



# Tall Ships

Spring 2022

## Essential Question:

- What cultural and scientific knowledge and practices are required to successfully navigate, maintain, and operate a Tall Ship at sea?

## Community Partnerships:



## Description:

Set sail on the *Roseway*, a 137-foot, two-masted, gaff-rigged schooner that sails the U.S. Virgin Islands, departing from St. Croix.

While aboard for 10 days, students will acquire seamanship skills and learn about coastal navigation, small boat handling, marine biology, oceanography, and historical and cultural interpretations that have been projected onto the sea. As our sail progresses, there is a distinct focus on leadership. Students will participate as crew members, assisting in raising and setting the sails, manning the helm, calculating and charting the course, standing watch, and performing hourly boat checks during the day and at night on a rotational basis.

Daily lessons also include readings and discussions of several tales of the sea, physics of sailing, wave mechanics, ship operations, snorkeling, and possibly sea kayaking. While sailing, a variety of local stops further connect the students to marine life, biology, sea-life, and the history of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Critical to the ECS is teamwork, cooperation, responsibility, and environmental stewardship.

[Track the Roseway.](#)

# Upon De-Port-ure (Departure)

By: Audrey B. '22 & Andrew H. '23

February 28-March 3, 2022

The Tall Ships ECS has been smooth sailing thus far. Before we left for the US Virgin Islands, we spent two days prepping for our voyage. On Monday, we began the day by taking a group trip to get Covid tested. Without this, we would have been unable to go to the USVI in the first place. Once back at school, we split into groups to work on different presentations. This allowed us to cover a wide expanse of topics very efficiently.

Once Tuesday rolled around, we had the lucky opportunity to meet with our 4th-grade ECS buddies. Each presentation group taught the class some interesting information from our individual research. After our little buddy meeting concluded, we each presented our full individual projects. We had a wide range of topics, including the science of sailing, basic vessel knowledge, and the history and culture of the USVI. After our presentations, we were taught about the more scientific aspects of our trip, like where and how oceans originated. Finally, to conclude our last day before departing, we stepped outside to learn how to tie some basic, but useful, sailor knots.

Wednesday and Thursday came sailing at us in no time. We all met at night ready and excited to de-port (depart) from Colorado Springs and start our adventure to the Caribbean. Although the night started off well, we soon had some rough water as we arrived at DIA. We were stuck trying to get through to the USVI travel portal system so we could all receive boarding passes. This, and forgetting a bag and having to retrieve it, were the only mishaps we had to overcome. Our travel to MIA happened smoothly, even as we went for an unexpected walk across the airport just to return back to where we were earlier due to an unexpected gate change. Once we got on the plane to St. Croix, it all went smoothly. We caught a glimpse of our tall ship on the way to dinner and we are all excited to spend our first night in the Caribbean on some nice hotel mattresses. We are excited to board the Roseway tomorrow!





# First Impressions: CSS Aboard Roseway Day 1

By: Cailan R '23, Ella B '22, Haegan M '23  
March 4, 2022

Today was our first day stepping foot on the boat, and seeing it up close on the dock made us more excited than we already were. We started off talking about our hopes, fears, and expectations for the trip ahead. Some of our hopes included: stepping out of our comfort zone, taking on the responsibility of a leader, trying new things, and getting to know the ship and ourselves better. The first few tasks on the ship gave us a look into what we were getting into for the coming weeks. Of course, with no prior knowledge of sailing or the terminology, there were some complications. However, we kept in mind that this was only our first day, and we've got a lot of room for improvement.

The first thing we did upon boarding was take a tour of the boat. We familiarized ourselves with the living quarters we were going to be staying in, quickly realizing how small they actually were. The swim check was a task that we were surprised to be faced with, if only for the fact that we were already on the boat. After the swim check, we finally got into the hard work. We learned pin-staying techniques, how to raise the sails, and different methods of coiling the ropes. The chef, Jen, prepared us two wonderful meals: fried rice for lunch, and spaghetti for dinner. Finally, after our evening chores, we sat down and discussed some important words and ideas that we should keep in mind throughout the trip.



