SAN FRANCISCO MARITIME
NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION

Set Sail for STEM and History



Education Programs

Cross-Curricular Education Programs

Why Choose Us

The San Francisco Maritime National Park Association is dedicated to preserving and sharing the rich maritime history of the Bay Area. As the official non-profit partner of the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, we offer engaging educational programs that immerse students in history and marine science. All our programs are taught by professional educators.

- **Standards-Aligned:** Programs meet CA Content Standards and NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards).
- **Skill-Building:** Foster critical thinking, teamwork, problem-solving, and environmental awareness.
- **Unique Locations:** Programs are held aboard historic ships, and distinct Bay Area waterfront locations.

Contact Information

Phone: 415 561-6662 Ext. 5
Email: education@maritime.org

Program Locations

Pier 40, San Francisco
Pier 45, San Francisco
Aquatic Park Cove, San Francisco
Mare Island Coal Sheds, Vallejo



Ready to Register!

Visit **maritime.org/education** for full program details, standards alignment, and registration forms.

SAN FRANCISCO MARITIME NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION

Marine Science & Living History San Francisco and Vallejo

Our education programs take place aboard historic ships at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park and the Mare Island Coal Sheds. These hands-on, standards-based experiences are designed to engage students across disciplines.

Aquatic Park Science and Explorers Programs

Dive into the natural and marine sciences, with topics like weather, navigation, simple machines, and intertidal ecosystems. These experiences bring STEM concepts to life through real-world, on-the-water exploration.

Explorers Sailing Day Program

- Pier 40, San Francisco
- Tues, AM Sail 8:30 am–12:00 pm
  Tues, PM Sail 12:30 pm–4:00 pm

Aquatic Park Science Program

- Aquatic Park Cove, San Francisco
- Wed, timing flexible

Living History Day Programs

Immerse students in daily life during California's mid-19th to early 20th centuries. Through role-play, storytelling, the poetry of sea chanteys, and hands-on activities aboard the historic ships, students explore social studies, language arts, and STEM concepts in an interactive historical setting.

Life on the Barbary Coast Day Program

- Mare Island, Vallejo
- Mon–Fri, 10:00 am–2:00 pm

Gold Rush Day Program

- Mare Island Coal Sheds, Vallejo
- Mon–Fri, 10:00 am–2:00 pm

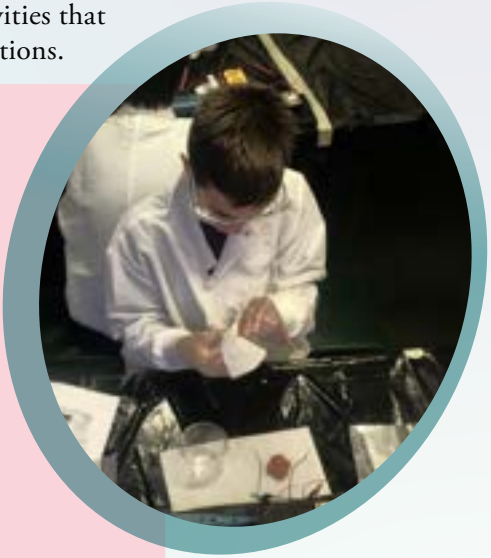
In-School Programs

- Mare Island Coal Sheds, Vallejo
- Available upon request. 1-3 hours, flexible

Submarine Science and Overnights USS *Pampanito* Pier 45 San Francisco



The USS *Pampanito*, an authentic World War II submarine, is conveniently located in the heart of Fisherman's Wharf and is a perfect destination for a day or overnight trip to visit Historic Pier 45. These programs take place in our visitor center and include a guided tour of the *Pampanito*. During our overnight programs, groups sleep in the crew's bunks and live in the same cozy quarters as the original crew did during the submarine's six wartime patrols. During both our Submarine Science Day School and Overnight programs, students participate in hands-on science activities that focus on the science behind submarine operations.



Submarine Science School

Pier 45, San Francisco

Day Program

Wed-Thurs, timing flexible

Overnight Program

Fri-Sat, 3:30 pm–8:30 am

Youth Group Overnight

Pier 45, San Francisco

Thu–Sat, 6:30 pm–8:30 am

Self-Guided Education Tours

Daily starting at 10:00 am

Discounted tickets and worksheets available

Maritime Program Details

USS *Pampanito* at Historic Pier 45 San Francisco

Youth Group Overnight Encampment

San Francisco, Pier 45, USS Pampanito

6:30 pm

Heed the call as your group becomes the honorary crew of the USS *Pampanito* for one unforgettable evening. The program includes guided tours of the Conning Tower, Gun Deck, and the Officer's Staterooms—areas usually off-limits to daily visitors. Spend the evening learning about the fascinating career of Pampanito and her previously top-secret naval technology. Your group is guided through the vessel and the artifacts on display. Stand night watch and play card and board games in the mess deck and greet the sunrise over Fisherman's Wharf.

Submarine Science School

San Francisco, Pier 45, USS Pampanito

Submarine designers had many challenges: diving & surfacing, propulsion, navigation, and communication inside the boat and out, to name a few! Science was used to address all these design challenges, which makes *Pampanito* a perfect hands-on platform for students to study scientific principles. At the submarine science school, students are introduced to Pampanito with a tour and then participate in hands-on science stations.

Day Program

Schedule: 10:00 am–1:30 pm

On our Day Science Program, students learn the science of submarines and how cutting-edge technology helped the USS *Pampanito* carry out its mission during World War II. STEM concepts are taught at rotating stations and align with Next Generation Science Standards tailored for fifth through seventh grades, such as density through buoyancy, light & optics through periscopes, and sound through SONAR. Students also experience a guided historical tour through the submarine.

