

Newport News Familiarization Tour May 9 Targets Hospitality Workers *~ Part of 2017 National Travel & Tourism Week Activities ~*

Newport News, VA, May 1, 2017 – In celebration of National Travel & Tourism Week, May 7-13, the Newport News Tourism Development Office will conduct a day-long familiarization (FAM) tour of all of its attractions.

The tour, to be held May 9, is **limited to** hospitality industry workers who interact with the public, such as visitor center staffs, restaurant wait staff, hotel personnel, museum docents, City of Newport News employees, etc. It will be a fast-paced but comprehensive overview, providing participants with first-hand knowledge of the city.

Participants will be asked to park at the Peninsula Fine Arts Center (Pfac) and check in between 8:15 and 8:25 a.m. The tour will start at 8:30 a.m. at the arts center. After spending 15 minutes there, participants will walk to The Mariners' Museum, arriving at 8:50 a.m. to begin a 1-hour tour. The next stop will be the Ferguson Center for the Arts at 10 a.m. for 20 minutes, and then the motorcoach will leave for a rolling tour that includes City Center at Oyster Point (pointing out Tradition Brewing Co.) and Port Warwick before arriving at the Virginia Living Museum at 11 a.m. for a tour that includes lunch at the Wild Side Café inside the museum.

After lunch, the motorcoach will drive by the Peninsula SPCA & Petting Zoo, Causey's Mill, Historic Hilton Village, Huntington Beach and Fort Fun before arriving at the Virginia War Museum at 1 p.m. for a 40-minute visit of the attraction. The Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center, James A. Fields House, Newport News Shipbuilding, Victory Arch, and the Ironclad Distillery will be pointed out during a driving tour of the Southeast Community, followed by a 2:15 p.m. tour of The Newsome House Museum & Cultural Center.

At 2:45, passengers will board the motorcoach to head to the Newport News Visitor Center, at the entrance to Newport News Park, for dessert at 3:15 p.m. They will then explore Newport News Park by bus, which will include a ride past the park's new campsite office, before touring Lee Hall Mansion at 4:10 p.m., followed by Endview Plantation at 4:40 p.m.

The U.S. Army Transportation Museum at Fort Eustis, Lee's Mill, the Warwick Courthouse, and Young's Mill will all be included in a windshield tour as the motorcoach is returning to Pfac at the end of the day. During this time, FAM tour 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. Registration must be received by May 4. To register, download the registration form [here](#), complete and fax to 757-886-7920. Payment by check, payable to the City of Newport News, must be received by May 5 and can be mailed to: Janie Tross, Newport News Visitor Center, 13560 Jefferson Ave., Newport News, VA 23603. For questions and/or additional information, call 757- 886-7777.

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Newport News Tourism Development Office

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