

UNH Marine Docent Family Boat Building INFORMATION

Description

The UNH Marine Docents Family Boat Building project is modeled after the successful program offered by Wooden Boat Magazine where fifty families each build a row boat over a single weekend. Our program differs in several aspects. (1) The program is much smaller limited to six boats. (2) An experienced builder is assigned to each family (3) The Docent volunteers assemble the materials and machine the parts lowering the cost by hundreds of dollars, with higher quality components and (4) The boat we offer is a more sophisticated sailboat specially designed for family construction.

Program Goals

Our vision is to create a satisfying, rewarding and successful family project that will produce a product that will be enjoyed for years to come. The participant families will experience the joy and pride of watching a pile of lumber grow into a beautiful and useful boat through their own efforts. In the process they will grow as a family while they:

- Develop hands on woodworking and teamwork skills
- Learn about our marine heritage and the natural resources of our coastal and estuarine environment.
- Learn safe on-the-water practices.

Eligibility / Selection Criteria

The program is designed for families with at least one youth age 12 to 20. Extended families and single parents are welcome. All should have rudimentary skills such as hammering and using a handsaw and simple measurement. The youth especially, must have the desire and stamina to put in three full days of work (fun hopefully) with more required to apply paint and varnish. Some strength is required to seat the nails used or hold the Bucking Iron (a sledge hammer head) in place.

A strong desire to get on the water, learn a new skill and do something as a family, is more important than woodworking skill or experience. The ideal candidate family would be the dad or mom that feels he or she is "all thumbs", but needs only supervision and encouragement. Docent volunteers will provide classroom teaching as well as help with construction individually supervised by an experienced docent.

Because we have so few places, only six, we anticipate some qualified applicants can not be accepted. Early applicants and New Hampshire residents will receive preference in cases of parity of choice. The UNH Marine Docents will make the final participant selection. No applicant is assured acceptance without notification and the required deposit.

Shop / Facility

The construction will take place in a large equipment shed at the UNH Kingman Farm in Madbury, Near the UNH campus. Building jigs and shelter are provided. There is limited

power, which must be shared. There is no heat. Because we are guests, participants must especially be mindful of parking, toilet facilities and clean up.

Additional observer guests can be accommodated with permission. Very small children will require supervision by non-builders to keep construction on schedule.

Shop rules and safety procedures must be followed assiduously.

Boat Description

The boat is a cat boat (single sail) specifically designed for family building for our program. Overall length is 11' 4" with a beam of 5'. Draft is 30" with the dagger board down, less than 6" with it up. The wide beam and flat bottom make it very stable. It easily carries two adults or even three when rowing. The spars are solid spruce for a gunter configuration. The 60 sq. ft. sail makes her a sprightly sailer. Construction is marine grade 1/4" plywood over 5/8" plywood frames and transom. Fastenings are stainless or bronze. Modern adhesives virtually assure watertight integrity. The hull weighs about 100 pounds and can be transported car-top, in a pickup or on a small trailer. The floorboards and sail rig which are removable and shorter than the boat are easily stored in the boat or separately for transport. A sample of the completed boat will be available at the farm for your viewing and for guidance during construction. Everything (except paint oars, life jackets and sailing lessons) is provided to get you on the water.

Building Schedule

Building will take place at the UNH Kingman Farm in Madbury, NH on Friday, May 15, Saturday, May 16, and Sunday, May 17.

We will meet at Kingman Farm on Thursday evening, May 14th for a classroom session and to get acquainted and answer any last minute questions.

We start construction at 8 AM on Friday and work until completion of the day's tasks or until it gets dark. We'll continue work on the same schedule, Saturday and Sunday. The hull will be complete on Sunday.

We anticipate additional work will be necessary at home to complete the spars and install the sail. We will be confident you have the ability to complete the rig properly before setting you free. Should there be any unanticipated delays we will set a mutually agreed upon time to complete all tasks.

Cost

Total cost is estimated to be \$950 including all materials, instructions, and a sail. We shop for you and find the best, most affordable, materials. Limited scholarship funds are expected to be available. A letter outlining need will be required.

Tools and Supplies Provided by Participant

Basic Tools Needed

Claw Hammer, two would be helpful
#2 square head Screw Driver
Philips Head Screw Driver
Hand Saw (fine crosscut)
Combination Square
Hand Plane (Block Plane preferred)
Caulking Gun
Level
At least two 4" "C" Clamps
Portable Drill with extra battery and charger
 Drill bits 1/8 through 1/4 inch (3/8 if you have it)
 Countersink
 Philips head driver
 #2 square head driver
Tape Measure
Bucking Iron (four pound Sledge Hammer – preferable without the handle
 Or similarly massive object to back up nailing)
Plastic Putty Knife
Bucket, Bag or Box to contain tools on site
Extension cord

Helpful But Optional

Power bar
Orbital Sander
Saber saw with fine cut plywood blades

Basic Supplies Needed

Pencils
Marking Pen
Rags and Paper Towels (2 rolls)
Bar soap for lubricating screws
Paint thinner for clean up
Hand Cleaner
Sand Paper (four sheets each 80 grit and 120 grit)

**UNH Marine Docent
Family Boat Building
APPLICATION**

Adult Name(s) _____

Youth Name(s) _____ Age _____

_____ Age _____

_____ Age _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Describe any boats/watercraft you presently own _____

Describe your family's experience on the water. Do all members swim? _____

Describe your woodworking experience/skills. This will help us assign the most appropriate Docent to work with you. _____

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APPLICATION
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I understand and will abide by the schedules, rules and restrictions described in the Docent Family Boat Building Information Sheet including full family participation in on and off the water training as well as construction. I further understand that photographs and video may be taken during construction and authorize the use of those photos and video images for publicity and publications purposes.

Participation is open to residents of Maine and Massachusetts as well as New Hampshire. In the event of similar qualifications, preference will be given to residents of New Hampshire. All applications must be postmarked or received at Kingman Farm by April 15, 2009. In the event of similar qualifications, preference will be given to the earlier applicant.

Signature _____ Date _____

Must be attached: 1) Completed essay 2) \$950 check (payable to UNH, cashed upon acceptance). Upon acceptance participants will be required to sign a liability release.

PLEASE NOTE: WE WILL PROVIDE TIPS AND ANSWER SAILING QUESTIONS ON HOW TO SAIL YOUR NEW BOAT. BUT, WE WILL NOT PROVIDE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS. IT WILL BE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO FIND A QUALIFIED INSTRUCTOR IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY A SAILOR.

Mail or deliver completed application, essay and deposit to:

Marine Docent Program
UNH Sea Grant Extension
Kingman Farm
University of New Hampshire
Durham, NH, 03824-3512
603-749 1565