



NEIC Sail Training Voyages 2025



**SAIL TRAINING
IRELAND**
SAIL, TRAIN, LEARN, LIVE ...



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

The sixth edition of the NEIC Sail Training project took place earlier this Summer.

Thirty people from the Northeast Inner City of Dublin took part in this year's Sail training voyages. As in previous years there were two NEIC voyages which took place on the tall ship *Maybe*. These started and finished in Dublin Port. They were split into a voyage for 14-17 year-olds and a second one for over 18's. The participants had the fantastic opportunity to become part of the working crew of a tall ship as trainees under the watchful eye of the professional skipper and crew.

In addition, this year three young people took part in the Dublin Sail Training voyages also onboard *Maybe*.

In an exciting development this year two girls from the NEIC were selected to take part in Sail Training Ireland's Leadership for Life voyages as part of Foróige's Leadership for Life Programme. This collaboration integrates Foróige's renowned Leadership for Life Programme with Sail Training Ireland's experiential learning voyages, providing young people with unique opportunities to develop essential life skills, leadership qualities, and a sense of adventure. This sees the participants undertaking three modules of top-class Leadership Training. On successful completion they will receive a Foundation Certificate in Youth Leadership & Community Action (Level 6 qualification) from the University of Galway.

This opportunity was made possible by funding support from Dublin City Council and the Northeast Inner City (NEIC) Programme Office, with project management and trainee recruitment coordinated by Sail Training Ireland. The programme is also supported by the Department of Defence, Dublin Port Company, and Dublin City Council.



NEIC

The NEIC is a major Government initiative to oversee the long term social and economic regeneration of the area. This involves a vast range of projects, including this unique sail training project.



RECRUITING THE TRAINEES

The participants were nominated by community and youth organisations in the NEIC. The following organisations submitted nominations:

- Bradog Youth Services
- Swan Youth Services
- North Strand Sea Scouts
- East Wall Youth Club
- The Talbot Centre
- Irish National Organisation for the Unemployed (INOUE)
- Mount Carmel Secondary School
- Trojans NEIC Basketball



THE VOYAGES

Over 18's Voyage

This voyage is unique in the calendar of voyages that Sail Training Ireland offer due to it being open to all above the age of eighteen. Normally the voyages are restricted to 18-30 year olds. This was a specific aim of the project from when it started. The result is a wonderful atmosphere and a sharing of experience and skills between young and the less young!



This year's voyage started in Dublin on the 15th June 2025 and returned to Dublin on the 20th following a visit to Wales as part of their voyage.

Under 18's Voyage

The voyage started on Sunday 22nd of June with the trainees boarding the tall ship Maybe at North Wall Quay. The route took them North to Bangor, outside Belfast and returned via Warrenpoint, Lambay Island before returning to Dublin on June 27th in time for the Awards ceremony.

Sail Training Ireland mentor Debbie commented that "It was fantastic to watch the change in attitudes of the Trainees from the first to the last day. They were tired and seasick, and sometimes some of them took some encouragement to help, concentrate on their roles on lookout etc, but by the last two days there was a clicking of their teamwork when they were being given instructions on deck to raise and lower sails, make fast, tidy away lines, or take part in Happy Hour (cleaning the ship!), and especially on Friday morning to get the ship ready for visitors for the Award Ceremony. They played music and sang as they worked, packed, and tidied."

AWARDS CEREMONY

On June 27th, an awards ceremony was held for all the participants. The trainees were awarded Sail Training Ireland certificates. This year we decided to hold the ceremony onboard tall ship *Maybe* rather than in a shore-based venue. This proved to be extremely popular as parents and supporters including members of the NEIC team were able to tour the ship. It even resulted in one of the parents volunteering to come onboard next year as a mentor.

As ever the highlight of the event was hearing from the participants speak on how the voyages had impacted them. Lev, Ruby, and Graham all spoke brilliantly.



Trainees at the Awards ceremony.

SOME COMMENTS ON THE EXPERIENCE.

“The voyage improved my happiness and self-confidence.”

“I learned that I’m stronger than I thought.”

“A unique experience, and a lifelong memory. My teenager made new friends on an amazing adventure, living her best life.”

“Our son had an amazing time met wonderful people and came home safe happy and proud.”

“This was a terrific experience. The crew supported and encouraged the trainee crew through immersive hands-on experience to gain the most from this trip.”

Sail Training Ireland


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