

## **Historical Seaport Launches Contest**

### **Local News**

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Aberdeen – Are you one of the thousands of people who love the look of a tall ship under sail? Do you talk with friends, family, co-workers and neighbors about these beautiful ships when they visit a community near you? Then you may be the perfect contestant for “Float the Fleet: For the Next Generation,” the Historical Seaport’s new fundraising contest featuring multiple monthly prizes and a grand prize vacation for two in Hawaii, a week-long sailing excursion to the San Juan Islands, or five “Two Weeks Before the Mast” program scholarships transferable to anyone. In 1985, the people of Washington State invested \$1.5 million to construct Lady Washington, the Official Ship of the State of Washington. Today, 25 years later, the time has come to make a major reinvestment in Lady Washington and her companion ship Hawaiian Chieftain to ensure these ships will continue to be available to young students and sailors for another quarter century. The Historical Seaport has designed “Float the Fleet” to encourage and enable anyone who loves these tall ships to take a leadership role in gathering donations to support the ships. The Historical Seaport has set a goal to raise \$3 million over the next six years to ensure its fleet will continue to serve west coast communities for another 25 years. (\$3 million is approximately equal to Washington State’s initial investment in 1985, adjusted for inflation.) To participate, contestants must be 18 years old or older and register online at the Historical Seaport website, [www.historicalseaport.org](http://www.historicalseaport.org), or by calling 800-200-5239. Contest description, rules, and reporting form are at [http://www.historicalseaport.org/images/fleet\\_desc\\_and\\_rules.pdf](http://www.historicalseaport.org/images/fleet_desc_and_rules.pdf). The contest ends January 31, 2012.

The Team Leaders who submit the greatest number of donations, and the largest donated amount, each win monthly prizes, including a selection from the online Seaport Store or free sailing opportunities aboard Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain. All monthly prize winners will be automatically entered into the grand prize drawing, which will take place on February 21, 2012 at a Historical Seaport board meeting. As an interim goal, Float the Fleet will focus on raising \$168,000 to help fund a Lady Washington frame and planking restoration project that the Seaport plans to complete by the fall of 2012. Although previously approved for funding through a competitive Washington State Heritage Capital Projects grant program, the project was cut from the State budget due to Washington State’s current financial difficulties.