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## LOBSTER COLLEGE, A LEARNING VACATION ON THE MAINE COAST

ORONO, Maine – After a five-year hiatus, Lobster College is back. Registrations are now being accepted for this most unique learning vacation, organized by the Lobster Institute at the University of Maine and hosted this year by the Kenniston Hill Inn Bed & Breakfast in Boothbay, Maine. Lobster College is an educational adventure designed for people interested in enjoying a fun extended weekend on the Maine coast. It's a chance to learn everything and anything there is to know about Maine's premier crustacean. The event is scheduled for September 18-21.

Kenniston Hill Inn B&B will serve as home base for Lobster College. Participants will enjoy the gracious hospitality of host, Dianne Ward, at this classic shipbuilders mansion built in 1786 in spectacular Boothbay, Maine. (You can see and learn more about the inn at [www.kennistonhillinn.com](http://www.kennistonhillinn.com).)

Various field trips are scheduled throughout the Boothbay Harbor area as part of the curriculum. "Folks who join us for Lobster College will experience hands-on and on-site learning about lobsters directly from lobstermen and lobster dealers themselves, as well as from University of Maine faculty. We've based Lobster College in the heart of lobstering country, at one of the most picturesque areas on the coast of Maine," said Robert Bayer, executive director of the Lobster Institute.

"We'll be taking a trip out to haul traps, we'll visit a working lobster wharf, and we'll provide lectures on a variety of lobster-related topics. We'll even show you how to bait a trap." According to Bayer, those who enroll in Lobster College will learn about lobster biology and ecology, value-added lobster products, lobster cuisine, stock management and other areas within the lobster industry. "And of course, there will be plenty of lobster to eat," said Bayer. "At our last Lobster College graduation, we counted them up and found that we had enjoyed ten different lobster dishes during the course of the weekend."

Students from the last Lobster College came from as far as California and Arizona. One attendee, Paul Oswald, shared these thoughts at the end of the program, "The words great and excellent are much overused in our society. But these words must be used to describe this program. Five star all the way."

And Jim Starwood added, "We really enjoyed ourselves, and the entire experience completely exceeded my expectations."

In addition to being an educational program, Lobster College doubles as a fundraiser for the Lobster Institute. The Institute is a research and outreach organization with a mission of protecting, conserving and enhancing the vitality of the lobster as a resource, and lobstering as an industry and as a way of life. It was founded jointly by members of the lobster industry and faculty at the University of Maine.

While participants won't need SATs to get in, enrollment for Lobster College is limited to the first 20 "students", and the deadline to enroll is September 5. Information

about Lobster College, including cost and how to register, and about other programs and services of the Lobster Institute, is available on the Internet at [www.lobsterinstitute.org](http://www.lobsterinstitute.org) or by calling (207)581-2751 or (207)581-1443.

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