Crossing the oceans: the history and benefits of educational sailing programs

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Irving Johnson

Born July 4, 1905 in Hadley, MA

Joined the Merchant Marines in 1926

Created the first vessel based education program for students to learn academic and technical skills through sailing

Circumnavigated the world seven times with students
Flint School

Founded in 1969 in Sarasota, Florida by George and Betty Stoll. Their son Jim, who sailed with Irving Johnson, ran the sailing aspect of the school through its closure in 1981

Operated under the same philosophy as Irving Johnson, teaching university students through hands on experiences through sailing

Operated two vessels worldwide
*TeVega* and *teQuest*
Global Expeditions

Founded by Jim Stoll in 1986 based out of Sarasota, Florida

Action Quest high school program is run every year in the British Virgin Island as well as the Galapagos, Thailand, Australia, and the Baltic Sea.

“guiding diverse groups of young adults on exceptional global expeditions; challenging them with high action adventures that promote personal growth, teamwork, and leadership”
Global Expeditions

Sea|Mester operates as a vessel based university study abroad, which started in 1998 with *Ocean Star* operating year round in the Caribbean.

Custom built *Argo* in 2005, which has since circumnavigated the world three times. Plans in motion to build sister ship, *Vela*, to operate around the world as well.

Sea|Mester teaches academic and technical skills as well as “soft skills” with the motto “Set your own course.”