

Dear Friend,

We live on an island at the end of a highway. People rarely just “pass through” Gloucester. If you are coming here, you usually have a purpose. Gloucester is more than just a trip — it’s a destination with a deep, authentic legacy.

Many come seeking a connection to America’s oldest seaport and our legendary fishing community, perhaps with images from *The Perfect Storm* movie in mind. That movie, filmed on what became the Maritime Gloucester campus, offers a glimpse of Gloucester’s spirit and resilience. Visitors may come here with a Hollywood image in mind, but they soon find out what locals know: we are so much more.



Scene from the 1999 film *The Perfect Storm*, on what is now Maritime Gloucester’s pier.

While its rugged charm and authentic nature was the perfect movie location for a quintessential Gloucester fishing wharf, we saw more. We saw its historic value and the educational possibilities for a community. We later purchased that site and, over the last 25 years, have transformed an aging waterfront facility into a vibrant center for history, education, science, and community. Since those humble beginnings, Maritime Gloucester has continually answered the needs of our local and regional community.

What we have built together is truly inspiring.

A Quarter Century of Impact

First and foremost, we are an educational organization, providing opportunities to learn about our history and environment. Over the past 25 years, this mission has inspired countless students and visitors, helping us build a foundation for people to engage and children to learn. **Since 2004, Ocean Explorers has educated over 13,000 students, a singular achievement for this type of program.**



ABOVE: 2016 Ocean Explorers 3rd grade class learning in our first-generation Sea Pocket Aquarium. **BELOW:** 2023 opening weekend of the Maritime Science Education Center



With you, our partners, and our community, we’ve built a legacy — a lasting legacy that spans a generation. We created a special place where kids can interact with marine life all year round, families can connect in meaningful ways, and a community can gather to celebrate its unique maritime heritage. A place where daily experiences are real and memorable. Where else can you watch a craftsman build a dory, explore a microscopic world of sea life, sail on a schooner, and hold local marine species in your hands, all in one day?

(over)

Geoffrey H. Richon
Founder

Michael De Koster
Executive Director

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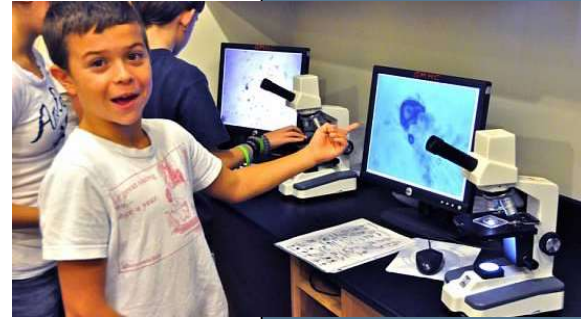
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Activities like these are the backbone of Maritime Gloucester's powerful experiential education model, creating transformative experiences that connect students to their heritage and community. Many students discover they have unknown family ties to Gloucester's fishing history during their time here. Visitors return again and again, inspired by a new respect for our local maritime culture. Though we share Gloucester's story with the world, our greatest impact is right here at home, shaping the lives of young people.



Your support makes all of this possible. In the enclosed brochure, you'll find stories of two remarkable individuals, **Kelsey Bradford Gray and A.J. Lewis**. Since their early childhood, they have literally grown up with Maritime Gloucester. Their stories showcase the life-changing role our work can have for our youth.

Building the Next 25 Years Together

The mission of Maritime Gloucester doesn't live in our past or stop in 2024! Our work has always been about preserving our maritime history and creating opportunities for the children of Gloucester and Cape Ann. To that end, we have dedicated our site, our programs, and our expertise to their success.

We didn't build this alone!

Our accomplishments are driven by members and donors like you, who support our work and our mission. Your contributions are vital to keep this momentum going.

As we start our 25th anniversary year, we reflect on all we've accomplished together, and we are eager to plan for what's next. Your donation ensures we can continue offering the programs that make us a cornerstone of our community and a foundation for the future of our youth.

[Informal_Greeting], we need your support today. This unique community resource and its essential youth programs need your support. If you cherish Gloucester's rich maritime heritage, value the importance of STEM education for our youth, have a passionate love for the ocean, or want to make a lasting and sustainable impact for local students, help us build a brighter, more connected future in these next 25 years.

On behalf of the Board, staff, and everyone whose lives are made better by Maritime Gloucester, thank you for being part of this incredible story.

With deep appreciation,

Geoffrey Richon
Board Chair and Founder

In 2024, Ocean Explorers educated over 1,039 students, providing STEM opportunities through award-winning, hands-on methods. Over the past 20 years, this one program has served over 13,000 local students.

GLOUCESTER SCHOONER FESTIVAL



This Maritime Gloucester program recognizes the importance of our fishing and cultural heritage. As it celebrates its 40th year, our beloved Festival has grown into a regional phenomenon, and was ranked 49th in a national poll on the top 100 things to do Labor Day weekend.