



Guide to the Burnt Island Residential Program

The purpose of this guide is to help you prepare for your overnight fieldtrip at the Burnt Island Light Station in Boothbay Harbor, Maine.

Who We Are: Burnt Island is owned by the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR), a state agency whose mission is to conserve, develop, and manage Maine's marine and estuarine resources. The Department's Education Division is responsible for overseeing the educational and recreational uses of Burnt Island.

Setting: Burnt Island is a five-acre island approximately one mile from the port of Boothbay Harbor. The historic buildings at this lighthouse station have been restored and transformed into an educational facility and a new Education Center accommodates participants in the residential programs.

Water Taxi: School groups will need to hire the Balmy Day Cruises (207-633-2284) in Boothbay Harbor for transportation to and from the island. The round-trip cost will be \$ 7.00 per person. The DMR will transport the supplies and chaperones free of charge.

Required Teacher Training: The organizing teacher must commit a significant amount of time into planning and carrying-out a trip to Burnt Island, but it is worth every minute. Teachers wishing to participate in the overnight fieldtrip must first complete a one-week training course offered during the summer months. The cost for this program is \$500 which includes instruction, educational materials, CD of teacher resources, and three re-certification credits (CEUs) from the University of Maine. Free room (bunk beds), hot showers, and water taxi service are provided during the week of training.

Fees: Burnt Island and its programs are not supported by the state's General Fund. Therefore, a nominal fee is requested from participants. Schools within a 75 mile radius of Boothbay Harbor will spend one night at a cost of \$25 per person. Schools beyond the 75 mile radius will be allowed to spend two nights at a cost of \$35 per person.

Schedule: The overnight program operates during the months of May, June, and September.

Accommodations: The Education Center has two dormitories with 30 beds (single and triple bunk-beds) in each room. Arrangements on the ground-floor will be made for participants with special needs.

Meals: Participating schools will provide food for all meals and a suggested menu will assist in the planning process. A gas grill and kitchen are available to chaperones for food preparation.

Group Size: The size of the group should be no larger than 32 people, including teacher and chaperones. The suggested student/chaperone ratio is 4:1.

Instruction: Throughout your stay, the teacher will remain in charge of his/her students and their instruction. The teacher and chaperones will be the primary instructors, while the Burnt Island staff will serve as facilitators.

Activities: The lessons on Burnt Island provide students with experiential learning in marine and maritime topics and designed to meet the Maine Learning Results. Each overnight program is customized to supplement the classroom curriculum. Students will participate in quality field experiences in the areas of: marine fisheries, environmental studies, navigation, maritime history, geology, and more. Evening activities might include storytelling, night walks, astronomy, and visiting the lantern-room of the lighthouse.

Pre-trip Prep: A pre-trip guide will assist teachers in preparing for the field experience. A Power-point presentation will be available for teachers to use during their information session for students, parents, and/or chaperones.

Equipment: A detailed equipment list will be provided in order to make packing easier. The bedding requirements will be a sleeping bag and pillow.

Health & Safety: Safety is our highest priority on Burnt Island. Students will NOT be allowed to go the water's edge without an adult chaperone with them, and swimming will not be permitted. Burnt Island's facilitators have training and certification in First Aid and CPR and a nurse will be on site during your stay. Medical forms will be required for each participant. In the unlikely event that it is needed, a full-service hospital with water access is just a five-minute boat-ride away.

Summary: An overnight on Burnt Island is the ultimate learning experience. The five-acre island is a unique study area that supports several different ecosystems and many microcosms. Through education, the Department of Marine Resources creates public awareness of the marine environment and the importance of its resources. The "real world" is the best setting for environmental education and Burnt Island is the ideal place. An overnight experience at an island lighthouse is an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that will never be forgotten.

A Student's View: "The three days on the island were filled with learning, and we didn't even use books! The first day, we started out playing Island Bingo. This neat game got us out exploring the island looking for creatures like osprey, mink, beach fleas, and pill bugs. I also never knew that sand could be so interesting. When looking through a microscope, we discovered Burnt Island sand is actually made up of tiny pieces of rock, dead sea animals, and magnetic rock. We went jelly fishing off the dock and found out how rare it is to find them because they only come to the surface during a certain time. When I carefully touched one, it felt like jelly! Sport fishing on the dock was also fun, even though we didn't catch anything. Using charts and compasses were interesting, but the best part was finding a hidden treat on the treasure hunt in the dark at night." (By Andrea Brooks, 5th grade student)

Contact Person: Elaine Jones (Education Director)
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Cellular phone: (207) 592-1839
E-mail: elaine.jones@maine.gov
Website: www.maine.gov/dmr/burntisland/index.htm

Mainland Contacts: (Daytime) Department of Marine Resources Receptionist – 633-9500
(Evening) U.S. Coast Guard – 633-2643 (**Emergency Only**)

BURNT ISLAND EMERGENCY FORM

Child's Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

Home Telephone _____ Birthdate _____

Types of Allergies _____

Current Medications _____

Medication schedule _____

Any Medical Conditions _____

Any Other Conditions (homesickness, bedwetting) _____

Emergency Contacts

Mother's Name & Emergency Phone # _____

Father's Name & Emergency Phone # _____

In case of emergency, who should be contacted if you cannot be reached?

