

BUILDING CHARACTER THROUGH ADVENTURE SINCE 1963!

WHO WE ARE

Brigs Youth Sail Training is a registered charity offering by-youth, for-youth leadership programming on board our two tall ships. Our mission is to provide personal development opportunities to youth 13-18 years old from all walks of life. Over 22,000 young people have sailed with us since 1963.

WHAT WE DO

TS Playfair

Sailing Voyages across the Great Lakes

- 1-2 week-long overnight voyages aboard our tall ships - we sail 24/7!
- Youth participants don't just learn to sail - they develop teamwork, responsibility, and resilience by working and living together in a challenging environment. No one person can sail these ships by themselves.
- *"My experience with Brigs made me more confident talking to other people I didn't know. It improved my teamwork and communication so much, because you are working together to be able to get where you need to go."*

STV Pathfinder

Adventures in our Home Port

- First launch of our week-long tall ship day camp right in Hamilton Harbour!
- Campers learn to handle a ship as a crew, explore their local environment, build hands-on skills using tools and sail overnight once a week.
- *"I learned many things about tall ships, such as what all of the sails are for and how to work with my crewmates. It was really cool being able to go out on the water in a boat for the first time!"*

Winter Program

Volunteering, Leadership, and Careers Development

- Summer participants can train to become members of the ship's youth crew by volunteering at Winter Program, which involves practical skill-building in marine-related trades every weekend during the school year.
- Participants earn industry certifications such as Marine Emergency Duties, and are ready to challenge Transport Canada exams such as Chartwork & Pilotage
- Roughly a third of the volunteer crew go on to work in the Marine Industry
- *"I'm incredibly grateful for the knowledge I've learned onboard, at Winter Program with my fellow Officers. Sailing with Brigs boosted my confidence and opened doors I never thought possible, as well as paving the way for marine education and job opportunities."*

Pathfinder Access Fund

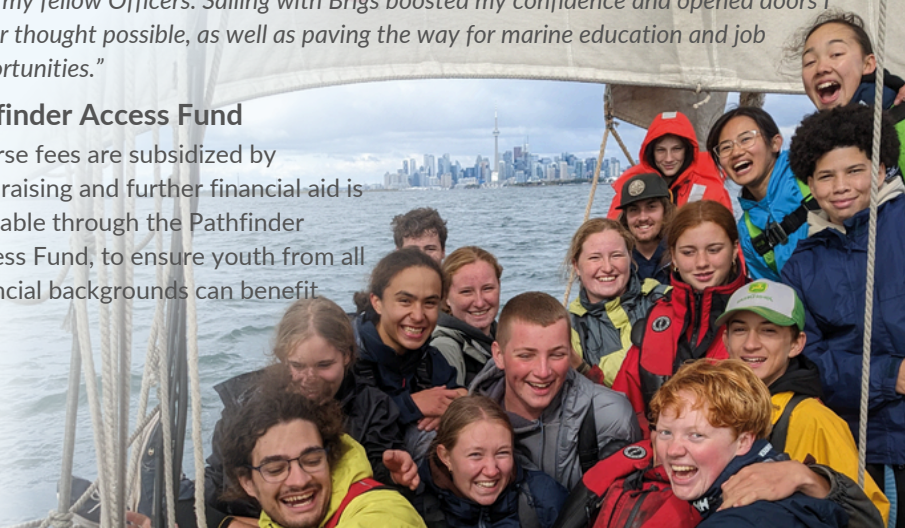
- Course fees are subsidized by fundraising and further financial aid is available through the Pathfinder Access Fund, to ensure youth from all financial backgrounds can benefit

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

- 88 Summer Youth Trainees, with a combined 762 sailing days
- 97% booked + waiting lists
- 21% of participants were sponsored by the Pathfinder Access Fund
- 15 participants sailed through our Broad Reach Ships2Shores partnership
- 100 Sea Cadets from 5 Corps
- 27 Young Leaders in Volunteer Crew positions, who volunteered over 3000 winter hours and over 15,000 summer hours
- 4 new grads entered Marine Studies, while 3 entered the marine workforce directly

TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

- Brigs gives participants marine work experience, certification, and a love for life on the water
- Participants are well-adapted to shift work and life away from home
- Skills, certifications, and sea time gained at Brigs are directly transferable to commercial vessels
- Leadership, problem-solving, and co-operation is a part of daily life
- Participants learn how to live in close quarters with a group of strangers and work together as a team, forming strong bonds with people even if they come from very different life experiences





My son's first winter as a Petty Officer – age 14 – was filled with training on everything from navigation to ship-building, sail-making, engine maintenance, woodworking, and marine first aid. At the end of that first winter he said, "Mom, I'm so certified!" He is now a Marine Engineer and he started down that pathway as a result of his many very happy years with Brigs. -Barb Murk

I got to sail as a crew member on Pathfinder and I loved every second of it. I wanted to say above all, what the program means to me, is being able to share something I've found a passion for with so many people. And really, it is the people.
-Recent Youth Crew Member, now a Marine Navigation Cadet



You will learn more useful things at Brigs than at school. Go to school too, but I guarantee in your first job interview you will be talking about all those transferable skills that you learned at Brigs.
-Melanie Croft



Brigs was a foundational experience for me. My time in the program as a kid shaped my professional and personal life in incredible ways.
-Rhys Weed, now a SAR Captain with the Coast Guard

Sailing on the Brigs was probably the most important development of my life, as it helped me understand responsibility and adventure. As the Director of Brand Strategy for X-box in Europe I still use everything I have learned. -Ryan Mugford



I learned to love something greater than myself. Your kids are going to discover who they are for certain through Brigs and that's probably the hardest thing to do as an adolescent these days. Now I work for a tug and barge company. I got hired by a Brigs alumnus and work with one other. Brigs is a stamp of competency in the marine industry so it does you in good stead when you are applying for marine jobs. So, I'm knee deep in the marine industry, and employed in a bad economy, thanks to my time on Pathfinder. -Andrew Fryer

