

S.T. Challenge

Volunteer Role Profile



Name of Role: Deckhand Volunteer

Description of Role: Deckhands play an important part in keeping Challenge well maintained so that she can be enjoyed by visitors and preserved for the future. Deckhands carry out a variety of routine maintenance tasks on this wonderful heritage steam tug, which is one of the Dunkirk Little Ships.

Reporting to: Bosun and/or Designated Team Leader.

Sample Tasks:

- To scale, paint and clean according to a regular maintenance programme.
- To work on rigging and deck machinery under supervision.
- To keep up to date with any relevant training
- To keep the Bosun informed of any issues that arise, especially Health and Safety issues.
- Other tasks as agreed with the Designated Team Leader

Please see over for the small print about working conditions on board Challenge, which should not be seen as a deterrent to this rewarding activity.

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The Small Print

Challenge is a working vessel and so it is only fair to make volunteers aware that this role is not one for someone anticipating sipping gin in a tranquil environment. For those who enjoy being physically active and don't mind getting a bit dirty, it is highly rewarding.

Work Environment:

Challenge is not a modern ship and so you must expect to operate in the sometimes cold and harsh environment of a vessel built more than 70 years ago. Fighting constant deterioration and delivering a ship which is attractive to visitors takes many hours of hard work throughout the year but the results are worth it.

Since Challenge is a ship, climbing ladders, bending, kneeling and using relatively heavy and noisy maintenance equipment is part of the experience. Awareness of risk and the ability to work with a low level of supervision is essential.

When at sea there is obviously the possibility of sea sickness, but we do welcome volunteers who can help during the year but don't want to go on sailings.

Health and Safety:

Your own safety and that of those around you is paramount. Specific safety equipment is provided according to the task in hand (hard hats, goggles, hearing protection etc.). However, you are responsible for providing your own working gear (boiler suits, protective footwear, gloves etc).