
The Dolphincraft

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Current Mastercraftert: Masterdolphineer Challen

Mastercrafthall Location: Lahaina hold, in Riverdance Hold Territory

LAHAINA APPRENTICE HANDBOOK

To our incoming apprentices:

On behalf of Craftmaster Thierry, Craftmaster Paleron and Craftmaster Gantin of the main Hall, Master Braedyn of the Dolphinhealers Hall, and Master Zakaria of the Dolphin-Assisted Healers Hall, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to Lahaina.

The path you have chosen in applying to study in this Hall will never be easy. We well know how difficult it will be at times. But we also know it will be rewarding and challenging. Give yourselves time to settle in and learn what is expected of you. In time, you will also come to know that we are here to help you in any way possible. Your success in these fields means a great deal to us, and to the members of Lahaina Pod, whom you will meet in time. Your orientation days here will be hectic and confusing. There is much that you will learn. Absorb as much information as you can and allow yourself time to understand it. Never be afraid to ask any of your teachers - and I expect each of you to consider everyone in this Hall a teacher - if there is something you do not understand. Only by sharing information and experience will we help our craft and each other to grow.

You will quickly learn the path to my office and to that of the other masters here. Seek us there or in the classrooms, the halls, the lagoon, and even the dining hall if you need us. That is why we are here.

Again, welcome to Lahaina.

Challen

ORIENTATION

Apprentice orientation begins the 1st day of Spring each Turn. Over the spring and summer, you will have a number of classes in the basics you will need in the dolphincraft. These months will help you prepare for the next level of classes that you will complete. Along with these classes, you will begin to fit into the schedule of the Hall and will be taught the traditions of our Hall and craft. Once your orientation summer is over, you will find that more is expected of you than when you first arrived. If you have paid attention to your orientation classwork, you will have no trouble when your first full Turn of apprenticeship begins.

THE HALL

Lahaina is laid out in a slightly spread [] shape. The main hall of the building contains the dining hall, the kitchens, offices, the library and other resources, a small music room, and the main doors to the deck and the lagoon.

The sides of the [] are the east and west wings. Offices and housing for the masters and journeymen are in both wings as well as rooms for journeymen. Two journeymen share a bathing chamber between their two rooms. Your classrooms are on the first floor.

Rooms for apprentices are located on the second floor in the main hall. Each room holds 6 apprentices, with bedding, storage space and a desk for each person. Once you receive your room assignment, select a bed and put your things away. You will be expected to keep your room neat. Headwoman Wynniss will supply you with linens and personal care items. Bathing chambers are at each end of the corridor near the staircases.

ORIENTATION CLASSES

- Basic Swimming
- Basic hand signals and cues
- Basic first aid
- Basic seamanship
- History of Lahaina
- Dolphineer duties to the pod
- Bell soundings and maintenance
- Dolphin communication
- Basics of fishercraft

THE HALL BADGE

Once you have completed your orientation summer, you will receive your Hall insignia. You may wear this circular badge proudly as your commitment to Lahaina and as a sign of your accomplishment.

The Lahaina orientation badge is a split white and purple field, white on the left and purple on the right. One gray dolphin is sewn across the horizontal of the badge.

Once you have completed your first Turn of apprenticeship, the gray dolphin is removed and replaced with two gray dolphins. They face each other as though leaping in a circle, one across the top and one across the bottom of the badge.

The dolphins are repositioned so that they are now up and down, once you have attained senior apprentice status. Those with a medical specialization add the healer's badge

within the circling dolphins for dolphin assisted healers, or a tail fluke for dolphinhealers.

Upon attaining journeyman status, the dolphins are replaced with a white one and a purple one, each on top of the opposite color on the badge, oriented up and down.

When master status is reached, the dolphins are outlined in black.

Master Challen wears the only badge where the dolphins are outlined in silver and the badge border is black.



APPRENTICE TURN ONE

Your first Turn in the Hall will be the same, no matter if you choose to specialize later or not. All apprentices will study the following classes:

First section:

- Partnership fundamentals
- Harness and other tools
- Making and handling rafts
- Dolphin history and traditions

Second section:

- Intermediate swimming
- Beginning seacraft handling
- Basics of current and weather
- Lifesaving techniques



APPRENTICE TURN TWO

Your second Turn in the Hall will allow you to begin to specialize in some classwork while continuing the classes that apply to everyone in the craft.

First section:

- Advanced underwater communication
- Sealife maintenance
- Advanced swimming
- Bell signals

Second section:

- Advanced hand signals and cues
- Advanced seacraft handling
- Partnership theory and practice
- Advanced seacraft handling

Courses for specialization:

- Human anatomy indepth
- Dolphin anatomy indepth
- Concepts of deep diving



APPRENTICE TURN THREE

By this point, it is expected that all apprentices have gained a foundation that will support them through whatever

specialization they may decide to attempt. Core classwork continues, but those who have chosen a specialty will begin appropriate classwork at this time.

