



SAIL WITH US!

We invite you to bring your students on a very special field trip – a school sail aboard the gundalow PISCATAQUA on the tidal waters of New Hampshire and southern Maine. Our third sailing season begins mid-May and runs through October, with sails offered both morning and afternoon Monday through Friday.

For 30 years the nonprofit Gundalow Company used the replica gundalow CAPTAIN EDWARD H. ADAMS to provide dockside programs throughout the Piscataqua Region. Recognizing the educational value of taking students out on the water to connect with their environment and heritage, we built a new, Coast Guard-certified gundalow that now serves as a unique floating classroom and lab.

During school sails on the new gundalow, students are engaged at customized learning stations related to exploration of the waterways and the operation of the gundalow, and work with the crew to set the sail, steer, and navigate.

Activities are hands-on and place-based, combining concepts from social studies, science, math, art, and language arts. Critical thinking skills, decision making, and working as a team are all incorporated into the experience.

Our standard program, based in Portsmouth, is approximately 2.5 hours with morning and afternoon sails available. The cost per trip is \$375; up to 27 students can be accommodated (with four adults). A 4-hour option is offered if you're interested in a more in-depth experience, and a 3.5 floating lab is available through a collaboration with the UNH Marine Docents.

Each season the PISCATAQUA visits one or two towns “up river” or in Great Bay, and we're happy to arrange programs in other towns when possible.

Our programs and activities are correlated with state frameworks and closely aligned with principles of both estuarine and ocean literacy. Gundalow crew will work with you to customize the trip and guarantee your class a meaningful educational experience.

To book a trip or speak with a member of our education staff, please contact us at 603.433.9505 or e-mail education@gundalow.org. Program materials can be viewed at www.gundalow.org

We look forward to seeing you on board the PISCATAQUA!

SCHOOL SAILS

You and your class will soon embark on a unique educational experience, under sail on a traditional wooden barge. Your students will be immersed in learning through hands-on activities, adventure based education, and quiet observation, and will work as a team to set the sail and help navigate the vessel.

Please notify us in advance of students with special needs or health issues, and feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns: 603.433.9505

What you should know:

- The PISCATAQUA is certified as a passenger vessel by the US Coast Guard
- A licensed captain and highly-trained crew will be in charge during your trip
- Activities will be facilitated by enthusiastic educators
- The gundalow travels the tidal waters of the Piscataqua Region
- Activities are correlated with state frameworks and learning results.

What to expect:

- A 2.5 hour trip or a 4 hour option
- Small groups of students engaged at hands-on learning stations
- Quiet time for observation, journaling, and/or drawing
- Team work to set the sail and steer the boat
- Activities that encompass a variety of learning styles
- A renewed enthusiasm for learning!

What you can do:

- Prepare your class by using the pre-visit resources provided
- Bring a completed permission form for each student
- Divide your class into **three groups** before you arrive
- Encourage students to use shore-side bathrooms before the trip
- Have students dress appropriately for the weather

What to bring:

- Permission forms
- Sunscreen
- Water
- Raingear
- Hats, mittens, jackets

What to wear:

- Warm clothes (long pants, sweatshirts, socks)
- Removable layers of clothing
- Rubber-soled shoes

What to leave at home

- Electronics (including cell phones)
- Food and gum
- flip-flops, sandals, clogs
- umbrellas

* IMPORTANT REMINDERS *

It is almost always cooler on the water! Please make certain your students dress for the boat ride and not for a day at school.

CELL PHONES

Are discourages so students are not distracted and items are not lost overboard. We encourage teachers to collect phones before boarding.

SAILING ON THE PISCATAQUA

Please plan to arrive at the dock 15 minutes before your scheduled trip. This will allow for a brief welcome before boarding, as well as bathroom stops (bathrooms are available in Prescott Park; while there is a marine head onboard, we do rely on a holding tank).

