Discovering Amistad is a nonprofit organization educating school students and adults about issues of freedom and equal justice in America today. Its mission is inspired by the 19th-century schooner La Amistad and the African captives who fought for their freedom on the high seas and in the American legal system. We are stewards of the recreated tall ship Amistad, which serves as a floating classroom for our organization and is the State of Connecticut’s flagship.

In 2017 Discovering Amistad will be launching its two-week Summer Voyages for high school students from Bridgeport, New Haven and New London, Connecticut. (See brochure accompanying this position description). Participants will have successfully finished their junior years in high school with recognized academic achievement and will have plans to attend college following graduation; many will be the first in their families to do so. Living aboard ship, participants will circumnavigate Long Island Sound (from New London to South Street Seaport in New York City and back). They will experience the responsibilities of living in a waterborne community, learn to sail the ship, and work as a team. They will also have opportunities to visit the various ports of call along the Long Island Sound coast and make visits to local colleges and universities, where they will learn about the variety of college experiences available to them. The program will also include conversations with experts in the history of the struggle for freedom and justice in America.

The Position: The SUMMER EDUCATOR will be the lead supervisor and mentor to a group of 12 students participating in each voyage. She or he will work with the director of summer programs, with the ship’s captain and crew, and with visiting educators to design, schedule and implement planned activities and curricula, accompany students on their shore visits, and help maintain a successful educational community on board ship. Specific responsibilities will include:

- Work with director of summer programs (who will also be on board ship and serving as part-time deckhand) to complete program design and scheduling. Assume a leadership role during student discussions and lead group activities. Assist in reviewing student applications and selecting participants.

- Be a point of contact for students who are planning to participate in the program and their families prior to each voyage, as needed during the voyage, and following up with families afterwards.

- Work with captain and director of summer programs to assign and coordinate watch duties and other student responsibilities while underway.

- Be a point of contact for visiting educators and onshore colleges and other points of visitation for students. Accompany and oversee students’ onshore visits.
• Work with captain and crew to lead “on-boarding” of students for each voyage, describing responsibilities and logistics associated with community life on board ship, including maintaining sleeping quarters, food preparation, safety, and general rules of conduct. Set the tone for a convivial and courteous community of students and adults.

• Perform other duties as time allows to assure the success of the summer program.

The summer educator will live on board and share sleeping quarters and meals with students and crew during each of the two-week voyages. Voyages are scheduled from June 25-July 8, July 16-29, and August 6-19. She or he will also receive room and board during inter-voyage periods (on board ship) as well as a weekly stipend. Like the rest of the crew, the summer educator will have some time off between sessions and during each voyage as determined by the needs of the program.

Qualifications: Discovering Amistad’s summer educator will have experience (two or more years preferred) working with high school students, whether in school, in a high school enrichment program, and/or in outdoor camping or adventure programs for high school-aged youth. Strong leadership and communication skills are essential, as is the ability to navigate relationships with other staff and crew in close quarters. Educator familiarity with college admissions and financial aid application processes will be helpful for students exploring their educational futures. Interest in Discovering Amistad’s commitment to social and racial justice is highly desirable; social studies and history curricula experience relevant to our mission would be helpful, but is not required. Some experience with sailing or boating would also be useful.

Discovering Amistad is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

For more information regarding the summer educator position, contact summer@discoveringamistad.org.