



Educational sailing vessels Exy Johnson and Irving Johnson, Official Tall Ships and Maritime Ambassadors of the City of Los Angeles

ADVENTURE-BASED, HIGH IMPACT TEAM BUILDING

Team Building on a Tall Ship is unlike any other team building experience

The Los Angeles Maritime Institute (LAMI) incorporates many elements of its award-winning TopSail Youth Program into corporate team building events offered aboard our traditionally rigged 110-foot tall ships. The twin brigantines *Irving Johnson* and *Exy Johnson* provide the ideal environment to reinforce the importance of

cooperation and teamwork, hone communication skills, and challenge your team's physical and mental abilities.

Our unique team building program is completely customizable to align with your organization's objectives. Team size will vary in number depending on the activity involved. For example:

- Climbing aloft – individuals
- Setting sails – small groups
- Furling sails – medium size groups
- Vessel maneuvers – entire group
- Cannon Battles – entire groups, both vessels

Our methodology includes the concept of challenge by choice. No individual is persuaded to participate beyond their comfort level. Peer pressure is enough to keep things moving. Middle School students, both male and female, sail these vessels with one hour of training, under the guidance of our crew. Ask your management team: *If middle school youth sail these vessels year round, are you up to the task?*

How will your team benefit from a Tall Ship team building experience?

- ✓ *Climbing aloft* is the perfect individual challenge for overcoming fear.
- ✓ *Setting sails* requires physical and mental strength and cooperation. If everyone doesn't haul together, it can be very difficult. If done in unison, it's like a coordinated dance; it becomes a light and easy job. There are over 100 lines involved in setting and taking in sails.
- ✓ *Furling a large square sail* is a task that requires teamwork, as participants step out onto the footropes under the yards, which are high above the deck. This can be extremely challenging in rough seas.
- ✓ *Maneuvers*, such as tacking and wearing, involve turning the vessel onto a new course, and are not nearly as simple as merely turning a car wheel. All the sails have to be manipulated and timed, requiring the cooperation of the entire group. Everyone has to know and perform their assigned task, or the vessel cannot be properly maneuvered. Communication, teamwork, and leadership skills are involved and enhanced at every stage when altering course.
- ✓ *Racing the twin brigantines* fosters team spirit and cooperation among employees. It provides a fun recreational opportunity for employees that enhances work dynamics, increases employee motivation, improves communication, boosts self-confidence, and breaks down barriers among team members.

These are just a few examples of team-building exercises offered aboard the *Irving Johnson* and *Exy Johnson*. If you have specific goals and objectives, please let us know. We can tailor the program to best achieve your organization's goals.

About the Los Angeles Maritime Institute (LAMI)

Los Angeles Maritime Institute serves to empower youth to discover their greater potential through extraordinary at-sea experiences. Founded in 1992, LAMI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing educational, character building, sail training adventures, primarily for youth. Our goal is to help youth develop the problem-solving skills and attitudes difficult to teach in the classroom, yet necessary to stay in school and become healthy, productive adults who better understand their responsibilities as involved and informed members of society.

Our award-winning TopSail Youth Program is offered year-round to 6th – 12th grade students throughout Los Angeles and youth groups located in distressed communities.

Through program support from the Port of Los Angeles, we are able to offer 80 “free” program sails to Title I schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District for the 2014-2015 school year. However, any school or youth group can book our program based on their ability to pay, and our year-round fundraising efforts make this possible. Since our founding, we have served more than 55,000 youth in underserved communities throughout Los Angeles County and changed the course for thousands of young people who were on a dropout path leading to gangs, drugs and crime.

All revenue raised through corporate team building events and private bookings help subsidize our “free” and “reduced fee” program for underserved youth in the Los Angeles Harbor Region and throughout Los Angeles County.

