

TRAINING VESSEL MANATRA - TRAINING CRUISES FOR NAVAL SEA CADETS

INFORMATION FOR CADET APPLICANTS

Cadets and parents should read this information carefully before submitting requests for billets.

The Ship: Training Vessel Manatra (ex YP-671) is an 80-foot yard patrol craft. Originally built to train Naval Academy and Officer Candidate School midshipmen, she is now owned and operated by the Marine Navigation and Training Association, Inc., of Chicago (MANATRA) for the training of sea cadets, and NROTC midshipmen from Midwest universities.

The Association is a non-profit organization whose voluntary members include former mariners of the Navy, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, and others interested in introducing cadets to the sea services through a quality shipboard experience. The former YP-671 is the third vessel operated by the Association since 1946. She is Coast Guard inspected, and when underway will be commanded by Captain Warren Marwedel, a graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, or one of the Association's other Coast Guard-licensed mariners. Captain Marwedel is an attorney practicing admiralty law, and is the past president of the Maritime Law Association of the United States. Several other qualified MANATRA members, including an engineer and Coast Guard-licensed watch officers, will also be aboard during the underway period.

The Cadet Crew: Cadets are considered vital members of the ship's company, expected to stand their watches, be highly motivated to learn all about the vessel, and do their full share of the work. She is well equipped, but is a very small vessel, carrying 13 cadets and eight officers and instructors within her 80-feet. The small crew provides the opportunity to develop great teamwork and friendship with your new shipmates, but with stowage and living space very limited it also requires, and we fully expect, a commitment from each cadet to get along with others, and to keep his person, his gear, and the vessel clean and neat at all times. We regret that we cannot accommodate female cadets due to the limiting accommodations on board.

The Training: The typical seven-day training cruise includes one or two days of dockside orientation in ship's nomenclature, cleanliness, safety, lifejacket drills, line handling, and watchstanding duties both in-port and underway. Safety is foremost when planning our sailing schedule, which can change depending on sea conditions, weather forecasts, the status of the ship, and the Captain's satisfaction with the competence of the cadet crew. The typical training cruise will likely include several hundred miles underway and one or more port stops. Understand that there may be necessary changes to this plan. Safety comes first and, despite our best intentions,

ships are always subject to the whims of machinery, weather, and the sea. When underway, cadets not on duty participate in piloting and marlinspike seamanship classes or ship's work. When on duty they stand lookout, helmsmen, and messenger watches, assist the Officer of the Deck in basic chart work, and may assist in the galley and engine room. Firefighting, man overboard, and abandon ship drills are conducted. In port, cadets carry out morning and evening colors, clean the ship, stand night security watches, and may, if earned, be granted liberty ashore.

Swim Requirements: It is expected that all cadets will meet the USN Basic Swimmer standard, at minimum. All cadets will participate in an abandon ship drill by entering the water wearing personal floatation devices. Cadets unwilling to do so, or non-swimmers, should not apply for a billet.

Health and fitness: This vessel is equipped with first aid supplies, including an AED, but will not have medical professionals on board. **On offshore passages it is possible to be more than six hours from the nearest professional medical care.** The service records of all embarked cadets must include a Report of Medical Exam, certifying fitness for participation in training, and a Report of Medical History, signed by parent or guardian. Note that this form includes authorization for us to issue over-the-counter medication for the prevention of sea-sickness (we carry meclizine on board, the common brand names of which include Bonine, Advanced Formula Dramamine, and Wal-Dram).

Important: Cadets cannot bring any prescription or over-the-counter medication with them, unless they have in their service record an additional form completed and signed, called the Medical History Supplemental. For over-the-counter medication it must be signed by a parent or guardian. For prescription medications it must also be signed by your medical provider. **Medications that a cadet takes daily for such conditions as ADD/ADHD should not be discontinued during this training.**

Note that both the ship's captain and the COTC retain the obligation and right to deny acceptance for training to any cadet if upon review of these forms it is determined that a cadet is not physically and/or medically qualified to sail with us. If you have any questions or doubts about your health status, or about medication you require to bring with you, or anticipate that you may be determined to be ineligible for training on board, contact the COTC **now**.

Location: The vessel's homeport is at downtown Chicago, moored in the Chicago River adjacent to DuSable yacht harbor and the combined station for the Chicago Police Marine Unit, Fire Department fireboats, and U.S. Coast Guard. Instructions on finding the ship will be sent to cadets arriving by car. Pickup and drop off may be possible for cadets arriving by train, or flying in to Midway Airport or O'Hare (Midway is much preferred). Flights should arrive by 1500 on the scheduled start date, and leave no earlier than 1500 on the departure date.

Requirements for a cadet trainee: Be a currently-enrolled male cadet eligible for advanced training; at least E2(T); have completed RT; minimum age 14 (waivers for 13 year olds may be considered with the unit CO's recommendation); meet at minimum the USN Basic Swimmer standard, submit the listed training deposit, have a Training Authorization issued by NSCC national headquarters based on a submitted request endorsed by both your Unit CO and Manatra's COTC.

Required to bring: A seabag list is posted at www.manatra.org. Note that dress uniforms are not to be brought and, with the exception of a required pair of dressy shorts, neither is there any need (or room) for civilian clothes, other than what you may need for travel to and from the vessel. Cadets may report wearing NWU's, but they may not be worn on inter-city commercial transportation

Staff Cadets: We carry a Leading Petty Officer as our staff cadet, and occasionally an assistant. Preference is for a Chief or First Class Petty Officer, but others will be considered. Prior experience on board is desirable but is not a requirement. Staff cadets must arrive at least one day early. Applicants for staff cadet billets should contact the COTC as early as possible for consideration.

To Apply For A Training Billet The number of applicants for seamanship training opportunities, especially cadets needing this for advancement to Seaman, exceeds the total billets we have each summer so, with the exception of the staff cadet position, preference is given to applicants who have not sailed with us before.

Applicants should follow all current Magellan procedures for requesting a billet, including the timely submission of a Request for Training Authorization, Medical forms, and training deposit. In addition, applicants should submit to the COTC their answers to the Crew Questionnaire available on the Marine Navigation and Training Association's website: www.manatra.org .

Cadets or their unit officers are welcome to contact the COTC listed on Magellan to see if there are billets available.

Applicants traveling by air or train should not buy a ticket until a billet has been confirmed, and arrangements made for pickup or public transportation to the ship. Remember that acceptable health status is required. Non-refundable tickets are not recommended.