



The Seamen's Church

The Seamen's Church Institute (SCI) of New York & New Jersey, founded in 1834 by Charles Sherman Haight Sr. at a meeting of the Young Men's Auxiliary Education and Missionary Society and affiliated with the Episcopal Church, serves mariners through education, pastoral care, and legal advocacy. In 1868, it built its first mission house at 34 Pike Street in the bustling New York Harbor. With a budget of over \$6 million, SCI is now the largest, most comprehensive mariners' agency in North America. Headquartered in New York City, the Institute operates seafarers' centers in Port Newark and the Port of Oakland and maritime education facilities in Paducah, KY and Houston, TX.

Annually, its chaplains visit more than 2,400 vessels in the Port of New York and New Jersey, the Port of Oakland and along American inland waterways. SCI provides free legal advice for merchant mariners worldwide and advocates for their rights to the United States Government, including the United States Congress, the Department of Homeland Security and the US Coast Guard, as well as the United Nations, the International Maritime Organization, the International Labor Organization and maritime trade associations.

SCI instructors provide professional development and educational programs for inland, coastal, and deep-sea mariners using simulator training facilities at SCI-Paducah and SCI-Houston. SCI's Christmas at Sea program provides more than 20,000 hand-knit gifts to mariners at the holidays.

In the Port of New York and New Jersey and the Port of Oakland, SCI chaplains visit thousands of vessels entering annually, providing needed services to crews and offering hospitality and pastoral care. Seafarers visiting SCI hospitality centers can access the Internet, phone their families at home, and enjoy a range of other amenities free of charge.

SCI's Ministry on the Rivers and Gulf (MOR+G) program reaches out to mariners and maritime workers on the inland waterways and in the Gulf of Mexico. Three full-time chaplains board towboats and offshore vessels to offer pastoral care and hospitality.

With more than 4,300 knitters drawn from all 50 states, SCI's Christmas at Sea provides over 20,000 hand-knit gifts to merchant mariners working on Christmas Day. Begun in 1898 during the Spanish-American War, Christmas at Sea relies on SCI chaplains who distribute gifts to international seafarers, inland river mariners and offshore workers in the Gulf of Mexico throughout the holiday season. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seamen%27s_Church_Institute_of_New_York_and_New_Jersey]

