



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 or previous years. 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 performers are hired as individual contractors and keep 100% of their profits from these events.

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 creativity and education, 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 2024 we volunteered our time at multiple ren fairs, multiple fairytale festivals, and a few artisan markets. Our tips and donations breakdown for the year does not fully represent all of the events we attend, as we do not include the events where no tips are collected, such as preschools, libraries, daycares, etc. When we appear at schools and libraries, we focus on the conservation side of the business. We talk to the kids about endangered species with a matching game and talk about how important aquatic ecosystems are, attempting to encourage curiosity and excitement in regards to ocean

and water conservation. As always, at the end of the year, a portion of tips from all events are donated to our chosen conservation organizations, and at least 20% from our Provo Market events is sent to a charity selected by the hosts of the market.

| CoM Tips & Donations 2024 | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------|----------|
| | | Year Total: \$1,004.01 | | |
| | | Cash: | Electronic: | |
| | | \$447.14 | \$556.87 | |
| Date | Event/Donors | Cash | Electronic | Total |
| 3-9 | Provo Artisan Market | \$52.00 | \$25.00 | \$77.00 |
| 6/21-6/22 | Fairytale Festival | \$157.00 | \$86.87 | \$243.87 |
| 7/12 | Provo Artisan Market | \$6.00 | \$0.00 | \$6.00 |
| 8/23-8/24 | Utah Ren Faire | \$73.25 | \$23.00 | \$96.25 |
| 9/20-9/21 | Tooele Ren Faire | \$42.89 | \$12.00 | \$54.89 |
| 10/19 | Ely Ren Faire | \$116.00 | \$10.00 | \$126.00 |
| | Sponsor Donation | | \$400.00 | \$400.00 |

| CoM Contributions from 2024 Tips | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|---------|
| Year Total: \$207.00 | | | |
| Date | Organization | | Total |
| 2/1/25 | Monterey Bay Aquarium | | \$91.00 |
| 2/2/25 | Utah Rivers Council | | \$91.00 |
| 3/7/25 | Encircle Nonprofit | | \$25.00 |