# Big Boy Sailing

By: Taylor H. '24, Shively K. '22 & Finnegan T. '22

March 5, 2022



Our day began early in the morning, between 10:00 PM (the night before), and 5:40 AM. We were on anchor watch, during which we performed routine boat checks, took bearings, ate snacks, and pumped bilges. On our boat checks, we monitored battery levels and ensured that there wasn't too much water in the bilges, and made sure the anchor wasn't dragging. We then used a handheld compass to guarantee our boat hadn't moved too far off course. Some lucky watch groups also had the privilege of pumping out the bilge (pits where ingressed water is contained), moving water from them back into the great blue Caribbean Sea, but this vital task was only performed when water levels reached a certain threshold.

Those of us who weren't already awake were quickly made so by the call of "fo'c'sle dwellers wake up" and the same for the fish hold. We quickly ate our breakfast, which was prepared by our lovely chef Jen, and we then moved on to our morning chores. We scrubbed the soles (floors), cleaned the dishes, washed the heads (bathrooms), and swabbed the deck. Then, around 8:30, we set the sails.

First, we hoisted the mainsail, pulling the whopping 3500 pounds of sail up 30 feet, to the top of the mast. We then did similarly for the foresail, jumbo, and jib. Our captain motored us out from our anchorage, where we then began sailing downwind from St. Croix to Esperanza Vieques, Puerto Rico. Cruising under sail power, we went on rotations with our watch group, some



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active watch, some learning knots and seamanship, and some doing group building activities. On active watch, we performed more boat checks, looked out at the bow of the ship, and steered the boat at the helm. In our knots and seamanship rotation, we learned many knots: the bowline, the figure eight, the reef knot, the round turn and two half hitches, and basic navigation techniques with a compass and map. Finally, in our group building activity, we made flags representing each watch group and came up with sick handshakes and signals.

We made wonderful time on this voyage, cutting three hours off of our planned trip. This allowed us extra swim time, which was also our time to "shower" (soaping up and jumping in the ocean), followed by some free time to journal and reflect. We ended the night with a fun game of Adventure Island, which involved many humorous lies and deception. Thus ended our first day of big boy sailing, and began the next night's watch...



# Relaxation Station

By: Aidan Y. '23, Mia L. '24 & Taylor H. '23  
March 6, 2022

We spent the day anchored in Esperanza with a full day of adventures ahead. After the long night of anchor watches, we mainly focused on making sure we stayed in the anchor circle. We had an early wake-up call at 6:45 am. We had a quick breakfast and got straight into chores. Chores include breakfast set up and clean up, fish and fo'c'sle soles, and deck wash.

By 10 am we had started taking turns on the dory to get to shore. Once everyone was on land we started our walk to the head of the trail. It took us longer than expected to find the trail, since no one really knew where we were going. Once we found the trail we started hiking to the top of a beautiful cliff. We sat at the top, taking in the view, and eating snacks for a while before it was time to head back to the boat for lunch.

After lunch, we completed our chores, and some of the crew members, Taylor and Sienna, gave us lessons on bioluminescence and point of sail. We learned that bioluminescence is dinoflagellate and is a part of the eukaryotic family. There are a couple of predictions of why they might produce this glow. 1. They are trying to attract other creatures that eat their predators. 2. They are trying to use the light to scare away their predators. Then Sienna spoke about the points of sail. Some names are in irons, close-hauled, reach, broad reach, and dead downwind. This presentation taught us a lot about the physics of sailing and the millennium questions. Right after the presentations, we had swim/shower time.



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We then started to prepare to go kayaking. We were told that our appointment was at 7 p.m. by a confirmation email, but we thought we had until 9 p.m. Our cook, Jen, then rushed to get dinner ready. Right after dinner had been set out, and we all started to eat as fast as possible, we were informed that our appointment was in fact at 9 pm. We then had a small break to prepare and rest before we started shuttling people back to the docks with the dory.

Once we were all on land, we started our small walk where we would meet our bus, Mellow Yellow. It was a 15-minute drive to Mosquito Bay. This bay has the largest amount of dinoflagellates, meaning the bay's bioluminescent glow is the brightest in the whole world. Our guide Ethan showed us around the bay and taught us about the Mangrove trees and how they help increase the population of dinoflagellates. We also learned that the water in the bay's deepest point is only 12 feet, and most of the bay is only 4-6 feet deep. After our tour, we headed home and started our anchor watch rotations while everyone else went to bed.



