



The Moody Crewe

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The Moody Crewe is a maritime living history group founded in 2007, based in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia. We portray pirates and sailors and their families during the "Golden Age of Piracy" (1680 to 1730) and early Colonial American, demonstrating life aboard ship and ashore. Our passion for history and love for all things piratical will soon have you saying "Yo ho, a pirates life for me!"

We are widely known for our lively interactive programs, demonstrations, and encampments; for our fun- and fact-filled programs; for our enthusiastic and often hysterically funny shanty sings and storytelling, and for our dynamic black powder weapons demonstrations.



Like real pirates, we're a resourceful and versatile group, and our programs are custom tailored to suit all ages and environments. Everyone loves a good scurvy scalawag, and for people young and old, pirates are the "hook" that gets them interested in our nation's pirate/maritime history and heritage, and brings the past to life before their eyes.

The Moody Crewe today has nearly 200 years combined experience as living historians; some members are listed with the National Registry of Living Historians, are award-winning living history interpreters, experienced television and stage performers, published authors and columnists, and musicians. Many are also certified as Black Powder experts by the National Park Service and some members are affiliated with the Virginia Storytellers Alliance. The majority of our Crewe are current and former firefighters, police and safety officers, military, educators, and doctors, so safety and professionalism are paramount at all our events. We are licensed and insured through Histories and Haunts L.L.C.

What We Do:

We can provide an encampment and interactive living history displays of:

- Pirate encampment with canvas/tents, barrels, treasure chests, props, ship's wheel, pillory, and "tavern"
- Pirate and maritime weapons and tactics
- Navigation equipment, piloting, maps and charts
- Quartermaster's chest, ship's treasure, trade and commerce
- Barber surgeon's instruments and medical techniques/herbology of the period
- Shipwright's (carpenter's) tools and cooperage
- Boatswain's disciplines, recruitment tactics, and shipboard life
- Daily life ashore including clothing, cosmetics, and material culture
- Tavern life and culture, food ways, and beverages; table games and puzzles



We do field demonstrations of the following:

- Battle strategy and tactics including firing of black powder weapons: cannon, swivel gun, flintlock, blunderbuss, long rifle, swordplay, etc.
- Rope making and knot tying



- Period open-fire cooking and baking
- Sea shanties, traditional and original work songs, sing-a-longs
- Children's games, penmanship, clothing dress-up
- Clothing construction and repair, hand sewing, cosmetics making
- "School the Pirate" with fun for ages 3-10

And We Can Offer the Following Discussion/Lecture Topics:

- General history of the "Golden Age of Piracy"
- Specific history of the pirates Moody, Davis, Roberts, and other notorious pirates
- Myths, legends, and superstitions
- Healing herbs and food ways of early Colonial America
- Economic effects of pirates on local and world trade; pirate leadership in modern business
- History of Virginia Beach

Where You've Seen Us:

- **Festivals:** Beach Street USA's Pirate Party on the Beach, Norfolk Harborfest, Tall Ships at Cape Charles, Greenville Pirate Fest, Lake Fairfax Park Pirate Festival, Pirates Invade Yorktown, Military Family Festival, and many others
- **Educational Programs:** National Geographic Museum, Nauticus, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum, Watermen's Museum, National Museum of the Marine Corps, Old Coast Guard Station Museum, numerous area schools, libraries, day camps, state parks, and historic sites.
- **Fundraisers:** Norfolk's For Kids, Relay for Life, Special Olympics, Pet Guardians
- **Just Plain Piratey Fun:** Spirit of Norfolk "Pirates, Mermaid, and Monsters" Cruise, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard's Halloween "Frightship," campfire story telling programs for Kiptopeke State Park, Beth Page Camp Resort, and others.



Holidays and Special Events

Like pirates, we're versatile and flexible! We can portray specific pirates and crews—for example, as Jean Lafitte for a Mardi Gras-themed event. We can also portray common sailors and merchants for a July 4, Revolutionary War, or patriotic/military-themed event. We can be "undead" or ghost pirates for Halloween events and Campfire programs—from mildly spooking to outright terrifying. And, we can provide merriment with a Colonial maritime or pirate-themed Christmas and New Year's program.

Weddings and Parties

We have two licensed Wedding Officiants in our crew who would be happy to make your special day more memorable with a pirate- or history-themed wedding. We are also available for private parties including birthday parties for children and adults. And possibly funerals, should the opportunity arise.



Consultants and Events Planning

Want to host a pirate event or festival but don't know where to start? We can provide comprehensive planning services and can provide you with reenactors, performers, musicians, and vendors. We can also provide historical insights and consultations on questions about pirates, the "Golden Age," early Colonial America, and Civil War era for all media.

Pirate Comedy and Song

We keep your audience entertained with traditional and original sea chanties and folk songs, liberally interlaced with piratical humor and historical trivia.

Our Namesake

Christopher Moody began his career as a pirate in 1714 off the coast of Virginia and was executed along with the crew of Bartholomew Roberts in Cape-Corso-Castle (Africa) in 1722.

Don't see what you need? Just ask! We are pirates for hire after all!

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Testimonials and Coerced Confessions:

National Geographic Society Museum

"Working with Moody Crewe was wonderful from the start...They were incredibly knowledgeable and obviously passionate about the content they were presenting....Moody Crewe represents the perfect marriage of historical re-enactor with museum-quality educational programming and will remain in our Rolodex for future events!"

Lisa M. Kop, Director, Visitor Services National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C.

Virginia Beach Historic Houses

"Thank you all for such a wonderful program. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the people who filled out surveys gave you all high ratings. It was awesome working with you all!" Kim Schmidtman, Virginia Beach Historic Houses

Beta Sigma Phi Virginia State Convention

"The Moody Crewe performed for the Beta Sigma Phi Virginia State Convention...The theme for the evening dinner was Treasure Island and the seaworthy pirates sang sea shanty songs, and led group participation songs. They also shared stories of pirate lore and jokes with the crowd. .. We had a great time and I would highly recommend the Moody Crewe for any function where a good time is to be had by all!"

Kathy Mulkey, Committee Member

References:

Michael Steen, Education Director, Watermen's Museum, msteen1781@cox.net

Steve Ormsby, Board Member and President, Watermen's Museum, orangebe@cox.net

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