



## BOAT CREW ORIENTATION PACKAGE

BC Mission Boat Society  
795 West Island Highway  
Parksville, BC V9P 1B9  
(250) 248-5300  
[www.bcmissionboat.org](http://www.bcmissionboat.org)

### WELCOME TO THE CREW!

Welcome to the BC Mission Boat! You will spend a week with up to seven other Christians sharing God's Word in this exciting ministry. When participating in a mission experience, the primary purpose is to share the Word of God and His love. Many past crew members have found the experience uplifting and spiritually renewing. Onboard, free from distractions, the crew will be able to focus on God's Word, what it means in their lives, and how they can share its meaning with others. The opportunity to witness to others, coupled with the breathtaking scenery of snow capped mountains, the sea, and the opportunity to see wildlife in their natural habitat makes this voyage very special for the crew.

We look forward to having you aboard to share your unique skills and experiences of God's love and His work in your life with people in British Columbia's remote coastal areas.

This is our basic orientation package: it should answer questions about this mission, the work you will be doing, and life on the boat. Upon arrival in Parksville, you will receive an orientation review from your mission leader. **It is necessary to read this fully to understand this mission.**

### STATEMENT OF FAITH

All who join as crew work under our statement of faith:

- We believe in the Triune God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)
- We believe that the Bible is God's true inerrant Word given to us through writers inspired by the Holy Spirit that we might know God and His will for our lives (2 Timothy 3:16 and 17)
- We believe that we are justified before God by His grace, through faith in Christ Jesus and we believe that no human works of our own attribute to salvation. (Ephesians 2: 8 and 9)
- We believe that the means by which the grace of God reaches our hearts, minds and souls are through His Word and Sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper).
- We believe God has called every Christian to go into the world and share the Good News of Christ Jesus, His love and His forgiveness of sin, through His means of grace and demonstrated by the deeds of our hands and lives. (Romans 10:17, Titus 3:5, Matthew 26:27 and 28)

### PREPARATION

#### Prayer

We strongly encourage you to speak with your pastor or someone you may know who has had a mission field experience. Ask your pastor and others to pray with you. Ask them to share resources that may help you prepare to witness to others especially in a cross cultural ministry. Prior to coming, pray for those you will meet and your fellow crew members. **We encourage you to ask two or three people to pray for you as you prepare to come and while you are on the boat.**

#### Travel Arrangements

You should already be making plans to travel to Parksville on Vancouver Island. Crew members need to be in Parksville for an orientation session at 7PM on the Friday before your mission week. Please contact our office with your travel details (flight information, ferry times, and accommodation) so that we can schedule pick-ups or billeting

if necessary. A document with travel and accommodation information can be found on our website in the *Forms & Downloads* entitled Travel Info. Summer is a very busy time in Parksville, so reservations for accommodation and ferry travel are strongly recommended.

You will depart from Parksville by van at approximately 8:00 A.M. on Saturday and will return to Parksville at approximately 6:00 P.M. the following Saturday.

### **Criminal Record Check (CRC)**

Because we work with children, all of our mission-field volunteers over the age of 18 are required to provide us with a recent criminal record check. The check must be no more than twelve months old at the time of your volunteer work. You can apply for a CRC at your local police or RCMP detachment. Typically, there is no charge for a CRC if it is for a volunteer position. If you require additional documentation for receive the fee waiver, please contact our office, and we will be happy to send you a letter.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **What is my purpose while on the Mission Boat?**

- To share the hope that you have in Jesus Christ.
- To establish a relationship with people so that the message of God's love shared by the Mission Boat can make a difference in their lives.
- To make a difference in the lives of the people by praying with and for them, by listening to them, by laughing and crying with them or by just being there.

### **Who will be on the boat?**

The boat crew will be comprised of people just like you – Christians who feel called to serve the Lord through this ministry. There will be an experienced captain who has sailed in the area. A mission leader with previous experience aboard the mission boat will also be on board to provide leadership. The mission leader may be a volunteer like you or a staff member. It is also important to note that there can be up to eight members aboard the boat as crew, so space can be tight.

### **What is expected of me as a volunteer?**

While on board the boat, the week is full of activities. Expect late nights and early mornings. Courtesy, respect and a forgiving spirit go a long way in helping everyone have a positive experience. Prayer is a vital part of the experience, as it is our aim to help others grow in their faith while you grow in yours. Allowing the Holy Spirit to lead you each day will insure a calm journey.