# Snorkeling Adventures

By: Sophia O. '23, Chloe L. '22 & Nora V. '24  
March 7, 2022



We woke up today ready to go to Culebra, Puerto Rico. Once we got started, the captain and crew realized that we wouldn't be able to set sail because we were "in irons," so instead we motored until we were able to turn and set up the sails. On the way to Culebra, the waves were extremely rocky and some even reached up to 9 feet tall. However, work did not stop on the tall ship, and we kept normal rotations. For rotations today, we either had a "rest" time, were on standby which consisted of steering at the helm, the bow of the ship, or doing boat checks, and learning about seamanship. At around 14:00 we reached our destination, had a yummy snack, and got ready to go snorkeling. We paired up in groups of 2 or 3 and were dropped off not too far from where the Roseway anchored. We found a small coral reef with lots of colorful fish before heading back for some R and R.



After we all got back from snorkeling, we were given a bit more time to rest. During this time, some people decided to read and take it easy, while others engaged in fits of laughter that ran through conversations. Soon enough, it was dinner time, and hungry bodies rushed to set up. We had a special treat for dinner; the heat makes the bread spoil faster, so students, Audrey and Chloe, made us all bread that was braided together with everything bagel seasoning. Paired with Jen's outstanding cooking, we all had an amazing meal. After, we broke back out into night chores, and we all ended the day with a movie.

# Island Expeditions

By: Andrew H. '23, Kaylee B. '23, Katelyn R. '24 & Landon M. '23  
March 8, 2022

After a good night's sleep, we enjoyed a peaceful morning, beginning with extravagant breakfast burritos and preparation for our short morning sail. Everyone is starting to get used to sea life on the ship and the many complex concepts of sailing. We then motored out of our calm anchorage on the south side of Culebra and headed to our next destination, Culebrita. During the three-hour sail, we went through task rotations making lunch, working on our navigation skills, and even learning some old sea shanties, one of which was named Santiana. After arriving at the crystal clear waters between Culebra and Culebrita, we anchored right beside a massive mega-yacht, named Man of Steel. Next, we were shuttled into shore on our small boats called dories: we went ashore in several trips, unloaded on the white beach, and embarked on our extremely steamy hike up to an abandoned lighthouse. Our group then played a game of hide-and-seek among the ruins of the lighthouse, enjoying the stunning view from the top of the hill – a few of us even took a quick swim before we returned to the Roseway. Back on the boat for the rest of the night, we enjoyed a delicious dinner, played some board games, and prepared for a long day of sailing that lay ahead.



# "Oops!"

By: Audrey B. '22, Finnegan T. '22, Cailin R. '23  
March 9, 2022



We began our day at 0745, amazingly late compared to our typical schedule. Upon awakening, we were already underway, motor sailing directly into the wind. After finishing our breakfast of "boatmeal" and toppings we set the sail and began our morning chores. Each watch group had three rotations: active watch, rest and relaxation, and seamanship. The bow lookouts had a fun time dealing with swells that thoroughly soaked them every thirty seconds or thereabouts. On our seamanship rotation, we learned new knots, new sea shanties, and learned advanced principles of navigation, such as taking bearings using the ship's radar. The morning passed by without ordeal, despite the length of the sail.



Our afternoon, on the other hand, was slightly more eventful: our soup was blown off of our spoons, and our quesadillas flapped away in the wind. At 1317 a loud snap echoed across the ship, and the peak of the mainsail gaff swung down. The students were ushered out onto the foredeck, away from any source of potential danger, and the professionals took over. A crew member was awoken from his slumber, and quickly ran to assist in the lowering of the sail. What had happened was the main peak halyard snapped, releasing the weight of the mainsail, and the gaff solely onto the throat halyard (shoutout throat halyard). The sail was lowered and damage control began. The boom and gaff were lashed together using all of the gaskets, and the sail was secured to the quarterbits on the quarterdeck.

We used the remaining sails and the motor to hurry into 18° 21.656' N 064° 45.020' Francis Bay, St. John, USVI, USA, NA. Currently, we are seeking a new halyard, yet to be obtained. Further updates to come.



# Sea Cucumbers on St. John

By: Ella B. '22, Shively K. '22, & Haegan M. '23  
March 10, 2022

We started the day going to space – learning to moonwalk. After that morning exercise, we ate a delicious breakfast, followed by our usual morning chores. We then boarded our dorys and ventured to shore. We hiked across St. John and went to a snorkel spot called Waterlemon Cay, where we saw fishies, a turtle, sea cucumbers, sea urchins, and a stingray. After lunch, we hiked up a small hill to some ruins, when it started to pour. Instead of running to shelter, we took the rain as an opportunity to rinse off with some freshwater, which was a welcome break from our usual ocean showers.

