

## **Patriots Point policy on Free Admission for Laffey Association & others**

(current May20232, author: MikeHonsinger@SBCGlobal.net)

Exception Footnote: Laffey workparty members who possess a Patriots Point security badge have the ability to escort others aboard the Laffey by simply entering via the security gate, but, we ask that, to the extent that is convenient, please do comply with the following procedures when bringing guests aboard.

Free admission is granted to the following individuals for Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum, per a standing Patriots Point policy letter, dated December 2022:

1. USS Laffey Association members and former USS Laffey Crewmembers and their "Immediate Family", which are defined as a person's parents, siblings, spouse, child by blood, adoption or marriage, grandparents and grandchildren.
2. Those with a Historic Naval Ship Association or Tin Can Sailors Association membership are entitled to one free admission ticket.

Ideally, those listed above would present their membership card, however, this policy is guided by the honor system, so if you have forgotten your card, simply explain your eligibility and ask for the free admission. If you are a former USS Laffey crewmember, please contact the Patriots Point Director of Visitor Services, Gina Zahran, at [gina.zahran@patriotspoint.org](mailto:gina.zahran@patriotspoint.org) or 843-971-5044 so that she can provide a special welcome, to include some photos and a short filmed interview.

Upon arrival at Patriots Point, please park in the largest parking lot where all the tourists park, which means you will have to pay a small fee to park your car. No free parking is provided in this lot. If the purpose of your trip is to attend a Laffey workparty, you may continue to park in the employees/bus parking lot as you have in the past. This parking lot can be extremely full, particularly during the current major construction that is going on at Patriots Point so we need to limit our use of it to just during workparties. Also, the employees/bus parking lot will be changing location and configuration during the ongoing Patriots Points construction.

After parking, proceed to the covered pavilion on the river side of the gift shop. Under the pavilion there is a ticket window on the exterior wall of the gift shop. At that window, present your membership card and ask for the appropriate number of tickets. You will receive tickets that say "complimentary", rather than showing a ticket price. As you approach the pier, there is a turnstile adjacent to the "Photogenics" photo booth. At the turnstile, a "Photogenics" rep will take your ticket. Complying with this procedure allows Patriots Point to gain an accurate head count on the number of daily attendees, which is a good thing for all of us. If you choose to have a photo taken by the Photogenics rep after they take your ticket, you will be pleased to know that part of your photo fee goes back to the museum. Keep your ticket with you for the entire day- with it you can leave Patriots Point and return the same day, using the same ticket again. If you have any hiccups in the process, feel free to call Gina Zahran at 843-971-5044 or Mike Honsinger 281-923-4969 for assistance.

If you have Veterans in your party, that do not fall within the above policy, they can receive a Veterans discounted ticket.

## **Comfort Inn & Suites Patriots Point Discounts**

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Note: Comfort Inn does not accept pets, unless they are service animals. At check-in, the front desk might ask questions regarding the pet's registration and use as a service animal.

Year-round, generally, our rate will be \$109 on weekdays, but because the rates are higher on the weekends (their busiest time), our weekend rates will vary, although you can expect something on the order of a 20% to 50% discount. For example, often normal weekend rates are \$299, but may be reduced to just \$149 for our Association.

**Fall Workparty 2023 Only:** You may use the below on-line booking link to get a weekday "group block" rate of \$109 for weekdays, as well as the weekend at the beginning and end of the workparty (23 Oct – 30 Oct, 2023). We have a mixture of 10 rooms/suites set aside for this workparty. Thirty days before arrival all the rooms that we do not use will drop out so the hotel can sell them.

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/BN46R1>

**Fall Workparty 2023 Only:** An alternative to using the above link, is to use the group code BN46R1 after you are on their webpage ( [ChoiceHotels.com](http://ChoiceHotels.com) ).

