



CHESAPEAKE BAY MARITIME MUSEUM

213 NORTH TALBOT ST. | ST. MICHAELS, MD 21663 | 410-745-2916 | CBMM.ORG

Lighthouse Overnight Program Content & FAQs

Program Content:

As participants arrive at the lighthouse, 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 1879 Hooper Strait Lighthouse. The participants will 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 a lighthouse keeper, including how they got supplies and drinking water, how they maintained and cleaned the lenses, and why lighthouses were such important navigational aids.

After a break, the group reconvenes. 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 lenses, and recording in a log book all weather conditions, vessel passages, and other activity near the lighthouse. Participants take and sign the lighthouse keeper's oath of office and are inducted as keepers for the evening watches. The groups are also sent on an informational lighthouse scavenger hunt.

All keepers strive to receive positive inspections and take their responsibility for the safety and care of the lighthouse very seriously. The next morning, after a brief closing ceremony, the program ends and the group departs.



*Please note: each instructor may alter their program structure slightly. The above content portrays the overall message of the program.



CHESAPEAKE BAY MARITIME MUSEUM

213 NORTH TALBOT ST. | ST. MICHAELS, MD 21663 | 410-745-2916 | CBMM.ORG

Lighthouse Overnight Program: Frequently Asked Questions

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. How many people can participate?
The program is designed for groups between 12-18 participants, including both children and chaperones.
3. I have a much larger group than 18, how can I participate?
Large groups may schedule two nights. We cannot promise, however, that two consecutive nights will be available.
4. We have less than 12 kids in our group, can we bring more adults?
Absolutely. Adults are encouraged to participate, as well.
5. What ages should the participants be?
The minimum age to participate is 8 years. Based on our experience, the ideal range is 8-12. However, custom programs for older participants can be arranged in advance.
6. How much does it cost?
The program fee is \$40 per person, children and adults. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is required to secure a reservation, which is later deducted from the final balance.
7. What is included in the cost?
The program includes an education program to teach you about the 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 souvenir patch, and (seasonally available) a complimentary boat ride on the 1920 buyboat *Winnie Estelle*. Space is limited and reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis. Boat rides are weather permitting.
8. When do I pay my balance?
Your final balance is due one month prior to your program.
9. What are the program hours?
The program runs from 7 pm in the evening until 9 am the next morning, with dinner to be eaten prior to the program start time.



CHESAPEAKE BAY MARITIME MUSEUM

213 NORTH TALBOT ST. | ST. MICHAELS, MD 21663 | 410-745-2916 | CBMM.ORG

10. What about meals?

Groups are responsible for providing their own meals (dinner and breakfast) during the program. Most groups will either brown-bag it, order pizza, or eat prior to arriving at the museum. Snack time is provided later in the evening to break up the program.

11. Are there bathrooms in the lighthouse?

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

12. Where do we sleep?

All participants sleep on the hardwood floor. Sleeping bags and pads are a necessity!

13. 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 of the lighthouse, while the instructor spends the night on the second floor.

14. 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.

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

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

16. I still have questions about the Lighthouse Overnight Program. Who should I contact?

Please contact CBMM Education Assistant, Allison Speight at aspeight@cbmm.org or call 410-745-4941.