



Media Release

Tall Ship SS Sørlandet to visit Chicago this summer

February 8, 2013 - Commemorating the 80th anniversary of its appearance at the 1933 World's Fair in Chicago, the tall ship SS Sørlandet will lead a fleet of tall ships sailing to Navy Pier for the Tall Ships Challenge®, Great Lakes 2013 festival August 07 -11. In 1933 the Sørlandet took her first transatlantic voyage to serve as the Norwegian pavilion at the Chicago World's Fair.

The Sørlandet is a 210 foot Class "A" Norwegian square-rigged tall ship built in 1927. Nine months of the year she is home and school for Class Afloat, a private school offering fully accredited senior high school and university programs while sailing to 20 ports on four continents.

While visiting Chicago on February 8th, David Jones, President of Class Afloat said, "We thank Navy Pier for the invitation and I am delighted that we can bring the Sørlandet back to Chicago to celebrate the 80th anniversary of her voyage to the World's Fair. To stand on the decks of this authentic tall ship is to take a trip back to the time when these majestic vessels were the only means for people and goods to leave their shores, a world so different from ours today. We look forward to celebrating this anniversary with the people of Chicago at Navy Pier this summer."

The SS Sørlandet, normally sailing to faraway ports of call around the world, is offering sailors and non-sailors alike the opportunity to experience life aboard one of the world's most majestic tall ships as it sails the Great Lakes this summer.

"We welcome the people of Chicago to come aboard to sail for a week. Sailing aboard a tall ship is the ultimate sailing adventure. Even the most experienced sailor will feel a thrill aboard the Sørlandet under full sail. Being a member of our crew and not just a spectator at Tall Ships festivals all around the Great Lakes just makes it that much more special," says Jones.

Sørlandet's guest sailors can choose to experience all aspects of authentic sailing life, or they can choose to leave the sailing to others and just come along for the ride. The Sørlandet's professional mariner crew will teach them the ropes – all 200 of them – whether they have never sailed before or are looking for a new sailing experience. Participation is based on interest and ability. Guest sailors can go aloft in the rigging to set and stow sails, stand watch, take the helm, or help the galley crew prepare a meal. It's all part of daily life aboard a tall ship.

In addition to week-long sail training programs, Class Afloat will offer two week Youth Leadership programs this summer.

Class Afloat is based in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, Canada. Spaces are available for the 2013-14 school year. More information is at www.classafloat.com

Media Contact:

Holly Clarke, Admissions Associate

hclarke@classafloat.com

902-634-1895 or 1-800-301-SAIL