### **Reservations year-round, other than during the Fall Workparty 2023:**

For WEEKDAY reservations ONLY, Sunday through Thursday, you can book a \$109 rate using this link:

<http://www.choicehotels.com/ires/en-US/html/ArrivalInfo?hotel=SC064&srp=LUSSLA&pu=no>

For WEEKEND reservations ONLY, Fridays & Saturdays, you can book at 20% off using this link:

<http://www.choicehotels.com/ires/en-US/html/ArrivalInfo?hotel=SC064&srp=LUSSL2&pu=no>

If you want to stay during a period that includes both weekdays and a weekend, you will have to book two separate reservations using the above links. If you do this MAKE SURE you call to alert the front desk in advance so that the front desk can arrange for you to stay in the same room for both of the reservations.

If you want to see if the **weekend rate can be reduced even more than the 20% discount** that you received using the above link, you will have to call the hotel:

Call and ask for Jonas at the front desk from 7AM to 3PM normally Mon-Fri.

Or, Sarah from 3-11PM

If you feel that a manager is needed, call Peggy Foltz, General Manager, at ext 7701.



**Peggy Foltz**  
**General Manager**  
D 843.856.8817 C 843.906.7622  
[choicehotels.com/SC064](http://choicehotels.com/SC064)

**Comfort Inn & Suites Patriots Point**  
196 Patriots Point Rd Mount Pleasant, SC 29464  
T 843-856-8817 F 843-856-8818  
[choicehotels.com/SC064](http://choicehotels.com/SC064)



**The below can only be used by USS Laffey Association Members who have attended a Laffey workparty and have been issued a Patriots Point Security Badge, which must be shown as a “Reciprocity Pass”.**

**2023 RECIPROCITY PASS- List of Participating Attractions in the Charleston, SC area**

**Note: Only the Volunteer and One Guest Receive the Benefit.**

<b>Aiken-Rhett House (operated by Historic Charleston Foundation)</b>	Monday-Sunday 10-5; last tour at 4:15. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. <b>Not valid for special events or tickets to the Festival of Houses and Garden.</b> <a href="http://www.historiccharleston.org">www.historiccharleston.org</a> (843) 723-1159
<b>Audubon Center at Francis Beidler Forest</b>	Tuesday-Sunday 9-5. Closed Mondays, Thanksgiving, December 24, 25, 31, & January 1. <b>Not valid for canoe trips and special walks.</b> (35 miles NW of Charleston, Exit 187 off I-26.) <a href="http://www.beidlerforest.com">www.beidlerforest.com</a> (843) 462-2150
<b>Avian Conservation Center/The Center for Birds of Prey</b>	Thursday - Saturday 10 - 5. Tour times are 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Closed dates: New Year's Day, Feb. 16-18 (SEWE), July 4, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Schedule is subject to change. Passes are not valid for special events. <a href="http://www.thecenterforbirdsofprey.org">www.thecenterforbirdsofprey.org</a> (843) 971-7474
<b>Berkeley County Museum and Heritage Center</b>	Monday – Saturday 9 – 4:30, Sunday 1-4:30. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Easter. Not valid for special events. <a href="http://www.berkeleymuseum.org">www.berkeleymuseum.org</a> (843)899.5101
<b>Boone Hall Plantation</b>	Monday – Saturday 9:00 – 5:00 and Sunday Noon-5. Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. <b>Not valid for special events.</b> <a href="http://www.boonehallplantation.com">www.boonehallplantation.com</a> (843) 884-4371
