## Yankee Freedom Camping Information and

## Acknowledgement Form

Camping at the Dry Tortugas can be an amazing experience. However, due to the remote location there are a number of guidelines and restrictions that you must follow in order to have a safe and enjoyable time. **When you make a reservation for camping transportation on the Yankee Freedom III you will be required to sign an acknowledgement that you have read and agree to the rules and restrictions.**

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT OCCASIONAL INCLEMENT WEATHER, MECHANICAL PROBLEMS OR OTHER SITUATIONS NOT WITHIN OUR CONTROL may require us to cancel a trip. If this happens, we will do our best to reschedule your visit to the park but you need to have alternative options for lodgings for the planned duration of your time at the Park.

For the same reason we cannot guarantee the exact return date of campers from the park and you should plan your return flights accordingly. If under any circumstances, you choose to return to Key West by seaplane some or all of your camping gear may have to be returned later by vessel, and you will be responsible for paying any costs associated with shipping your gear to you upon its return.
Yankee Freedom III is not responsible for any additional lodging, transportation, food, or other costs incurred by you should your originally scheduled outbound or inbound trips be cancelled or delayed.

Due to space constraints, the Yankee Freedom III can only transport up to 10 campers per day for a maximum stay at Ft. Jefferson of 3 nights. Reservations are required for **both** outbound and inbound trips and you must return on the scheduled day. You must confirm your return dates at the time of ticket purchase and with the captain on the outbound trip.

**Kayaks - ***Limits Strickly Enforced*****

No more than three kayaks or small canoes (no greater than 18 ft in length and 80 lbs. each) may be transported on any trip. Battery powered and/or motorized kayaks or canoes are not allowed due to size and weight. The cost of transporting kayaks is $20.00 each round trip. Call 305-294-7009 to reserve kayak or canoe space.

### Yankee Freedom III Camping Gear Limitations

Despite the remoteness of the park and the “primitive” nature of the facilities you will find that Less is More - the Less you bring the More time and energy you will have for enjoying the Park. Each camper is limited to the amount of gear, food, water, and ice that will fit into **one** Storage Bin, **one** Bag (backpack, duffel, or bundled gear) and **one** Cooler per person. Size and capacity limitations for each type are shown on the next page. You must supply your own containers.

The weight limit for the Storage Bin and Bag combined **is 60 pounds**. There is no weight limit for water and ice but you must be able to carry and lift your own Cooler. Any gear not fitting this configuration will not be allowed on board. ALL gear will be inspected before loading; the list of restricted items is included below.

## Camping Gear Allowed Per Person --

****Please do not use bungee cords****

### 1 only - Storage Bin with Lid

Maximum Capacity ´ 27 gallons
Examples: Home Depot HDX 27 gallon, Rubbermaid ActionPacker 24 gallon






### 1 only - Backpack/Duffel/Additional Loose Gear

Maximum Size: should fit the dimensions of the Storage Container lid for stacking and extend no higher than 18". Backpack/Duffel should be less than 75 liter capacity. Tents, sleeping bags, pads and other similar loose gear should be bundled together with straps or cords or secured to the outside of the backpack/duffel.

Examples:







### 1 only - Cooler

Maximum Capacity ´ 100 qt. Wheels are helpful. ** Strictly enforced**

Examples: Coleman 100 qt. Extreme w/wheels, Igloo 100 qt. Marine





## Security Procedures and Restricted Items

Due to heightened security requirements you will need to show photo ID when you bring your gear to the ferry terminal. ALL bags and containers will be searched before being taken aboard. Do not seal any container with non-reusable closures. The following items are not allowed on board the vessel:

1) Compressed gas of any kind (per US Coast Guard regulation): propane bottles, etc. are not permitted.
2) Liquid fuel (white gas, kerosene, etc.)
3) Weapons (guns, axes, hatchets, machetes, knives with blades more than 2.4 in. length or .5 in. width)
4) Fireworks or any item with combustible powder
5) Federal law prohibits any illegal drugs of any kind.
6) Federal law prohibits marijuana **of any kind**, even with a prescription, in the National Park.
    - nps.gov.marijuana

Please leave any of this type of item at home or in your vehicle, they will not be stored by Yankee Freedom.

**You must be at the Ferry Terminal by 6:00am the morning of your trip with your gear! We cannot accommodate late arrivals. On the day of your return from the Dry Tortugas your gear must be on the dock for loading by 10:30am.**

## National Park Service Information on Camping

We also encourage you to read through the information on kayaking on the NPS website.

Kayaking Rules and Regulations https://www.nps.gov/drto/planyourvisit/paddlesports.htm

Be aware, however, that some of the restrictions listed above are specific to what is allowed onboard the ferry and may not be true at the Park itself ´ but since you are taking the ferry you will need to observe the restrictions specified above.

## Basic Equipment List for Camping at the Dry Tortugas

Be sure you do not forget any necessary items ´ there are no supply stores at the Park and Park Rangers cannot provide camping equipment or supplies.

