



PBCB's *Friend* Floating Classroom Trips - for schools & other non-profit organizations

Cost: \$350/boat trip (trips usually run closer to 90 minutes including boarding, etc.)

Maximum capacity per boat trip: 28 individuals (assuming 25 kids + up to 3 adults, teachers, chaperones, etc. OR 28 adults)

For larger groups (25+): we're happy to book multiple trips over one or more dates!

You may also choose to increase the trip's capacity by adding a land station experience for an additional fee of **\$350 per additional station**. For example, a group of 50 students would require 2 boat trips + 2 land station rotations, which would total $\$350 \times 4 = \1400 .

See land station options below.

Scheduling: we typically run school field trips the last 2 weeks in May and the first 3 weeks in June, meaning 5/8/26 through 6/19/26. We also are flexible after our camp season ends, 8/17/26 through September. For all other organizations, feel free to reach out and inquire about in-season dates, May - September.

- We typically book trips Monday through Thursday, leaving Friday as a make-up date in case any trips need to be rescheduled on a given week (we will operate in rain or moderate wind, but will reschedule if thunderstorms or heavy winds are predicted). We are the most flexible in late August/September.
- Our start and end dates are limited by our dock launch. It's very possible that we'll have the dock earlier than predicted, in which case we will expand openings!
- The boat and dock are fully accessible, and the boat is quiet and stable while underway. This is a great option for a wide variety of people—including participants with mobility aids and/or anybody that may be nervous about boating.
- Reach out to [Registrar Ellen Peterson](#) with booking inquiries!

Trip Content

Pleasant Bay is one of Cape Cod's most enchanting natural treasures — a shimmering coastal lagoon where barrier beaches, salt marshes, and tidal flats converge in a landscape that feels almost untouched by time. Stretching across four towns — Chatham, Orleans, Harwich, and Brewster — it is the largest estuary in Massachusetts, home to harbor seals, striped bass, native crabs and lobsters, and dozens of migratory bird species.

The *Friend* is a 37-foot solar-powered pontoon boat and PBCB's beloved floating classroom. Powered by two quiet electric motors and a roof full of solar panels, she glides across Pleasant Bay virtually silent and emissions-free. With seating for up to 28 passengers, a central table for picnics, art, or science projects, and a long bow ramp for landing on sandbars and islands, she's

built for adventure and comfort in equal measure. She's fully wheelchair- and mobility-aid accessible, making Pleasant Bay reachable for guests of all ages and abilities.

Every charter includes an experienced Captain and first mate.

No two trips are exactly alike — the bay sets the agenda. Depending on tides, winds, and the time of year, your charter may include:

- Watching harbor seals haul out on the outer bars
- Visiting surrounding islands like Sipson Island and Strong Island
- Pulling a lobster trap to discover native crabs and lobsters up close
- Bird watching for osprey, great blue herons, and migratory shorebirds
- Water quality testing and other hands-on science activities
- Scenic sightseeing around the bay

Trip Add-ons

Land Stations: For groups with more than 25 students hoping to visit our campus together, we're happy to offer land stations so that your group can take turns on the floating classroom. We can be flexible with curricula but each land station (mirroring the 1-hour boat trip) generally includes 2 mini-stations: a classroom portion and beach scavenger hunt. Classroom activities may include microscope work, squid dissections, or creating food chains/ecosystem dioramas. The classroom activities can be adjusted to suit the needs of the teachers/schools. The beach scavenger hunt is an active, all-ages activity that encourages kids to explore and look for critters. If you want your students to participate in a certain lesson plan, please be sure to note that at the time of booking.

Island Explorations: We're also able to include island landings on one of Pleasant Bay's islands as part of your experience. We recommend this option for groups with a minimum of 2.5 hours on PBCB's campus to board, travel to the island, beach and disembark, enjoy a 45 minute - 1 hour walk, and return to PBCB. Because of time constraints and USCG capacity limits on the vessel, this option is only available for groups of 28 total passengers or fewer. If your group has more than 28 people that would like to participate, you're welcome to schedule trips across more than one date. Participants should prepare to get their feet wet! For schools/non-profits looking for a trip including an island landing, we charge \$500 for up to 28 participants to cover the additional staff time.

For adaptive boating opportunities: Adaptive Program Coordinator [Jeff Primeau](#)

For all other trips: Registrar [Ellen Peterson](#)

We encourage local teachers to pursue grant funding through these organizations:

[Friends Of Pleasant Bay](#), grants@friendsofpleasantbay.org

[Friends of Chatham Waterways](#), grants@chathamwaterways.org