



Virginia's governor launches new adventure to retrace famous voyage

For Immediate Release

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Norfolk, March 30 -- Gov. Timothy M. Kaine will launch the John Smith shallop, a replica of the small open boat Capt. John Smith used in the exploration of the Chesapeake Bay, from NAUTICUS at 10:30 a.m. today (**March 30th**).

The shallop, crewed by a dozen young explorers, will spend the summer of 2007 retracing Capt. Smith's famous 1608 exploration of the Chesapeake Bay. Known as the *Captain John Smith Four Hundred Project*, the 2007 expedition is an undertaking of Sultana Projects, a non-profit educational organization based in Chestertown, Maryland. Developed in partnership with the *Friends of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail* and underwritten in part by an exclusive corporate partnership from PNC Bank, the 2007 reenactment voyage is serving as the official inauguration of the National Park Service's newly established Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

At the launching, Governor Kaine will be joined by Paul Fraim, Mayor of Norfolk, William F. Adams, the Chair of the Virginia Council on Indians, Patrick Noonan, Chairman Emeritus of the Conservation Fund, Richard Conti, Executive Director of NAUTICUS, and Drew McMullen, President of Sultana Projects.

Following the launch, the John Smith shallop will remain on display at NAUTICUS through April 14 while the crew outfits the vessel and prepares for the voyage.

The 2007 voyage will begin in earnest on May 12, 2007 - the 400th anniversary of the establishment of the Jamestown Settlement. Departing from the site of the original Jamestown Fort, the shallop and her crew will spend 121-days retracing the entire route of Smith's 1608 voyage before returning to Jamestown on September 8. The crew will attempt to complete the entire 1,500-mile voyage propelling themselves solely by oar and sail. Along the path of the voyage, the shallop will stop to serve as the centerpiece for educational festivals in 28 cities and towns in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Washington, DC. It is anticipated that the vessel will be seen by more than a million people during the course of its voyage.

In 1608, Captain John Smith and 14 English settlers set out in a small open boat on one of the most important voyages of exploration in American history. In a quest to discover precious metals and an all-water route to the Pacific Ocean, Smith's expedition spent three months exploring more than 2,500 miles in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, venturing into regions that would become Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia. Though the expedition failed to find gold or silver or to reach the Pacific Ocean, Smith and his men succeeded in producing a remarkably detailed survey of the Chesapeake's natural resources and native cultures. Smith's 1608 voyage would

ultimately open the Chesapeake region to thousands of European settlers, altering forever the face of the Bay and profoundly changing the lives of those living around it.

Organizations from around the region have come together to support the *Captain John Smith Four Hundred Project* and the establishment of the John Smith Water Trail. Key partners include Virginia's Jamestown 2007, the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Conservation Fund, The Chesapeake Bay Trust, the Maryland Heritage Areas Area Authority, the National Park Service, the National Geographic Society and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation..

For additional information about the Captain John Smith Four Hundred Project, including a complete press kit, please visit, www.johnsmith400.org.

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About Sultana Projects:

The *Captain John Smith Four Hundred Project* is an educational initiative of Sultana Projects, a non-profit organization based in Chestertown, Maryland. Each year more than 15,000 students of all ages take part in a unique educational experience with Sultana Projects. Whether sailing the Chesapeake on the decks of the 1768 reproduction schooner Sultana, exploring the world of the early Chesapeake through the *Captain John Smith Four Hundred Project*, or studying the Bay's incredible history and environment through one of Sultana's classroom curriculum units, students gain a greater appreciation for the national treasure that is the Chesapeake Bay.

Sultana Projects, Inc.

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