

For immediate release  
April 7, 2021

Contact: Barbara MacLeod  
Barbara@CrossCurrentCommunications.com  
(c)207-752-0484

## **Star Island at Isles of Shoals Plans To Reopen This Summer**

*Portsmouth, NH* - The nonprofit Star Island Corporation has announced plans to reopen for summer 2021, after being closed last year due to the pandemic. According to Star Island CEO Joe Watts, “The health and safety of everyone who comes to Star Island is our top priority. By limiting the number of visitors and conference attendees, instituting new safety protocols, strongly encouraging vaccinations, and taking a proactive approach to reducing risks, we plan to welcome people to the Isles of Shoals once again.” Registration for the 2021 season is now open.

According to Watts, “The new safety measures will reduce risk while still enabling visitors to connect with one another and the island in a meaningful way. These new protocols include limiting the number of people on island and restructuring activities from programming to dining.”

Watts says conference leaders are re-envisioning workshops, lectures, youth programs, performances, and other activities to meet appropriate spacing and other precautions. All overnight visitors must provide a negative PCR test result prior to arrival. Says Watts, “Overnight guests are strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated if possible. In addition, all guests will be required to wear a mask and practice social distancing. In order to allow for increased cleaning and disinfection, there will be a gap night-in between all stays.”

Conference stays range from a few days to a week, and focus on a wide variety of topics; including arts, history, international affairs, yoga, spirituality, music, writing workshops, birding, ecology, and more. Registration for conferences held after August 28 will open in early May.

Day visitors who travel by boat to visit the historic site will be allowed to explore the island, but must stay within spaces designated for their use and will need to follow a number of health and safety protocols.

Watts says that should there be a dramatic change in circumstances regarding the pandemic, the organization will respond accordingly: “Flexibility is key. We have also amended our cancellation policy so that conference guests can get a full refund up to the

day before their conference start date.”

Star Island Development Director Peter Squires added, “We were able to weather the financial challenge of being closed for our entire 2020 operating season thanks to the incredible support of thousands of individuals, several grant funders, and public disaster relief funding. Continued support from our community will help mitigate the challenges posed by opening at a reduced capacity this summer. We are deeply grateful to our community for its steadfast generosity at a time of unprecedented challenge!”

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. Star Island is a model of environmental sustainability and has a rich history dating back hundreds of years. Star Island's Oceanic Hotel has welcomed guests since the 1870s and is one of the last of the original Grand Hotels in New England. Overnight guests at the Oceanic Hotel are welcome to participate as much or as little as they desire in scheduled island activities and programs. For more information on registration or visiting Star Island, visit [www.starIsland.org](http://www.starIsland.org)

###

Photo attached, credit: K. Mattaliano