Nobska Lighthouse & Maritime Museum
Friends of Nobska Light, Inc.

Under licensure from the U.S. Coast Guard, the Friends of Nobska Light was established to "save, restore, and preserve Nobska Light Station, to enhance the visitor experience with a maritime museum and to share Nobska's story with future generations." Following ten years of renovations, Friends of Nobksa Light was awarded the deed to the property in 2025. As we continue to fundraise to follow our mission, the Friends of Nobska Light is eager to demonstrate our commitment to our community. We have initiated free children's programming open to the public. Providing future generations with useful extracurricular educational opportunities unique to our surroundings while emphasizing our iconic location is vital to our mission of sharing Nobska with future generations.

One of our primary areas of focus for our children's programming is Navigation and Water Safety. We have initiated two such programs with both receiving positive community support: Water Safety with the Chief of the Woods Hole Coast Guard Station and our Little Lighthouse Keepers Treasure Hunt (STEM and Navigation). Teaching children the importance of Navigation and Water Safety includes a history lesson: the story of a 10-year-old boy who saved Falmouth from ruin on April 2, 1779. Oliver Slocum's family ran a tavern on Pasque Island in the Elizabeths. His father, tavern owner, John, overheard a Tory plan to burn Falmouth to the ground at dawn. Understanding the gravity of the situation, John sent one of his sons to deliver the warning to the Cape Cod mainland. John believed that sending a child was the best course of action to avoid detection. Imagine the boy's bravery as he set out alone, under the cover of darkness in a small boat to navigate the treacherous waters of Vineyard Sound. Using his understanding of navigation, Oliver rowed his way across the Sound lit only by the moon and stars. This was a journey of several miles in choppy, cold water complicated by Armed British Ships patrolling the waters. Oliver succeeded! He navigated the journey to dock in Woods Hole and deliver his warning to the local militia. The Patriots heeded the warning, summoned reinforcements from Sandwich and Barnstable and saved Falmouth from certain ruin! All thanks to a very brave and seaworthy little boy of the tender age of ten. Teaching children the skills and unique aspects of our existence here in Falmouth, Cape Cod, can only strengthen their knowledge and love for their hometown. Chief Sand of the Woods Hole Coast Guard Station felt that the Navigation and Water Safety program was incredibly informational. He was appreciative of the opportunity for the Coast Guard to directly interact with the community, especially around lifesaving and water/boating safety for children. Living essentially on an island, water is everywhere and our children are exposed to it from a young age. Knowledge is a powerful tool and can be critical to water safety. The Little Lighthouse Keepers program

is an immersive experience creating maps and hunting for treasure. The program's positive feedback include parents asking about having the program last for a longer duration since their children were so disappointed when it was over as well as requests to have the program offered for older children.

Providing children with the learning experiences noted above is not our only foray into children's programming this past year. Celebrating National Lighthouse Day, we offered children tours of the tower, lessons on how our Fresnel lens functions and a workshop on the science of light through photography. Children learned photo techniques like composition, use of light, and "trick" photography. This photography workshop used Polaroid cameras and film provided by the Friends of Nobska Light. Positive feedback for this program included a mother who shared that the experience changed her daughter's "entire outlook" on art and sparked an interest in pursuing other artistic endeavors.

Friends of Nobska Light is dedicated to keeping our iconic Lighthouse accessible and open to the public including providing meaningful, relevant programming for the community. Providing children's programming free to the public has a cost. We are so very appreciative of this opportunity that Martha's Vineyard Bank provides including the platform to reach out to the community and tell you what we are offering. As you can imagine, the upkeep of the property is an expensive proposition in and of itself, but we are committed to covering those costs as well as dedicating funds to provide for our community. Visit our website friendsofnobska.org to find out about upcoming programs.