

“Whatever Floats Your Boat!”

National Museum of the American Sailor Activity

Summer is officially upon us and as a Sailor there is nothing better than getting the chance to get out on the open water. Sailors are getting ready, grabbing their safety vests, and heading to the docks. Wait, where are all the ships? Looks like they’re going to need your help! Use supplies and materials that you have at home to build ships to get these Sailors on the water.

Supplies

- Use whatever buoyant (floating) materials you have at home to make the body of your ship: cardboard, paper, popsicle sticks, water bottles. Be creative!
- Decorate the details of your ship like your sail by using crayons, colored pencils, markers, glitter glue, or paint.
- Optional: scissors, glue, stickers.

Instructions

1. First choose the materials you would like to use to make your ship. It might also be a good idea to draw an outline of how your ship will look.
2. What course will your ship take? Will it head somewhere tropical like Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida? Maybe up the East Coast to Naval Station Norfolk in Norfolk, Virginia? Or perhaps they’re going on an even bigger adventure and are crossing the seas to visit Europe?
3. Once your idea is in place you may start constructing! Be sure to ask for help from an adult if you plan on using sharp scissors or hot glue.
4. When your ship is complete it is time to test it out on the water. You can test it in your kitchen sink, bathtub, or even your pool to see if it will hold up for the Sailors.
5. Now you have your ship’s course planned out, constructed, and tested that she can float. She is almost sea ready! However, you cannot send her out without giving her a proper name.

Did you know there is a formal process for how ships are named in the U.S. Navy? On March 3, 1858 Congress formally placed the responsibility for naming ships on the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV). Each year the Naval History and Heritage Command compiles a list of potential names (based on research into the history of the Navy and suggestions made by service members, Navy veterans, and the general public) and presents it to the Chief of Naval Operations. Once the CNO approves the list, it gets sent to the SECNAV for review. Follow this link to find out more information: <https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/heritage/customs-and-traditions0/ship-naming.html>



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