

Overnight Encampment Program Rules and Guidelines

When contacting us please reference the date of your encampment, Pack, Troop, Group or Family name, and contact person. Please do not assume that we remember the details of previous conversations. Reply to e-mails, rather than compose new, as we will be able to refer to past conversations.

The overnight encampment program runs from 6:00pm until 9:30am. The group will not be permitted aboard the vessels before the program begins, but you are welcome to tour the museum, gift shop, and grounds before the program begins. If you know your group will arrive at a time other than 6:00pm, please call ahead so that the staff may best accommodate you.

1. The overnight encampment group must provide a responsible adult for each child or group of children. The assigned adult must be in attendance of his/her group at all times to ensure each child's safety.
2. Do not run aboard the vessels or in the parking lot. The sidewalk near the channel is off limits to children except when with an adult.
3. Many systems aboard SILVERSIDES are operational and McLANE's mechanical systems are being restored. Please do not move any knobs, switches, dials, buttons, levers, or wheels. The heads (toilets), showers, and sinks are not operational. Any person found to be pouring into or using them will be responsible for clean up.
4. Children may not leave the boat(s) unless accompanied by an adult. All members of the encampment group must remain on site unless arrangements have been made between the group leader and overnight supervisor.
5. Please limit food consumption to designated areas. Gum is not allowed on or in any part of the vessels or museum building. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted aboard the vessels or on the premises. Smoking is not permitted aboard the vessels or in the museum. Smoking is permitted on shore if you are 18 years of age or older. Smoking by anyone under the age of 18 is illegal in the state of Michigan.
6. Aboard SILVERSIDES, young people are permitted on the bridge (upper gun deck) as long as one or more adult leaders are on the bridge to supervise. No one is permitted on the lookout rings above the gun deck.
7. At dusk, the colors will be retired and at dawn the colors will be raised. Please let your overnight supervisor(s) know if you would like to participate.
8. The overnight encampment group(s) must be respectful of each other. Please use appropriate language at all times. The group(s) must also be respectful of the museum's neighbors. Please stay off the hill behind the museum, and do not walk on private property. Please remember to keep noise to a minimum at night. Local ordinance specify 10:00pm as the start of quiet time.
9. An adult leader must remain awake at all times during the overnight program. This can be broken up into shifts and you may elect to have youth join you on your watch.
10. All personal gear and garbage should be off-loaded from the boat by 9:00am on the day of departure. The vessel(s) must be clean by 9:30am. The overnight supervisor (s) will make an inspection.

The museum overnight supervisors are responsible for seeing that the rules and regulations are followed. The museum overnight supervisors are not responsible for individual child watch.

The museum Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and community are proud of USS SILVERSIDES and USCGC McLANE and of all who served our country. To spend the night on a museum boat is a privilege we hope you will appreciate. Please treat SILVERSIDES and McLANE with the respect they are due, and try to leave both better than when you found them.