



### *What is the Court of Mermaids?*

Court of Mermaids Benefit LLC is a volunteer performance organization based in Utah's Salt Lake Valley. We retain a number of members as our needs require, each one chosen from a pool of applicants submitted at the beginning of the year. We look for people experienced in acting, improvisation, costumes, and with ample swimming ability to fill all of our professional expectations. We have high standards for our volunteers, requiring them to show respect and kindness as well as behaving appropriately both in and out of character. Each of our merfolk have a detailed character and backstory to create a memorable, meaningful experience for guests. We appear at library readings, artisan markets, fairs, charity fundraisers, and other public events to entertain and educate. We collect tips at these events, of which 80% goes toward supporting the company and 20% (rounded up) is donated to conservation efforts: 10% to Utah Rivers Council and 10% to Monterey Bay Aquarium. As a company we also facilitate private bookings for our members, connecting them with clients who are looking to hire a mermaid for their birthday party, corporate party, or other private event. Our merfolk are hired as individual contractors and keep 100% of their profits.

### *Our Mission*

We believe in providing quality entertainment while advocating for ocean and nature conservation, preserving the arts, and encouraging individuality, imagination, and creativity in all aspects of life. We seek to inspire a love for aquatic habitats through interactive educational activities, and encourage people to contribute to the preservation of these habitats by any means possible to them.

### *Our Team*

Court of Mermaids is owned and operated by Logan and Ehlana Gifford. Passionate about the performing arts and skilled in set, prop, and costume design, they make a perfect duo for the company. They work hard to keep things running smoothly and safely by giving freely of their own time and resources, striving to create an efficient process with quality service and professionalism. Other volunteers take up roles to assist in accomplishing these goals; helping with communications, scheduling, social media, and outreach. All of our members, including Logan and Ehlana, participate in performances as merfolk, mertenders (pirates), or both! As well as active volunteers, we have a number of honorary and retired members who are always invited to perform with us. One such member is the founder of the company, Kristie Barnhurst. She and her husband kindly continue to sponsor Court of Mermaids to help us grow and enable us to achieve our goals.

### *Community Contribution*

In 2023, our merfolk attended two renaissance fairs and a handful of other festivals, along with over a dozen markets and library events. We began using a simple matching game to teach about endangered aquatic creatures which we hope to make an improved version of this year, along with other similar educational tools. Our largest event was Thanksgiving Point's Fairytale Festival, where we were met with a large line of people waiting to get pictures and interact with the mermaids. While attending the Provo Artisan Market and Evermore Farmer's Market, we put an extra portion of tips aside to donate to Encircle, a non-profit organization who assists LGBTQ+ youth and families.

## CoM Tips & Donations 2023

Year Total: \$622.84					
		Cash:	Electronic:		
		\$429.34	\$193.50		
Date	Event	Cash	Electronic	Total	
3/31-4/2	Provo Artisan Market	\$56.00	\$13.00	\$69.00	
4/20	Station Park Misc Event	\$28.00	\$50.00	\$78.00	
4/29	Ride for Autism	\$11.00	\$5.00	\$16.00	
5/13	Provo Artisan Market	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$20.00	
6/3	Shannon J. Scholarship	\$36.00	\$0.00	\$36.00	
6/17	Fairytale Festival	\$89.00	\$55.00	\$144.00	
6/24	Mini Ren Faire	\$43.00	\$0.00	\$43.00	
8/19	Evermore Farmers Market	\$14.85	\$10.00	\$24.85	
9/2	Evermore Farmers Market	\$12.40	\$11.00	\$23.40	
9/8-9/9	Idaho Ren Faire	\$47.71	\$0.00	\$47.71	
9/29-9/30	Tooele Ren Faire	\$76.38	\$44.50	\$120.88	

*Note: some events are not listed as no tips were collected*

## CoM Conservation Contributions 2023

Year Total: \$155.20				
Date	Organization			Total
11/17	Encircle Nonprofit			\$25.20
11/27	Monterey Bay Aquarium			\$65.00
11/27	Utah Rivers Council			\$65.00