FOR RELEASE
October 1, 2026
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World's Only Tall Ships & Bluegrass Festival Returns to Chestertown Oct. 30 - Nov. 1

Chestertown, Maryland — This Halloween, Sultana Downrigging, the largest annual public sailing event in the United States and the world's only "Tall Ships & Bluegrass" festival returns to the historic port of Chestertown. This three-day lovefest for sailing, music, and the Chesapeake traditionally attracts over 10,000 visitors for a waterfront weekend like no other.

Beginning Friday afternoon October, 30th, Downrigging's waterfront Music Village will feature an extended lineup of bluegrass and Americana performances, including performances by Grammy Nominee and International Bluegrass Music Association Best New Artist nominee Mason Via; Telluride Bluegrass Festival award winners, the Litch Brothers; and the U.S. Navy Bluegrass Band, Country Current. Also taking the stage will be Barkley Cove, Geraldine, Caleb Stine, and the High and Wides. The Folk Villains, Deer Creek Sharp Shooters, the Midshore Voices United gospel choir, and the Black Eyed Suzies. Tickets are required for Friday and Saturday, while Sunday's performances are free.

Downrigging's fleet of tall ships will again be led by Chestertown's own schooner SULTANA, joined by the cutter *BLOODHOUND* and schooner *HINDU* from Provincetown, Massachusetts; Delaware's official tall ship *KALMAR NYCKEL*; the Living Classrooms Foundation schooner *LADY MARYLAND* and skipjack *SIGSBEE*; the Nantucket-based schooner *LYNX*; *MARYLAND DOVE* from Historic St. Mary's City; and the iconic *PRIDE OF BALTIMORE II*. The fleet will offer four public sailing experiences on the Chester River($45–$65) as well as daily Tall Ship deck tours.

Special events for the weekend include Fireworks and the schooner SULTANA's 25th birthday party on Friday, and a raucous Halloween Costume contest with $500 in prize money Saturday evening. Downrigging also features an extensive variety of exhibits, speakers, programs, and children's activities throughout historic Chestertown organized in partnership with local and regional partners.

For additional details and tickets visit: downrigging.org.