



**SULTANA PROJECTS**  
PRESERVATION THROUGH EDUCATION

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**Press Release**

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**Sultana Projects Receives the Sea Education Program of the Year  
Award from the American Sail Training Association**

**Chestertown, Maryland:** Sultana Projects has been awarded prestigious Sea Education Program of the Year Award for 2009 by the American Sail Training Association (ASTA). Based in Newport, Rhode Island, and serving all of the United States and Canada, The American Sail Training Association is a nonprofit organization focused on youth education, leadership development and the preservation of North America's maritime heritage. The ASTA Sea Education Program of the Year Award is presented annually to a vessel or program operated by a current ASTA member which significantly contributes to the advancement and credibility of educational programs under sail. Sultana Projects was selected from more than 250 ASTA member vessels and organizations throughout the United States and Canada to receive the 2009 award. Previous recipients include the South Street Seaport Museum in New York, the Sea Education Association in Woods Hole, Massachusetts and the Living Classrooms Foundation in Baltimore, Maryland.

Sultana Projects was specifically recognized by ASTA for its educational programs on board the schooner SULTANA, a replica of a 1768 Royal Navy schooner that was used to enforce the hated "Tea Taxes" in the years preceding the American Revolution. Since 2001, Sultana Projects' under-sail programs on SULTANA have introduced more than 50,000 students in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware and the District of Columbia to the history and environment of the Chesapeake Bay. "Sultana Projects was selected by an overwhelming majority of the nominating committee," commented ASTA Director of Operations Lori

Aguiar. “Their programs rank among the best in North America and the award is very well deserved.”

“We are honored to be recognized in this way by the American Sail Training Association,” said Sultana Projects’ Board Chair Patti Hegland. “For the past 13 years Sultana has committed itself to developing and providing high-quality, hands-on programs in history and environmental science in an effort to create a new generation of stewards for the Chesapeake Bay. ASTA’s recognition only reinforces Sultana Projects determination to improve and expand our programs.”

“Maryland students are fortunate to have Sultana Projects close at hand,” said Maryland State Superintendent of Schools Nancy S. Grasmick. “Although Sultana receives only a small State Aided Educational Institution grant from Maryland State Department of Education, they serve students from a variety of school systems. Sultana offers unique and engaging experiences for young people by connecting them with the environment as well as with the history of the Chesapeake Bay.”

Sultana Projects’ President Drew McMullen received the ASTA Sea Education Program of the Year Award on behalf of Sultana Projects during the American Sail Training Association's 37th Annual Conference on Sail Training and Tall Ships in Cleveland, Ohio on November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

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### **About Sultana Projects**

Each year more than 15,000 students of all ages take part in a unique educational experience with Sultana Projects. Whether sailing on the decks of the 1768 schooner Sultana, exploring the world of early America with the John Smith shallop, or paddling the Chesapeake’s waterways with Sultana Projects’ John Smith Trail Expeditions, students gain a greater appreciation of the history and environment of the national treasure that is the Chesapeake Bay.

For more information about Sultana Projects visit: [www.sultanaprojects.org](http://www.sultanaprojects.org).