



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***The Amistad* –Flagship of Connecticut – will be open for Free Tours in Stamford Harbor this weekend**

New Haven, CT – May 5, 2022 – The tall ship *AMISTAD*, the flagship of Connecticut, is visiting Stamford for the first time this month. The replica of the 128-foot historic ship will be on display at Harbor Point Marina and open for free tours from 12 – 4PM on Saturday and Sunday, May 6-7, and from noon-4PM on Saturday and Sunday, May 14-15.

This month, all eighth-grade students in Stamford will have the chance not just to learn about history but to feel and touch it aboard this storied sailing vessel. By the end of the next week, all 1,200 Stamford students in the 8th grade will have learned the lessons of the Amistad story – lessons of resilience, leadership and the value of freedom.

“We are thrilled to be able partner with the Stamford Public Schools to bring this pivotal time in US history to life for all 8th graders,” said Paula Mann-Agnew, executive director of Discovering Amistad. Stamford is the first district in the state to partner at this level with Discovering Amistad.

Prior to the ship visit, a team of trained educators from Discovering Amistad will teach two classes covering the 1839 Amistad Uprising and the subsequent landmark Supreme Court decision, while highlighting contemporary themes of racial and social justice. The program, run by the New Haven-based non-profit [Discovering Amistad](#), is one of a kind. With lessons in classrooms and aboard the ship, history comes alive and the past becomes a framework for addressing present-day social challenges.

“One of the most important things we as educators can do is look for ways to make learning engaging, exciting, and interesting,” said Stamford Associate Superintendent Amy Beldotti. “This partnership achieves that goal.”

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About the schooner Amistad

In 1839, 53 Mende captives from Sierra Leone, who were sold into slavery in Havana, took control of the schooner, The Amistad, off the coast of Cuba. Unable to navigate back to Africa, the ship ended up off Long Island; it was commandeered by the US Navy and was towed into the port of New London. The Mende were put in jail in New Haven and were at risk of slavery or execution. But their cause was taken up by many residents and abolitionists throughout Connecticut. U.S. Circuit and District courts ruled in favor of the Mende. This case was then appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court and in 1841 the Court issued a ruling that sustained the lower court decisions, and the Mende captives were ordered freed.

For more information, visit www.discoveringamistad.org

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