

USS Cobia Overnight Education Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Fast Facts

Cost: \$50 per person

Minimum Number: 10 (as long as there is another group)

Maximum Number: 65

Minimum Age: 1st grade and up is recommended. Kindergarteners may be allowed if accompanied by a parent or guardian)

Check-in Time: 7:30 pm

Wake-up Time: 7:30 am

What does the cost of the Program include?

The cost of the program includes an interactive tour of USS *Cobia*, educational programming, overnight accommodation on board, and admission to the Museum the following morning. Groups are not allowed to tour the museum before their overnight. Only the morning after.

What is the Schedule for the evening?

- Group leaders should **check in at 7:30**. Once the paperwork is complete, the group may enter the museum. Enter the Museum through the **blue CREW door** at the base of the right side of the ramp.
- Welcome & Introduction: rules, short video, and background information
- Divide into smaller groups for interactive tour rotations (20-30 min).
 - Rotation length and group size vary on the number of participants.
- Snack break, get ready for bed, find bunks, optional nook, and cranny tours
- Lights out/quiet time by midnight
- Wake up between 7:00-7:30 am, clean the boat, and bring all the gear to your vehicles
- The program concludes at 8:00 am. Participants will have the opportunity to visit the Museum galleries and the Museum Store at their leisure. All rules of conduct from the Overnight continue into the galleries the following morning.
- Groups wishing to go out for breakfast and then return to the Museum are welcome to do so.

How many chaperones are required to participate with a group?

- Please adhere to the adult-child ratio set out by your organization. For groups without a required ratio, the Museum recommends the following ratios:
 - 5-6 year-olds - 1:1
 - 7-8 year-olds - 1:2
 - 9-12 year-olds - 1:4

- 13 and up - 1:6

The Museum considers participants 18 years of age and older to be adults. All chaperones must be adults. If they are still a student, they are not considered a chaperone. At least one chaperone must be berthed in each compartment where youth participants are berthed to provide supervision. At least one adult chaperone must be awake if any youth participants are awake during the Overnight.

How many Museum staff will be with the group during the Overnight?

The number of Museum staff working each Overnight depends on the number of participants scheduled for a given night. Overnight Education Staff will remain on the submarine throughout the night. When not with the group, staff can be found in the Ward Room, the staff-only area of the submarine. **Staff is responsible for leading all educational and interpretive programming during the Overnight; chaperones are responsible for providing supervision and discipline.** The Wisconsin Maritime Museum reserves the right to eject a group at any time for behavior deemed unacceptable or dangerous by the staff.

Where do people sleep on the submarine?

The sub has four compartments outfitted with bunks for sleeping, or berthing. These are the Forward Torpedo Room (9-10 bunks), After Torpedo Room (9-10 bunks), Crew's Quarters (36 bunks), and Officers' Quarters (12 bunks).

My group has members of both genders, what do we do about sleeping arrangements?

The Museum does not have a policy on this issue. It is up to the group to decide whether to berth males and females together or in separate compartments. If your group requires separate berthing for each gender, please inform the staff during check-in.

Can I bring my CPAP machine?

There are a few modern outlets available on the submarine for a CPAP or other medically necessary sleeping device. It is recommended that guests bring their own extension cord. Notify the staff upon arrival, so they can set you up near an outlet.

What should I pack?

Each visitor should bring their own sleeping bag and pillow; the bunks on board the submarine do not have sheets or blankets. The submarine is outfitted with heat and air conditioning. Participants are advised to dress appropriately for the outside weather; layers are suggested. Participants are advised to pack minimally as space on board is limited.

It is also recommended that you bring:

- Personal toiletries
- For your safety, we recommend closed-toed shoes, no sandals, flip-flops, or slippers.
- Flashlight
- First Aid Kit: including motion sickness medication (The Museum staff will not dispense any medication)

- Trash bags

Items NOT permitted during your stay:

- Alcoholic beverages (either on or off premises)
- Knives and weapons

These items will be considered contraband and will be confiscated and not returned. The Wisconsin Maritime Museum staff will make all decisions regarding the legality of items. If you have a question as to the legality of an item, do not bring it. This is done for the safety of your group as well as for the submarine.

Phones and other electronic devices are allowed on *Cobia* only so long as they do not distract from the experience, but outlets are not available for charging on the sub. The Museum staff has the right to end the use of any electronic devices at their discretion. The Wisconsin Maritime Museum is not responsible for damage, loss, or theft of any personal items and has the right to conduct a gear inspection at the beginning of your stay.

Is the Overnight Program available year-round?