<b>Williams (Calhoun) Mansion</b>	<b>Temporarily Closed.</b>
<b>Charleston County Parks</b>	Schedules vary depending on time of year, see Park website <a href="http://www.charlestoncountyparks.com">www.charlestoncountyparks.com</a> Pass valid for main gate Park admission only. <b>Passes not valid for special events. Holiday Festival of Lights, or water parks.</b> (843) 762-2172 or (843) 795 - 4386
<b>Charles Pinckney Site NHS (NPS)</b>	Daily 9-5. Closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day. <a href="http://www.nps.gov/chpi">www.nps.gov/chpi</a> (843) 881-5516
<b>Charleston Harbor Tours</b>	Tour times 11:30, 1:30 and 3:30 daily. Open mid-February to December 1. Departs from the Maritime Center; must arrive 15 minutes early and check in with the crew. Does not include the Schooner Pride. <a href="http://www.charlestonharbortours.com">www.charlestonharbortours.com</a> (843) 722-1112
<b>Charles Towne Landing</b>	Daily 9-5. (9-6 During Daylight Saving's Time) Closed Christmas Day. <b>Not valid for special events.</b> <a href="http://www.charlestowntnelanding.travel">www.charlestowntnelanding.travel</a> (843) 852-4200
<b>Charleston Visitor Center</b>	Monday - Sunday 8:30-5:00, Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. (800)774 - 0006
<b>The Charleston Museum</b>	Monday-Saturday 9-5, Sunday 12-5. Closed Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and at 1:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve. <b>Not valid for special events.</b> <a href="http://www.charlestonmuseum.org">www.charlestonmuseum.org</a> (843) 722-2996
<b>The Charleston Tea Garden</b>	Monday – Saturday 10 -4 and Sunday Noon – 4.Closed major holidays, including Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Easter and July 4 <sup>th</sup> . Trolley tours are included. Not valid for special events including First Flush FesTEAval. <a href="http://www.charlestonteatgarden.com">www.charlestonteatgarden.com</a> (843) 559-0383
<b>Children's Museum of the Lowcountry</b>	Tuesday-Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 12-5. Closed New Year's Day, July 4 <sup>th</sup> , Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. <b>Not valid for special events, classes, programs, birthday parties or field trips.</b> Passes are good for admission for one adult and one child only. <a href="http://www.exploreclm.org">www.exploreclm.org</a> (843)853-8962
<b>City of Charleston Environmental Education Division</b>	Call/ Visit Website Ahead for Programming <a href="http://www.charlestoncity.info/recreation">www.charlestoncity.info/recreation</a> Admission for one adult and one child to all Saturday and after school programs offered (excluding Huck Finn Children's Fishing tournament). Because of the small number of staff, we do not have defined open hours for our building, but the public is welcome to come view the animals if we are here. (843)965-4002
<b>City Hall Council Chamber</b>	Monday-Friday 8:30-5:00. Closed Major Holidays and Daily between 12:00 and 1:00. (843) 724-3799
<b>Colonial Dorchester State Historic Site</b>	Daily 9-5. Closed Christmas Day. Not valid for special events <a href="http://www.southcarolinaparks.com">www.southcarolinaparks.com</a> (843) 873-1740

