Chain of Command

Inland Seas operates like any other commercial or naval vessel, with a formal chain of command.

The **Captain** (Master) has the ultimate responsibility for the safety and welfare of the crew, volunteers and student passengers.

The **Mate** carries out the orders of the Captain, and delegates tasks among the crew. The Mate is the Captain's representative and under normal conditions most orders to the crew will come through the Mate. The Mate develops the duty rosters and makes watch assignments among the crew.

The **Educator/Deckhand** is responsible for the education program aboard. Since the mission of Inland Seas is Great Lakes education, the operational needs of the education program determine the daily activities of the ship. The Educator and the Captain work together to determine the sailing plan for the day. The Educator also acts as a deckhand as needed.

The **Deckhand** assists the Mate with all facets of shipboard operation, including safety, maintenance, sailing, navigation, watch keeping and any other needed tasks.

The **Cook** is responsible for planning, purchasing and preparing meals for the crew and guests. The cook also acts as a Deckhand as needed, usually when leaving or entering a dock, and other times when we are sailing short-handed.

Lead Instructors are non-crew acting in place of the Educator for the day. Lead Instructors are in charge of the ISEA programs aboard but are not part of the crew.

Interns are college students who may live aboard the vessel. They assist with all aspects of shipboard work, including deck work and education programs. Interns are "passengers".

Volunteer Instructors assist the Educator with the education program. Volunteer Instructors are not considered crew members and cannot have safety related duties.

Because of the small crew size (5), and the educational nature of our mission, we also have a more informal team approach to working the vessel. The team approach ensures that all crew members take an active role in the safety of the vessel, and that there is a free flow of important information among the crew. This also insures that everyone shares in the work load. An example of the team approach is that none of the crew are dismissed from duty until everyone has finished their tasks. If you are done with your assigned job, check with the Mate to see if other crew members need help.