This is like a working vacation. It is the crew's responsibility to cook, serve, do dishes, clean (and that includes toilets) and carry out shipboard duties in a fair and equal manner. The method you use to assign chores is your crew's choice. Some crews assign or divvy up chores at the beginning of the week, while others may split up chores according to personal preference. The method you use is your team's choice. In the unlikely event of anyone not participating, the leader assigns chores in a fair manner.

All crew members are expected to read about and know information on basic boat safety and knot tying. You will be asked to help with the docking of the boat and other related duties. It is important that all members of the crew know the safety information. There will be a safety orientation onboard with the captain prior to departure, and you will have an opportunity to practice knots and other tasks once onboard.

While life on the boat is an exciting and vital element of the experience, it is only a part of the role you have on the Mission Boat. As much as possible, some or all of the crew will leave the boat to witness in the communities. This witnessing is often spontaneous as the boat encounters communities or homes along the route. First and foremost,

the crew should remember to pray and put all things in God's hands at the beginning of the day. It is important that the team be familiar with the resources available on board and where they are located on the boat. Your leader will share this information with you. Please use any resources you need. We have Bibles (adult, youth and children's), magazines, crosses, children's programs, and craft supplies for this purpose. The more we can leave with people, the more of a reminder they will have of our visit and our purpose for being there.

While on shore, the crew should be prepared to meet new challenges and have new experiences. When you are open to these experiences, you will naturally treat others in a Christian manner. Listen to people and respect the differences you do encounter. Be prepared to pray and talk with people, listen and learn from them, be ministered to by them, and to share the hope you have in Christ Jesus with them. However, if these opportunities do not present themselves as you would hope and expect, remember that you are a part of God's plan and are making a connection that will lead to future opportunities and ways for God to work in their lives. Always do your best to be flexible and go with the flow. Lastly, relax. Remember, God will prepare people's hearts for the Word - all you have to do is share your faith and hope in God.

## **ETIQUETTE ASHORE**

When arriving in a community, the mission leader and crew members will introduce themselves to the leaders of the community. This could be the owner of a resort or marina, adults in a family, or the band council in a First Nations community. These people will be able to provide permission for you to be there. Some communities are very busy during the summer, so it is important to discover their needs to avoid offering conflicting programs. You will find most communities welcoming and willing to work with you. Most contacts will be notified prior to our arrival.

### **Photography**

**Please do not take any cameras ashore until you have obtained permission, especially in First Nation's communities.** Ask your mission leader if cameras are allowed. **We would rather be seen as helpers and guests than as tourists.** Most communities do not object to photographs of our events such as VBS or pot-blessed suppers. If you wish to photograph cultural events of part of the community, permission **MUST** be obtained from the band office or via an elder or council member. Respecting privacy of those we visit is our first priority.

At no time should you be alone with a child or youth. Two adults are to be present at all times. This is for the mutual protection of you, the child and the BCMBS.

### **Log Book**

The boat has visited many of the communities in the past, and we encourage you to read the logbook on board prior to your visit to a community. The log contains information on the demographics we previously encountered which can guide you in activity preparation. It also has contact information. Before we go into the community we should know who these contacts are so that we check in with them and reconnect. Normally the mission leader will have already done this. Sometimes there will not be a contact list. In this case it is important to meet people in the community and also talk to community leaders. Start talking with people and they will direct you to who you need to see. Make sure to ask about the community; how many people live there, how many children, if there are elderly people who would benefit from a visit and if there is anyone in particular that we should meet.

It is important to discern if there is a Christian presence in the area. This presence can be in the form of Christian leaders in the community, especially when nothing is formally organized. More than anything, we want to assist them in ministering to the community. We should ask them how we can best serve their community and help them.

When the team is off the boat all should remember to take walkabout pads, pencils and boat cards. This insures that we can collect contact information.

Any names, addresses, email addresses and VHF channels should be entered in the logbook at the end of the day. Your mission leader will review this with you on board. It is helpful to always take materials with you when leaving the boat, as it is not always possible to go back for more supplies.

