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Save the Harbor offers free Spectacle Island Boat Trips



Since 1986, Save the Harbor has taken tens of thousands of children from South Boston to Spectacle Island each summer and this year, their families can come along for the ride.

“We have the capacity and it’s been a very hot summer, said Bruce Berman, spokesman for Save the Harbor. “Last year, we brought over 25,000 kids out – we want to serve 30,000 kids this year.”

He said the organization is hosting six free trips to the island on from Aug. 16-18, and from Aug. 23-25.

Berman said the premier ship of the Bay State Cruise Company, the Provincetown II, can ferry up to 500 people the two miles out to the island – a ride that only takes 15 to 18 minutes.

“It’s a beautiful ride, there’s a terrific view of the harbor and the city,” he said.

Berman said Spectacle, one of the 34 harbor islands, offers a range of activities from swimming to five miles of hiking trails. However, he emphasized that there are no trash facilities on the island and guests are expected

to carry out their garbage.

Berman said his favorite part of being on the 105-acre island is sitting in one of the Adirondack chairs at the Visitor Center looking out over the harbor.

“Spectacle is a really wonderful place,” he said. “You truly feel like Boston Harbor belongs you – and it does.”

Patricia Foley, president of Save the Harbor, said the free trips are a great way for more people to enjoy the harbor and the islands.

“With a wonderful island park and some of the cleanest urban beaches in the nation, Boston Harbor is a spectacular urban natural resource for the region’s kids and families,” she said. “Sharing them with the public with free events and programs is at the heart of our mission and a key to our policy success.” Berman said the boat will depart from the Seaport World Trade Center at 10:30 a.m. and return at 3 p.m. Reservations are required. To reserve space, residents are asked to email their name, phone number and the day they would like to visit the island to Amy Gaylord, youth program coordinator, at gaylord@savetheharbor.org.