

building**KIDS** building**BOATS**



A Snapshot of Our Programs



Boat Building programs for teens ages 11 - 17 years offer hands-on woodworking skills, problem solving, and teamwork, while developing a connection to Chicago's waterways by building small boats. In the process they learn life-skills and about potential vocational options that don't require staring at a video screen all day.



These 40-hour programs take students on a journey to measure, fit, assemble and finish a small rowing skiff, they launch and row on the Chicago waterways. For many kids, this is their first time on the water.



Our Boating Skills & Ecology program teaches water safety, boat-handling, and protection of water resources. Teens experience rowing, paddling and sailing, in addition to specific hands-on skills like knot tying, basic navigation, weather, safety and water ecology.

Our Mission

To bring kids to the lake and river that made Chicago, to teach the maritime arts and marine ecology and to help kids find themselves and new pathways by learning to build boats.



Project-Based Learning

CMAC guides participants to safely complete, hands-on, goal-based projects to encourage teamwork, self-confidence, communication, initiative, and basic tool use through boat and water-oriented programming. These experiences foster interpersonal development, STEAM and life skills, while encouraging water recreation, planet stewardship, and alternative vocations to broaden horizons.



Over 60% of people are visual learners and with our school systems focused on book-learning, a lack of industrial arts programs, and an overemphasis on college preparedness, many kids are left behind. Our programs are designed to impart basic skills, an understanding of building, self-confidence, safety, and a basic tool skills everyone should know how to use.



Testimonials



“Our son loves wooden boats, He was thrilled to help build a real boat this past summer taught properly by CMAC at the Carpenter’s Union Training Center. Every kid can do it!”
– Participant Parent



“The boat building program doesn’t just build teamwork and leadership skills. Now as we’re looking past high school, we’re finding this unique experience is a standout.”
– Participant Parent



“By far, one of the most phenomenally engaging programs ever. It totally exposed my children to a wonderful perspective of Chicago.” – Participant Parent



“I still can’t believe we built a real boat. A real boat and it didn’t sink!” – Participant

“I want to do this again! Everyone was so nice and patient. It helped me learn how to focus and still have fun.” – Participant



“Our son loves this experience, the hands-on use of tools like jigsaws, drills and sanders have given him confidence to do things on his own. He told me that he can’t wait to attend the afterschool boat-building class”
– Participant Parent

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special thanks to

Our Partners

- Chicago Park District
- Jackson Park Yacht Club
- Southern Shore Yacht Club
- Carpenters and Joiners Union
- Chicago Sailing
- Friends of the River
- Chicago Corinthian Yacht Club
- Lost Boyz Inc.

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