



ST AUGUSTINE LIGHTHOUSE & MARITIME MUSEUM

APRIL 2026



April is National Volunteer Month

National Volunteer Month celebrates the contributions of volunteers as well as the impact of volunteerism. Here at the Lighthouse, volunteers assist in daily operations from answering phones on the weekends to leading presentations on maritime archaeology. The theme for this month's Member Newsletter is all about volunteers and how volunteers are the lifeblood of the Lighthouse.



Welcome Caitlin Black!

The Lighthouse is pleased to welcome our **Volunteer Coordinator Caitlin Black!** Caitlin comes to the Museum from the University of North Florida where she worked with the development team. We are very excited to have Caitlin aboard and to help with volunteer recruitment and retention.

[Click Here to Become a Lighthouse Volunteer!](#)

Annual Luncheon Celebrates Lighthouse Volunteers

Each year, the Lighthouse hosted the Volunteer Luncheon to honor our volunteers but also to recognize those that go above and beyond. This year's luncheon took place at the **St. Augustine Yacht Club**.



Volunteer **Gwen Hollander** received a "Behind-the-Scenes Hero" award.



Volunteer **Priscilla Turek** received the "Base MVP" award for this year.



Volunteer **Elizabeth Boggs** won the "Guiding Light" award for her support of the Lighthouse but also her work with the Mayport Lighthouse Association, a local organization trying to move and restore the St. Johns River Lighthouse in Mayport.



Volunteer **Steve Zabriskie** received an "Behind-the-Scenes Hero" award for his sweeping the tower each week.

Bev Henry Volunteer Award Winner Announced at Luncheon!



Photo Above: the Lighthouse staff presented the Bev Henry Award to Scout (**center**). Each year the Bev Henry Award honors a volunteer who has gone above and beyond.

We recently had the chance to chat with Scout, the winner of the Bev Henry Award. From manning the tower to sharing lighthouse facts with our visitors, Scout brings an energy that's hard to put into words—so we asked him to tell us more about himself:

Q: How long have you been in St. Augustine?

A: Since April 2024.

Q: What brought you here?

A: I used to come up for three-day vacations from the Pompano Beach/Fort Lauderdale area, where I was living. I really liked that St. Augustine felt more rural and relaxed. Over time, I realized this is where I wanted to retire.

Q: What did you do before retiring?

A: I spent 30 years in the Air Force and 4 years in the Army. After that, I worked as a program manager in the aerospace industry, overseeing depot-level maintenance for KC-135 aircraft. I also spent about four years working in commercial space, and earlier in my career I was a project manager for an Air Force detachment in Karasu.

Q: Why did you choose to volunteer at the lighthouse?

A: I've always liked old forts and lighthouses. It's something I've been interested in for a long time. I'm even planning a trip to Charleston this summer to visit more historic sites.

Q: What do you do at the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum?

A: Whatever needs to be done. I primarily work tour shifts, but I also sign up for events whenever I can.

Q: What's your favorite part about volunteering?

A: The people. Everyone is friendly, and there's just a positive feeling when you're here. It's a great environment.

Q: How has volunteering changed your day-to-day life?

A: It keeps me busy in a good way. When I was working, I'd often put in 60–70 hour weeks. Now I still stay active, but I know when I'm coming and going. Last year, I volunteered 511 hours.

Q: Are you involved in other community work?

A: Yes, I volunteer with Team Rubicon. I've deployed 11 times for disaster recovery, working as a chainsaw operator to clear downed trees and help after storms. (Learn more about Team Rubicon by clicking [here](#))

Q: Why is the lighthouse important to you?

A: History matters. There are over 150 years of history here, and it's important to preserve and share that.

Q: What has retirement allowed you to focus on?

A: When I retired, I had two goals: move to St. Augustine and volunteer at the lighthouse. I've also downsized my life, which lets me travel and spend more time with my daughters—one is a professional horse rider, and the other is a lawyer living across the country.



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2, 2026: Volunteer at the St. Augustine Craft Brewers Fest at the Fountain of Youth



The St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum provides volunteer support for the Brewers Fest each year. The Museum is looking for volunteers to assist from 2:00 to 5:00 PM and from 4:00 to 6:30 PM for cleanup. If you are interested, please sign up below!

**To Volunteer for Brewers Fest,
Click Here!**



May 6 - 10, 2026: St. Augustine History Festival

The annual festival created to highlight all periods of St. Augustine history returns. With over 30 special events and historic sites participating, this year's festival will have something for everyone. Stay tuned for more information about the Lighthouse's contributing event!

[To Learn More, Click Here](#)

St. Augustine HISTORY FESTIVAL

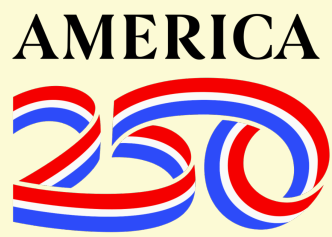


Thursday, May 21, 2026: British Loyalists and American Patriots in St. Augustine

Chuck Meide and **Jay Smith** will present the "**British Loyalists and American Patriots in St. Augustine**" in the Virginia Room of the Ringhaver Student Center at Flagler College. The event runs from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

Did you know that during the Revolutionary War several ships carrying British Loyalists wrecked trying to enter St. Augustine's harbor? Did you know 3 of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were held here during the War?





[Click Here For More Information](#)

Thursday, June 25, 2026: Moving the Mayport Lighthouse

The **Mayport Lighthouse Association** will share their plan to move and then restore the historic St. Johns River Lighthouse Tower. The tower's new location will be Mayport Village where it will open for visitors to climb this historic tower!

This event will take place at the historic Waterworks building at 184 San Marco Blvd.
Come hear about his exciting project!

[Click Here to Register](#)



MEMBERS SAVE \$20.00 PER CAMP PURCHASE

St. Augustine Lighthouse Summer Camp



MEMBER REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 26

Our Summer Camp is open to upcoming First through Fifth Graders for the 2026-2027 school year. See this year's themes listed below!



- Purchase Includes:**
- Camp T-Shirt
 - Water Bottle
 - Daily Crafts
 - Field Trip
 - Friday Pizza Lunch
 - Camp Bag



TRAVELERS OF TIME

JUNE 2-5

FOCUS: CULTURE

FIELD TRIP: COLONIAL QUARTER

COMMUNICATORS OF THE COAST

JUNE 8-12

FOCUS: NAVIGATION

FIELD TRIP: COMING SOON!

STORYTELLERS OF THE SEA

JUNE 15-19

FOCUS: ARCHAEOLOGY

FIELD TRIP: FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

NAVIGATORS OF NATURE

JUNE 22-26

FOCUS: ENVIRONMENT

FIELD TRIP: ALLIGATOR FARM

SCIENTISTS OF SHIPS

JULY 6-10

FOCUS: ENGINEERING

FIELD TRIP: SCHOONER FREEDOM

WARRIORS OF THE WATER

JULY 13-17

FOCUS: CONSERVATION

FIELD TRIP: ST. AUGUSTINE AQUARIUM

HAVE QUESTIONS? Contact Hannah Millhollon at hmillhollon@staugustinelighthouse.org

Summer Camp 2026 features six weeks of unique activities and field trips, themes of maritime heritage and educational experiences as only the Lighthouse can do! Campers can choose between one week or all six!

Register for Summer Camp 2026

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