Yes. The Overnight Program runs every Friday and Saturday night year-round. Weekday bookings may also be available upon request. The submarine is outfitted with a custom-built HVAC system, however, the boat can still be cool in the winter, so participants are advised to dress appropriately; layers are recommended.

Is the submarine accessible for participants with disabilities?

As a National Historic Landmark, USS *Cobia* is exempt from laws regarding access for persons with physical disabilities. However, in many cases, visitors with disabilities enjoy full participation in the Overnight Program. Guide animals are permitted on the submarine. Unfortunately, the submarine is not wheelchair accessible.

Please contact the Museum for details on accessibility. Sensory backpacks and headphones are available upon request.

Where do we park?

Parking is available in three parking lots; one lot on either side of the Museum and one across the street. The Wisconsin Maritime Museum is not responsible for damage or theft of vehicles parked overnight, or their contents. Parking space may be limited, so please carpool if possible. Bus parking is also available. Vehicles cannot remain in front of the museum overnight. They must be in a lot.

What is the Museum's cancellation policy?

If, for some reason, your group finds it necessary to cancel a visit, your deposit will not be refunded. There is one exception: if you notify the Museum at least 60 days in advance of your scheduled visit and at that time reschedule your visit for a later available date within one year of the initial reservation date, the Museum will apply your deposit to the new date.

On very rare occasions, inclement weather may cause conditions hazardous enough for the Museum to close the submarine. In such cases, every effort will be made to provide scheduled groups with advance notice so that they can reschedule their visit.

The safety of participants and staff is the Museum's paramount concern. Please understand that this is a major factor in decision-making should an Overnight be canceled due to severe weather. The Wisconsin Maritime Museum will not be responsible for any other inconveniences or consequences arising from the cancellation of a group's visit. It is suggested that groups check the local forecast for Manitowoc and surrounding areas before departing for their Overnight. Should the group have concerns about a possible cancellation, a group representative should contact the Museum on the date of the overnight to discuss the group's concerns.

Where are the restrooms?

Restrooms are located in the main Museum building. Group bathroom breaks are taken at regular intervals throughout the Program. Youth must be accompanied by an adult when leaving the sub. We recommend adults use a buddy system for safety as well, due to the unfamiliar surroundings. The heads on the sub are inoperable. If anything ends up in the drains, the group is responsible for the cleanup.

Shower facilities are not available for groups

What if I feel sick or claustrophobic during an Overnight?

Any participant feeling claustrophobic or unwell during an Overnight should alert a group leader or Overnight staff member immediately, so they can exit the submarine. Staff will make every effort possible to make participants comfortable. It is the group's responsibility to bring their own first aid kit and medications for participants. Participants requiring refrigeration of prescription medicines will be accommodated.

Participants wishing to leave the Program at any time are free to do so. Youth participants cannot leave without being escorted by a chaperone. Participants choosing to leave the Museum property will not be re-admitted to the Overnight and will not be refunded their registration fee.

Is there food provided or a place to eat?

Groups are permitted to eat snacks in the Museum only. Dry snacks, as well as bottled water or juice, are recommended. Cooking is not available aboard the submarine or Museum. Groups are responsible for any spills and clean-up. Groups will need to provide paper plates, cups, flatware, napkins, etc. Participants should eat dinner prior to their arrival. Groups wishing to visit a restaurant for breakfast prior to viewing the Museum exhibits in the morning are welcome to return after their meal to explore the galleries. Supper and breakfast options are listed on our website.

SAFETY CONDUCT

USS *Cobia* is a museum vessel and an irreplaceable National Historic Landmark. The design and construction of the submarine mandate that special care must be taken while on board for your personal safety. Violation of ANY safety procedures will be grounds for ejection from the boat. The Wisconsin Maritime Museum and its staff are not responsible for any expenses of the person or group associated with ejection or voluntary departure from the submarine.

Safety Equipment

- Telephone - Located in Forward Torpedo Room – FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY
- First Aid Kit - Each group is required to bring their own, however, the museum does have first aid supplies and two AED units (museum & sub).
- Life Rings - Located on the deck forward and aft of the Conning Tower.

Fire Drill

A fire drill will be explained to familiarize the group with emergency evacuation procedures. Participation by all members of the Overnight group is mandatory. Smoke detectors are located in each compartment. If an alarm sounds, follow the procedures listed below.

- Exit the boat in a quick and orderly manner, moving in the opposite direction of the source of the alarm or smoke, if present.
- Do not close any doors on the submarine.
- Ladders and hatches may be used during an emergency.
- Inform Museum Overnight Staff immediately and call 911.
 - All local safety personnel are familiar with the submarine and have trained for emergency situations.