At least one person should always remain on the boat when it is docked in case members of the community come to the boat looking for information. It is also for the security of the boat.

## **DAILY ROUTINE GUIDELINES**

First of all – remember this is only a guideline and all activities must be flexible. Daily routine and itinerary are never set in stone, but are flexible to meet the changing needs of people. We must also be flexible in response to the sea and weather conditions.

### **Meals**

Mealtimes 8 AM, 12 PM, and 6 PM approximately

For meals, the crew will need to take turns serving. This will mean that the server will eat last and thus should not be the same person for every meal. The server and the cooks should also not have to clean up afterwards.

Snacks are available aboard the boat and everyone should feel free to help him or herself. **If you have food allergies or dietary restrictions, you must let us know in advance so we can purchase appropriate food.**

### **Showering**

Showering is not always possible on the boat, as our water resources are limited. However many marinas and resorts will have pay showers (2 or 3 dollars). If you do shower on the boat, remember there is only so much hot water available in the tank, so please be considerate and don't leave the water running the entire time. Just use it to rinse and turn it off while you are lathering. Daily showers are not possible.

### **Briefing (morning)**

During or after breakfast there will be a briefing on the day's planned activities. This will include a general outline of what we are doing that day and a time to share thoughts, a devotion, and prayers for guidance. This can also be a time to assign tasks.

### **Travelling**

Some days will include a fair amount of travel time. This time can be used for preparations for VBS, visiting, youth activities, and free time. All preparations should be completed prior to docking.

### **Activities**

Activities will vary according to the amount of time you have in a community, the needs of the community and the resources you have. A list of outreach activities is included in the outreach section of this package. The mission leader will already have some activities preplanned or a general plan for the week that will be shared at your orientation on site.

### **Debriefing**

As important as it is to spend time reaching out to others, you must also spend time taking care of yourself and your spiritual needs. This is the time for updating the logbook and sharing the experiences you have had. It is a time for a Bible study or devotion. One person may lead this session for the week or everyone may take a turn. It is important to remember people have different comfort levels with this type of sharing and that should be respected.

## FELLOWSHIP WITH THE CREW

Witnessing to others about the love God has for you in Christ Jesus can be challenging for some. This is personal and intimate for Christians and it can often be difficult to put our belief into words that express our faith to others. However, sharing our strengths and weaknesses, concerns or joy is part of our spiritual growth. The time aboard the boat is a time we walk together in faith with other Christians, working together and sharing our experiences – both the success stories and the works in progress. It is a wonderful opportunity, given to us by the Lord, to grow in our own faith and to be a part of others' growth. God has a plan for each of us and we need to listen closely to Him at all times. Look for ways to help strengthen each other. Look for ways to care for the needs of each other and those we meet!

Sharing God is a personal undertaking. There is no right or wrong way to tell others of His effect on your life and His love for you. Below you will find some ideas for ways to share with your crew. Remember that everyone has different levels of comfort for sharing their personal walk of faith and that God will lead your sharing just as He guides everything else.

Ideas for Sharing:

- Bible Studies - If you have a favorite Bible study you wish to share, please feel free to bring it along. This study can be one you have created yourself or one you have done in the past that you feel would help the crew on their spiritual journey.
- Bible Quotes - Many crews like to have one or two members post a favorite verse at the beginning of each day for everyone to ponder on through the day. That evening, the people who posted the verses can discuss the meaning of that verse and share it with the others. Everyone takes a turn so everyone shares. This offers a comfortable level of sharing for most members and gives a focus for the day.
- Faith-based discussion of the day's events - This often occurs during the recording of the log and can provide a great way to share how God worked in everyone's life that day. It also affirms your reason for being on the boat as you can recognize the great ways God is working through your crew and the BC Mission Boat.

## OUTREACH GUIDELINE

Outreach is often challenging, but always rewarding. Here are a few simple guidelines and ideas to help you plan your outreach activities on the boat.

**Remember to pray.** Ask the Lord to open the right doors and give you opportunities to share Him with people and He will guide you.

**Use the skills of the team.** If you have a person that is gifted in working with children or someone who is comfortable leading adults' discussion group, use those people! This does not mean that everyone cannot help out – in fact everyone who feels called should be involved so that they can learn new skills and discover their talents.