First section:

- Patrol Duty
- Shoreline monitoring
- Beginning rescue procedures
- Advanced sealife studies

Second Section:

- Map reading and creation
- Chart production
- Reporting procedures
- Beginning salvage procedures

Coursework for specialization:

- Beginning medical practices for dolphin healing
- Beginning medical practices for dolphin assisted healing
- Sonar mapping and echo-location
- Medical echo-location
- Breathing techniques for deep diving



APPRENTICE TURN FOUR

First section:

- Partner assignment
- Ship guidance
- Advanced weather systems

Second section:

- Advanced rescue procedures
- Advanced salvage procedures
- Geographic anomalies on the ocean floor

Coursework for specialization:

- Advanced medical practices for dolphin healing
- Advanced medical practices for dolphin-assisted healing
- Advanced echo-location
- Advanced deep diving techniques, including emergency rescue procedures



CONTINUED TRAINING

With the completion of these classes, apprentices are considered ready for assignments outside the Hall, working closely with a journeyman to oversee the projects assigned. All apprentices will be sent on missions with their partners to learn to apply the lessons and practices learned in the Hall to real life situations.

Those in medical specialties will begin treating patients alongside their masters and assigned journeymen. On occasion, they may also request to be sent on salvage or other missions.

When an apprentice has gained sufficient experience and has proven to his assigned journeymen or masters that he has earned the right, the apprentice will be granted senior apprentice status. After that, in time, it is our hope that senior apprentices will advance to journeyman level and begin to teach the next generation of apprentices as well as being sent on assignments outside the Hall where their services may be requested.

At all times while on assignment, we expect your behavior and demeanor to be above reproach. As a representative of Lahaina, should any find fault with you, they are finding fault with the Hall. There are enough people who feel that we should not be considered an accepted craft. Never give them a reason to use your behavior as a sign that they are right. If you allow your behavior to reflect poorly on the Hall you will be disciplined. Should such behavior continue, you will be dismissed.



THE DOLPHINS

Under no circumstances will you ever refer to a dolphin as a "shipfish". This is an insult to the dolphins, and to the work our Hall is doing. You may hear it said by the ignorant outside our craft. If so, correct them gently and show them the proper respect for dolphins.

Presently, Lahaina pod consists of approximately 40 dolphins. Approximately because calving season is generally in the spring - the same time apprentices report to the hall. Birth and naming announcements are posted on the board in the dining hall when Coosto reports them.

If you are on the deck when Coosto or one of the other dolphins rings the bell outside Master Challen's room, go to the end of the dock and ask what the matter is. If necessary, fetch one of the masters quickly. The dolphins often stop by to chat, and if you are free from class at the moment, it is a good time to get to know them better. If it is a matter of urgency, find Wynniss or a master and let them know what the dolphin reports. A fishtrap is secured to the dock near the bell. Be sure to thank the dolphin for the report with a fish or two, but make certain the trap is secured afterwards.



PHYSICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The average adult dolphin ranges from 6 to 10 feet in length. Their weights vary and can go to 600 pounds or more. Their skin is sleek and very smooth to the touch, if somewhat stiff. They are generally very streamlined, their heads generally consisting of a well-shaped beak with between 18 and 26 teeth in the adult. Their jaws are powerful, and while biting is extremely rare, you are well advised to keep arms and hands clear.

On the top of their heads you will find the blowhole, through which they breathe. Generally they do so about every two minutes. Part of your classwork will assist you in learning to hold your breath for the deeper dives and longer stretches of underwater swimming that your partner is capable of.

Their coloration runs the gamut of light greys and faintly bluish tints to darker shades of grey. Occasionally, you will find a spotted pattern along their backs. Their underbellies are normally white. The skin sheds somewhat like ours does and often you will find scars from run-ins with coral or wreckage. Your partner may have identifying marks that will help you locate him or her in murky conditions.



SWIMMING

Dolphins do not kick as we do while swimming. In your class, once you have mastered basic swimming, you will also be taught to propel yourselves through the water in a manner similar to the dolphins. Though it seems easy at first, it isn't. You will find though, that it becomes second nature to you once you work more with the pod. Dolphins can swim much faster than we can, but they are usually more than happy to assist you in keeping up by towing you.

Simply place your hand at the base of your partner's dorsal fin and hang on. Make sure you keep your legs out of the way of your partner's tail flukes. Dolphins are capable of high speed for short periods of time, but normally travel less quickly.



DOLPHIN COMMUNICATION

Among themselves, the dolphins normally speak in high pitched chirrups and chatter. They are capable of our speech, though some speak more clearly than others. For underwater and distance communications, we have a system of hand signals and cues that you will be trained in to ease your work. You may also hear the dolphins communicating in clicks, a sounding technique they use while working. Many of the dolphins love to talk with their partners and often with anyone who will listen. They are very social and enjoy interacting.

