



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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TINKERING STUDENTS TO SAIL 360 MILES ON BOAT BUILT FROM SCRATCH

San Francisco, Calif. — In a modern day Tom Sawyer meets Hermione Granger summer adventure, 20 girls and boys ages 10 to 16 plan to build a 40-foot sailboat using commonly available materials. Then they'll sail 360 miles from Manistique, Michigan to the Chicago Children's Museum in Illinois, a journey that will take six days and five nights.

These seasoned tinkerers, some with more than three years of Tinkering School™ summer camp sessions under their belts, have never taken on a project this big, or this adventurous. But their parents are game to let them go.

The team will be led by Gever Tulley, founder of Tinkering School and of Brightworks School in San Francisco, an independent K-12 school.

"Children are routinely underestimated, and rarely given really big opportunities like this to discover what they can accomplish," said Tulley. "With this project, we provide them with that chance." Although initially inspired by Tulley, students took ownership of the plan during a Tinkering School overnight session in California.

Serena, 16, and a three-time Tinkering School alumnus, worked with two other tinkerers to make sure this project happened. "It took two years of pushing Gever to turn his idea into reality, but this has provided me with the opportunity to be a driving force behind a gigantic project, and to be a part of creating and experiencing the adventure of a lifetime!", she said.

The students will be working and camping out at the construction site in Michigan and plan to build their enormous boat in a single week.

They will launch from Manistique after sleeping aboard one night to test for leaks, setting sail as soon as the sun comes up and the wind builds.

"Because of the great distance, and the variable weather, we'll be living aboard our boat, sleeping in shifts, fixing, jury-rigging on the fly and sailing 24 hours a day," said Tulley.

Through projects like these for the past 10 years, Tulley and the Tinkering School staff have provided kids with opportunities to imagine, create, and build extraordinary things, like a roller coaster with 120 feet of track, an airplane that they got in and flew, and wind-powered trains that they rode for 11 miles. “It’s exciting to watch students learn impressive skills and, in this case, quite literally have a boatload of fun in the process,” said Tulley.

Tulley added, “Children are quite capable of doing more than homework and scheduled sports. As adults, we need to remind ourselves of this - frequently! When I was growing up, kids were curious; we were always building stuff. Today, kids are still curious. Except now, sadly, parents are being arrested for letting their kids venture further than the front yard of their house.”

Tulley is known for his TED talks, including, "5 Dangerous Things You Should Let Your Children Do," and his best selling book *Fifty Dangerous Things (you should let your children do)*. He is a world renowned speaker on innovation in education, and an advocate for children’s independence and abilities. His tinkering programs sell out almost instantly, drawing children from around the world.

Schedule:

July 10: Kids arrive in Marquette, Michigan to start building the boat.

July 18: Kids launch boat in Manistique, Michigan for first test.

July 19: Kids start sailing to Chicago.

July 25: Kids and boat arrive, docking at Chicago Children’s Museum.

Founded in 2005, in Montara, Calif., Tinkering School™ is part of the Institute for Applied Tinkering, a non-profit dedicated to fostering hands-on, experiential learning. Independent Tinkering Schools are located in Austin, Texas; Buffalo, NY; Madrid, Spain; Los Angeles, Calif.; and Chicago, Ill. Tinkering Schools create meaningful, hands-on learning opportunities for kids, using real tools, real materials, to create real projects. Their work has inspired countless educators in classrooms and universities worldwide to re-imagine what learning can be.

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