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# Mason County Historical Society

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HISTORIC WHITE PINE VILLAGE • PORT OF LUDINGTON MARITIME MUSEUM

*1687 South Lakeshore Drive*

*Ludington, Michigan 49431*

*231-843-4808*

[www.ludingtonmaritimemuseum.org](http://www.ludingtonmaritimemuseum.org)

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Dear School Groups,

The Mason County Historical Society would like to invite you to tour the Port of Ludington Maritime Museum and discover the fascinating stories of the maritime history of the Great Lakes and Ludington's rich maritime heritage.

The museum is housed in Ludington's historic Coast Guard station built in 1934 which remained active until 2004, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The active modern Coast Guard station is right next door. The museum features three full floors of exhibits on various topics of maritime history. Some of the highlights include the history of the railroad carferries of Ludington, the lighthouses of the region, and the Coast Guard and Life Saving Service, as well as the story of Mason County and several of its prominent residents.

Throughout the museum state of the art exhibits tell the story of the lives of the people who were a part of this history. Visitors can look into the recreated cabin of Wallace VanDyke, a famous captain of the carferries, and watch as he appears to tell them about his life spent sailing the Lakes. The museum is filled with exhibits you can see, hear, read, and interact with. Including a fully interactive simulation of being at the wheel of the *Pere Marquette 22* as it sails in and out of Ludington harbor in the late 1920s. Learn about the stories of shipwrecks and survivals, the history of an industry that fueled our state and region, and the lives of those who made them possible.

We are sure that the Port of Ludington Maritime Museum will be a memorable and historically educational trip for your class or a group of classes. The museum opens to the public for Saturdays only in March, Tuesdays through Saturdays starting in April, and 7 days a week from Memorial Day through Labor Day. School groups however are invited to schedule a tour on Tuesday's and Friday's during the week.

The cost for local schools for the school group tour is \$7.00 per student and chaperones, teachers and bus drivers are free of charge. Advance reservations are required, with payment due upon arrival. Please contact us with any questions. We look forward to hearing from you. Please email your reservation request to [eric@plmmhistory.org](mailto:eric@plmmhistory.org).

Sincerely,

Eric Harmsen  
Site Manager  
Mason County Historical Society  
Port of Ludington Maritime Museum