new bedford whaling museum
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For Immediate Release

Join the New Bedford Whaling Museum for Interactive Family Events during April School Vacation Week

"Maritime Makers & Marine Marvels" program offers a week of hands-on maritime adventures, Earth Day celebrations, and environmental learning for all ages

NEW BEDFORD, MA – *April 9, 2025* – The New Bedford Whaling Museum is excited to announce "Maritime Makers & Marine Marvels," a week-long program of hands-on activities and immersive learning for all ages during April school vacation week, Monday, April 21 to Sunday, April 27, 2025.

Throughout the week, participants of all ages will collaborate to construct a scaled replica of New Bedford Harbor using cardboard and other recycled materials. The model will feature iconic waterfront buildings, historic boats, marine life, and the legendary Boston Tea Party ship, the *Dartmouth*. The experience culminates in a lively public unveiling, celebrating the creativity and craftsmanship on Saturday, April 26th from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. During the celebration, attendees can also take a tour of the Lagoda, the museum's half-scale model of a whaling ship between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

"We recognize the transformative power of hands-on learning to drive creativity and innovation. During April School Vacation Week, we invite families to engage in maritime craftsmanship, where young minds become creators and makers," said Amanda McMullen, President & CEO. "By building models, exploring the history of our waterfront, and connecting with the natural world, we are fostering the development of future maritime leaders and environmental stewards. This week is focused on sparking imagination, honoring the rich tradition of maritime discovery, and providing an engaging, enjoyable experience for all."

Several special programs will supplement daily activities at the museum, including **Earth Day** celebrations. On Tuesday, April 22nd, visitors are encouraged to participate in an Earth Day Parade and create costumes from repurposed materials. The parade will occur at two times: 12:30 p.m and 2:30 p.m.

On Thursday, April 24th from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., the museum will celebrate **Massachusetts Right Whale Day** with a variety of activities with community partners, including:

- Activity tables hosted by New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance, Sound Explorations, Bow Seat, author Amy Estes (*Whale Poop*), and the Whaling Museum.
- Advocacy and activity table hosted by Oceana.
- Screening of the musical storybook short film, *Right Whale Wrong Letter*.
- Display of newest on-demand lobster gear from Sea Mammal Education Learning Technology Society (SMELTS).
- Display of North Atlantic right whale themed art contest entries received by Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Program and Massachusetts Marine Educators.
- Remarks from Matt Delaney, the Pembroke citizen who worked with his local congressman, Rep. Josh Cutler, to get H.3869 passed, which established Massachusetts Right Whale Day.

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Additional daily programs include:

- **Museum Highlights tour,** daily at 11:00 a.m.
- **3D Film Experience: *Sea Lions - Life by a Whisker*,** daily showings every half hour from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- **Harbor Scavenger Hunt Adventure,** daily

Visitors can explore the museum's exhibits using the New Bedford Whaling Museum's Bloomberg Connects app, which offers an interactive map, images, and audio guide stops.

The museum will be open daily, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit www.whalingmuseum.org/program/maritime-makers-marine-marvels/.

About the New Bedford Whaling Museum

Anchored in the story of New Bedford's whaling industry, the Museum documents and shares the diverse stories of this vibrant maritime region and its people, both bygone and current. Founded as the Old Dartmouth Historical Society in 1903, the Museum's rich history reveals an intimate relationship with the communities it serves. Today, the New Bedford Whaling Museum ignites learning through explorations of art, history, science and culture, rooted in the stories of people, the region and an international seaport. The New Bedford Whaling Museum is the leading cultural institution in the region, attracting more than 100,000 visitors annually.

The cornerstone of New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, the Museum is located at 18 Johnny Cake Hill in the heart of the city's historic downtown. Between January 2-March 31, the institution is open from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Tuesday-Saturday and from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm on Sunday. Between April 1-December 31, daily hours are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The Museum is open until 7 p.m. every second Thursday of the month (on AHA! nights) and closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Admission is free for Museum members; adults $23, seniors (65+) $21, youth $13. For more information, visit www.whalingmuseum.org.

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