

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Sail250® Virginia announces Adopt-A-Ship Program Information is now available!

Release Date: Monday, November 25, 2024

More Info: sail250virginia.com

Norfolk, VA – With less than two years to go to America’s 250th commemoration in 2026, **Sail250® Virginia** Norfolk organizers announced today that Adopt-A-Ship Interest Forms are now available. Sail250® Virginia’s Adopt-A-Ship program offers k-12 schools, home schools, colleges and universities, youth groups and civic organizations exciting opportunities to engage with the visiting fleet of international ships. While the fleet does not arrive until June 2026, organizations can incorporate information about their ships, their country of origin, their crew, and their culture into lesson plans now. The Sail250® Virginia Adopt-A-Ship program can be integrated into any subject – history, language studies, art science, math and many more! As ships begin to confirm their participation, Sail250® Virginia will put our Virginia schools and organizations in direct contact with their “adopted” ship so they can expand on their lessons and communicate with their ship’s crew.

For Sail250® Virginia Adopt-A-Ship interest forms and online resources to help you incorporate maritime themes into your curriculum, visit our webpage at <https://sail250virginia.com/history-education>

Sail250® Virginia CEO Karen Scherberger states “For seven days in June 2026, 4,000 officers, cadets, and crews of more than 55 ships from 20 nations will engage residents and visitors across the region in events and programs symbolic of the bonds of international goodwill and our nation’s 250th. We are proud to offer the Adopt-A-Ship program to personalize community involvement with our maritime guests.”

Scherberger concludes, “We are proud to partner with VA250 and greatly appreciate our generous sponsors and supporters for providing their resources and encouragement to make this experience possible for our communities”.

Sail250® Virginia sponsors include:

Virginia is for Lovers, City of Norfolk, Sentara, TowneBank, Crofton Industries, Dominion Enterprises, E. G. Middleton, Inc., W.F. Magann Corporation, Hampton Roads Shipping Association, Fairlead, Light Tech, Inc., Colliers International, Colonna’s Shipyard, Inc., Perry Family Foundation, Visit Norfolk, BAE Systems, Coastal Precast Systems, Coastal Virginia Tourism Alliance, Elizabeth River Concrete, S. B. Ballard Construction Company, Bay Power Solutions, MHI Ship Repair & Services, The Dwight and Jane Schaubach Fund of the Suffolk Foundation, Bruce Bishop.

Planned in partnership with the United States Coast Guard, United States Navy, and other military commands and regional maritime partners, **Sail250® Virginia** is collaborating with, local, regional, and

national government departments and agencies, civic and volunteer organizations, and endorsed by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission.

Sail250® Virginia is one of five official US ports selected to host the 2026 **Sail250® America** tour, including New Orleans, Baltimore, New York, and Boston.

Sail250® Virginia is planned and directed by Sail Norfolk, the maritime division of Norfolk Festevents, Ltd., based in Norfolk, VA.

Regular updates and more information can be found at sail250virginia.com.

Inquiries and requests for more information, email Sail250vainfo@festevents.org.

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