

STAY A WEEK OR TWO...and make some memories.

You can live in the Port Washington Historical Society's (PWHS) 1860 Light Station and be a keeper with our unique Resident Lighthouse Keeper Program! Being a keeper for one week or more weeks is a wonderful volunteer opportunity in which you will stay in the actual lighthouse and share your time and talents. In the gift shop and on the property, you will be able to meet and talk to visitors from all over the world. Our keepers play a key role in helping to keep this restored, treasured piece of Wisconsin's maritime history alive for future generations.

The volunteer keepers' quarters second floor two-bedroom apartment above the first-floor museum is well equipped with all the essentials needed to have a comfortable stay. The apartment has: kitchen appliances, dishes, cooking utensils, small appliances (coffee maker, toaster, microwave, etc.), all cleaning supplies, and even a washer and a dryer in the basement. There is free WIFI, a television with cable service, central air conditioning, and plenty of space. We have a locked storage building for keepers' bikes or other recreational equipment. Keepers may provide their own bedspreads, sheets, pillows, and towels, though the apartment does have those. You will need to provide your own food.

The PWHS 1860 Volunteer Keepers are two high-energy adults (we can schedule up to four keepers if everyone knows each other and signs up together). The larger of the two bedrooms has a queen bed. The smaller second bedroom has two single beds. Keepers must be 18 or older. Children and pets are not allowed to stay at the lighthouse. Keepers are welcome to have friends or family visit the lighthouse in the evenings (after 4 pm), but guests are not to overnight at the lighthouse.

While the keeper responsibilities of leading guest tours are not difficult, lighthouse keepers do need to be able to climb the ladders to the tower to spot clean the windows, sweep stairs and vacuum daily. Keepers are also expected to perform some very simple grounds maintenance (litter removal) on the lighthouse property (not mowing). We enjoy keepers with talents/experience that can benefit our historic property. Keepers also maintain visitation records; help with retail stocking and typical retail duties. Our retail tasks are very simple with the Square POS on WIFI/Bluetooth system, tax is included. We do not accept cash.

The Light Station is open to the public from 11:30AM-3:30PM, Wednesday through Sunday. The normal weekly schedule is Tuesday to Tuesday with arrival in the afternoon and departure in the late morning. One day off (Monday) is given each week. Upon arrival, the keepers will be given a short tour of the house and grounds, so everything is clear and understood. Training on the Point-of-Sale system and gift store inventory is on Wednesday morning before the lighthouse is open to the public. The cost is \$200 for the week (per two individuals) and \$360 (per two individuals) for additional consecutive weeks if qualified. A multiple-week stay is happily encouraged. There is room for up to four individuals if all in the same party. Program fees for up to two additional individuals are \$100 per week per individual and \$80 for the second week per individual. All keepers must be 18 years old.

Keepers are expected to be neat, well groomed, and appropriately attired when on duty. We encourage keepers to explore Port Washington after 5pm and on their day off. While keepers may certainly leave after the lighthouse is closed for the day, keepers are expected to sleep in the lighthouse each night of their stay.

Information about the brief history of the 1860 Light Station, as well as retail training, are provided. There is a thorough training manual provided too. Private access parking is available directly behind the lighthouse for one car. Overnight parking on the street is permissible in Port Washington with no fee. Camping or use of a motorhome is not permitted. Many keepers choose to bring bikes, SUP boards, kayaks etc. and we have a small storage building for recreational storage use.

How to Apply

Be sure to read the entire handbook completely before applying. If your application is not complete, you will be notified and put in the "incomplete applications" file. Full application is required from each person. Do not submit payment with application, we will let you know if your application is accepted, with your permission conduct a background check and then invoice you. Keepers must apply with a partner. It's best to get your application in ASAP. Being a Lighthouse Keeper may not be suitable for physically challenged individuals.

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

PWHS 1860 Volunteer Keeper Program

Do you rent rooms? No, it's a keeper program for the entire apartment.

Why do you need all this application information on the keepers? Our keepers stay overnight in our beloved historic lighthouse, and it is very important that they understand the unique responsibility of this position.

What are you looking for in a reference? The reference needs to be for the keeper program not a reference that was used for a different application. It should be a reference from someone that knows you well and can address your ability to perform the required keeper duties.

Since 2 keepers are needed each week do you pair up keepers? No, we never pair up keepers. You must apply with a partner. Full applications from all individuals are required.

Can keepers serve for a week two years in a row? Yes. We encourage it.

Do I need to reapply each year? No, not if we have your full application on file. Reapply if your contact information has changed.

I was a keeper at 1860 Light Station in the past, how do I apply for next year? Simply email your requested dates to <mailto:porthistinfo@gmail.com> (the more flexible you are the better chance of getting on the schedule).

I was a lighthouse keeper at another lighthouse. Do I need to apply to serve at the 1860 Light Station? Yes, we are not affiliated with other lighthouses. Our program is unique to our Light Station, and we require a full application.

Can keepers serve for two consecutive weeks? Yes, and the cost is \$360 for two weeks for two individuals. PWHS prefers repeat keepers to consider the two-week option.

The selection of keepers and all scheduling on the calendar is by the discretion of the Port Washington Historical Society. If you have further questions regarding becoming a keeper at our unique lighthouse, please email us at <mailto:porthistinfo@gmail.com>