

Crossing the Equator for a Cruising Sailboat

With Only Pollywogs in Attendance

King Neptune, ruler of the seas, we honor you as we prepare to cross this sacred line into the [North/South] hemisphere and ask for your blessing in our continued sailing. We are your humble servants, and offer you libations in return for your protection. We ask you for fair winds, following seas, and thrilling adventures. I [state name and title] (and...) do formally renounce my/our status as pollywog(s) and pledge to reign over my/our good ship [boat name] as true and faithful shellback(s) from this day hence. To King Neptune!

With Pollywogs and Shellbacks in Attendance

One shellback should be selected to be King Neptune's representative.

Speech for pollywogs:

King Neptune, ruler of the seas, we thank you for sending us a representative and escort for our journey as we cross this sacred line into the [North/South] hemisphere. We ask for your blessing in our continued sailing. We are your humble servants, and offer you libations in return for your protection. We ask you for fair winds, following seas, and thrilling adventures.

Speech for King Neptune's representative:

I, [state name], stand before you as acting representative of King Neptune. What was your offering to King Neptune? (response) Do you [name], formerly renounce your status as a pollywog and pledge to honor King Neptune's domain in all your adventures within her boundaries? (response) I hereby declare that [name of initiate(s)] has proven themselves worthy of the title of Trusted Shellbacks and are thereby initiated into the Ancient Order of the Deep. Rise, Shellbacks, and celebrate!

Ideas for the ceremony

- ◆ Toasts with alcohol
- ◆ Talent show
- ◆ Drag your feet off the transom
- ◆ Swim across the equator
- ◆ Wear costumes
- ◆ Fake tattoos
- ◆ Slop bath (save up kitchen scraps and pour them over your head)
- ◆ Gifts or service to shellbacks



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I Herely Declare

crew member of the ship

has been judged by the court of Neptune after having braved winds and waves to venture across the sacred line of the Equator. The proceedings occurred on this day and location:

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This crew member pledges to honor Neptune in their stewardship of the ocean and has provided sufficient offerings to King Neptune, his chosen representative, and all who dwell in his domain. Therefore, the court has found this person worthy of the title of Trusted Shellback and has been initiated into the Ancient Order of the Deep.

King Neptune's Representative

Initiate