**Check with community leaders** to see if there are any buildings we can use and if there are events they would favor. This way we meet the needs of the community and have a guideline that will make it easier to plan additional activities.

### Activity ideas

Boat Fellowship - When docked, crew can walkabout in twos, introduce themselves, visit and invite people aboard for coffee, singing and fellowship in the evening or any other open time. A general rule when in port, as much as possible, crew should be off the boat in small groups meeting and talking with people.

Barbecues and Pot blessed Meals - Join the community in a barbecue (hot dogs, condiments, cookies, Kraft dinner, chips are all available to donate). Music is always great at these events. If you plan a barbecue after a VBS, it may be nice for the children to have a skit, story, song or craft to share with everyone.

Youth events - Bonfires, story telling, swimming, games, music, crafts, and Bible studies on real life issues all go over well with youth. Their needs are different than younger children. Ask them what they would like to talk about.

Adult events - These events can be as simple as having coffee or as complex as planning a course or Bible study. They will largely depend on the skills and interests of the crew and of the community.

One on one ministry - Just spend time talking and listening to someone in need.

Visitations - You will find out from the community or the logbook whom to visit. Take a thermos of coffee and some cookies from the boat.

Helping or service projects - Sometimes special help is requested of us for service projects. If we can meet this need people really appreciate the extra hands. However, if nothing is open at the time we visit it is worth looking into "hammer and nails" projects that we could help with in the future.

Advertising Events - Advertising of events may have happened before hand, but never assume people know about our event. When we arrive it is best to check and assess the interest of the community. On site we can advertise by making posters and writing announcements on the notice board by the boat should anyone drop by.

Children's VBS - There will be a complete 3 day VBS curriculum, resources and all craft materials on board. Your leader will ask you to familiarize yourself with it at the beginning of the week. There might also one or two day events unscheduled that take place. This would depend on the duration of the stay and interest. Do not feel pressured to stay within time guidelines – stay until you run out of activities, the children need to go home or you need to get back to the boat.

Please be sure to have practiced the crafts before trying to do them with children. Any skits should be rehearsed. This will enable you to comfortably cover the important parts of the story without appearing unprepared.

## **WHAT TO BRING ON THE B.C. MISSION BOAT**

Space for storage is limited. Please pack as lightly as possible in duffel or sports bags. No hard suitcases! There is no washer or dryer on board. We cannot guarantee the availability of these services at any of the docks. Although this is a mission of God, this is not a church. Please avoid bringing your best "whites". Boats can have grease and other spills that will stain your clothes. Also, as people will be on and off the boat and we like to maintain a degree of openness, please avoid bringing things you would not want to lose. Things can get misplaced and it would be a shame to have any valuables go missing.

Layering is the best way to dress as the weather in July and August is quite variable and there is usually a breeze on the water. Summer time on the coast is the dry season, but it is very unpredictable and rainfall is possible. Temperatures can range from 15-30 degrees Celsius (55-85 degrees Fahrenheit) depending on the wind speed, wind direction, cloud cover and rainfall. It is always better to be prepared for cold weather and have a warm sunny holiday, than the opposite. We have B.C. Mission Boat windbreakers for you to borrow during your time on the boat, but we also recommend bringing your own jacket as well.

### **Clothing Needs**

- Warm jacket or wind breaker (evenings can still be breezy cold)
- Rain Gear (if your jacket isn't waterproof)

- Sweats and t-shirts
- Jeans
- Shorts
- Bathing suit
- Flip-Flops (when using showers)
- Comfortable walking shoes or hiking boots (if you bring hiking boots, you may want to bring a pair of runners for on the boat)
- Sunglasses
- Sun hat
- Conservative sleepwear as your sleeping accommodations are quite communal (light jogging wear is usually most comfortable)
- Toiletries – i.e. soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and sunscreen
- Extra things – We have some books, games, VCR, and many planned activities. We encourage you to bring anything special that you feel will add to our time together such as musical instruments or stories to share.

We sail for the most part on inside waters, so seasickness is not usually a big issue. If you should feel a little queasy we have some suggestions for you: fresh air and keeping your eyes on the horizon may help. Lying down and closing your eyes also might help. You may also bring seasick medication (ask your doctor), or you may try Sea Bands available at marina stores and some drugstores.