Overnight Program

San Francisco, Pier 45, USS Pampanito
3:30 pm– 8:30 am (Food is not provided)
Grades: 5–7th

Enroll your class in the USS Pampanito submarine science school. Like our Day School, students rotate through science stations and are guided on a historical tour aboard the submarine. Two exciting and challenging additional rotations include: using the principles of chemistry and electricity to build a chemical battery and study vectors through navigation. Students compete to see who scores the highest and then enjoy the cozy quarters of the submarine as they sleep and stand night watch.

Educational Day Tours

San Francisco, Pier 45, USS Pampanito
Self-guided–10:00 am
Daily (student limit per group: 20)

We offer discounted admission for school or youth groups to visit the USS Pampanito to see the artifacts on display inside the Visitor Center and along Historic Pier 45. Perfect for a day trip in Fisherman's Wharf! Audio Tours are included and downloadable from our website ahead of time or once you check in. In addition, we have curriculum worksheets to complement the audio tour and enhance your students' learning, available to print from our website.

If your group is larger than 20, please allow a minimum of an hour for touring the submarine, as group leaders are required to stagger their boarding.

Groups waiting their turn to board can see artifacts and interpretive exhibits in our Visitor Center at the head of Pier 45.

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Maritime Sailing & Rowing Camps San Francisco

Aquatic Park, San Francisco
One-week sessions, June–August
9:00 am–3:30 pm, Extended Care Available
Ages: 8–12 years

Our campers spend every day exploring the best the San Francisco waterfront has to offer–both by land and by sea! Each day is split: half the time is spent on the water learning to row and sail our fleet of small craft, and the other half is spent on a field trip to one of the many adventurous and educational locations nearby. Campers explore the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, visit the World War II submarine USS Pampanito at historic Pier 45, sail the bay, and explore the marine environment and tide pools of Aquatic Park Cove.

Adult Team Building

Available upon request

We offer team-building programs to adult groups of all kinds. The rich variety of activities provided by all our various programs is excellent for team building, celebrations, fitness, and/or maritime skill building. Contact us to discuss how we can design a custom experience that perfectly fits your group's needs.



San Francisco Programming

Aquatic Park Science Programs

Students explore the marine environment by conducting water quality tests, analyzing data, counting and identifying species along the rocky intertidal zone, all while making connections to adhistory in Aquatic Park Cove. Students will learn to row together in a longboat to collect plankton samples. Our programs are tailored to the group's size and needs, ensuring a personalized and engaging learning experience.

Explorers Sailing and Science Program

Pier 40, San Francisco

Scow schooners like the Alma (1891) and Gaslight, a more modern scow, are a glimpse into San Francisco's maritime past. The boats are Coast Guard licensed and certified to carry passengers and are operated by a professional Captain and crew. Your students help raise and set the sails as we head out onto the San Francisco Bay. Our team of educators then teaches various science and engineering principles in the workplace that keep the ship intact and on course. Students rotate through four hands-on stations where they work with a compass and charts to navigate, learn where weather comes from and its effect on the vessel, experience what early explorers felt sailing into the San Francisco Bay, observe the local wildlife, including sea birds, seals, and porpoises, and even get a chance to steer at the helm!

Youth Boat Building

Aquatic Park, San Francisco

Boat building, rowing, and sailing programs are available throughout the year. Students learn to row and sail our fleet of small craft while also building the next addition to the fleet. Boat building is a fantastic way to teach math in a hands-on, project-based format, and rowing and sailing offer an ideal context for teaching physics and science concepts.



"My students left this trip bonded as a class and with an improved confidence in themselves."
Stacie Johnson, 4th grade teacher, Burlingame

Living History Programs
Mare Island Coal Sheds

In our Age of Sail programs, students aboard the Historic Ships of the San Francisco Maritime National Park build character, learn self-reliance and teamwork, and gain valuable living history lessons in this historic setting. These programs offer a unique opportunity for the classroom teacher to bring the many strands of the State's Content Standards together in one hands-on, goal-oriented framework. With the help of our crew of professional experiential educators, the students are transported to a colorful and bustling world of the 19th- to early 20th-century waterfront from the Barbary Coast of San Francisco and Vallejo to the California Gold Fields.

Life on the Barbary Coast

Mare Island Coal Sheds, Vallejo
10:00 am–2:00 pm

In this immersive program, students are encouraged to develop teamwork and active living skills to tackle the challenges sailors faced every day—setting mooring lines, keeping bell time, working the rigging, and lifting cargo—all under the demanding and watchful eyes of the Captain and ship's officers.

Gold Rush

Mare Island Coal Sheds, Vallejo
10:00 am–2:00 pm

This four-hour day program takes place in 1849, when the population of San Francisco exploded from under 1,000 to over 25,000 as Argonauts flooded the city and crossed the Bay to the Gold Fields in search of riches. Students work with a gold miner, a ship's captain, and a local merchant to learn of the various opportunities, risks, challenges, and rewards facing people during that time. The program fosters critical thinking and problem-solving skills through the lens of a boom-and-bust town and a fledgling state while immersing the students in the history of California's Gold Rush.

Dive into Maritime History with Education Programs offered by



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Program FAQ's

Q: How do I apply?

A: Simply fill out the program application on our website or contact our education department for assistance. **maritime.org/education**

Q: Do you offer financial assistance?

A: Some programs may offer scholarships or sliding-scale fees. Ask us for details when you apply.

Q: Where are you located?

A: We have programs based in San Francisco at four locations and in Mare Island, Vallejo, CA.

maritime.org/education

Historic Pier 45 & Aquatic Park Cove
Mare Island Coal Sheds ~ Living History Programs

P.O. Box 470310
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