At several locations around the Hall there are bells. The main one is out at the end of the channel from the lagoon into the sea. This one is used to make general reports and to see if anyone is around to talk to. In more urgent cases, there is a bell on the east and west ends of the dock. Each has a different tone. The one at the west end is for special messages or to summon someone to talk to. The one at the east end of the dock is the emergency bell for medical problems. You will know it by its deep bass tone and any human or dolphin who hears it must respond. Injured

dolphins know to come to Master Braedyn there and can be treated at the dropped portion of the dock near his rooms.



MATING AND GROWTH

A cow will be ready for mating some time after her 5th Turn. The bulls take a little longer, generally not ready before their 10th Turn. Mating takes place in the spring, with the calves born the following spring. Most cows will only breed once in three Turns. A single calf is born, and attended to by the other females of the pod, it will be helped to the surface immediately for air. While the cow is recovering from the birth, the other females tend the calf and assist it in nursing from its mother once it is ready. It will continue to nurse for just over a Turn before learning to catch its own fish. The pod will discuss names during this time and once they have decided, Coosto will report the chosen name to Master Challen for announcement to the Hall.

As the calf grows, it is indoctrinated into the work of the pod, and a great deal of time is spent teaching it games that aid in its teaching. They also enjoy grooming activities.

Calves are taught that we will aid them should a bloodfish become attached. They also greatly appreciate a good scratching when their skin sheds as they age.

When the calf has reached the age of maturity, their coming-of-age ritual takes place. The calves head out to the Greater Subsidence and attempt to swim through it. There is great celebration for the calves that succeed, both out among the dolphins and back at the Hall. Once they have proven themselves within their own society, they are considered old enough for adult responsibilities in the pod, including taking a partner.



DOLPHIN CLASSES

Just as you undergo rigorous training, the dolphins also must learn their tasks. They are taught to track fish schools and report to the fishcrafters, to escort ships, examining vessels for seaworthiness, shore patrol, wreck location, shoreline charting, teaching calves, weather estimation, scouting, salvage practices, and many of the classes that our students undertake. There are also daily periods of working with apprentices in all fields of the Hall.



PEOPLE AND DOLPHINS OF LAHAINA

Master Challen - Master Dolphineer of Pern by choice of the dolphins. She is also master of this Hall and all who live

and study within. Her office is at the lagoon end of the second floor in the west wing. (Persona of Meg King)

Master Gantin - Master Dolphineer and master of salvage operations within the dolphincraft. His office is on the second floor in the east wing. (Persona of Lynne Brigant)

Master Thierry - Master Dolphineer and master of the journeymen. His office is on the second floor at the top of the main west staircase, overlooking the lagoon.

Master Paleron - Master Dolphineer and master of the apprentices. His office is on the first floor, at the bottom of the main west staircase, overlooking the lagoon.

Master Zakaria - Master Healer and dolphineer, master of the Dolphin Assisted Healer program. His office is on the first floor at the end of the east wing, on the left.

Master Braedyn - Master Beasthealer and dolphineer, master of the Dolphinhealer program. His office is on the first floor at the end of the east wing, on the right.

Wynniss - headwoman. Wynniss will become one of the most important people you will ever know at Lahaina. She runs this Hall with complete autonomy. Her office is on the first floor in the main hall, to the right of the doors to the lagoon.

Journeyman Pdraig - harper. His office is on the second floor at the top of the east staircase, overlooking the lagoon.

Journeyman Effin - healer. His office is on the first floor in the main hall, to the left of the doors leading to the lagoon.

Mattias - headman of the small stable of runners kept for transportation and recreation. Should the need arise for you to travel, Mattias will make the arrangements for you. His office is in the barn just to the right inside the main door.

Coosto - the leader of our pod. She is partnered to Master Challen and performs a similar role among the dolphins as that which Master Challen performs here in the Hall.

Kalipso - serves as second to Coosto and works with her to maintain order and tradition in the pod. Partnered to Master Thierry.

Azami -partnered to Master Paleron. Specializes in preparing the younger dolphins for partnerships, and for working with apprentices in developing skills and relationships with potential partners.

Turbo - partnered to Master Gantin. Turbo came to know Gantin before either of them came to Lahaina, and left his native pod to join the Lahaina pod when Gantin joined the

craft. He is very agile and curious, and enjoys discovering shipwrecks and helping Gantin salvage them.

Taro - partnered to Master Braedyn, is especially skilled in determining illnesses in his podmates and works as an instructor along with Master Braedyn in teaching healing techniques to Hall students.

Timin - partnered to Master Zakaria, is exceptionally gifted in the diagnosis of diseases in humans. Has a very high success rate with converting non-believers to the skills of dolphins, and heads the section of the pod that works with patients and with healers studying in our Dolphin-Assisted Healers program.