

COLUMBIA RIVER MARITIME MUSEUM

Miniboat Relaunch FAQ

Why was the program paused?

With the turnover of Education Director it was an optimal time to evaluate the program. Staff looked specifically at implementation and sustainability.

Why relaunch with Kelso?

Funding for this program in part came out of this area so we felt it was only fitting to have the first boat built there.

How do I get miniboats at my school?

For CRMM to facilitate → Requirements of the program are for one classroom of 4th, 5th or 6th graders with a dedicated space that can host our Boat Educator weekly for 10 weeks, then monthly for 3 months. Please fill out [THIS FORM](#) to be added to the list.

For you/your school to build, launch, and track visit [Educational Passages](#)

What about the boats currently out?

The CRMM fleet will be tracked for 2 years from the launch date. After that point they will no longer be tracked. One fifth of the boats launched make it to a year or longer. We have made the decision to track for two years which only three of CRMM's boats have made to that point or longer. If a boat is still at sea and reporting at the end of the two-year mark, the tracking will turn over to Educational Passages. Check out the [map of CRMM Boats with Known Locations](#).

Launch date	End tracking date
SY 2017- 2018	June 2023
SY 2018- 2019	June 2023
SY 2019- 2020	June 2023
SY 2020 - 2021	June 2023
SY 2021- 2022	June 2024
December 2023	December 2025
June 2024	June 2026
December 2024	December 2026
June 2025	June 2027

What is a miniboat?

A 1.5 meter fiberglass boat built and decorated by students. A small hold filled with goodies of the area and instructions for those who find it. This uncrewed vessel is then launched into the Pacific Ocean and tracked via gps. They are designed and created by Educational Passages.

Why are you doing this program? Aren't you just creating debris?

We are utilizing this small vessel to track currents, temperature, and learn about locations the vessel may land. It is a teaching tool to assist upper elementary and middle school students in learning about the world. Incorporated into the program is discussion of how vessels are utilized as artificial reefs.

What's different this time vs previous years?

This year the unit will be 10 weeks long with three monthly visits after launch to facilitate tracking with the class. Each semester a boat will be built. In this relaunch there will be a narrowed focus on boat building traditions, including indigenous influence via the assistance of tribal members, and closer

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alignment with CRMM's mission. This relaunch will adjust the mission of the CRMM miniboat program, from solely Japan to a variety of possibilities across the Pacific Ocean.

Why have there been no updates on the CRMM Miniboat page?

In an effort to create consistent messaging, all Miniboat related updates will be available through the main CRMM [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages. Please follow those pages for updates!