



Newport News Fall FAM Tour gives frontline personnel firsthand knowledge of all city attractions

~ Tour scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. October 19 ~

Newport News, VA, Sept. 30, 2016 – The Newport News Tourism Development Office will conduct a day-long familiarization (FAM) tour Oct. 19 for anyone who interacts with the public, such as visitor center employees, restaurant wait staff, hotel personnel and other hospitality industry workers. It will be a fast-paced but comprehensive overview, providing participants with first-hand knowledge of all city attractions.

Participants should park in the lot between the Peninsula Fine Arts Center and The Mariners' Museum by 8:30 a.m., where they will check-in with Visitor Center staff. The tour will start at 8:45 a.m. with a 1-hour tour of The Mariners' Museum. The next stop will be the Ferguson Center for the Arts at 10 a.m. After a rolling tour past Port Warwick and the city's first craft brewery, Tradition Brewing Co. in City Center at Oyster Point, the motorcoach will arrive at the Virginia Living Museum at 11 a.m. for a tour that includes lunch at the museum's Wild Side Café.

At 12:30 p.m., participants will be treated to a motorcoach tour of several points of interest throughout the city, such as the Peninsula SPCA & Petting Zoo, Causey's Mill, Historic Hilton Village, Huntington Beach, and Fort Fun. After a 40-minute tour of the Virginia War Museum, which starts at 1 p.m., the motorcoach will leave for a driving tour of the Newport News Shipyard, Victory Arch, Ironclad Distillery, Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center, and the Newsome House Museum & Cultural Center.

At 2:15 p.m., participants will tour the James A. Fields House before leaving at 2:45 p.m. to head toward the Newport News Visitor Center, where dessert will be served at 3:15 p.m. After dessert, the motorcoach will drive through Newport News Park and participants will be able to see the new Campsite Office before heading to Lee Hall Mansion and nearby Endview Plantation for tours. A windshield tour by motorcoach is then planned for the U.S. Army Transportation Museum at Fort Eustis, Lee's Mill, Historic Warwick Courthouse, and Young's Mill.

The tour concludes at 5:30 p.m., but as the motorcoach is returning to the parking lot at the end of the FAM, participants will be asked to take the Newport News Hospitality Ambassador test. All who pass will become certified Newport News Hospitality Ambassadors.

The cost to participate is \$15 per person, which includes lunch and transportation. Register by Oct. 14 to reserve a seat. Call 757- 886-7777 to request a registration form. Forms can be filled out and faxed to 757-886-7920. Checks, also due by Oct. 14 unless another arrangement has been made, should be made payable to the City of Newport News and mailed to Janie Tross, Newport News Visitor Center, 13560 Jefferson Ave., Newport News, VA 23603.

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