



## NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Volunteer Recruitment Begins for the 2016 Tall Ship Celebration Maritime Festival**

[*Bay City, MI*] When the **TALL SHIPS CHALLENGE**<sup>®</sup> fleet arrives in Bay City on July 14<sup>th</sup>, volunteers will spring into action catching lines, carefully maneuvering ships into their pre-assigned docking spaces and working with crew to make sure the vessels are secure and ready to receive guests the following morning. These volunteers provide an important service, but represent just one of many different positions filled by volunteers. Help is needed for positions ranging from taking tickets to managing parking lots, and from assisting guests on ships to assisting children with craft activities. Registering to be a festival volunteer is easier than ever through the festival's website [www.tallshipcelebration.com](http://www.tallshipcelebration.com) or directly through [www.volunteerspot.com](http://www.volunteerspot.com).

"We're so excited to introduce a new registration system for the 2016 event that will allow us to manage volunteer scheduling and communication much more efficiently," explained Volunteer Coordinator Mary Herlache. "We've been extremely fortunate to have the support of approximately 500 volunteers for each festival. We value their time and their commitment to the event and want to make it as easy as possible for each volunteer to register for a particular role and a particular schedule."

Tall Ship Celebration is pleased to announce a new volunteer sponsor in 2016: Farm Bureau Insurance of Michigan. "Our agents, employees and clients are active volunteers in communities throughout Michigan," explained Tom Carter, retired Managing Partner of the Bay-Thumb Region. We jumped at the opportunity to support the hundreds of volunteers who work to make Tall Ship Celebration a world class event."

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The **TALL SHIPS CHALLENGE**® is a series of races and rallies produced annually by TALL SHIPS AMERICA, a non-profit membership organization based in Newport, Rhode Island. The event rotates among the east and west coast of the United States and the Great Lakes. Tall Ship Celebration: Bay City hosts the fleet when it visits the Great Lakes. Bay City has been the only official host port in the state of Michigan since 2006 and has won the coveted "Port of the Year" award from Tall Ships America more than any other host community in all of North America.

Tall Ship Celebration 2016 is presented by the Dow Corning Corporation and sponsored by McLaren Bay Region and Mlive Media Group with additional support from Wildfire Credit Union, Consumers Energy, St. Mary's of Michigan, Independent Bank, First Merit Bank, the Dow Chemical Company and Chemical Bank.

For more information about Tall Ship Celebration or Bay Sail, contact Shirley Roberts by phone at 989-895-5193, by email at [Shirleyr@baysailbaycity.org](mailto:Shirleyr@baysailbaycity.org), or visit the following websites: [www.tallshipcelebration.com](http://www.tallshipcelebration.com) or [www.baysailbaycity.org](http://www.baysailbaycity.org). For more information about Tall Ship Celebration volunteer opportunities or to submit a volunteer application, please visit [www.tallshipcelebration.com](http://www.tallshipcelebration.com).

*TALL SHIPS AMERICA is the hub for tall ships activity, information, and expertise in North America, and is commended by the United States Congress as the national sail training organization representing the United States. As a national membership organization, TALL SHIPS AMERICA supports the people, ships and programs of sail training and tall ships through professional development grants, sail training scholarships, conferences, education, publications, regulatory and licensing information, public events and advocacy.*

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