After our island adventure, we headed back to the boat where we celebrated Kevin's birthday with some peach cobbler. Finishing our cobbler, we took turns climbing sixty feet up the shrouds to the tops of the masts. Everyone made it to the top and got to enjoy the beautiful view. As our final activity of the day, we headed into dinner, chores, and a fun game of charades.



# Hiking & Petroglyphs

By: Sofia O. '23, Taylor H. '23, & Taylor H. '24

March 11, 2022



Early this morning, after our lovely breakfast of French toast casserole, we went over emergency protocols. We learned what to do and covered everyone's job in case of a man overboard, a fire, and abandon ship. Then we headed out on the dories to Maho Beach in Saint John, where we had a long day ahead of us. Saint John has a national park, and we planned to take a hike through it and land on Reef Bay. Along the way, there were several plaques containing details about trees, ruins, and fruit-bearing plants. Some topics included: lime trees, mango trees, pineapple plants, and rum trees. Part of the hike was an old cart path dating from the 18th and 19th centuries.



We stopped at the petroglyphs from pre-colonial times made by Taino people, who were natives to the island. At the site is a freshwater pool, inhabited by dragonflies, gliders, and various freshwater creatures. We were given a journal prompt to draw one of the petroglyphs and write a story about it. Journal entries ranged from ninja stories, prophecies, to backstories of the people drawn in the petroglyphs. We also ate lunch before heading back on the trail.

On the hike, there were ruins from a sugar plantation and even a ruin of an old factory, some of the machinery still remains intact. The trail led to a beach called Reef Bay, where we spent half an hour swimming and cooling off from our 2-hour hike. After dipping in the water, we started heading back on the trail we came from. It took about 2 hours to make it back to Maho Beach, and we were back on the Roseway in time for dinner. Our wonderful cook, Jen, made us chicken parmesan to refill us after our long day. After chores, we ended the day with a movie night. We watched a highly requested movie loosely based on sailing, "Moana."

# Olympic Training

By: Aidan Y. '23, Mia L. '24, & Nora V. '24  
March 12, 2022

We started the day off with a delicious breakfast: eggs, hash browns, and sausage! We completed our chores and prepared for the deckhand Olympics while we motored out of Francis Bay, St. John. It was a short sail, and we got to see some of the British Virgin Islands on the way. While sailing, we practiced for the Olympic games, which consists of knot tying, pin chasing, and setting and striking the jumbo. A pin chase is a relay race where a crew member calls a rope name, and you have to locate the pin it is made off to.

Once we arrived at Coral Reef Bay, St. John we ate a yummy lunch and got ready to go snorkeling. As we were applying sunscreen, we spotted dolphins! Then we snorkeled for a little bit and saw a nurse shark. The reef was very pretty and had a lot of parrotfish living in it. Once we were back on the boat we had some downtime where we journaled and trained a little more for the Olympics. Many groups set and struck the jumbo in less than 3 minutes and 30 seconds. Tomorrow we will update you on who won!



# Our Final Adventure

By: Andrew H. '23, Katelyn R. '24, & Kaylee B. '24  
March 13, 2022

After a fun night of deckhand Olympics (in which the C team took first on knots and the pin chase and the B team took second, winning the Jumbo set and strike race) we started the day by preparing for our final adventure to St. Croix. We skillfully prepared for the long day ahead of us by partying all night, and then waking up early to our favorite breakfast, pancakes, made by our favorite chef, Ms. Jen. Starting the day off we had no idea the crew had a surprise plan for all of us during our downtime called R and R.

Once we finished breakfast, we finished our usual daily chores and got to do a once-in-a-lifetime experience with our watch group. Our surprise was being hooked onto the bowsprit and crawling out to the very tip of the boat. After lunch, we had an all-hands muster mid-ship shanty time. A little later, we had a mandatory swim/shower call, AND we even got a 7 SECOND FRESH WATER RINSE. We will end our night with the swizzle talent show.

Photos show some of the swizzle acts: Sofia tells a joke with no punch line; we fit seven people in the head: and Haegan, Chloe, and Landon play Riptide.

