

Dear Returning Campers, New Campers, and Families:

This summer *Downeaster Days* will offer something new. We have scheduled a choice of two programs for the older groups on the Thursday and Friday of their week at camp. Younger groups will have a day at Stockton Harbor Sailing Center on either Thursday or Friday of their week.

**For 8-11 year old groups--Option One: Overnight on Burnt Island**

Burnt Island is a small island in Boothbay Harbor. It is owned by the state Department of Marine Resources. It has a beautiful restored lighthouse, with Living History programs given several times a week. It also has a large, comfortable Education Center with a downstairs classroom, kitchen, and bathrooms for Men and Women. Upstairs, the building is divided in half with bunks built in for about 18 people in each half. Mattresses and pillows are provided, but each visitor brings linens or a sleeping bag, and a towel.

The small island is a wonderful mix of beaches and rocks, tide pools, and a pier for fishing. It is accessed by a DMR boat, about a 10 minute ride from Boothbay Harbor. The Maine State Aquarium is on the mainland in Boothbay Harbor. Our trip will go as follows: Leave Searsport on Thursday morning to drive to Boothbay (about 90 minutes). Stop along the way for a picnic lunch. Arrive at the Aquarium early afternoon for a tour and special program. Take boat to Burnt Island late afternoon, explore and settle in, fix dinner, and attend Lighthouse Program. Friday morning, explore the island, fish, and do other educational activities. Leave after lunch for home. Arrive in Searsport by 3:00.

The overnight will cost an additional \$35 per person (scholarship funds available.) We will need a few mothers and fathers to go along with museum staff and teachers. We will need to plan our food too! Transportation will probably be by school bus, thanks to the participation of the school district in our camp this summer.

For a look at Burnt Island go to: [www.maine.gov/dmr/burntisland/index.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dmr/burntisland/index.htm)

**For 8-11 year old groups--Option Two: Stockton Harbor Sailing Center**

Stockton Springs is about 5 miles from Searsport. Returning campers will remember Betsy, Keith, and Dave who worked with us last year and brought sailboats down to Searsport. This year, for those who choose not to go on the overnight, we will go to Stockton Harbor Sailing Center's headquarters to spend two days in a variety of activities: learn to sail in small boats; try kayaking; sail to Sears Island for a picnic, and more land-based activities too.

There is no additional charge for this option.

**Younger groups** (ages 5-7) will spend a full day at Stockton Harbor Sailing Center, and will have a day hike on Sears Island. We will not be offering an overnight to younger campers this year.

I hope this is clear! Please contact me if you have questions.

Betty Schopmeyer

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