

April 27, 2020

For immediate release

Contact: Barbara MacLeod, 207 752-0484
Barbara@CrossCurrentCommunications.com

Star Island Will Not Open In 2020

The nonprofit organization that hosts family camps and programs at the Isles of Shoals will not open in 2020 due to coronavirus safety concerns

Isles of Shoals, New Hampshire - Star Island Corporation, the nonprofit host of summer conferences on its 46-acre island off the coast of New Hampshire and Maine, has announced that Star Island will be closed for the season and has postponed scheduled programming to 2021. Says Star Island CEO Joe Watts, "We are deeply saddened and disappointed, but our assessment that Star Island cannot safely open this season is based on the best information we have at this time. We cannot envision a scenario in which it would be possible to safely convene large groups of people on the island at any point this summer."

Typically, Star Island welcomes more than 18,000 conference guests, student groups, and visitors from all over the country who enjoy the island's rugged beauty, historical significance, educational programs, and the opportunity to unplug and unwind.

For over 100 years, Star Island has offered individuals and families a unique island experience with a variety of programs focused on themes like international affairs, photography, spirituality, environmental sustainability, chamber music, yoga, creative arts, and many more. Programming slated for this summer will be postponed to 2021. The island will also be closed to day visitors and boaters who have traditionally been welcomed to picnic on the island and tour the historic Oceanic Hotel.

Watts says, "We realize this is difficult news to deliver at a time of great challenge for the world, and for many of us personally. We have been looking forward to our time on Star Island this summer as a source of hope and rejuvenation; knowing this won't happen is incredibly disappointing. We also know that many people are hurting right now, affected by unemployment, illness, grief, and the struggles of isolation. We are fortunate to be part of an exceptionally supportive community and we are buoyed by the memories of our time on Star, by the lasting connections we have formed there, and by our shared hope that we may safely reunite on our precious island in future summers."

Watts went on to say, "While the COVID-19 pandemic is dealing a major financial blow to our nonprofit, we have held strong for over one hundred years through many significant challenges; including the 1918 influenza pandemic, two World

Wars, and the island opening late in 2007. We have always risen together as a community. We will rise together again."

Star Island Director of Development Peter Squires says the organization will need financial support; "Getting through this crisis will require extraordinary support from our community, as well as from those who value the historic significance of the Oceanic Hotel, our cutting edge environmental initiatives, and the opportunity to explore the island for the day. We are focused on a strong long-term future for Star Island and are confident that with generous support, our nonprofit will continue to thrive. Please visit starisland.org to donate."

About Star Island

Star Island is the second largest of the nine small, rugged islands known as the Isles of Shoals located an hour's boat ride off the coast of New Hampshire and Maine. The island is owned and managed by the nonprofit Star Island Corporation, which is planning to offer virtual programming this year and to continue its stewardship of the island. Star Island is a model of environmental sustainability and has a rich history dating back hundreds of years. Star Island's Oceanic Hotel is one of the last of the original Grand Hotels in New England. For more information visit www.StarIsland.org.

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