

# KAREN NOONAN CENTER

Located at Bishops Head in Maryland's Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, the Karen Noonan Center offers accessibility by road, but a peaceful, isolated setting on the Bay.



## THE CENTER AND BOATS

- The center is made up of the main building and a staff house, which was transported from its original location on Holland Island over 100 years ago.
- All buildings have electricity, central air, and a heating system, and Clivus Multrum composting toilets that use no water or chemicals.
- Kitchen facilities include a stove, microwave, refrigerator, and oven.
- Please bring your own fresh drinking water—there is well water for cooking and dishwashing.
- Maximum capacity is 22 people (includes students and chaperones): two rooms with six beds and six rooms with two beds.
- Boats include 11 canoes, a 24-foot Carolina skiff, and the *Karen N*, a 40-foot jet-propelled aluminum boat.



## THE ISLAND AND ITS STORY

- KNC is known as “Tide Island” because the access road is occasionally underwater during high tide.
- The center’s renovation and focus are in memory of Karen E. Noonan, who perished in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

All of CBF’s boat programs are equipped with state-of-the-art water quality monitoring equipment. This allows groups to generate data instantaneously, including pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, salinity, chlorophyll, and other indicators to build a complete picture of the health of the river. Participants can then compare their findings to the data of professional Bay scientists through on-board wireless laptops.

## FIELD EXPERIENCE CONCEPTS

**BEFORE YOU GO:** Prepare students for the remote conditions of the island, the conservation techniques they will practice, and expected behavior. Remind them there are no showers. *Inform students that they are **not to bring** iPods, CD players, DVD players, or other electronics of any kind. Cellphones are permitted for taking pictures at times designated by CBF educators.*

**FIELD EXPERIENCE:** CBF field educators will work with you during the pre-program call to tailor your experience so that it complements your classroom content. The following are examples of sample topics:

- History and folklore
- Underwater grasses
- Crabbing, fishing, and oystering
- Salt marsh exploration
- Field journals and naturalist news
- Weather watch

**ACTION PROJECT:** Your experience while at KNC is intended to inspire students to take action when you return home. Please help facilitate restoration and/or leadership projects to help save the Bay!



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## MEALS

### Compost

- All organic food waste will be composted instead of going in the trash and taking landfill space.

### Reduce

- Check with staff before buying condiments or PB&J; we may have them already.
- Buy food in bulk to reduce packaging.
- Bring powdered drink mix to cut down on packaging.

### Reuse

- Students should bring bandanas to use as napkins.
- We have plates, cups, and utensils to reuse instead of paper products. Do **NOT** bring your own.

### Recycle

- All trash and recycling goes home with you.
- Whatever you recycle in your home area is what we will recycle at KNC.

**Meal preparation is a group effort. Teacher and chaperone leadership is required for the cooking and cleanup of each meal in addition to behavior management of the remainder of the group.**

## SAMPLE PROGRAM

### DAY 1

- 1:30 Arrive at KNC, intro and safety review  
Fisheries Investigation  
*Set Crab Pots*  
*Dredge for Oysters*
- Sunset Dinner, evening journal, night hike, stories

### DAY 2

- Sunrise Breakfast
- Morning Field investigations  
*SAV's—scraping*  
*Marsh/Tidal Wetland*
- Mid-day Lunch  
Field investigations  
*Canoe/Water Chemistry/Marsh*
- Sunset Dinner, evening journal, oral history

### DAY 3

- Sunrise Breakfast  
Proggin' (Island history exploration)  
Pack up and clean up
- 11:30-12 Wrap-up meeting and depart

## CONTACT INFORMATION



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To apply for a field experience,  
visit our website at [cbf.org/apply](http://cbf.org/apply).  
For inquiries, contact the  
CBF Scheduling Department  
at 410/268-8816.