We recommend that the bus drop you and your students off by the flagpole in Prescott Park on Marcy Street, across from Strawberry Banke. Free bus parking is available on Peirce Island, just across the bridge from the park.

It is important to board on time, and quickly, to ensure as much time on the water as possible. If you arrive late we'll do our best to adapt the planned activities to your shortened time. Please understand that we must return to the dock on schedule.

You'll be greeted at the top of the ramp by the onboard educator who will collect permission forms and pass out the nametags we provide. Students will board in three groups (divided by you ahead of time), assisted by our crew.

The captain will give an orientation and safety talk once your class is on the gundalow. While lifejackets are not required, they are on board and available to all passengers.

Chaperones are welcome and will be expected to help with safety and conduct of the students. We do ask that chaperones not assist students with their work unless asked to do so by the crew. Four adults are required for each class trip.

Once the captain and the onboard educator have prepared your class the PISCATAQUA will head out on the Piscataqua River and your students will help set the sail. The tide, wind, and weather will determine how far and in which direction you travel.

While the trip will be customized for your class, a sample agenda follows. Please note that the times are approximate and are based on your arrival.

9:00	Safety talk and orientation	12:00
9:15	First watch (set the sail)	12:15
9:30	First learning station	12:30
10:00	Off watch (chantey or observation)	1:00
10:15	Second learning station	1:15
10:45	Last watch (chantey or observation)	1:45
11:00	Third learning station	2:00

There will be time for students to observe, ask questions, and participate in guided discussions. Please let the onboard educator know if you would like to take an active role in any of these.

Your class will sail rain or shine so be sure students dress appropriately. The trip will be canceled by the captain only in severe conditions *

- *Boat phone: 603.502.0174 Office: 603.433.9505*

LEARNING ONBOARD THE PISCATAQUA

Taking students out on the water is a transforming experience. This integrated program on the PISCATAQUA will provide exciting opportunities for your class to explore our maritime heritage and make connections to their environment.

The cultural and natural history of the area will come alive as your students join the gundalow crew – setting the sail, steering the boat, and engaging in active learning and teamwork throughout the trip.

Please divide your class into THREE groups before you arrive. Working in small groups allows for more hands-on opportunities. Gundalow crew will provide color-coded nametags when you arrive. During your sail, several learning periods will be offered:

First watch:	Boat handling: setting the sail as a group
Station 1:	First learning session
Off watch:	All students gather on deck, for singing or observing
Station 2:	Second learning session
Last watch:	All students gather on deck, for singing or observing
Station 3:	Third learning session

Students will board as a group and then rotate through an established program as the PISCATAQUA leaves the dock and travels down river. They'll work as a team to set or lower the sail, help the captain steer the boat, and learn simple navigation.

Everyone will participate in three education stations – one below deck in the cabin and two on deck, one mid-ship and the other near the bow. At these stations students will be engaged with hands-on activities such as analyzing water, collecting data, studying charts, discovering human impact, observing the weather, exploring ecosystems, and learning boat handling skills. Concepts from science, math, social studies and language arts will be woven into the activities.

“Watch time” will allow for quiet observation and chantey singing. Literary works, art, or additional music can be incorporated so please let the educator know ahead of time if you'd like to lead something for your class.

The theme of the learning station in the cabin is “human impact over time”. This station will be a part of every trip and can be adapted to your curriculum by focusing more on history or on the environment (determined prior to sail day).

Before the trip you and the onboard educator will have determined the theme of the environmental science station on deck, choosing between sampling the water quality or towing for plankton. Both choices include an introduction using live animals or plants, and parts of two themes can be combined as needed.

The third learning station uses charts, maps and compasses to establish a sense of place. During this station students will be pulled out in pairs to join the captain at the helm, learning to steer and checking out the navigation equipment.

All program content is easily adapted to any watershed. Please speak with the educators about additional content you'd like to have included during your program so we can help you plan the best experience possible