

Boston Light

Historical Interpreter (Tour Guide) Description

U.S. Coast Guard Light Station Boston, Little Brewster Island

12 February 2016

Objective for the Boston Light Historical Interpreter (Tour Guides) Program

To establish a cadre of trained volunteers from the Coast Guard Auxiliary (AUX), National Park Service (NPS), Boston Harbor Island Alliance (BHIA), and Friends of Boston Harbor Islands (FBHI) to augment the *Boston Harbor Islands National & State Park* effort in providing quality programs and enjoyable experiences for tourists visiting Little Brewster Island for which the U.S. Coast Guard owns, operates, and staffs.

Personal Qualities: committed to developing appropriate/effective interpersonal skills for interacting with: diverse populations that visit the island; other Interpreters (NPS Rangers, AUX, FBHI), Keeper, and Assistant Keepers; ability to meet minimum duty requirements; and flexibility in adapting to unusual circumstances that may occur on an outer-harbor island.

Little Brewster Island is a wind-swept outcrop in the outer harbor of Boston Harbor. Interpreters need to be prepared to be out in the elements and enjoy being out-of-doors. Boston Light is an active Coast Guard Light Station with no food concession or other amenities. Interpreters need to bring lunch, snacks, beverage, and sufficient outerwear for predicted weather.

Description:

- Training is provided by the Keeper of Boston Light, NPS Rangers, and a cadre of Auxiliary mentors to assist in acquiring knowledge about the historical significance of Light Station Boston; integrating its history and activities into the broader aspects of the Boston Harbor National & State Park; and the importance of aids to navigation in Boston Harbor and the natural environment of Little Brewster.
- A *Boston Light Historical Interpreter Training Guide* is provided for developing a lesson plan/program on a topic of interest to prepare for interacting with visitors, approximately 10-minutes in length.
- The NPS-BHIA tour season is for 16-weeks on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 0915 to 1630. In 2015 there were over 3,200 visitors to the island.
- The Interpreter day begins in working with the NPS Ranger greeting visitors at the *Boston Harbor Islands Welcome Center* at Rose Kennedy Greenway in Boston and accompanying them on the NPS-BHIA chartered vessel to Boston Light. Once on the island, Interpreters staff a pre-determined "station" (e.g. Boathouse, Cistern Building, Beach, Grounds) where they interact with visitors – sharing historical/cultural/natural history, answering questions, and maintaining situational awareness to ensure their safety.
- There is a morning and an afternoon tour. In-between these two tours, passengers onboard pleasure boats to be dropped off at the seasonal dock or land on the beach via kayak/dinghy for a tour.
- There is an annual "Boston Light Appreciation Day" to individually recognize the cadre of volunteers scheduled for a Sunday in October held at the Coast Guard Base in Boston.

Requisites to be an Auxiliary Interpreter:

- Be a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in good standing.
- Wear the ODU properly and with pride with sew-on or Velcro **member** collar devices.
- Available for 2 trainings: mainland/classroom in May and an "on-island" orientation in June.
- Available for a minimum of **3-Interpreter days** per season on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.
- Willingness to be mentored.
- Willingness to be transported to Boston Light via National Park chartered vessel from Boston.
- Committed to developing appropriate/effective interpersonal skills for interacting with the diverse population that visit the island and with other Historical Interpreters (Rangers, Auxiliary, Friends of Boston Harbor Island), Keeper, Assistant Keepers, and Coast Guard personnel.

Requisites to be an Auxiliary Interpreter Continued:

- Willingness to stay for the entire day on the island (i.e., arriving at the departure location in Boston at 0915 and returning approx 1630).
- Committed to acquiring a working knowledge as to where to find the information in the ***Boston Light Historical Interpreter Training Guide*** regarding tasks listed on the ***Interpreter Qualification Check-sheet***.
- Willingness to develop a minimum of one lesson or activity and to share this information with visitors while on Historical Interpreter Duty. (approximately 10-minutes in duration)
- Willingness to submit 7029 and 7030 mission hour reports (AUXDATA) to support the efforts of this program.

2016 Interpreter Duty Dates

The tour season is for 16 weeks starting 17 JUN and ending on 2 OCT, three days a week: Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Volunteers perform a minimum of 3 interpreter duties with 48 dates to choose. To prevent overstaffing, there is a maximum of four interpreters scheduled for any given day. The Keeper maintains the master schedule to ensure there is sufficient volunteer staff for each tour day.

Historical Interpreter Training Dates for 2016 (both dates need to be attended)

SUN, 1 MAY 8:30 am – 1:00 pm
Coast Guard Base – Function Hall
427 Commercial Street, Boston, MA 02109

AND

SAT, 1 JUN 9:15 am – 4:30 pm
On-island training
Depart: Boston Harbor Islands Welcome Center the Greenway

Historical Interpreter Qualifying Process

1. Submit an application for review and acceptance.
2. Attend the “ashore” 4 ½ -hour training consisting of historical significance, contents of the ***Boston Light Interpreter Training Guide***, relationship with the U.S. Coast Guard, National Park Service (NPS), Boston Harbor Island Alliance (BHIA), Coast Guard Auxiliary (AUX), and the Friends of Boston Harbor Islands (FBHI)
3. Attend the “on-island” orientation to become familiar with the island and how the Interpreter Program is orchestrated. (Note: The “Orientation” does ***not*** count toward the 3-day obligation of Interpreter Duty.)
4. Complete the “Interpreter Qualification Checklist” (provided at the ashore training) with an assigned Mentor.
5. “Shadow” a seasoned Interpreter during the first scheduled Interpreter Duty.
6. Develop a lesson plan/activity for approx 10-minutes in duration.
7. Perform a minimum of 3 Interpreter Duties (Note: the first day of “shadowing” ***is*** considered one of the 3 duties)

Maintaining Interpreter Qualification

1. Performing a minimum of 3 Interpreter days per season.
2. Attending the annual ***Update*** held in the spring for the purpose of briefing Interpreters for the season, to distribute current year’s schedule and procedures, and to provide the opportunity to schedule three duty dates.

Keeper/Supervisor of Boston Light – Little Brewster Island

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