

BEYOND THE HORIZON: CHANGING YOUNG LIVES AT SEA

2025/2026



Tall Ships
YOUTH TRUST

We support young people facing multi-layered adversity, from economic disadvantage to neurodiversity, ensuring no one is defined by their circumstances. We believe the ocean is the ultimate equaliser.

With our educational systems under immense pressure and young people navigating rising mental health strains, our voyages for young people could never be more important and we are proud to be unlocking the true potential of the next generation.

“Last year, we helped over 1,200 young people experience the thrill and power of the ocean firsthand. Through these adventures, they have developed new skills and a deeper connection to the water. With your support, we are committed to increase access to the vital skills and pathways provided by our three-voyage programme.”

Alastair Floyd,
CEO



In 2025/26 we provided financial support to **85% of the 1,224** young people who sailed with us.

THE BIG PICTURE

DID YOU KNOW?

Proceeds from our adult voyages directly support our youth work alongside fuelling our volunteer network.

1,889 +11%

Total reach



1,224
Young people

665
Adults



106

**youth
voyages**



4,716

**nights
at sea**



85%

**received bursary
support to fund
their voyage**



77%

**had never
sailed before**



57% Male



43% Female



**21% identified as belonging
to the Global Majority**

“ This voyage has changed my perception of my own abilities. It has opened my eyes to a set of skills that I never thought I could be good at and has given me so much more confidence than I have probably ever had.”

Jessica, Young Voyager

OUR UNIQUE YOUNG PERSON'S JOURNEY EXPLORER TO LEADER



Expanding horizons through
4-5 nights of new experiences

668 participants

+101*



Taking the helm with 5-7
nights of real responsibility

111 participants

+54*



Leading a team and becoming
future ready through 7+ nights
of planning and execution

22 participants

+29*

** Compared to 24/25*

“Being on the ocean provides a totally unique learning environment, and often we see significant transformation in a young person after just one voyage. Through our three-stage journey, young people build confidence, self-belief and genuinely transferrable skills enabling them to achieve their goals.”

Sue Geary, Skipper/Youth Development & Outdoor Learning Lead



91% felt **confident** during the voyage to **try new things**

89% are now **more willing** to **try new things** and **problem solve**

87% felt more confident **building relationships** with others

Taken from 374 Exploration Voyagers between March - February 2026.

BEYOND THE VOYAGE

We equip young people with essential transferable skills and nationally recognised qualifications that they can carry back to their communities – opening direct, tangible pathways into education, training, and sustainable careers.

776

Nationally Recognised Qualifications Awarded



630 RYA Start Yachting

20 RYA Day Skipper Theory

126 RYA Competent Crew



99 DofE Residential



204 young people recommended **to return as volunteers** – the first step toward a maritime career.



12 young people competed in the **Fastnet 2025 Race** as part of our Ocean Racing Pathway. Fastnet is one of the worlds toughest offshore challenges.

THE WAY WE SAIL OUR VALUES

Nurturing & Inclusive

We care for and encourage every voyager.

Positive & Challenging

Finding a way forward, even in rough weather.

Striving for Social Change

Breaking barriers to the maritime industry.



Mark, 17, completed the three-voyage programme, joined our Ocean Racing Pathway and was selected to take part in Fastnet Race 2025.

“ I honestly can't explain to you how much the voyages have contributed to him rebuilding his self-esteem and confidence after him leaving school.”

Mark's mum

“ The continual development of our Hubs removes travel as a barrier, connecting us directly with local communities and providing opportunity to explore a variety of UK sailing conditions.”

**John Farndell,
Head of Operations**



TOGETHER, WE ARE CHANGING YOUNG LIVES AT SEA

A heartfelt thank you to all our partners, donors, members and volunteers: you are the wind in our sails. Because of you, last year, 1,224 young people discovered they are capable of more than they ever imagined.

Find out more about our work and ways to get involved at **www.tallships.org**



SCAN



Tall Ships
YOUTH TRUST

www.tallships.org