South Passage Voyage

South Passage is a 100-foot gaff rigged Schooner, built specifically for adventure sailing and education.

South Passage was originally designed for school voyages, and has been providing a rewarding sailing experience to students for over 20 years.

On a full voyage we will usually have 18 students and 2 teachers.

Students are grouped on watch duties, and often work “all hands on deck”. They will rotate around deck duties such as helming, lookout and recording entries in the ship’s log, as well as tacking and gybing. There is off course maintenance duties, such as cleaning, however students will often get to enjoy off-ship activities such as snorkeling and exploring.

The journey is for 5 nights, 5 days of ocean voyage, travelling along the NSW coast. The South Passage, after spending the first night on Sydney Harbour departs from and returns to Sydney Harbour. The boys learn the workings of the ship and are then placed on’ watch’; working the boat for 4 hour watches and being responsible for the running of the ship. On watch boys navigate, set sails/ sail changes, skipper the vessel. When off watch boys are either on a duty watch helping in underdeck preparations/meal preps etc. or off duty where they are able to rest/sleep/eat their meals etc. This process will go on for 24-hour cycle until our destination is reached. Our destination is weather dependant with the likely destinations being Lord Howe Island, Port Stephens or Jervis bay.

At the turnaround point, the boys are responsible for sailing the ship on the return journey, under the watch of the skipper.

During the trip, the group will be fairly isolated and will rely on each other for support and care. All participants are required to complete a Senior First Aid Course (organised here at school).

In general, students would have the necessary personal clothing and toiletries and so the purchase of extra personal items is minimal. Preparation for the trip will begin early in Term 4.

Due to availability, the sail begins earlier than the other Year 10 activities and ends before they start. Upon returning, the sailors participate in their Work Experience Program. Dates are as follows:

**Friday, November 26**  Board the South Passage at Darling Harbour, usually about 7pm. Usually, the group gathers for dinner at Darling Harbour before boarding together.

**Saturday, November 27** – set sail, returning to Darling Harbour **Wednesday, November 31**.

**Thursday, December 1 – Wednesday, December 7**  Work Experience

**Thursday, December 8**  All students back at school

To provide an indication of cost, in 2015 this activity cost an extra $700 over and above the standard camp levy. This included the First Aid Course. Personal costs will need to be factored in as well.

18 places are available.

More information: www.southpassage.org.au