

## CRAFT

# CAPTAIN'S LOG

## AGES

Teens/tweens

Adults

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Captain's logs and ship's logs have a rich history, and provide insight into how life on seafaring vessels went (and still go today). Continue this tradition by hosting a journal-making program at your library. Skills of book-binding, journaling, and history lessons can be explored. This could also be a two-part program where you make paper for the journal during the first week. Suggested runtime: 90 min.

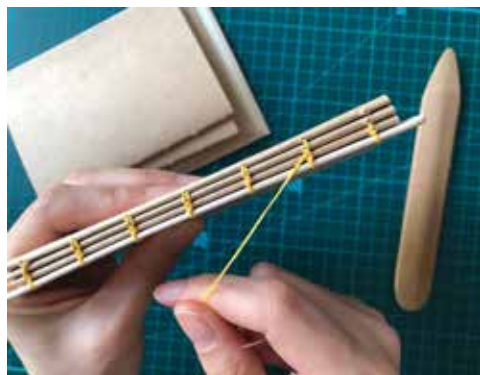


Image source: Shutterstock

## TIP:

Participants can also learn about maritime signal flags. With blue, black, red, and yellow markers on white paper, they could create codes by drawing signal flags and then trade them to solve. Or you could place laminated signal flags on a magnetic white board to make messages for the group to decipher.

## MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

### Materials:

- Book-binding materials including paper, glue, scissors, leather/vegan leather/fabric, string, and cardboard
- Tables and chairs

### Preparation:

Contact local craft stores for deals on supplies or possible donations. Identify a staff or volunteer book-binding expert who can help with the craft. See if there is a nautical society or local historian who can speak about seafarers' journals. See Resources for a DIY journal tutorial.

## CRAFT

**UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS**

An extra staff member or volunteer to help with book-binding.

**RESOURCES****Web**

“How and Why to Keep a Captain’s Log” by Shaunta Grimes:

<https://bit.ly/3wEBpV6>

“DIY Leather Journal” from *Instructables*: <https://bit.ly/3up2UQX>

“International Maritime Signal Flags” from Wikipedia:

<https://bit.ly/2Te0asO>

**Books**Non-fiction

*Journal Sparks: Fire Up Your Creativity with Spontaneous Art, Wild Writing, and Inventive Thinking* (2017) by Emily K. Neuburger (YA)

*How to Be an Explorer of the World: Portable Life Museum* (2018) by Keri Smith (YA)

*Little Fish: A Memoir from a Different Kind of Year* (2014) by Ramsey Beyer (YA)

*Fathoms: The World in the Whale* (2020) by Rebecca Giggs (adult)

Fiction

*Final Draft* (2018) by Riley Redgate (YA)

*Eliza and her Monsters* (2017) by Francesca Zappia (YA)

**Printables**

Maritime Signal Flags

**TIP:**

Search the Library of Congress for first person captain’s logs; Ancestry Online for Libraries also has ship manifests.

A	Alpha		• —	J	Juliet		• — — —	S	Sierra		• • •	1	Unaone		• — — — —	Aux. flag	Code & answer	
B	Bravo		— • • • •	K	Kilo		— • • •	T	Tango		—	2	Bissotwo		• • • — — —	Aux. flag	Replacement No. 1	
C	Charlie		— • • • •	L	Lima		• • • • •	U	Uniform		• • •	3	Terrathree		• • • • —	Aux. flag	Replacement No. 2	
D	Delta		— • •	M	Mike		— —	V	Victor		• • • •	4	Kartefour		• • • • —	Aux. flag	Replacement No. 3	
E	Echo		•	N	November		— •	W	Whiskey		• — —	5	Pantafive		• • • • •			
F	Foxtrot		• • • • •	O	Oscar		— — —	X	X-ray		• • • • —	6	Soxisix		• • • • •			
G	Golf		— • •	P	Papa		• • • • •	Y	Yankee		• • • • —	7	Setteseven		• • • • •			
H	Hotel		• • • •	Q	Quebec		— • • • —	Z	Zulu		• • • • •	8	Oktroeight		• • • • —			
I	India		• •	R	Romeo		• • •	0	Nadazero		— — —	9	Novenine		• • • — — —			