

## **Job Description**

### **Title: Vessel Captain**

#### **Overview**

The Captain of the sloop *Clearwater* is responsible for the safety and well-being of both the crew and passengers, and the safe and efficient operation and management of the vessel. The captain is the ultimate authority on the vessel, commanding respect and attention from all crew and passengers at all times. Clearwater tradition, seafaring tradition and legalities dictate the extent of the Captain's command.

The 106' sloop *Clearwater* is an all wood work boat, a replica of sloops that sailed the Hudson River in the 18th and 19th centuries. Instead of the bricks and produce cargo of earlier ages, *Clearwater's* "cargo" is a message of care and concern for the environment, especially the Hudson River and its surrounding waterways. The Captain is an ambassador of Clearwater's environmental agenda and acts accordingly.

*Clearwater* is owned by the members of the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc., a nonprofit environmental education organization. The vessel follows the river's sailing traditions while sharing its message environmental education and hope to those who come aboard. Clearwater crew provide a solid schedule of onboard education programs for schools, educational groups, adult programs and members.

Clearwater is a Coast Guard inspected vessel. It sails from the tidewater reaches of the Hudson River, including greater New York Harbor, northern New Jersey and Long Island Sound. The sailing season runs from early April through mid-November. The captains work ten days on the boat, then work five office days, and five days off before getting back on board. The start date would be between March thru October until November 2015 with an opportunity to start up again in the Spring of 2016.

The Captain has both Administrative Responsibilities and Boat Responsibilities. These areas of responsibility overlap and are not confined to the locality of the office or the boat.

#### **Administrative Responsibilities**

The Captain's responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Ensuring compliance with all federal, state and local safety regulations with special regard to the USCG.
- Hiring and managing crew; sailing and maintenance crew and apprentices.
- Bookkeeping of vessel accounts (boat books) and maintenance of budget.
- Planning and implementing maintenance work.
- Research and purchase of all maintenance supplies.
- Working with other Clearwater departments
  - Maintaining a close relationship with the Sail Coordinator/Program Manager and Education Department
  - Communicating with the Inspiration Department regarding grants, festivals, and special events
- Working to maintain a positive relationship between the boat, office and board.

#### **Boat Responsibilities**

The Captain's responsibilities on the *Clearwater* include but are not limited to:

- SAFE OPERATION OF THE VESSEL.
- Decision making in all aspects of operation from fishing to reefing to scheduling, etc. including cancellation and postponement of programs and sails.
- Training crew in all aspects of vessel operations including the safety, program, public relations and community.
- Managing the crew in such a way as to create a strong, cohesive team.
- Working with educators to maintain a positive community on the boat for all crew, apprentices, interns, volunteers and passengers.
- Working to maintain positive relationships among Clearwater, dock masters and other vessels.
- Prompt written and verbal incident reports to the Executive Director.

- Vessel maintenance.
- Maintaining clear communication with the on board educators, and the Education Director, to ensure the best quality of education program.
- Hiring sailing crew and staff.

**Qualifications**

- A USCG 100 ton inland master's license (aux. sail)
- An understanding of the Clearwater organization, mission, and membership structure.
- Experience as the captain of Clearwater or a sailing vessel of similar size.
- Knowledge of the Hudson River and of Clearwater's educational and volunteer programs.

This is a basic job description for the Captain. It is, by nature of the job, a partial description as the needs of the moment often create new responsibilities and new methods by which to fulfill them. It is understood that the Captain will always act in a manner to maintain the safety of all on board.

Please send resumes and cover letters to [Office@clearwater.org](mailto:Office@clearwater.org).