



BRILLIANT ADULT GUEST

CREW HANDBOOK

**MYSTIC
SEAPORT
MUSEUM**

Dear Adult Guest Crew,

Going to sea and sailing this historic vessel provides great fun, and we want you to enjoy the process in as many ways as possible. My hope is that your experience will be refreshing.

Essential to the philosophy of the way we sail *Brilliant* is to have all hands take part in most aspects of the vessel's operation. This includes steering, sail handling, helping in the galley, cleaning, and watch standing. Much of the pleasure of this experience is in the hands-on participation and sharing in the responsibility of caring for this special example of our maritime heritage. All who sail aboard *Brilliant*, from wooden boat connoisseur to absolute beginner, gain a memorable seagoing experience that provides a combination of adventure and satisfaction through meeting the challenge of the elements.

I hope that your sail aboard *Brilliant* will increase your respect for the sea and lead to further inspiration. No one can guess for sure how you will be inspired, but perhaps a deeper understanding of what it means "to go to sea" will be enough.

Sincerely,

Captain of *Brilliant*

Age & Fitness Requirements

The adult program is for women and men 18 years and older. **Participants must be very fit and agile.** This is a full hands-on experience and we rely on you to “pull your weight on the boat.” *Brilliant* is a lively boat and requires a lively crew. Please do not underestimate the physical challenge of rough weather. Rough begins when the windblows more than 20 knots.

Arrival and Departure Procedure

Park in the South Parking Lot across from the Museum Store. Proceed with your gear to the South Entrance where the staff will give you directions to *Brilliant*. You will be required to carry your own gear on and off the grounds. When you arrive at the vessel, you will meet the captain and/or the mate. They will give you a safety briefing, a tour of the below-decks, and a discussion of the operation of the heads and other facilities.

Participants should plan to embark at 9:00 a.m. We return to the dock midafternoon unless other arrangements have been made.

Records

Before you arrive for a program, be sure you have received a confirmation, which serves as a contract and should be kept by you. Also, the signed registration form must be in our office before you depart. You may not sail on *Brilliant* without it.

Keeping in Touch

On passages longer than a day sail ports of call are entirely at the captain’s discretion. When possible, the captain reports to Mystic Seaport Museum during the cruise, so that the vessel’s general location is known. To contact *Brilliant*, in an emergency only, telephone Mystic Seaport Museum Security at 860.572.5310. The Museum will then make every effort to reach the vessel.

What to Bring

1. Bedding - one sleeping bag, one sheet and one pillow case. We provide pillows.
2. Towels - one washcloth and one large towel.
3. Swim Suit - If you enjoy cold water!
4. Toilet Articles - include sunblock. Please do not bring spray on sunblock.
5. Comfortable Clothes - bring jeans or khakis, shorts, shirts. (Fashionable or expensive clothing and jewelry are best left at home.)

6. Soft-soled Shoes – avoid black rubber soles and please do not bring flip-flops.
7. Cold Weather Clothing – a heavy wool sweater or jacket, heavy socks, warm pants, and a windbreaker. Fall and spring sailing can be brisk. Don't be fooled by warm weather ashore.
8. Foul Weather Gear – seagoing two-piece outfits are best, but if you don't sail a lot, keep it simple.
9. Other Essentials – sunglasses, hats, and camera.
10. Seasick Medication: Bonine (generic: Meclizine HCL) and Dramamine (generic: dimetrahedrenatee) have been successful. Bonine (Meclizine HCL) is less prone to cause drowsiness.
11. Flashlight
12. Sea or Duffel Bag – all gear (except sleeping bag) is to be packed in one sea or duffel bag of moderate size. No suitcases are allowed, as stowage space is limited. There simply is not room for larger bags and extra clothing. Do not bring extra loose gear. Keep it simple. We provide a safety harness for every crew member in rough weather.

Shore Leave

When the work is done, shore leave may be enjoyed in a variety of harbors if conditions permit. Adults are urged to return to *Brilliant* at a reasonable hour and in good condition appropriate to the safety of crew and vessel.

Shipboard Life

For coastal sailing, we typically anchor and occasionally lay at the dock at night. On some passages, we may sail through the night, and all hands will stand a watch, sharing the responsibility of vessel operation and safety.

Facilities for doing laundry or for taking a shower do not exist aboard *Brilliant*, but some ports do provide showers.

All hands are expected to turn out to perform necessary work at any time. In breezy weather a pull on the main sheet is a task for many hands, and such maneuvers as gybing, tacking, or taking in sail often require fast work by everybody aboard.

Brilliant does not have 120v outlets but does have a few 12v USB outlets that may be shared by all hands on board. These may be used in moderation to charge cell phones and cameras, keeping in mind that we have a finite

amount of battery power. Facilities for doing laundry or for taking a shower do not exist aboard *Brilliant*. All hands are expected to turn out to perform necessary sail handling at any time. In breezy weather, a pull on the main sheet is a task for many hands, and such maneuvers as gybing, tacking or taking in sail may require fast work by everybody aboard. Lookouts are placed on bow when underway and keep watch for such objects as lobster pot buoys, logs, or boats that might be in a hazardous position.

Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Policy

No drugs are permitted at anytime.

Smoking of any kind is not permitted onboard, this includes all vaporizers.

Alcoholic beverages may be brought aboard, but may only be consumed at the discretion of the captain, after the day's work is complete, and in moderation for reasons of safety and for consideration of your shipmates. There will be NO consumption of alcohol while underway.

Short History

On 23 April 1932 the schooner *Brilliant* was launched from the yard of Henry B. Nevins at City Island, New York. She was built for Walter Barnum, and at his request the construction details were of the highest standard for a possible voyage around the world. At the present time, *Brilliant* is in every way fit to undergo any of the trials envisioned for her when new. She is a tribute to her designer, builder, and to all those who have owned or cared for her over the intervening years.

Although not primarily built for racing, *Brilliant* can give a good account of herself when there is plenty of wind.

During the summer of 2000, *Brilliant* raced with Tall Ships 2000 from Boston to Halifax and won First in Class and third in a fleet of over 40 vessels. She went on to win the race from Halifax to Amsterdam, First in Class and First in Fleet. She entered the 1932 Bermuda Race soon after being launched, and though she lost her Genoa jib on the first night out, she was not far behind when the Highland Light broke the existing course record.

In 1933, *Brilliant* set a record in elapsed time for vessels of her size when she ran from Nantucket Lightship to Bishop Rock Light, England, in 15 days, 1 hour and 23 minutes.

In 1936, one of the hardest Bermuda Races was run. In a heart-breaking finish, *Brilliant* was becalmed almost at the finish line, and the crew helplessly watched the Vamarie catch a breeze, come up from astern, and cross the finish line several minutes ahead. *Brilliant* was thus second over the line. Kirawan, a smaller craft, won on corrected time. Henry E. Bodman of Detroit, Michigan, purchased *Brilliant* in 1940 and took her out to the Great Lakes. There she cruised until William W. Spivy bought her in 1942. Mr. Spivy donated her to the Coast Guard for anti-submarine patrol work. In this service she operated out of St. Simon's Island, Georgia, evidently spotting at least one submarine but without mishap.

With the end of World War II, *Brilliant*, along with other yachts that had been pressed into service, was auctioned off. She was purchased by Briggs Cunningham in 1945. Mr. Cunningham rerigged her with taller masts and increased sail area with the intention of giving her more speed in light winds. After a poor showing in the 1946 Bermuda Race, she stayed more or less in Long Island Sound.

In 1953, Mr. Cunningham generously donated *Brilliant* to Mystic Seaport to teach young people the art of seamanship. Through program earnings and continued donations by friends of *Brilliant*, this fine schooner has been maintained to a high standard and is admired wherever she goes.

Since 1953, *Brilliant* has sailed the equivalent in nautical miles of five times around the earth with more than 9,000 students setting her sails and steering her course. Caring for this significant vessel and keeping maritime skills alive help Mystic Seaport fulfill its mission as the Museum of America and the Sea.

In October 2000, the American Sail Training Association voted *Brilliant*'s former Captain George Moffett "Sail Trainer of the Year," and in 2011, he was awarded the "Lifetime Achievement Award." *Brilliant* was named "Sail Training Vessel of the Year" in 1997. She has won the famous Nantucket Opera House Cup twice, in 1986 and 1997, and has won many other classic boat races over the past 50 years.

Brilliant's Specifications

Name: Brilliant

Built: 1932

Type: Auxiliary Schooner

Designer: Sparkman & Stephens, Inc.

Builder: Henry B. Nevins, Inc.

Length Overall: 61' 6"

Length at Waterline: 49'

Beam: 14' 8"

Draft: 8' 10"

Designed Displacement: 42 tons (Estimated present displacement: 47 tons)

Lead: 33,000 lbs.

Licensed Capacity: 2 crew, 10 passengers

Heads: Two

Electronic Equipment: Radar, GPS, VHF, SSB, Speed/Log, Depth Finder

Water Capacity: 200 gals. In stainless steel tanks under floor

Construction: Teak with bronze fastenings, oak frames

Sails: Dacron, Sail No. 22

Running Rigging: Dacron

Standing Rigging: Stainless Steel

Anchors: 1 Yachtsman; 1 Bruce

Life Raft: Coast Guard approved inflatable, 2 6-man

Engine: #353 G.M.C. Diesel, 1982, 97 H.P.

Cruising Speed: 6.5 knots (under power)

Stove: Force 10, Propane

Lighting: 24 volts, emergency, 12 volts

Fuel Capacity: 130 gals. In bronze tank under engine

Vessel built to highest Lloyd's specifications under their supervision. Vessel licensed as Sailing School Vessel (and Passenger Vessel) under United States Coast Guard regulations and inspection. On ocean passages, Brilliant sails as a six-passenger uninspected vessel and on coastal or inland passages she sails as a sailing school vessel or passenger (inspected) vessel. Captain carries Coast Guard issued license as required by law.

Brilliant is hauled every year and inspected by the USCG for the integrity of her hull, rig and safety equipment. The two six-man life rafts are inspected and tested every year. Radios are also tested and FCC approved.