

## South Fox Island Camper Keeper Program 2016

Following is a list of items and procedures you will need to be aware of when assuming the position as **KEEPER of the STATION**. Please contact us if you have any questions

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### Planning:

- Due to weather, we cannot guarantee transit dates to/from the island. We are an offshore station using volunteer boats; safety takes priority over schedule. Please plan on a few days variance on planned dates. Pack extra foods, medications, etc.
- FILA does not charge transportation or other fees but requires a \$200 deposit to reserve your reservation; it is refundable after your visit. Your slot is NOT committed until we have received a deposit.
- Bring camping equipment; buildings are not yet suitable for habitation due to rodents and lead paint
- Bring a personal water filter; your water source is Lake Michigan
- Consider bringing a solar shower, if lake temperatures are too cold for bathing
- If you are planning on doing laundry bring liquid detergent or Woolite packets, a clothes line & clothes pins (there are buckets on the island)
- Bring a phone with solar charger; there is no electricity at the station
- Flashlights and/or lanterns
- Toilet paper (stored in a mouse-proof container)
- Clothes: include wind/rain gear and layers as water temps can make evenings cool, even in summer. Water shoes and/or an extra pair shoes are handy as we sometimes have wet landings. Consider some "old clothes" if you are willing to help with painting or maintenance on the island.
- Bring bug spray, sun tan lotion, personal medicines, etc. There is a first aid on the island with the basics, but if you have special needs, please bring your own supplies
- Bring your own stove and fuel
- A folding chair is nice (there are picnic tables so a table isn't necessary)
- Garbage bags
- Bring your own pots, pans, dishes, utensils & dishwashing supplies.
- Food – You are responsible for your own food supply and preparation. Refrigeration and ice are not available. Please plan accordingly.
- Please do some research/reading on the station and buildings on our website ([www.southfox.org](http://www.southfox.org)) and Facebook page so you are prepared to answer visitor questions.
- You will be asked to sign a liability release before departure.

### Packing:

- Keep in mind that everything you bring must be loaded on the boat, offloaded to a dinghy, and unloaded on shore, so weight is a factor. Also, all trash must be stored and removed; try to limit excess packaging on food. Used cans can be nested or crushed. Avoid glass, if possible, due to weight and breakage potential.
- Duffels with handles work nicely for loading/unloading. If not waterproof, consider packing contents in plastic bags. Buckets with lids work well as do Rubbermaid-type containers both for transit and rodent-proof storage on-island.

### On Island:

- Your primary responsibility is just to be present, which allows us to have buildings open for visitors and provide basic interpretation. You aren't expected to be an expert. If people have further questions, please refer them to our website or Facebook.
- To the extent you are able or willing; we welcome your help with mowing, painting or other maintenance responsibilities on the island. Please discuss this with the island coordinator as you plan your stay. There are hand tools, a wheel barrow, hand cart and garden cart and shovels at the Station.
- Count on a quick text or call to the island coordinator daily as a confirmation that you are "OK". Texts are also the preferred communication method to arrange your departure.

- You may or may not be the only one at the station during your stay. At times, we may have contractors or work crews who overlap with your stay.
- Pack out what you bring. You are responsible for recycling and disposing of any trash you generate.
- Depending on the length of your stay and schedule for work trips, you may get an interim visit. If one is planned, we'll let you know the timing and, to the extent possible, try to make resupply requests (fresh fruit and cold beverages have been past requests.) If we do come out, please have any trash or other items ready to come off the island down at the beach head so we can minimize "dead head" dinghy trips.

**Safety:**

We ask that you don't use ladders unless there are others at the station. Similarly, please refrain from using chain saws or doing other potentially dangerous tasks. Work safe and play safe. We've never had an evacuation. Don't be our first! Beware of poison ivy, it's common.

- Check for ticks daily on yourself and companions. Tick-borne Lyme disease can generally be avoided by removing ticks within 24 hours.

**In case of emergency evacuation:** The station is within the Leelanau County 911 zone and emergency procedures will be reviewed upon landing at the island.

**On the day you depart from the station:** please have your things staged on the beach so we can make maximum use of each dinghy trip. **Do not remove anything from the island that you did not bring.**

- This is truly a wonderful, historic and scenic location. It will be a unique and rewarding experience that you will remember for a lifetime. The Light Station is a special place and a gem in the crown of Great Lakes maritime history. Enjoy!