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MARITIME MUSEUM OF SAN DIEGO INVITES COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO BECOME DOCENT VOLUNTEERS

Consecutive multi-week formal Docent Training Program Begins January 20, 2025

(SAN DIEGO, CA) --- December 15, 2025 --- The Maritime Museum of San Diego, the 501c3 non-profit waterfront destination with an international reputation for excellence in restoring, maintaining, and operating historic landmark vessels, including the world's oldest active sailing ship, *Star of India*, begins the next Docent Volunteer Training Program to newcomers Tuesday, January 20, 2026. The Maritime Museum of San Diego experience includes admission to five hundred years of seafaring history on display throughout a world-class collection of historic sailing ships, steam-powered boats, and a submarine, each offering entertaining and educational exhibits. Maritime Museum of San Diego is recognized as a world-class maritime museum offering self-guided tours, Docent-guided group tours, tall ship public sails and charters, San Diego Bay history cruises, Naval history bay tours, year-round public events, award-winning educational programs, and a distinctive venue for corporate/private events.

The Maritime Museum of San Diego offers visitors a range of Docent Tour group offerings including V.I.P., custom and Wednesday group tours, and can create experiences perfectly fit for history and maritime enthusiasts, community and civic organizations, traveling tour groups, conference attendees, small-to medium-sized interest groups and senior living centers. Docents bring history to life through informative storytelling for guests. Tours typically encompass visits to several vessels, including *Star of India*, the H.M.S. *Surprise*, featured in the award-winning motion picture "Master and Commander", 16th-century galleon replica *San Salvador*, the Victorian-era steam ferryboat *Berkeley*, the Edwardian-era yacht *Medea* and topsail schooner *Californian*. Time will also be spent in Museum galleries and exhibits focused on a wide variety of maritime topics and displays associated within the collection of vessels.

Individuals interested in unique volunteer opportunities and the history of maritime exploration, plus engaging in enhanced social interaction with museum volunteers, the public, and guiding groups throughout the Museum are urged to attend. Functions may also include educating guests while underway on the water during day-sails offered most weekends aboard the galleon replica *San Salvador* or the official tall ship of the state, the topsail schooner *Californian*. Docent volunteers will learn about maritime history with a special focus on the 16th through 21st centuries represented by the vessels and artifacts in the Maritime Museum of San Diego's collections. Training is conducted through a series of lectures, readings, and walking tours. Training sessions include formal lectures on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Classes include a 45-minute walking tour of the ships and cover a comprehensive variety of topics pertaining to the historic ships at the museum. Membership in the Maritime Museum of San Diego is required to participate in the Docent training program.

Aspiring Docents will gather on the upper deck of the ferryboat *Berkeley* for the training program as part of the multi-week education. Interested members of the community must register online in advance of training at <https://sdmaritime.org/docent-training/>. Additional questions about the Docent Training Program may be directed to the Docent Training Director, Jim Cassidy at jjmdcass@aol.com or (661) 406-0605.

Volunteers interested in the program but unable to attend the Tuesday morning training classes can participate in the Museum's special mentorship program whereby Docent recruits collaborate one-on-one with an experienced Docent to build the necessary skill set.

ABOUT MARITIME MUSEUM OF SAN DIEGO

The Maritime Museum of San Diego experience includes admission to a world-class collection of historic sailing ships, steam-powered boats, and a submarine, each offering entertaining and educational exhibits. The 501c3 non-profit Museum enjoys an international reputation for excellence in restoring, maintaining, and operating historic vessels including the world's oldest active sailing ship, *Star of India*. Maritime Museum of San Diego is ranked as one of the nation's top attractions offering self-guided tours, docent-guided group tours, tall ship charters and historic bay cruises, year-round public events, educational programs, and a distinctive venue for corporate/private events. The Museum is open daily along *Star of India* Wharf at 1492 North Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101-3309. 619.234.9153 x101. Sdmaritime.org.