- ✔ Tent
- ✔ Ground cover
- ✔ Mallet/stakes
- ✔ Cooler ´ see above
- ✔ Water- one gallon per person per day minimum for bathing and drinking
- ✔ Self-starting charcoal & Sterno Gel- must be factory sealed.
- ✔ Grilling tools and cookware
- ✔ Reef Safe Sunscreen
- ✔ Hat
- ✔ Towels
- ✔ Sleeping bags/cushions
- ✔ Blankets and/or sheets
- ✔ Foul weather gear
- ✔ Snorkel gear (unless using Yankee Freedom equipment)
- ✔ Antibacterial wipes (toilet paper is provided but there are no sinks)
- ✔ Camera ´ There are no charging outlets at the campground so bring extra batteries for all electronic equipment
- ✔ Cash for Campsite Fee ´ $15 per night per regular site, $30 for group sites (more than two tents). The fee will be collected at the campsite by the Park Service.

✔ Flashlight/Lantern and batteries

✔ Environmentally friendly insect repellent (mosquitos are rare but other insects may find you attractive)

✔ First Aid

## Camping Procedures and Restrictions

### OUTBOUND LOADING

**You must be at the Ferry Terminal by 6:00am the morning of your trip with your gear!** We cannot accommodate late arrivals.

Upon arrival, have all gear loaded at the camping sign underneath the ferry terminal. The crew will inspect all gear before loading on vessel. Be sure all camping rules have been read before arrival. Weight limits and items allowed will be strictly enforced. Once inspected, Crew will load your gear onto the vessel. Your gear will not be accessible until arrival at the Dry Tortugas. Please keep self-lighting charcoal and Sterno gel aside separately as it is placed in a separate fire load rating storage area.

Coolers will be stowed on the outside deck and will not be allowed inside cabins. Please ask any Crew member for instructions. Remember, you cannot consume any alcohol from your cooler while aboard the Yankee Freedom III, as we have a liquor license. Glass containers are forbidden.

After your gear is loaded, please proceed to check in. Upon arrival at the park, you will be required to attend an orientation briefing before disembarking. Please listen to the arrival announcements for the location of the briefing.

### SETTING UP CAMP

Do not attach anything to a tree. Campground trees and shrubs are crucial for providing shade and windbreak. Help protect this valuable vegetation. Do not attach ropes, hammocks, tents, laundry lines, or any other materials to campground trees. All camping gear must be free standing.

The eleven campsites are available on a first-come, first served basis. However, the Park Service reserves the right to designate camping sites to visitors of the park.

Space is limited. Each of the regular campsites contains a table and grill. Three tents and six campers are the maximum allowed per campsite. All tents must remain within ten feet of your table. Be prepared to share the limited campground area with others and remember that flexibility is the key to a successful experience.

If a ranger is unavailable to assign you a site, look for a table with a stenciled number. Only those tables with numbers are assigned to campsites. Should you find all regular sites occupied, you must share the overflow area with other campers.

The Overflow Area is a grassy area located near the regular campsites. Tables and grills are provided, but they must be shared with other overflow campers. Note: as campers leave, you may move to a regular site if one becomes available.

The Group Site is located between the regular sites and the Overflow Area. The Group Site is normally available only for groups of 10-40 campers and must be reserved in advance. The site

contains grills and two tables and is large enough for 12-15 tents. Groups of 10 or more campers arriving without a reservation will not receive exclusive use of the Group Site.

During periods of heavy use, the Group Site may be used for an overflow area, but only on unreserved nights. Any unreserved group choosing to camp in the Group Site during overflow periods must relocate to the Overflow Site by 10:00 AM on the day the site is reserved.

**WHILE CAMPING**

Quiet Hours. Please be considerate of others. Radios and other loud noises are precisely what many visitors have come to the Dry Tortugas to escape. Please observe the quiet hours from 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM. The use of bright lanterns is also discouraged during these hours.

Whatever you take to the fort you must bring back. This includes garbage. You will be issued heavy duty grey trash bags on arrival and told where to put them for pickup by Yankee Freedom crew. Use only these grey bags for your trash.

**KAYAKS**

The Park has produced a safety requirements document that must be read and followed by anyone kayaking at the Park. You can download a copy from

https://www.nps.gov/drto/planyourvisit/paddlesports.htm

**FISHING**

See https://www.nps.gov/drto/planyourvisit/sport-recreational-fishing.htm for information on fishing at the Dry Tortugas

**SNORKELING**

Snorkel gear can be provided to campers for the duration of your stay by the Yankee Freedom III upon arrival at Ft Jefferson or you may bring your own personal gear. Snorkel gear is not available from the National Park Service.

**RETURN LOADING**

Campers must have all gear on the dock (NOT left in camping area) by 10:30AM on the day of departure from Ft. Jefferson to load on the boat. Equipment must be packed and cleaned of sand before re-boarding. Please keep with you items you will need for the day. Garbage bags should be taken to the area designated in your camping orientation.