

DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society Keeper Program

Know Before You Go!

Thank you for your interest in the Lighthouse Keeper program at the DeTour Reef Light (DRL). The following paragraphs describe expectations and responsibilities. There is a fee for this program. This program and application process is modeled after successful Lighthouse Keeper programs on the Great Lakes and the East and West Coasts of the United States and has been very successful at DeTour Reef Light Since 2005. The Keeper Program is designed to provide unique experiences for Keepers and support public tours of DeTour Reef Light while keeping up and maintaining this beautiful Light.

Responsibilities

The primary responsibilities of Keepers are to clean and do housekeeping on the lighthouse. Occasionally we do tours on the Light. If a tour is scheduled during your Keeper assignment, your group will greet visitors, provide them with historical information about the DeTour Reef Light, and assure that their visit to the Light is a safe and enjoyable experience. Keepers will assist visitors up and down the vertical ladders (with a harness system), and assist the DRLPS trained Tour Guides. Keepers are required to learn basic historic information about the Lighthouse. They must be energetic, be comfortable speaking with the public, be in excellent health, and be able to climb and descend with ease the 20-foot vertical ladders on the side of the pier structure. For a description of our tour program please go to www.drlps.com and download the tour brochure. The DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society "Keepers Handbook" provides specific instructions to keepers. The handbook is currently being updated and will be sent to you when it is available.

SUMMER 2025 KEEPER RATES

Keeper Room (2-people maximum):

Weekend (Fri-Sun, 2 nights): \$500
Partial Week (Sun-Fri, 5 nights): \$400
Full Week (Fri-Fri, 7 nights): \$900

Assistant Keepers' Room (4-people maximum):

Weekend (Fri-Sun, 2 nights): \$750
Partial Week (Sun-Fri, 5 nights): \$725
Full Week (Fri-Fri, 7 nights): \$1,375

Exclusive (private) Keeper Stay (6-people maximum):

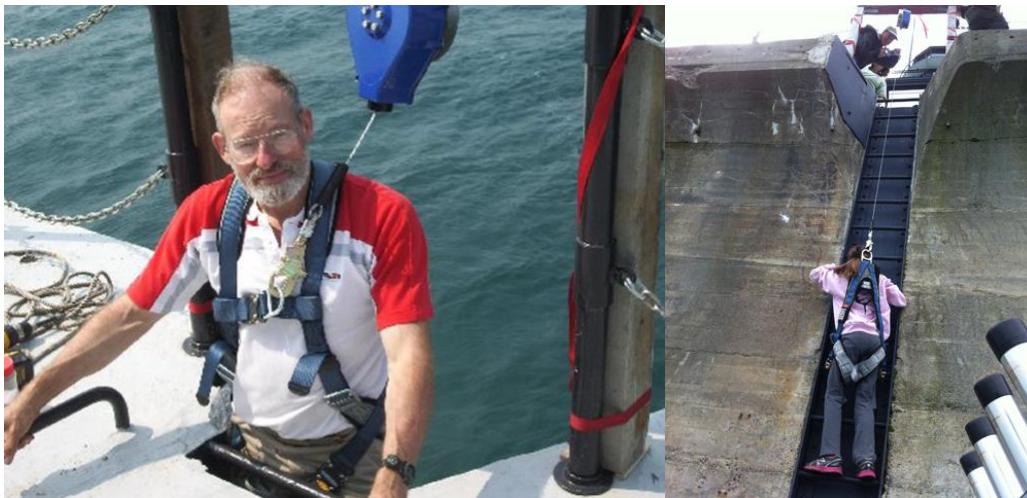
Weekend (Fri-Sun, 2 nights): \$1,200
Partial Week (Sun-Fri, 5 nights): \$1,000
Full Week (Fri-Fri, 7 nights): \$2,100

Notes:

- There must be a **minimum of two adult Keepers on the Light** for each program and a maximum of six.
- Money due upon notification of acceptance and is non-refundable unless the program is canceled by DRLPS.
- We can't control the weather. There are times when a program may have to be canceled or modified if the Boat Captain and/or DRLPS Board feel it is unsafe to travel to or stay on the Light.
- All Keepers must sign a waiver of Liability. All Lighthouse Keepers under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. The accompanying parent or legal guardian must sign our assumption of risk and waiver of liability for minors.

Boat travel to and from the lighthouse is dependent on weather conditions and scheduled times may change. Keepers are encouraged to read and understand the background material they will be provided. The DVD "Gateway to Superior: Saving the DeTour Reef Light." is available from DRLPS for \$15 (plus tax, shipping and handling). At least two keepers are required for each keeper weekend. Up to six keepers may be scheduled. DRLPS will combine individual and couple applications to fill keeper positions for each weekend.

Access to the Lighthouse is by boat and then climbing a 20-foot vertical ladder recessed into the pier wall. Living quarters are on the second level. There are two bedrooms, one with a double bed and one with two bunk beds. It has a modern bath, an office, a dining/common area, and a small kitchen. Keepers provide and prepare all of their own food. The quarters are equipped with dishes, cooking utensils, appliances (coffee maker, microwave, toaster, hot plate, and refrigerator) and paper products. Folding canvas chairs are provided for use on the decks. A small bar-b-que is also available on the Lighthouse. Keepers provide their own sleeping bag (or sheets and blankets), pillow cases, towels, wash clothes and flashlight. The current power system to the Light is a combination of battery and generator.



Access to the Light is by climbing a 20-foot ladder. Use of the harness system is required.



*Top
Left: Assistant Keeper's
Room*

Right: Keeper's Room



*Middle
Left: Office*

Right: Dining Room



*Bottom
Left: Kitchen*

Right: Bathroom

Rules

All visitors and keepers must read and sign a "Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk" waiver. Keepers are also required to read and fully understand the DRLPS Keepers Guide. No smoking is permitted within the lighthouse structure. DRLPS members, guests, and visitors are not permitted on the Light except if on the public tour or by the explicit approval of a DRLPS Director. No boats are to tie to the lighthouse as significant damage and injury can result from boats smashing against the lighthouse

pier because of boat and freighter wakes. Absolutely no access is permitted to the shelf on the exterior of the lantern. Access to the exterior deck at the watch room level (just below the lantern) will be prohibited during periods of rain and high winds. Keepers are expected to be neat, well groomed, and appropriately attired when tours are being conducted. Everyone must present themselves in the professional manner befitting hosts at an historic site. The Light and living quarters must be cleaned up and all trash removed when Keepers complete their program. Additional rules and requirements are included in the Keepers Guide and should be reviewed as part of your application process.

There are few lighthouses that have Keeper programs that offer the participants an opportunity to live in an historic lighthouse and DeTour Reef Light is believed to be the first offshore lighthouse with such a program. Working as a Keeper is a very rewarding experience. The view from the tower is spectacular. All shipping between Lake Superior and the lower Lakes passes DeTour Reef Light as well as a large number of pleasure boats. Although Keepers may thoroughly enjoy the time they spend here, make new friends and walk in the footsteps of past keepers, there are also housekeeping and tour responsibilities.

