

Springside School Girls Return Again To Build Boats At The Boatworks

For the second year in a row, the eighth-grade class of the Springside School, the oldest girls school in Philadelphia, visited Dorchester County and built boats at the Richardson Maritime Museum's Boatworks on Maryland Avenue.

Thirty of the 47 girls in the class spent three days building two 16-foot pulling skiffs on the newly renovated second floor of the Boatworks building. Ten girls each day divided up into two teams to build the skiffs from parts mostly pre-cut by Museum volunteers.

They finished up the final day by painting them in the school colors of blue and gold. The boats will be returned to the school for auctioning off for funds for next year's trip.

Other groups of the girls from the school learned how to sail the skipjack *Nathan of Dorchester* and visited area attractions.

Volunteer boatwrights Frank Newton, Ron Fortucci, Bob Buczek, Ken Guelta, Ray Henderson, and Mark Murphy taught the girls the use of drills and jigsaws and the art of planing, sanding and painting. For many, it was their first real experience in using tools that will come in handy later in life. At the end of the three days, they all gathered around the finished boats for a group photo to commemorate their hard work.

Marilyn Tinari of the Springside School, who accompanied the class on its trip, thanked the volunteers "and all the good folks in Cambridge for welcoming and working with our girls again."

"They had a wonderful time and a great learning experience," she added.

For the Richardson Maritime Museum, it again demonstrated the facility's ability to provide quality educational experiences for children. "This repeat visit from the school allowed us to further refine the activity, but also showed that what

we do is valued in and of itself,” said Cyndy Carrington Miller, Museum Administrator.

“These young ladies genuinely had a good time building these boats. The school not only chose to bring them back here for a second year, but intends to return again next year,” she said. “That is an endorsement that we hope to use to develop the program for use with groups within Dorchester County.”

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The eighth-grade class of Philadelphia’s Springside School recently visited Dorchester County and built two skiffs at the Richardson Maritime Museum’s Boatworks in Cambridge.



Rachael Carpenter, left, and Liz Bondelid work on attaching the bottom to their team's boat.



Left to right, Maddy Conner, Caroline Bates and Nakia Page get lessons on planing from volunteer boatwright Bob Buczek.