



Lowell National Historical Park News Release

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Lowell National Historical Park Proposes Fee Increase for Canal Boat Tours and Tsongas Industrial History Center Education Programs

Lowell, MA – Lowell National Historical Park is seeking input from visitors, stakeholders, and community members regarding proposed changes to interpretive fees for canal boat tours and Tsongas Industrial History Center education programs. To submit a comment on the proposal outlined below, please visit <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/LowellFeeProposal>. The 30 day open comment period begins on December 10, 2014, and concludes at 11:59 p.m. EST on January 10, 2015.

In the summer season, the park offers 1 ½ - 2 hour boat tours through Lowell’s historic canal system. The boats are operated by U.S. Coast Guard-certified captains, and tours include trolley rides, locking demonstrations, and a guided experience presented by a park ranger. The last increase of fees for the boat tours was 10 years ago, in 2004. The proposed fee increase will supplement the current costs of the boat tour operation. The following table outlines the proposed change, to be implemented for the 2015 summer season:

| Category | Current Fee | Proposed Fee |
|----------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Adults | \$ 8.00 | \$ 12.00 |
| Seniors (62+) | \$ 7.00 | \$ 10.00 |
| Students (with ID) | \$ 7.00 | \$ 8.00 |
| Youths (6-15 yrs.) | \$ 6.00 | \$ 8.00 |
| Children (5 & under) | Free | Free |

The Tsongas Industrial History Center (TIHC) is a unique partnership between the University of Massachusetts Lowell Graduate School of Education and Lowell National Historical Park. The Center presents a wide range of hands-on educational programs that provide students and teachers with full-day experiential learning opportunities in both history and science. Programs include on-site interactive workshops, on-site river or canal programs on the park's boats, and off-site programs that bring museum teachers into school classrooms. Fees for TIHC programs have not been increased since 2007, and the proposed fee increase will supplement the current costs of program operations. The following table outlines the proposed change, to be implemented for the Fall of 2015:

| Category | Current Fee | Proposed Fee |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| On-Site Workshop Programs | \$ 195 / class (up to 30 students) | \$ 225 / class (up to 30 students) |
| On-Site Boat Programs | \$ 195 / class (up to 20 students) | \$ 280 / class (up to 30 students) |
| Off-Site Programs (first program) | \$ 110 / class | \$ 150 / class |
| Off-Site Programs (add'l on same day) | \$ 85 / class | \$ 100 / class |

“We are committed to keeping the park affordable and we also want to provide visitors with the best possible experience,” said Superintendent Celeste Bernardo. “Fees collected will be invested directly back into these programs so visitors can continue to enjoy them in the future.”

Lowell National Historical Park will continue to offer many visitor experiences and activities that are free of charge. Visitors may explore the Visitor Center Exhibits, watch the orientation video presentation, and tour the Mill Girls & Immigrants exhibit free of charge. Seasonally, the park will continue to present free walking and trolley tours, and the park's trolley system will offer free rides between the Visitor Center and Boott Cotton Mills Museum. Current fees for the Boott Cotton Mills Museum will remain unchanged. For more information on sites and activities at the park, please visit www.nps.gov/lowe.

Comments on the fee change proposal may be submitted online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/LowellFeeProposal> or mailed or hand-delivered to Superintendent, Lowell National Historical Park, Attn: Fee Change, 67 Kirk Street, Lowell, MA 01852. Comments may also be submitted by filling out a comment card at the Visitor Center at 246 Market Street, Lowell, MA.