## **What Not to Bring**

We asked you not to bring personal walkmans, discman, MP3 players, hand held video games and alcohol. Due to limited power while we are at sea, avoid bring hair dryers or other devices which might drain electricity.

## **RECREATION AND LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES**

The West Coast of British Columbia offers amazing recreational opportunities. As you will be on the Mission Boat for the majority of your stay with us, here are a few opportunities available while you are onboard.

### **Fishing**

Avid fisherman need not despair- if you would like the opportunity to do a bit of ocean fishing, we will do our best to accommodate you during your time on the boat. Keep in mind that there is limited fishing gear on board, so if you have your own ocean fishing gear, by all means bring it.

For those not familiar with the West coast, there are many types of fish open to sport fishing, such as salmon, halibut and cod. Each area has different regulations and seasons. To discover which fish stocks are open to fish at the time of your trip contact Fisheries and Oceans Canada or use their website at: <http://www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pages/sfg/> A tide water fishing license will be required and can be purchased at most marina stores. The cost of the license varies.

### **Swimming**

There will be ocean swimming opportunities along your route. You may want to check for showering opportunities before you take the plunge, however, as the water can be fairly cold and salt water makes your skin feel sticky after a swim.

### **Photography**

British Columbia has an abundance of wildlife and scenery for the photography enthusiast. Along your route you may catch a glimpse of whales, eagles, bears, seals, birds of all types and the beautiful mountains and landscapes that make BC famous. Keep in mind that many marinas cater to tourists and thus film and batteries will be expensive. There will also be opportunities for relaxation. Feel free to bring along your favorite book or game.

## **BOAT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CAPTAINS AND CREW**

### **Captain's responsibilities on the water**

The captain is responsible for the safety of the crew, the boat and navigation. We ask that you follow his or her directions. The captain is not directly responsible for organizing activities. The mission leader decides the itinerary and event activities once weather and crew safety have been reviewed by the captain.

The captains of the Mission Boat are individuals with years of experience on coastal waters. They have the responsibility for the safety of all crew and the boat while under way. This is a serious responsibility and extends to having legal requirements to avoid situations that would put the boat and the crew in danger.

The captain always has the right to change the itinerary based upon the weather or sea conditions if travel would be dangerous. The Mission Boat captains work with the mission leaders in this planning. There may be times of waiting while the decisions are made. Weather must be closely monitored while on the water, and VHF radio is used as well. There is a specific license required to operate a VHF radio in Canada, and for that reason crew will only be trained to use the emergency signals in the event the captain has been injured. The crew is not normally involved in the running or navigation of the boat, but all are welcome to learn more during their week on board.

The captain will do a safety orientation with you upon embarking on the boat. This will include a review of rules (such as not running on board), designation of crew to help with casting off and tying up when docking, emergency procedures, and the locations of fire extinguishers, survival suits, life jackets and first aid kits.

### **Crew's responsibilities on the water**

As a crew member on board you have specific responsibilities too. Upon arrival, you will be asked to familiarize yourself with the locations of the life jacket and the survival. You will be asked to try on a survival suit. It is recommended that you familiarize yourself with the location of first-aid kit, fire extinguishers, all emergency items (like flares) and to know what your role would be in the event of an emergency.

If there is an emergency, you may have only minutes to leave the vessel, so you will be expected to react quickly if the captain gives an order. If you ever see, smell or hear something you feel is unusual, you need to let the captain or mission leader know right away so it can be investigated. At all times it is very helpful for you to be involved in the lookout activity, watching for logs or items in the water or alerting the crew to a whale sighting.

While underway, you will be asked not to go on deck without someone knowing and you may be asked to stay inside if the swells make it unsafe to be there. There are safety rails all around the boat, but the ocean is cold year-round, and you really don't want to experience it unexpectedly.

## **ADDITIONAL NOTES**

It is our greatest desire for this trip to be a memorable experience for all who come onboard. Our mission statement is "to show and bring Christ, by ship based mission, to remote British Columbia's coastal communities". We will accomplish this by God's grace through YOU!

After thoroughly reading this package and if possible viewing our website at [www.bcmissionboat.org](http://www.bcmissionboat.org) if you still have questions you would like answered, please contact us.

Telephones are usually available at the dockside, but please remember that this is not always the case. Cell phone reception is limited.