



Chesapeake Chapter U. S. Lighthouse Society

How early can I start? Most of the lighthouses have agreed to open by 8 AM. Our volunteers have committed to cover each lighthouse between 8 AM and 6 PM. Please be aware that if you start before that, the lighthouses may not be open, or our volunteers may not have arrived yet.

Where do I start? You can start at any light along the Challenge. We give directions starting at both the northern and southern most lights. However, this is only a suggestion. You may start anywhere along the route.

How long does it take to do the entire Challenge? The time it takes to complete the whole Challenge will vary depending on how long you spend at each lighthouse and when and where you stop. Road conditions in this area are unpredictable and that may add to the time that it takes to get to each lighthouse. If you are planning to visit all the lights on the Challenge, plan on taking the two days. Last year most participants completed the Challenge by late afternoon of the second day.

Is there a rain date? The Challenge will take place rain or shine. There is no rain date. This event takes an extraordinary number of volunteers and it would not be possible to have this many people set aside two weekends for such an event.

How much does it cost? The Chapter does not charge anything for the brochures or the souvenir pieces, and in fact must raise the money to pay for these items. HOWEVER, the lighthouses themselves do charge admission fees. In some cases these fees have been reduced to encourage people to visit as many lights as possible. It is however, at the discretion of each lighthouse organization. They set their fees, not the Chesapeake Chapter of the U.S.L.H.S. There are also tolls along some of the roads. We will indicate the costs we are given, but please understand, these we have no control over.

Can I get into each lighthouse? We have tried to arrange entry into each lighthouse and almost all have agreed. This does not mean you can climb them. For liability reasons, certain lights will not be open for climbing. You may be able to enter the base of some lights, but not climb to the top. Currently it is unknown whether you will be able to get into Point Lookout Lighthouse. If it is undergoing renovations during the Challenge dates they may have to prohibit entry. We will post this information on the web site when we know – but the decision may not be made until very close to the Challenge date.

Who gets the money? The organizations that take care of the lights get the money you pay in entry fees. In some cases there is a park entry fee that does

not go to the lighthouse, and an **additional** fee is charged for entry to the lighthouse. In some cases this is just to cover the cost of opening it to the public. In others, the money is used in preservation efforts or as the organization sees fit. The money does not go to the Chesapeake Chapter U.S.L.H.S.

Will there be food available at any of the lighthouses? Last year the Boy Scouts sold food at Turkey Point Lighthouse. There are restaurants down in the Inner Harbor and near many of the lighthouses. In most cases, there will be no food sold on the premises.

Will there be gift shops open? Many of the lighthouses do have gift shops or will have items available. The availability will vary by lighthouse.

Will there be Chapter merchandise available? The Chapter will have items at Calvert Marine Museum. Or you can order through our website at <http://www.cheslights.org/keepersloft.htm>.

Will there be Challenge T-shirts this year? We are planning to have Challenge T-shirts available at Concord Point, Drum Point, and Piney Point. If this changes, it will be posted on the website.

Why are you doing this? Part of the mission of the Chapter is to promote appreciation for lighthouses and to educate the public about them. This is one way to get people out to the lighthouses of Maryland.

Are you going to do a Virginia Challenge? There are far fewer lighthouses that would be available for a Virginia Challenge and at least three of the four land accessible lights are on military bases. This would make coordination of such a Challenge difficult and with only about four lights, a bit less challenging for the participants. If you can think of an event to draw attention to the Virginia lights, by all means share it with us.

Do you have to be a Chapter member to take the Challenge? No. It is open to anyone.

There are many advantages to becoming a member and Chapter membership forms will be available at each light from our volunteer hosts. Or sign up on our website at <http://www.cheslights.org/membership.htm>.

Do you have to register to take the Challenge? No, you just start at any participating lighthouse and go to as many or as few as you want to.

Are Chapter dues used to pay for the Challenge? No, the Challenge money is raised through county contributions, donations, and raffles.