



FRIENDS OF SEGUIN ISLAND LIGHT STATION

Caretaker Information

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The Friends of Seguin Island Light Station offer a volunteer opportunity for two mentally and physically able bodied, compatible people to live on Seguin Island from Memorial Day to Labor Day and to act as full-time volunteer caretakers/hosts.

Seguin Island is located 2.5 miles off the coast of Maine at the mouth of the Kennebec River. The 64-acre island is 2/3 mile long and 1/4 mile wide. Access is by boat only. The Cove, located on the north side of the island, has a beach that is exposed at half tide for landing a dinghy or boat; there is no dock. The bottom of the island houses The Boathouse, The Donkey Engine House, and the public bathroom. There is a diesel powered, wooden tramway, as well as a 300-yard trail that leads from the beach to the top of the island, which is approximately 150 feet above sea level. Please visit our website for more information.

At the top are the Lighthouse and attached duplex housing the Keeper's Quarters and Museum, which also contains Guest Quarters for donating guests. The Whistle House housing the fog horn is 200 yards to the south of the Main building. Seguin Island is situated in the midst of some of the most treacherous waters on the Eastern seaboard. During storms, access to the island can be severely limited, if not impossible. In addition, it can be one of the foggiest places on the entire East Coast. Prospective caretakers should be aware that during foggy weather, the fog signal blows continuously (twice every 30 seconds) and can be heard for over 4 miles.

Living conditions for the caretakers are good, if rustic. The Keeper's Quarters includes a full kitchen, dining room, and living room on the first floor, with two bedrooms and a bathroom on the second floor. The Quarters have electricity and running (very) hot & cold water. The water is drawn from a well and pumped into a cistern in the basement (this is a chore the Caretakers must do daily, depending on water use). It is not potable, and is good for washing only. Potable water must be obtained from shore on the weekly supply run. Heat is provided by electric space heaters. The bathroom contains a shower & bathtub, and a composting toilet. There are no flushing toilets on the island, with all sanitation facilities provided by two private composting toilets (in the Keeper's Quarters and Museum) and one large public composting toilet adjacent to the Cove.

The Keeper's Quarters are fully furnished with beds, couches, chairs, linens, cooking appliances, etc. There are no televisions, DVD players, or stereos on the island; Caretakers are encouraged to bring their own if they wish. There is cell phone reception on the island. All communications from the island to shore are via cell phone or Marine VHF Radio. If Caretakers wish to have internet access, they must make their own arrangements.

Food and drinking water are procured on the day off (every Wednesday); The Friends of Seguin Island hire a launch to bring the Caretakers ashore in the morning, and to return them to the island in

the afternoon. A parking space is available near to Fort Popham (where the launch service operates from) for the Caretakers to leave a car. Food expenses are born by the Caretakers.

The **MINIMUM** duties of the Caretakers are:

1. Live on the island from Memorial Day to Labor Day, 7 nights and 6 days per week
Transportation ashore is provided by FOSILS every Wednesday
2. Maintain the cleanliness of the all facilities on the island (Tower, Museum, living quarters, public bathroom, etc)
3. Maintain the lawns in a neat manner (mowing the grass, weed whacking, move furniture, etc)
4. Maintain the main trail and the four nature trails in a neat & passable fashion, for use by visitors
5. Raise & lower the American Flag daily
6. Greet visitors & give tours of the Tower & Museum, as other duties permit
7. Act as host for donating Guests, per the information laid out in the *Guest Quarters Info*
8. Manage the inventory & cash for the gift shop attached to the museum and report with sales sheet and deposit cash and credit card to office every Wednesday
9. Maintain a daily log (or blog) of activities, weather conditions, & impressions of the island, for historical purposes

ADDITIONAL duties that can be performed are:

1. Assist the On-Island Committee in performing or completing maintenance, including carpentry, painting, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, or landscaping projects
2. Assisting boaters with mooring advice in the Cove, providing weather condition and/or forecast information
3. Assisting the US Coast Guard with radio communications and on-island maintenance
4. Operate the tramway to assist the FOSILS with projects (the tram is NOT authorized to be used to assist visitors, and under NO circumstance is it to be used for passenger conveyance)
5. Assist in various public relations functions, including giving interviews, assisting with weddings on the island, hosting large tour groups, etc

****Please note, the additional duties are to be performed ONLY if the Caretaker's skill set allows. Also, as can be expected, unusual circumstances on the island may arise that the Caretakers may be asked to assist with, at their discretion*** (Injuries, boating accidents, severe weather, electrical outages, fire hazards and other circumstances that are unique to a highly exposed and remote area.)*

Applicants **MUST** apply in pairs; families are encouraged (12 year old minimum age for children), provided at least two of the applicants are above the age of eighteen. Applicants must be in generally good health and good physical condition, as a daily routine regularly includes climbing up & down the hill multiple times, ascending & descending the tower, operating heavy lawn machinery, moving supplies from the boat to the beach to the tram, and a plethora of other strenuous activities. Applicants must be friendly, be First Aid & CPR certified and must be able to read & understand operation manuals for various tools & lawn machinery. Knowledge of carpentry, plumbing, electrical systems, gasoline & diesel engines, seamanship, history, and environmental sciences, are all useful.

Interested people can receive a blank application by contacting the Friends of Seguin Island Light Station through the information posted on our website. We accept applications year round and select keepers in the fall for the following year. The cut-off is December 15th^t of each year for that following year's selection round.