<b>Museum at Market Hall (Confederate Museum)</b>	Friday and Saturday 11:00-4:00, Closed on some Holidays, please call in advance. 188 Meeting St, Upstairs in Market Hall at Corner of Market and Meeting Streets. Excellent Confederate Research Library and over 1800 artifacts and flags relating to the Civil War. Handicap accessible. <a href="http://www.museumatmarkethall.com">www.museumatmarkethall.com</a> (843) 723 - 1541
<b>Cypress Gardens</b>	Daily 9-5. Pass applies for all attraction, but there is a \$5 charge for guided boat rides. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. (Take I-26 north to US 52, Moncks Corner exit past Goose Creek, turn right at Cypress Gardens Road to park.) <b>Not valid for special events.</b> <a href="http://www.cypressgardens.info">www.cypressgardens.info</a> .. (843)553-0515
<b>Dorchester Heritage Center St. George, SC</b>	Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm (with last ticket sold at 3:00 pm), Saturday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm (with last ticket sold at 1:00 pm.) Closed on Sundays, Mondays and major holidays. <a href="http://www.dca-hc.com">www.dca-hc.com</a> (843) 931-1021
<b>Drayton Hall</b>	Tuesday – Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Entrance gate closes at 3:30 p.m. Check website for details. Closed Thanksgiving, Day, Christmas Eve Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve Day and New Year's Day. <b>Not valid for special events.</b> <a href="http://www.draytonhall.org">www.draytonhall.org</a> (843) 769-2600
<b>Edisto Island Historic Preservation Society Museum</b>	Tuesday-Saturday 1-4. Closed holidays. January and February 1-4. Tuesday, Thursdays and Saturdays.. 8123 Chisolm Plantation Rd., Edisto Island 29438. <a href="http://www.edistomuseum.org">www.edistomuseum.org</a> (843) 869-1954
<b>Edmondston-Alston House</b>	Monday 1:00 – 4:00, Tuesday-Saturday 10:00-4:00. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and one week in February. <a href="http://www.middletonplace.org">www.middletonplace.org</a> <b>Not valid for special events including Christmas on the Battery.</b> (843) 722-7171
<b>Fort Moultrie (NPS)</b>	Fort is open daily 9-5. Visitor Center is open Wednesday - Sunday 9-5. Closed Monday and Tuesday. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day. <a href="http://www.nps.gov/fosu">www.nps.gov/fosu</a> (843)883 - 3123
<b>Fort Sumter (NPS)</b>	Visit website for ferry schedule, <a href="http://www.nps.gov/fosu">www.nps.gov/fosu</a> and <a href="http://www.fortsumtertours.com">www.fortsumtertours.com</a> . Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Not available for Spring Black out dates of March 27- April 10, July 1- 4, and all Saturdays. (843) 881-3123
<b>Gibbes Museum of Art</b>	Monday - Saturday 10 - 5. Sunday 1- 5. <b>Not valid for special events or program tickets.</b> <a href="http://www.gibbesmuseum.org">www.gibbesmuseum.org</a> (843) 722-2706
<b>Givhans Ferry State Park</b>	Daily 9-9 (Daylight Savings), 9-6 (Standard Time). Call in advance for more information. 746 Givhans Ferry Road, Ridgeville. <a href="http://www.southcarolinaparks.com">www.southcarolinaparks.com</a> (843) 873 - 0692
<b>Hampton Plantation State Historic Site</b>	Grounds Open Daily, Nov – Mar 9-5, Apr – Oct 9 – 6. Mansion open by guided tour, call for current days and times. <b>Not valid for special events.</b> <a href="http://www.southcarolinaparks.com">www.southcarolinaparks.com</a> (843) 546-9361
<b>Heyward-Washington House (operated by The Charleston Museum)</b>	Monday-Saturday 10-5; Sunday Noon -5. Closed Easter, Thanksgiving, 1:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. <b>Not valid for special events.</b> <a href="http://www.charlestonmuseum.org">www.charlestonmuseum.org</a> (843) 722-2996
<b>International African American Museum</b>	Opening January 2023.
<b>John Rivers Communication Museum</b>	College of Charleston campus. Temporarily Closed.
<b>Joseph Manigault House (operated by the Charleston Museum)</b>	Monday-Saturday 10-5; Sunday Noon -5. Closed Easter, Thanksgiving, 1:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. <b>Not valid for special events.</b> <a href="http://www.charlestonmuseum.org">www.charlestonmuseum.org</a> (843) 722-2996
<b>Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum</b>	Tuesday - Friday, 11AM - 4PM Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and some National holidays 68 Spring Street <a href="http://www.rain.org/~karpeles/chasfrm.html">www.rain.org/~karpeles/chasfrm.html</a> (843) 853-4651