1. Name _____ Relationship _____ Phone # _____

2. Name _____ Relationship _____ Phone # _____

Child's Doctor _____ Phone # _____

Insurance Company _____ Member # _____

Group # _____

I hereby authorize Elaine Jones or Aimee Hayden-Roderiques, employees of the Maine Department of Marine Resources, to give consent for all medical and/or surgical treatment that may be required for my child during my absence.

Signature _____ Date _____

(Parent or Guardian)

Gear Checklist

- _____ Life jacket (appropriate size and Coast Guard approved)
- _____ Sleeping bag
- _____ Pillow
- _____ Raincoat (rain pants if you have them)
- _____ Sunscreen
- _____ Insect repellent
- _____ Flashlight
- _____ Warm jacket
- _____ Warm sleeping wear or sweat pants and sweat shirt
- _____ Hat with brim (for bright sunny days)
- _____ Sneakers (2 pair)
- _____ 2 pair of long pants
- _____ Shorts
- _____ 3 pair of socks
- _____ 2 pair of underwear
- _____ 2 t-shirts
- _____ Water shoes or rubber boots
- _____ Towel, toothbrush & toothpaste
- _____ Small board games or playing cards
- _____ Camera (optional)
- _____ Boxed lunch for 1st day (no glass bottles)

Field Trip Schedule (Sample)

Day 1

- 8:30 AM Load the bus at school and depart for Boothbay Harbor
- 10:30 AM Visit the Maine State Aquarium (parents load gear into boat)
Snack at the lab picnic tables
- 11:30 AM Boat trip to the island aboard the Ms. Boothbay
(Boat charter: Balmy Days Cruises – 633-2284)
- 12:00 PM Haul gear and settle into the Education Center
Lunch - students bring own (no glass bottles)
- 1:00 PM Nametags, introductions & rules
Island Bingo
- 2:00 PM Lighthouse Living History
- 3:00 PM Snack
Intertidal Search
- 4:00 PM Review collected creatures
- 4:30 PM Free time
- 5:00 PM Dinner
- 6:00 PM GPS - geocaching
- 8:00 PM Visit the lighthouse & review historic lighthouse photographs
- 9:00 PM Bioluminescence
- 9:30 PM Prepare for bed
- 10:00 PM Lights Out

Day 2

7:30 AM	Breakfast
8:00 AM	Introduction to Maine's Fisheries
8:30 AM	Sport fishing, fish printing, and lobstering with Dan
10:00 AM	Grandma's catch (snack)
10:30 AM	
11:30 PM	
12:00 PM	Lunch & Free Time
1:00 PM	
3:00 PM	
3:30 PM	Pack & Load boat
4:30 PM	Leave Burnt Island
5:00 PM	Snack at the DMR picnic tables
5:30 PM	Leave Boothbay Harbor

Choice of Activities

Navigational Charts (1 hour)
Compass Hike (1 hour)
Sand Study (1 hour)
Rock Detectives (1.5 hours)
Survival Study (1 hour)
Beachcombing (1/2 hour)
Squid Dissection (1 hour)
Owl Pellets (1/2 hour)

Costs Associated with Trip to Burnt Island

1. Aquarium Visit - \$2.50 per student (teacher and chaperones free) - Optional
2. Water Taxi - \$ 7.00 per student (chaperones free – ride aboard Resourceful)
3. Burnt Island Overnight - \$25.00 per person
4. Lobstering with Dan - \$50.00 - Optional
5. Fish Print Banner – Please have a parent make cloth banners in advance
9 yards of poly cotton cut, hemmed, and pocket for dowel
12 dowels cut in two to make 24 banners, yarn to hang banner

Suggested Food Purchases and Meals

Breakfast: Muffins, bagels, cereal, fruit, juice, milk, & coffee

Lunch: Cold Cuts, cheese, bread, cut celery & carrots, chips, cookies, milk, & juice

Dinner: Hamburgers & hot dogs, rolls, sliced cheese, salad, watermelon, dessert, milk & juice

Condiments: Tomato, onion, mayo, mustard, ketchup, relish, butter, cream cheese

Snacks: Apples, microwave popcorn, peanut butter & jelly, baked goods

Drinks: Milk, orange juice concentrate, juice packs, hot chocolate, & coffee

Other: 2 coolers with ice, 2 rolls paper towels, 12 rolls of TP, napkins, plastic wrap, & tin foil

Prizes for Island Bingo and Treasure Hunt (compass or geocaching)
Chocolate bars, skittles (or items of your choice)

Grandma's Catch: large box of colored goldfish crackers, one small bag of baby fish

Parent Permission Form

- I give my child permission to attend the overnight field trip to Burnt Island.
- I have attached the completed Emergency Form.
- I have read the information about the trip and I will make sure that my child has the correct supplies to participate in the activities. If I do not have all of the listed items on the gear checklist, I will let my child's teacher know in advance so that he/she can assist in the matter.

Child's Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

