

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE ISLAND (also available at <http://starisland.org/conferences/info>)

Boats

The ferry service to the island will operate from the Isles of Shoals Steamship Company on Market Street in downtown Portsmouth. For information about the departure times and parking, please see the [Boats and Parking page](#) (excerpted below).

Conference Ferry Service



[The Isles of Shoals Steamship Company \(ISSCO\)](#) will provide transportation from their dock on Market Street in Portsmouth to Star Island for conference guests and other overnight visitors aboard the M/V Thomas Loughton. The Loughton is a 90-foot vessel, with three decks, two of which are fully enclosed and heated. It has many amenities, including a snack bar, several washrooms, comfortable deck chairs and is wheelchair-accessible.

If you are registered to attend a conference your boat reservations are already made. All you have to do is come to the boat dock in Portsmouth. Please arrive at the dock about an hour and a half before your boat is scheduled to depart. Because the dock is located in downtown Portsmouth, you will be able to explore the town and grab lunch at a local eatery after check-in, so long as you return to the dock 25 minutes before departure to begin boarding.

Luggage

Luggage limits are strictly enforced. Each person may bring: one small carry-on bag (a backpack or small tote, including your personal items), a specialty item, such as a musical instrument, tennis racquet or easel, and one “checked” bag (preferably a duffle bag without wheels) weighing under 40 lbs. or two bags weighing under 25 lbs. each. Star Island Corporation and the Isles of Shoals Steamship Company assume no responsibility for the handling, damage, or loss of any luggage belonging to Star Island guests. Please pack any prescription drugs in your carry-on luggage.

Medical Considerations

Star Island is a small island in a remote location with access only by boat. Although there is a first aid station on the island, it is equipped for only basic emergency and first aid treatment and may not be staffed at all times. In addition, the travel time to an off-island medical facility is a minimum of an hour and may be much longer depending upon weather and sea conditions. Star Island Corporation strongly recommends not participating in a program if you suffer from any medical condition which might reasonably require emergency medical response including but not limited to heart conditions, the last trimester of pregnancy, severe allergic reactions, illnesses which require ongoing medical treatment or monitoring and other similar conditions. Additionally, if you have had or expect to have had recent surgery, neurological problems resulting in impaired mobility, mental health issues requiring use of medications or other similar conditions, or if you use or expect to use specialized medications, medical equipment, portable oxygen or other similar items, the Star Island Corporation strongly recommends consulting your physician to ensure that Star Island is a suitable environment for you to visit. Guests on Star Island are responsible for their own medical condition while on the island, including monitoring of health conditions and making sure that they have adequate medication to address any possible medical issues which may arise. If personal assistance is needed, please bring your own care attendant as Star does not have assisted living facility capabilities. There are inherent risks in traveling to and staying on Star Island which cannot be eliminated, such as exposure to elements on a remote island including but not limited to inclement weather, wildlife and unmonitored terrain; the potential for others participating in conference programs to act in a negligent manner that may cause or contribute to injury, harm or death; and lack of access to a medical facility without extensive travel by boat and motor vehicle.

Bring enough of any needed medicine to cover the length of the stay plus an extra four days. All controlled medications must be locked up at all times (lock boxes provided). No prescription medications are kept on-island and there is no guarantee that we can get specific prescriptions filled. Star is in a remote location, and there are inherent risks in traveling to and staying on Star which cannot be eliminated. We strongly recommend not coming to Star if you suffer from any condition which might reasonably require emergency medical response. Conferees who knowingly come to Star with such a condition and then require emergency medical evacuation will be charged for the full conference. Individuals with assisted living requirements should make arrangements to ensure the requisite level of care during their visit, which may include hiring a health aide. Guests are responsible for their own medical condition while on the island, including monitoring health conditions and ensuring that they have adequate medication to address any possible medical issues which may arise.

Cancellation Policy

Registrants may cancel at any time, although the cancellation policy follows specific dates in conjunction with the program start date in regards to a refund of deposit and/or charge of entire R & B fees.

