage in the captain's cabin is acceptable.

For emergencies, Jen always has the office phone handy, so please share the office number (800-992-2218) with your family. After your workday is complete and if there's a cell signal, you're welcome to send texts privately from your bunk.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation! Let's make this a fantastic experience for everyone on board!

DRESS CODE POLICY

At Schooner Mary Day, we believe that a neat and polished appearance is essential in conveying professionalism and ensuring our guests feel at ease while sailing. Good personal hygiene is vital in creating a positive experience.

General Guidelines:

- Clothing should be clean, neat, and well-fitting. Ripped or cut-off clothing is not permitted. Even with the demands of our work, we encourage you to maintain a professional look, such as tucking in your shirt.
- A professional demeanor can enhance guest satisfaction and often results in increased gratuities.
- Crew are provided with t-shirts, a sweatshirt, and a ball cap adorned with the Mary Day logo to ensure they are easily identifiable on boarding days; however, these items are not mandatory on other working days.

Prohibited Clothing and Accessories:

- Please refrain from wearing t-shirts with political statements or offensive language.
- Visible body art should be tasteful and appropriate for a professional setting.
- Footwear must be closed-toed when working. While heavy hiking or work boots are not necessary, sneakers are preferred. Many crew members also find that Keen sandals are an excellent choice during the hot summer months.

Foul Weather Gear:

- Proper foul weather gear is essential to keep you dry and comfortable while allowing you to work efficiently, especially at higher elevations. Invest in quality gear that serves as a vital tool for your role.

Respectful Attire:

- Employees must avoid clothing, accessories, or imagery that contain discriminatory symbols or messages that promote racism, biases, or discrimination. All attire should be respectful and suitable for our professional environment.

Additional Gear:

- Deck crew should carry a sharp rigging knife and spike set for efficiency. A headlamp with red and white light capabilities is also recommended for night work on deck.
- These items can be found locally in Camden, but you may want to consider purchasing them ahead of your arrival for better prices and options.

Let's work together to uphold these standards and create an inviting atmosphere for our guests! Thank you for your attention to our dress code policy.

“FIT-OUT” SEASON

April and most of May are spent “fitting out” the vessel. This is a critical maintenance and training time. Fit-out gives crew the chance to get to know each other and the boat. There is a tremendous amount of maintenance work that goes into keeping a wooden schooner alive and well. The importance of knowing how to maintain the boat you work on cannot be understated. Most years fit-out includes a trip to the ship

yard to service below the waterline. Knowing how to maintain a wooden vessel makes you a more valuable crew member now and in the future.

During fit-out the galley staff and deckhands working alongside the mate and captain, will be responsible to carry out maintenance projects that get the vessel ready for the sailing season. Each day the captain and mate will get together to make sure that projects are on track, that materials are on hand for completing projects and plan for future projects. The Mate will collaborate with the galley staff and deckhands by providing instruction and guidance, outlining daily objectives, and ensuring that everyone is aligned with the overall timeline and goals for the fit-out season. We only have 6-7 weeks to get the schooner ready to sail so keeping projects moving is key especially with New England's fickle weather. Be prepared to do whatever it takes to get the schooner ready on time. Undoubtedly there will be some very long days during fit-out.

LIVING ABOARD

Plan to live out of your duffle bag. The crew quarters are quite small and cramped. Think of Harry Potter living under the staircase. Bring a sleeping bag, twin size sheets and blankets, a pillowcase, teddy bear? Pillows are available. There is laundry within walking distance of the schooner and during the sailing season crew laundry is sent out with the ship's laundry. You might also want a daypack in case you want to go for a hike in the Camden Hills on your time off. Each crew get a hook for their foul weather gear. Meals are not provided during fit-out and down rigging or on off-time between cruises. A hot plate and microwave are available as well as some cookware during fit-out and down rigging only.

SAILING SEASON

Sailing season begins around Memorial Day often starting the season with several sail training cruises with school groups, often 8th graders. Our season is composed of 3, 4, and 6 day, cruises. Adult cruises usually start the middle of June. We offer numerous themed cruises including lighthouse tours, natural history and photography. The Great Schooner Race happens the first week in July. There is a parade of sail in Rockland during mid-July. Camden's Windjammer Weekend celebration happens Labor Day Weekend. The last gathering of the fleet happens during a sail-in at the Wooden Boat School in mid-September. The sailing season will go by fast.

