

**For Immediate Release:**  
**Jan 6, 2006**

## Shallop to be Unveiled at Maryland State House on January 17

**Annapolis, Maryland:** On January 17, 2006 at 1:00pm Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich and National Park Service Director Fran Mainella will be at the Maryland State House to unveil a reproduction of the 30-foot boat or “shallop” used by Captain John Smith to make his groundbreaking exploration of the Chesapeake Bay in 1608. Governor Ehrlich and Director Mainella will also promote plans for a new National Historic Water Trail to mark routes explored by Smith in the early 1600’s.

The replica of Smith’s shallop was recently built in Chestertown, Maryland as part of the Captain John Smith Four Hundred Project, a multi-year educational effort to commemorate the four hundredth anniversary of Smith’s incredible 1,500-mile Chesapeake voyage. From January 2006 through April 2007 the shallop will travel as the centerpiece of an educational exhibit to museums around the Chesapeake Region, including the Maryland Science Center, The Science Museum of Virginia, the National Maritime Center in Norfolk, the National Geographic Museum at Explorers Hall, the Mariners’ Museum, the Calvert Marine Museum and the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. On May 12, 2007, the 400th anniversary of the establishment of the Jamestown Settlement in Virginia, the shallop and a crew of 14 modern-day explorers will embark on a 127-day, 1,500-mile reenactment of Smith’s original expedition. Propelled by oar and sail alone, the shallop and her crew will visit communities around the Chesapeake while their progress is followed by students throughout the region through an innovative website and planned video documentary.

The Captain John Smith Four-Hundred Project is an undertaking of Sultana Projects, Inc., a non-profit educational organization based in Chestertown, Maryland, best known for providing educational programs on board its reproduction of the 1768 schooner Sultana. The Captain John Smith Four Hundred Project is being developed as a signature product for the Friends of the Chesapeake National Water Trail, a group whose founders include Gilbert Grosvenor, Chairman of the National Geographic Society, William Baker, President of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Patrick Noonan, Chairman Emeritus of The Conservation Fund. The mission of the Friends of the Chesapeake National Water Trail is to celebrate the unique history and environment of the Chesapeake Bay by creating a lasting legacy for future generations through the establishment of America’s first National Water Trail. Legislation authorizing a feasibility study of the proposed trail by the National Park Service was approved by Congress on July 26 and signed by President Bush on August 2.

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