



Lighthouse Overnight Program Content and FAQs

Program Content

As participants arrive at the lighthouse at 6:00 p.m., they are encouraged to imagine the life and work of a lighthouse keeper of the early 20th century. They are asked to call each other "Keeper ..." (i.e., Keeper Jane, Keeper Tom) throughout the night. After dinner, the head "Keeper" (the program instructor) guides the new "keepers" through a detailed tour of the Hooper Strait Lighthouse, and the participants explore the contents of a ditty bag containing clues that each reveal a new aspect about life as a keeper of the past.

Participants "officially" enter through the sea hatch to begin learning about the lifestyle of lighthouse keepers including how they got supplies and drinking water, how they maintained and cleaned the lighthouse lenses, and why lighthouses were such important navigational aids.

After a break, the group reconvenes in the lighthouse keeper's office. There they are divided into "watches," or shifts, and are told of the traditional keeper's duties that they are expected to perform while on watch. These include learning and keeping nautical time, cleaning and polishing, and recording in a log book all weather conditions, vessel passages, and other activity on the grounds near the lighthouse. The groups are also sent on an informational lighthouse scavenger hunt.

Finally, participants take and sign the lighthouse keeper's oath of office and are inducted as keepers for the evening watches until 11:30 p.m. All groups strive to receive positive inspections and take their responsibility for the safety and care of the lighthouse very seriously. At 8:30 a.m., after a brief closing ceremony, the group leaves and the program ends.

Frequently Asked Questions for Group Overnights

Group Lighthouse Overnight for 12-18 participants

1. I have a group interested in an overnight, when can I schedule a program?

Programs for scout and youth groups are held most Friday and Saturday nights in the months of April, May, June, September, and October.

2. What dates are available?

This program usually books up to a year in advance. Contact the Director of Education for more details on availability.

3. How many people can participate?

The program is designed for groups between 12-18 participants, including kids and chaperones.

5. We have less than 12 kids in our group, can we bring more adults?

Absolutely. Adults are encouraged to participate as well.

6. What ages should the participants be?

The minimum age to participate is 8 years. Based on our experience, the ideal range is 8 to 12. However, custom programs for older participants can be arranged in advance.

7. How much does it cost?

The program fee is \$40 per person, with a minimum of 12 participants and a maximum of 18 participants. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is required to secure a reservation, which is deducted from the final balance.

8. What is included in the cost?

This program will include an education program to teach you about Hooper Strait Lighthouse, lighthouse keeping and the day-to-day life of a keeper. You will receive a hands-on, guided tour of the lighthouse, and a chance to perform some of the duties of a traditional lighthouse keeper. In addition to the activities, you will receive overnight accommodations, two days' admission to the Museum, a boat ride (subject to seasonal availability and boat maintenance schedule), and a souvenir patch.

9. When do I pay my balance?

Your balance is due one month before your program.

10. What are the program hours?

The program runs from 6:00 pm in the evening until 8:30 am the next morning, with time scheduled in for dinner.

11. What about meals?

Groups are responsible for providing your meals (dinner and breakfast) during the program. Most groups will either brown-bag it, picnic or order pizza. Suggestions for local food venues will be included in the confirmation packet.

12. Are there bathrooms in the lighthouse?

There are no bathrooms in the lighthouse; however modern facilities are located within a hundred yards on the museum grounds. Showers are also available.

13. Where do we sleep?

All participants sleep on the hardwood floor. Sleeping bags and pads are a necessity! Everyone will sleep on the first floor of the lighthouse.

14. Are we left alone at night after the educational activities end?

No, the instructor stays overnight with you. Your group will sleep on the first floor while the instructor spends the night on the second floor of the lighthouse.

15. Can we earn a Girl or Boy Scout badge if we do the program?

Participation in this program will allow you to fulfill some of the requirements to complete the lighthouse badges for Brownie, Junior, Cadette and Senior levels of Girl Scouts (These badges were developed by the Girl Scouts of Delaware-Raritan in New Jersey, www.gsofdr.org.) Unfortunately, at this time we are not aware of a badge for Boy Scouts. All participants will receive a special program patch from the Museum.

16. Our group has made a reservation and paid our deposit. What now?

A detailed confirmation packet will be mailed to you when we receive your deposit. This packet will include an overview of what to expect, ideas of what to bring, information about the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum and St. Michaels, a liability release form and directions.

17. I still have questions about the Lighthouse Overnight Program.

Who should I contact?

Please contact Director of Education Kate Livie at klivie@cbmm.org, or call (410) 745-4947.