



Background

Real World Readiness

The Northwest Maritime Center (NWMC) has secured funding to expand and improve our innovative Real World Readiness (RWR) program that will address two intersecting challenges faced on the Olympic Peninsula:

Washington State's maritime sector is struggling to attract young people to maritime careers, and remains desperately in need of trained workers across the sector's many categories. As the average age within the workforce continues to climb and the "silver tsunami" of retirement gains momentum, the maritime industry finds itself facing immediate challenges in filling these gaps with new, well-trained employees from a variety of backgrounds.

Youth from the Olympic Peninsula face many unique challenges due to the remote and rural landscape - both geographic and socioeconomic. Poverty in many Olympic Peninsula communities is high as a result of boom/bust economics, and exacerbated by recent off-the-chart inflation. Poverty persists through generations, leaving many young people struggling to find opportunities to succeed. Further, higher education barriers such as high tuition costs and "degree inflation" have many of our area youth questioning the validity or value of that pathway.

Real World Readiness has been born from this coalescence, and is designed to empower youth with valuable maritime industry skills and opportunity for personal development. This preparation will lead to new internship and job opportunities within the maritime sector for those who might not have previously considered the maritime industry as a career path.



The Program

Real World Readiness Students will be supported in identifying maritime interests and pathways, and in connecting with maritime professionals throughout the region, while learning industry specific and durable life skills.

The program consists of two parts.

- **Part one: NWMC Training Internship** is an internship facilitated by the Northwest Maritime Center instructors, and is 80 hours long.
- **Part two: External Industry Internship** is a 60/120 hour internship at an external maritime employer set up by the Harbor Freight Fellow program and supported by Northwest Maritime Center instructors.

Part One

Part one of this program takes place at the Northwest Maritime Center in the form of a hands-on, 80 hour internship.

Small cohort sizes enable instructors to provide student centered, trauma-informed experiential learning opportunities which will equip students with the skills to set their sails as they move forward in toward their internships and beyond into their careers.

Workplace Oriented Curriculum

| Hard Skills | Durable Skills |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Washington Food Worker Certificate- Washington Boaters Card- Red Cross First Aid, CPR and AED Certificate- NWMC Boatshop and vessel maintenance- Practical on-water vessel operation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Performance Mindset Skills- Communication Skills- Business and Entrepreneurial Skills- Financial and Economic Literacy- Interpersonal Working |



Part Two

Part two of this program sees students embarking on an internship: a partnership between maritime industry, NWMC and Harbor Freight Fellow Initiative.

Upon completion of the initial Real World Readiness program, students will have had the opportunity to meet with regional maritime employers and workers, and learn about the different careers offered within the maritime industry.

This experience will inform the second portion of the program, whereby students will complete either a **60 or 120 hour internship** depending on student age, with a local maritime employer through the **Harbor Freight Fellows Initiative**.

Northwest Maritime Instructors will function as an advisory resource during this stage, and will remain in contact with the student to assist with the transition into a formal workplace.

Upon completion of both portions of the program, students will have the maritime skills, personal, and professional connections needed to enter a bustling industry in our region, where they will be able to make a living wage.





Real World Readiness - Spring Cohort 2023

The program is free of charge.

- **Applicants must be aged 16-18, and be based within traveling distance of Port Townsend.**
- **Eligible applicants must be:**
 - Experiencing homelessness
 - In foster care
 - Disengaged with school and have low school attendance
 - Identified as low income
 - Recognized as having other barriers to success in school and / or employment
- **All applicants must be connected to a youth serving referral agency.**

There are 4 places available in the Real World Readiness Spring Cohort 2023.

This is a paid internship and school credits will be available.

Times and Dates

Spring cohort will comprise of ~11 sessions starting in mid March and finishing in May.

Below are the provisional dates for the spring cohort.

Most days will run from about 9am - 4pm.

March:

Wednesday March 15th

Wednesday March 22nd

Saturday March 25th

Wednesday March 29th

April:

Wednesday April 5th

Saturday April 8th

Wednesday April 12th

Wednesday April 19th

Wednesday April 26th

May:

Wednesday May 3rd

Wednesday May 10th

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Further information:

[Real Word Readiness Ships Blog](#)

[The Northwest Maritime Center Website](#)

[Harbor Freight Fellow Initiative](#)