At the end of the sailing season, there are a couple weeks down rigging and covering the schooner for the winter. This is also a critical maintenance time. We can usually count on snow and ice and storm force winds hammering the schooner throughout the winter. Invariably there are maintenance projects like sanding and varnishing spars, sanding and painting the mast heads and tarring the rig that happen during this time. Work into the late fall and winter is available depending on the year.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

The messmate begins a normal day at about 0630. The first ½ hour of the day is making coffee and tea and setting up for 0700 passenger coffee on deck. Coffee tends to disappear quickly so staying on top of the coffee and tea service is important. Before breakfast from 0700 to 0800 the messmate is usually busy

preparing fruit for breakfast and setting tables. Fruit salads need to be colorful and pleasing to all the senses. The fruit of the morning is set by the cook with input from the messmate.

At 0800 (or thereabouts) the messmate rings the ship's bell and announces the breakfast menu. A flair for an enticing description challenges the thespian talents of the messmate so have fun with it. Presentation is everything and gets the guests excited for the meal ahead. Breakfast is usually served family style with everyone gathered around the dining tables in the main cabin. After each meal the messmate oversees organizing and cleaning the dishes and the dining area. That includes washing the dishes, wiping down the dining tables, sweeping the galley and main cabin sole (sole is sailor talk for floor.) Notice the use of the word "organizing." An outgoing personality is the messmate's best friend. Your naturally magnetic personality will attract guests who don't mind helping in the galley. This is your chance to interact with guests. Engaging the guests is what we are all about. They are the reason we get to go sailing. Mary Day has a fair number of returning guests because we work so hard to engage our guests, hear their life stories, share our life stories, and share our love for the sailing life.

The time between breakfast and lunch usually provides the organized messmate with a little break. This is time to help with the sailing part of our jobs. Come on up on deck and help us set sails, go aloft to cast off topsails or just hang out and absorb the beautiful Maine coast. Before lunch the messmate usually prepares a salad and homemade dressing. The cook may also need a hand with chopping and preparing a soup or sandwiches for lunch. At 1200 the messmate rings the bell and announces the lunch menu. Lunch is usually served buffet style giving guests a chance to eat on deck while we sail through the islands. The messmate sets up a pre-wash station on deck and clears away the dishes from the wash station as necessary. After lunch the messmate once again organizes washing dishes, wiping down tables, sweeping the galley and main cabin soles.

Again, there is a break in the action between lunch and afternoon snack. It is encouraged to messmates to take this time to themselves. Take a nap, come up on deck and help sail the schooner, whatever you wish. The messmate takes charge of preparing an afternoon snack. With help from cook the messmate has a chance to work with the wood cook stove up to make an afternoon snack that should appear around 1600 (4 o'clock in the afternoon.) We look for your creativity when crafting the week's menu for the afternoon snack. We have a bunch of tried-and-true recipes to start with. As the season goes on you will get a sense of what is possible and can inject your own creativity. The afternoon is also time to help the cook prepare for dinner and evening dessert. Chopping veggies, cutting up fruit for dessert, helping to frost cakes, whatever the menu dictates.

Dinner is usually served around 1800 (6 o'clock) and is most often served family style after we have anchored. Dessert and coffee are usually served on deck. After dinner and dessert, the messmate is once again tasked with cleanup of the galley and main cabin, just like after the other meals. Your day is finished after mopping the galley and main cabin sole at the end of the day.

NIGHT WATCHES

Watches are stood from 2300-0600. Crew rotate through one-hour watches during the night. Nap time during the day is provided so that we all stay well rested.

TIME OFF

The season is quite intense and time off between trips never quite feels like enough. At the end of each cruise and after we have made sure that all our guests have been safely disembarked, we spend the day doing wash down, getting clean laundry and firewood aboard, maybe a little touch up painting or oiling the deck and helping the cook get provisions aboard. After all of this has been done it is time for a well-deserved break. Get ashore for the evening, get to the lake for a swim or a nice hot shower and get a good night's sleep. Every other boarding day you will have the boarding day duty where you will be expected to help meet and greet guests and help prepare the vessel for the next cruise. On alternate turnarounds you will have the day off. As qualified replacement help is available, we try to get crew a few trips off during the season.

