Community and Educational Programs

All programs are free!

Summer Programming

The Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center offers a 30-45 minute Pier History tour during the Months of July and August. These tours offer a glimpse into the past of the surrounding area. We also offer a varying schedule of interesting films in our lecture hall.

School and Community Programs

The Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center offers a wide variety of educational programming for school and community groups. Please call us and we will be happy to discuss how we can assist you at 218-720-5260 x1 or Duluth.MaritimeVC@usace.army.mil. The programs are free of charge! All groups need to make a reservation whether you decide on a program or not.

Listed below are brief program descriptions, length of program and target age groups.

Welcome (5-25 min) *K-Adults*
This orientation program describes the Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center, its exhibits and services as they reflect Great Lakes shipping and development. Tailored to your schedule; may use slides and artifacts.

Who's in Charge? (25-30 min) *K-3rd*
What is it like to work aboard a Great Lakes ship? Program discusses the ships' crew, their jobs and shipboard life.

All Aboard (20-30 min) *K-4th*
A special program for young audiences including a hands-on tour of ship's pilothouse, engine room and living quarters. Group size is limited to about 15 students. Larger groups will be divided.

Up & Down the Soo Locks (25-30 min) *K-8th*
Because of the difference in lake levels, all ships coming to or going from Lake Superior must pass through the Soo Locks. The purpose and operation of the locks are explored using a model, maps and an exciting fast-paced and humorous film.

What Makes the Twin Ports Special (15-30 min) *3rd - Adult*
Take a little quiz and find out what makes Duluth-Superior Harbor the biggest, busiest, and best port on the Great Lakes. It’s fun. It’s easy. It’s revealing. It’s part of us, and where we live and work and play and go to school.

Alien Invasion (30 min) *4th-8th*
Learn what happens to our Great Lakes when they are invaded by aliens - from a foreign ecosystem. Are we in jeopardy or is it just a game?

What Makes Ships Float? (30 min) *4th-8th*
How can a heavy steel ship float, and with more than 60,000 tons of cargo? Find out in this hands-on interactive science experiment where students discover for themselves.

Rail Meets Sail (25-30 min) *4th-Adult*
Program illustrates shipping activities in Duluth-Superior Harbor and the Great Lakes. Hands-on look at coal, taconite, grain and other cargoes handled by local docks and overall waterborne commerce.

Tall Water & Steel Ships (30 or 60 min versions) *4th-Adult*
The Great MATAAFA Storm of 1905 was the most devastating ever for ships on Lake Superior. Historic photographs illustrate vessels caught in this storm. Also discusses marine weather forecasts and lifesaving equipment

With All Hands (30 or 60 min versions) *4th-Adult*
Explore the wreck of the EDMUND FITZGERALD which foundered on Lake Superior with all hands during a heavy storm on the night of November 10, 1975.

LUCERNE – "1886" Time Capsule (30 min) *6th-Adult*
What do Time Capsules and shipwrecks have in common? Students find out in this examination of the shipwreck LUCERNE, lost in a November gale on Lake Superior 1886.