

Parent Page

Welcome aboard the USS Silversides Submarine! Please read the following information to be ready for a whole different type of camping experience.

A WWII submarine is **NOT** like sleeping in a hotel. Overnight Groups must be respectful of all museum guests and the staff of the museum. You will be aboard a genuine WWII vessel that has 72 bunks and no doors. There is very little privacy. Unless your group has paid for all 72 bunks, you will be sharing the submarine with other museum guests. Therefore, your flexibility and cooperation will help to ensure a wonderful and memorable experience for all.

Prior to Arrival:

Be sure to confirm your reservation with your group planner at least 60 days prior to arrival. The minimum age to spend the night on the vessels is 5 years old. Do not call the museum to make or pay for your reservation. The museum takes one group payment from your group leader. If you need to cancel your reservation that should be done through your group planner. The museum does not provide refunds. Please submit a completed Medical Form if you or your child have a condition the museum should know about, including the use of a CPAP machine.

What to Pack:

The boats provide only a mattress. You should bring a sleeping bag or blanket, a sheet and a pillow. Bring weather-appropriate sleepwear. Both vessels do have heat and are generally between 60-65 degrees. We recommend layers.

Personal toiletries such as face cloth, towel, dental care products, and prescription medicines should be marked with the owner's name

Flashlight with fresh batteries.

Small board games or other group activity items, etc.

Money for souvenirs and snacks.

If you are participating in one of our Science classes, an extra shirt is highly recommended. Safe, comfortable footwear is strongly encouraged. Flip flops are not recommended.

Cell phones may be brought, but please be aware they do not work well in the museum or on vessels.

What Not to Pack: Alcohol, illegal substances, firearms, fireworks, pepper spray, chewing gum, tobacco, pets, pocketknives, pliers, screwdrivers and Leatherman-type tools are prohibited on the vessels, in the museum or on the grounds. Any of these

items in your possession must remain in your car. Any knives purchased in the museum store must also be stowed in vehicles during your visit.

Smoking below decks is not permitted at any time. Smoking by adults is permitted only on shore away from building and boats.

DIRECTIONS:

If traveling to Muskegon on Interstate 96: I-96 ends in Muskegon and continues into downtown as Business 31. Stay on Business 31 north until you reach Laketon Avenue. Head west on and follow the *Laketon Avenue directions*.

If traveling to Muskegon on US-31: Take US-31 until you reach Laketon Avenue. Head west and follow the *Laketon Avenue directions*.

If traveling to Muskegon on M-46: Take M-46 (Apple Ave.) to downtown Muskegon. Turn right onto Terrace Blvd. and continue to Business 31 heading south to Laketon Ave. Head west and follow the *Laketon Ave. directions*.

Laketon Avenue Directions: Continue west on Laketon Ave. it will turn into Lakeshore Drive. Continue west on Lakeshore Drive to the "Y" in the road at Latitude Party Store. Stay to the left of the "Y" and continue on Lakeshore Drive the road name changes to Beach St. Follow Beach St. to the next "Y" and Beach St. will continue slightly to the right. When you follow the "Y" right, the road name changes to Fulton and you will see USS SILVERSIDES Submarine Museum on the left and USS Silversides moored in the channel. Turn left into the driveway. You have arrived!

When you arrive:

Please be prompt. The Overnight Encampment program begins at 6pm. Guests who arrive later than 6pm may miss portions of the program. If your group has scheduled a Sub-Tech class, please note the starting time for the class is 4pm.

All gear should remain in your vehicle until it is time to load it on the vessels. The museum staff will let your group leader know when the last tour ends and it is time for you to get your gear.

Chaperones must supervise the children in their care at all times! This includes the museum, the vessels, the parking lot & play areas and the Gift Store. The Buddy System is NOT an acceptable substitute for adult supervision.

The USS Silversides Submarine Museum staff is responsible for developing interesting programs, providing our guests with an educational and enjoyable visit and explaining the rules and regulations to our guests. The museum staff is **NOT** responsible for supervising the children in your care. For the safety and enjoyment of all, discipline and supervision are the responsibilities of the adult chaperones. Failure to follow all directions issued by the museum staff members may result in the expulsion of members within a group or the entire party and forfeiture of all fees paid.

The water tanks in the science classroom are **OFF LIMITS** except during a prearranged SubTech ROV Class.

There is no running aboard the vessels, inside the museum or in the parking lot. The sidewalk near the channel is off limits to children under 18 except when with an adult. Guests are not allowed on the bridge or in the conning tower.

No food or drink is permitted aboard the vessels except for water. Any meals or snacks must remain in designated areas. Chewing gum is prohibited.

A night on the Submarine

Sleeping: Upon check-in, the Museum Staff assigned an area of bunks to your group. Your group leader has this information. Your group may not use bunks in any other area of the submarine. The group leader will decide how to allocate the bunks within your designated area. Please be aware that if your group did not pay for all of the bunks aboard the submarine, you may be sharing the vessel with other groups. On full nights, you may have members of other groups in your compartment.

Restrooms: There are no working restrooms aboard the vessels. Overnight guests will have access to the museum restrooms all night long. There are two exits/entrances on the submarine, one at each end of the boat. Guests sleeping in the middle have access along the passageways to these exits at all times. **AN ADULT MUST ACCOMPANY anyone under the age of 18** who needs to leave the vessels to use the restroom or for any other reason.

WARNING:

DO NOT TOUCH any knobs, switches, dials, buttons, levers or wheels. Many systems onboard SILVERSIDES are still operational! The heads (toilets), showers, and sinks are not operational.

The submarine remains under the inspection of the US Navy, and you will be held legally and financially responsible for any damage you cause.

Anyone caught using tools to remove or deface ship items will be prosecuted. The USS Silversides Submarine Museum staff is responsible for developing interesting programs, providing our guests with an educational and enjoyable visit and explaining the rules and regulations to our guests. The museum staff is **NOT** responsible for supervising the children in your care. For the safety and enjoyment of all, discipline and supervision are the responsibilities of the adult chaperones. Failure to follow all directions issued by the museum staff members may result in the expulsion of members within a group or the entire party and forfeiture of all fees paid.