<b>Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim</b>	Tours available Monday – Friday 10:15 am, 11:15 am, 1:15 pm and 2:15 pm; Sunday 1:15 pm and 2:15 pm; Museum open Sunday – Friday 10 am – 4 pm. Closed on Wednesdays, Saturdays, some Jewish Holidays, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day. Close at noon on day before listed holidays. Not valid for special events. <a href="http://www.kkbe.org">www.kkbe.org</a>	843-723-1090
<b>Magnolia Plantation and Gardens</b>	Daily 9-5. Includes admission to gardens, grounds and Audubon Swamp Garden. Does not include house or nature tours. <b>Not valid for special events.</b> <a href="http://www.magnoliaplantation.com">www.magnoliaplantation.com</a>	(843)571-1266
<b>Mepkin Abbey</b>	Gardens daily 9 – 6. Tours Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday @ 11:30. Creche Festival online sign up starting October 1 <sup>st</sup> . Closed for tours during Creche Festival, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New year’s Eve, and New Year’s Day. <a href="http://www.mepkinabbey.org">www.mepkinabbey.org</a>	(843)761-8509
<b>Middleton Place</b>	Gardens daily 9-5. Museum open Monday 12 - 4:00, Tuesday – Sunday 10:00 – 4:00. Museum is closed 2 weeks every January. Closed Christmas Day. <b>Not valid for special events.</b> <a href="http://www.middletonplace.org">www.middletonplace.org</a>	(843) 556-6020
<b>Nathaniel Russell House (operated by Historic Charleston Foundation)</b>	Monday-Sunday 10-5; last tour at 4:15. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. <b>Not valid for tickets to the Festival of Houses and Gardens.</b> <a href="http://www.historiccharleston.org">www.historiccharleston.org</a>	(843) 724-8481
<b>North Charleston Fire Museum</b>	Monday-Saturday 10-4, last admission at 3:00, Closed Thanksgiving, Friday after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day , and New Year’s Day. <a href="http://www.northcharlestonfiremuseum.org">www.northcharlestonfiremuseum.org</a>	(843) 740-5550
<b>Old Exchange Building</b>	Daily 9-5. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, New Years Day . <b>Unlimited except special events.</b> , <a href="http://www.oldexchange.org">www.oldexchange.org</a>	(843)727-2165
<b>Old Santee Canal Park</b>	Monday – Sunday, 9:00 – 5:00, last entrance at 4:30 pm. All buildings close at 4:30; gates locked at 5. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Not valid for special events. <a href="http://www.oldsanteechannelpark.org">www.oldsanteechannelpark.org</a> .	(843)899-5200
<b>Old Slave Mart Museum</b>	Old Slave Mart Museum Open Mon.-Sat., 9am-5pm. Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day, and Sunday's. <b>Not valid for special events.</b> 6 Chalmers Street. <a href="http://www.charlestoncity.info">www.charlestoncity.info</a> .	(843) 958.6467
<b>Patriots Point</b>	Daily 9-6:30. Closed on Christmas Day. <a href="http://www.patriotspoint.org">www.patriotspoint.org</a>	(843) 884-2727
<b>Powder Magazine</b>	Monday – Saturday 10 – 4 p.m., Sunday 1-4 p.m. <a href="http://www.powdermag.org">www.powdermag.org</a> Not valid for special events	(843) 722-9350
<b>Sewee Visitor and Environmental Education Center</b>	Wednesday-Saturday 9-5. Closed major holidays. Pass holders and one guest receive 25% discount from Coastal Expeditions on boat trips to Bulls Island and 10% discount on Friends of Coastal SC gift shop merchandise. 5821 Highway 17N., Awendaw <a href="http://www.fvs.gov/refuge/sewec_center">www.fvs.gov/refuge/sewec_center</a>	(843) 928-3368
<b>South Carolina Aquarium</b>	Monday-Sunday 9-5. Last ticket sold 1 hour before closing. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve at 1p.m. and Christmas Day. <b>Not valid for special events.</b> <a href="http://www.scaquarium.org">www.scaquarium.org</a>	(843) 720-1990
<b>South Carolina Historical Society</b>	<u>Museum hours:</u> Open Tuesday - Saturday 10-4 Closed on Sundays, Mondays and major holidays. Museum located at 100 Meeting Street. <u>Library hours:</u> Open Monday – Friday from 9 -12 and 1 -4.. Check website for holidays/closings. Library located at 205 Calhoun, 3rd Floor. <b>Not valid for special events.</b> <a href="http://www.schistory.org">www.schistory.org</a>	(843)723 - 3225
<b>SpiritLine Cruises</b>	Departs from the Aquarium Wharf and Patriot’s Point. Call or go online for times. <b>Valid for harbor tour only. Not valid for spring blackout dates or specialty cruises.</b> <a href="http://www.spiritlinecruises.com">www.spiritlinecruises.com</a>	(843) 722-2628
<b>Summerville/Dorchester Museum</b>	Tuesday-Saturday 10 – 4. Closed on Sunday and Monday and major holidays. 100 East Doty Avenue, Summerville. <a href="http://www.summervilledorchestertermuseum.org">www.summervilledorchestertermuseum.org</a>	(843) 875-9666