



Mystic Seaport Museum Member Overnight Program

Frequently Asked Questions:

Ahoy! We are looking forward to welcoming you to our Member Overnight Program on board the *Joseph Conrad*. We hope this document will answer some of the questions you may have about the program and your stay with us. Please take some time to read these FAQs so you can be best prepared for your adventure!

What will I do?

As part of the Member Overnight Program, you will learn and experience how people lived, worked, and played on America's waterways. Not only will you see great stuff, you'll also meet great people – musicians, role-players, historians, and educators who help make the past come alive!

At night, we'll travel around the Museum, touring ships and buildings, and meet back on deck to gaze at the stars and tell sea stories. In the morning we have breakfast, climb the rigging, learn to throw a harpoon and participate in sailor's crafts. After we have wrapped up with official programming, please feel free to stay and explore the Museum on your own for the rest of the day.

How old do I have to be to participate?

Ages 8 years and up can participate. Youth (ages 8yrs – 17yrs) must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. We require one adult per every three youth.

Where should I park?

Please park in the South Lot, which is located across from the Museum Store and the Red Tug Boat. The group will gather in the bus parking and unloading area, which is to the far right. A Museum staff member will be there to greet you. Unless other arrangements have been made, please try to arrive as close to 6:00 p.m. as possible. Many of our program activities are time-sensitive, and require the precise availability of our exhibits and demonstration staff. If you arrive early, please remain in the parking lot until a member of the Museum staff arrives. The staff member will lead the group through the grounds to the *Joseph Conrad* to begin our adventure.

What should I do if I arrive late?

If you are running late or anticipate that you will be late, please call us to let us know: (860) 572-0711 x5119. The entrance buildings close at 6:00 p.m. If you should arrive after they close and can't get a hold of us, please call security at 860-572-5310. If you do not have a cell phone with you when you arrive late, there is a call box located next to the member entrance at the South Entrance. This connects to Security who will be able to assist you.



Where will I sleep?

You'll stay aboard the *Joseph Conrad*, which is an iron-hulled veteran naval training ship. Built in 1882, this historic vessel has been modernized to provide heat, hot water, and electricity. There are two large cabins, each with 25 bunks. The bunks hang in sets of three from chains attached to the ceiling – allowing guests the experience of sleeping like a sailor! Each bunk has a thin mattress. You'll need to bring your own sleeping bag and pillow.

How many people can sleep on board the *Joseph Conrad*?

There are 50 bunks on board however we have capped our program at 30 people to make the experience more enjoyable. Two staff members will be on board the vessel during the program to assist with any questions you may have.

Will I get seasick?

No one has ever gotten seasick during our program. The *Joseph Conrad* is firmly tied to the dock, and most people don't notice any motion at all.

What is the food like?

We will serve pizza during check-in. In the evening, we'll have snacks such as crackers and cheese. For the morning breakfast, we offer a selection of fresh fruit and breakfast fare.

Most guests really enjoy the food. If you have any food allergies, are vegetarian, or have special dietary needs, please inform us at least two weeks prior to your trip so we can plan ahead.

What's the weather like?

Mystic Seaport Museum is close to the ocean, and the weather can change quickly. It's usually windier here than it is inland. Dress in layers, so you can add or subtract clothing whenever you need to. We do nearly all of our activities no matter what the weather is like. If you don't have a raincoat that is fully waterproof, we recommend you borrow one for the trip. You'll be happiest if you are as dry and as warm as possible.

How should I pack?

When you arrive, you'll carry your luggage just under a ½ mile from the parking lot to the ship. Pack only what you are able to carry! Please follow these packing tips:

- Pack your sleeping bag into a stuff sack or plastic bag so it won't unroll or get wet.
- Bring bags with straps or handles, not rolling luggage. Wheels don't work well on our gangways, stairs, and dirt roads!
- Two smaller bags are usually easier to carry than one big bag.



What should I bring?

Here's a list of what you should bring on your trip. Bring old clothes, and think comfort instead of style – you'll be outdoors a lot and might encounter tar, soot, mud, and ink. You'll have a better time if you don't have to worry about your clothes.

- 2 pairs of pants, and 2-3 shirts
- Lace-up shoes, sneakers, or boots
- 3 pairs of socks
- Sweater or sweatshirt
- Raincoat
- Pajamas or sleep clothes
- Sleeping bag or sheets, and a pillow
- Towel /wash cloth
- Toiletries (tooth brush, tooth paste, sunscreen, etc.)
- *Please note: Shower facilities are not available during the Member Overnight Program*
- Book and/or a journal
- Small backpack or waist pack
- Flashlight
- Camera

What should I NOT bring?

The following items should be left at home:

- Things that plug in: due to fire regulations, we do not plug any appliances into the outlets on the ship. If you have special equipment for medical reasons, please let us know ahead of the event so that we can make adjustments to accommodate you.
- Electronic games, cell phones, and personal stereos: these items are not part of the 19th century atmosphere and are disruptive to the planned programming. Cell phones are permitted for use as a camera.
- Food, beverages, gum, or candy: these would attract bugs or animals to your bunk area. **NO food is allowed in your luggage.** We will feed you well while you're here!
- Sandals and flip-flops: these are not safe footwear for our activities. You must wear lace-up shoes, sneakers, or boots while here.
- Valuable and treasured belongings: Mystic Seaport Museum cannot be responsible for lost or damaged items.

What if I need to cancel?

Cancellations made up to 30 days prior to the start of a program will receive a refund less an administrative fee of 25% of the program cost. No refund will be given if cancelled within 30 days of the program. We will try to reschedule you for a future program if there is availability. If



Mystic Seaport Museum should cancel the program for any reason, all participants will receive a full refund.

What if I need to leave early?

Once the program begins, we ask that you remain with the group for the duration. However, if you should need to leave the program early, please notify one of our staff.

Is there a place to store my sleeping bag and gear while I visit the Museum before or after the overnight program?

If you visit the Museum before check-in or want to stay for the day after our program ends, the best place to store your sleeping bag and gear is in your car.

THANK YOU! Thank you for taking the time to read over this information. Please call or email any further questions to our membership department. We hope that you are excited to participate. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Membership/Central Reservations Department Contact Information:

Office Hours are Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Phone: 860-572-5331

Email: membership@mysticseaport.org

Questions or issues on the day of the program, contact:

Overnight Program Staff: 860-572-0711 x5119

Libby Daly, Membership Program Manager: 860-235-1471