- Up to 4 weeks prior to program start date: Deposit is fully refundable.
- Less than 4 weeks prior to program start date: Deposit becomes non-refundable.
- Less than 2 weeks prior to program start date: Registrant will be charged entire R & B fee.

Exceptions to the cancellation policy resulting from extreme circumstances are made solely at Star Island Corporation's discretion. Program Registrars may inquire directly with the Island Registrar in these situations. Non-refunded deposits and R&B fees we collect according to the terms of this policy cannot be acknowledged by Star Island as donations.

For more information about the cancellation policy, contact the registrar of your specific program or the [Island Registrar](#).

Alcohol, Tobacco Products & Illegal Drugs

Compliance is expected with all federal and state laws governing the use of alcoholic beverages by persons under 21 years of age, use of tobacco products by persons under 18 years of age, and the possession and/or use of illegal drugs. Consumption of alcoholic beverages is not permitted in public areas (except if included as part of a conference function). Alcohol and tobacco products are not available for sale on the island. Those who engage in excessive drunkenness or possess or use illegal drugs will be required to leave on the next boat and will be charged for the full conference period. Beyond the obvious safety issues caused by the use of illegal drugs, most people are not aware of the significant penalties associated with transporting illegal drugs in US waters – conferees should be aware that their luggage is subject to baggage screening as per all applicable laws. People attempting to bring illegal drugs to Star Island risk significant penalties including heavy fines and long-term incarceration, and they jeopardize the Star Island Corporation in the process.

Electrical

Due to the limitations of the island's electrical system, and for safety reasons, conferees should not bring appliances with heating elements (e.g. heating pads, hair dryers, hot water immersion heaters). Conferees with medical equipment electrical needs (i.e. three-pronged outlets, CPAP machines) should notify the conference registrar.

Fire Drills & Emergencies

If at any time you hear our emergency signal, you must evacuate to the flagpole on the front lawn and await instructions. Violators will be required to leave on the next boat and charged for the full conference period. We conduct weekly drills on the island. People with mobility concerns should notify the conference registrar.

Firearms/Fireworks

Firearms and fireworks of any kind are strictly prohibited. Violators will be required to leave on the next boat and charged for the full conference period.

Minor Children

Parents retain full responsibility for their minor children (under age 18) at all times. Minor children cannot come to Star without a legal parent or guardian unless a [Minor Medical Release Form](#) is completed and submitted to the conference registrar. For more information on bringing children to Star Island, please visit the [Young Shoalers page](#).

Outstanding Charges All outstanding charges must be paid in full or permission to return to the island will be denied. **Pets & Service Animals**

Guests are not permitted to have pets on Star Island. Service animals are welcome, but we ask that you provide us with advanced notice.

Smoking/Open Flame

Fire is our chief concern, and thus smoking is only allowed while in the presence of a red butt can. Butt cans are located in designated areas and cannot be moved. Smoking and the lighting of any open flame are prohibited in all buildings. There is no smoking where combustible materials (such as propane tanks) are present. Due to the danger of brush fires, smoking is not permitted on the grounds on any part of the island, including the rocks. Violators of this policy will be required to leave the island on the next available boat and will be charged for the full conference period.

Syringe Disposal

All used syringes or “sharps” must be disposed of in designated containers. If someone is “stuck” as a result of careless disposal, the individual responsible may be required to undergo blood tests.

Valuables

Guests are discouraged from bringing valuable items to Star. There is access to some secured storage if necessary. Star Island Corporation is not responsible for lost or stolen articles.

Permission to Use Star Island: Star Island is private property, owned and operated by the Star Island Corporation, dedicated to religious and educational activities. Island conferences, as well as guests and day visitors, come to the island with permission from the Star Island Corporation. This permission may be revoked at any time if, in the sole discretion of those in charge of island operations, such action is deemed necessary because of behavior which causes disruption of a meeting, creates a threat to the health and safety of others, or causes damage to island property.