BOARDING DAY DUTY

The deck crew and mess mate take turns at the boarding day duty. If you have the day duty you will be expected to be aboard by 1100 to fill water tanks, polish brass, clean windows and give tours to the curious public who may come down the docks. We board guests at 1600 helping them get their gear aboard, park their cars in an appropriate spot and give them tours of their accommodations and the schooner. Welcoming guests aboard leaves a strong impression of the cruise to come. We usually set out cheese and crackers, fruit, and sparkling juice as a snack. Guests are on their own for dinner ashore so they will be coming and going throughout the evening. Your attention to the boarding area is critical as guests will not have gotten their sea legs quite yet. The day duty person is usually relieved of the watch around 1830. If you have the evening duty you should arrive no later than 1500 to help with any last-minute items that need attention. The evening duty person helps with the boarding process and takes over the watch. Again, attention to the boarding area is important. The evening duty person takes care of things like oil lamps, companionway lights, any leftover dishes, a fire in the fireplace, etc. The evening duty person is also expected to stay in touch with Jen and Barry about who has arrived and who has not arrived. Touch base with the office if there are any guests who have not arrived before it is time to go to bed. We will also touch base with you to let you know if anyone is planning a late arrival or is delayed in their travel plans. Keep your cell phone with you so we can be in touch if necessary. All crew are expected to be back aboard by 2300 (11pm) the night before we sail.

Crew are expected to be able to pass a random drug/alcohol screening whenever they are aboard including between trips during your time off. Boarding day or night is not the appropriate time to overindulge, as this can lead to negative outcomes with serious consequences. Arriving at the boat under the influence while a cruise is in progress is strictly unacceptable.

FINAL THOUGHTS

While all of this may sound overwhelming on paper it should become second nature to take care of the vessel and the guests. Attention to detail in everything you do is probably the most important skill that you can develop as a professional mariner. Our goal is to make sure that you develop and hone your skills throughout the season. Doing so while having fun, being an integral part of the team and sailing the Maine coast is a life changing experience.

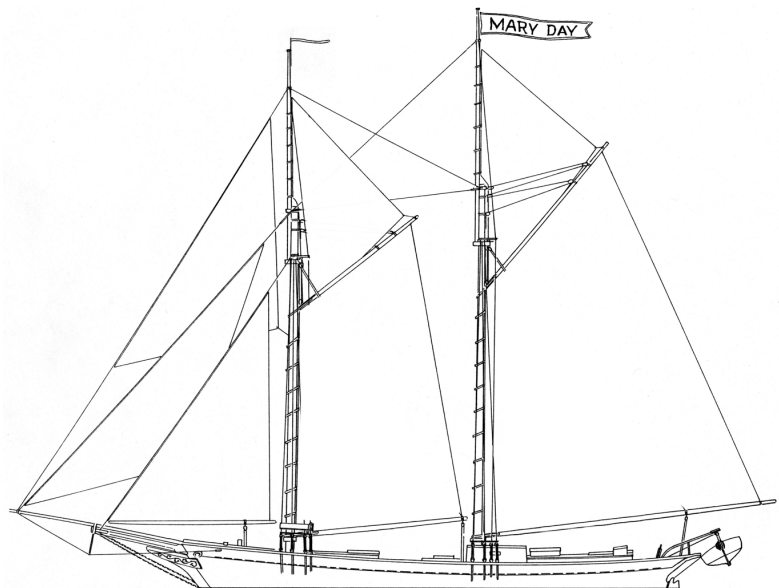
We're honest....DAYS ARE LONG AND CAN BE HARD

Embarking on an adventure on the high seas is no small feat, and we know that the days can be long and demanding. That's why staying rested and recharged is key to your experience aboard! We encourage open communication with the captain and cook—sharing your needs, desires, and concerns is all part of creating a vibrant and fulfilling sailing season.

Remember, you're not sailing solo! You'll be part of a spirited crew that's there to support one another, share moments of joy, and enjoy the journey together. Here, camaraderie and laughter are just as important as the work we do. For those with the right spirit and enthusiasm, life aboard our beautiful schooner truly is an extraordinary adventure!

We hope this gives you a glimpse into the wonderful world of being a messmate. If you have any questions or curiosities, don't hesitate to reach out—we're here for you! We can't wait to welcome you on board and create unforgettable memories together this summer.

If you're passionate about sailing and eager to learn, we encourage you to apply for this exciting entry-level opportunity. Join us to gain hands-on experience and develop your skills while enjoying the adventure of life on the water!



Penobscot Windjammer Company/Schooner Mary Day is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other characteristic protected by state and federal laws.