



Welcome Aboard!

United States Coast Guard Cutter BUCKTHORN
The Great Lakes Oldest Coast Guard Cutter

Information Updated: 18 FEB 2014 District 09



Unit Name: United States Coast Guard Cutter BUCKTHORN (WLI-642)

Mailing Address: Commanding Officer
USCGC BUCKTHORN
c/o (Members Name)
337 Water Street
Sault Ste Marie, Michigan 49783

Unit Phone Numbers: (906) 635-3288

Officer of the Day (OOD): (906)-635-3288

Fax Number: (906-) 635-3300

*If your sponsor is not available to speak with when you call then contact the XPO (906) 748-2229 cell.

Cutter Hours:

Liberty expires: 0645

Muster: 0700

Lunch: 1300

Liberty Granted: Typically 1300, although Cutter schedule varies as a member you must remain flexible.

Location: **Sault Ste. Marie** ([pronounced](#) /,su:seɪntmə'ri:/) is the oldest city in the [state](#) of [Michigan](#). It is at the eastern edge of Michigan's [Upper Peninsula](#), on the [Canadian](#) border, separated from its twin city of [Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario](#) - the oldest city in the [Canadian province](#) of [Ontario](#) - by the [St. Mary's River](#).

Formally founded in 1668 by Father [Jacques Marquette](#) as *one* city, then split into two in 1797 (when the [Upper Peninsula](#) was transferred from the province of [Upper Canada](#) to the United States), Sault Ste. Marie has the distinction of being the oldest settlement in both the province of [Ontario](#) and the state of [Michigan](#).

Sault Sainte Marie is [Old French](#) meaning "Rapids of St. Mary's", a reference to the rapids in the Saint Mary's River, which joins [Lake Superior](#) to [Lake Huron](#). (The spelling **Sault-Sainte-Marie** is more usual in [French](#), but the name is written without hyphens in [English](#)). Either city, or the vicinity as a whole, can also be informally called **The Sault** or **The Soo**. More recently, there have been a few references to a **Greater Sault Ste. Marie**, encompassing both cities and their outlying satellite communities, although as of 2006 this term is not in widespread use.

The two cities are joined by the [International Bridge](#), which connects [Interstate Highway 75](#) in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and Huron Street in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Shipping traffic in the [Great Lakes](#) system bypasses the Saint Mary's Rapids via the American [Soo Locks](#), the world's busiest canal in terms of tonnage that passes through it, while smaller recreational and tour boats use the Canadian [Sault Ste. Marie Canal](#).

Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan lies within [Chippewa County](#).

As of a [2005](#) U.S. Census estimate, the city's population was 14,318. It is the [county seat](#) of [Chippewa County](#)⁶. The city is the site of the [Soo Locks](#), which lets ships travel between [Lake Superior](#) and the lower [Great Lakes](#). Although the locks are not as busy as in past years, a considerable amount of domestic and foreign commerce passes through them. People come from around the world to view close up the ships passing through the locks. The largest ships are 1,000 feet long by 105 feet wide. These are domestic carriers (called [lakers](#)) that are too large to transit the [Welland Canal](#) around [Niagara Falls](#) and thus are land-locked. Foreign ships (termed [salties](#)) are smaller.

Sault Ste. Marie is home to [Lake Superior State University](#), founded in 1946 as an extension campus of Michigan Mining and Technological College (now [Michigan Technological University](#)). Several famous athletes have come from Sault Ste. Marie including former NHLer [Cliff Barton](#). Other famous residents include the well-known electric violinist Beth Dobias and the lesser known Margaret Shumbarger the Hungarian folk virtuoso. Sault Ste. Marie was also the home of [Jane Johnston Schoolcraft](#), the early American Indian writer, and her husband [Henry Rowe Schoolcraft](#), the Indian agent and ethnographer. Their houses still stand and are listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#).

[Tourism](#) is a major industry in what is usually referred to as the Soo. The locks and nearby Kewadin Casino, owned by the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, are the major draws, as well as the forests, inland lakes and Lake Superior shoreline. The Soo is also a gateway to Lake Superior's scenic north shore through its twin city [Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario](#). The two cities are connected by the large [Sault Ste. Marie International Bridge](#), a steel [truss arch bridge](#) with suspended deck passing over the St. Mary's River.

[Ojibwa](#) (Chippewa) Native Americans had lived in the area, which they referred to as *Baawitigong*, for centuries, since it provided an excellent place to catch fish. In [1668](#), French missionaries [Claude Dablon](#) and [Jacques Marquette](#) founded a mission, making the Sault the third oldest city west of the [Appalachian Mountains](#) in what is now the United States. The falls

proved a choke point for shipping. Early Lake Superior ships were hauled around the rapids, much like moving a house, a process which could take weeks. Later cargoes were unloaded and hauled around the rapids and loaded onto other waiting boats. The first American lock, the State Lock, was built in [1855](#).

Average Temperature: Sault Ste. Marie is among the snowiest places in Michigan, receiving an average of 128 [inches](#) of snow a year with a record year where 209 inches fell. Sixty-two inches of snow fell in one five-day snowstorm, including 28 inches in 24 hours, in December 1995. Sault Ste. Marie receives an average annual 34 inches of precipitation measured as equivalent rainfall.

Temperatures in Sault Ste. Marie have varied between a record low of -36°F and a record high of 98°F. Monthly average high temperatures range from a low of 13°F in January to a high of 64°F in July. [\[1\]](#) In an average year, only one or two days reach 90°F while 180 days fall below 32°F.

Unit's Primary Missions: Aids To Navigation within the Ste Marie's River System, Homeland Security, and Public Affairs.

Assets: The Ship is a 100' Inland Buoy Tender with a normal sailing complement of 16 people. The Ship works two seasonal buoy trips that consist of the most buoys of any unit in the entire Ninth District.



Area of Responsibility (AOR): From Whitefish Point thru the Sainte Marie's River 65 miles of Integral River that connects Lake Huron to Lake Superior to Cedarville, Michigan

Uniform to Report-in: Tropical Blue Long (summer) or Service Dress Bravo (winter)

Uniform of the Day: Operational Dress Uniform

Recommended Uniform Items In Addition To Seabag Issue: None

Operational Clothing: Foul weather gear and other operational clothing will be issued to member shortly after arrival. Your sponsor will ask what your typical clothing sizes (S, M, L) are in order to purchase if necessary, the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) upon your arrival.

Personal Storage Space (in Cubic Feet): Very Limited. Member is assigned a locker for uniforms and operational clothing but there is approximately 10 cubic feet available per member.

Special Procedures For Reporting After Hours: The Cutter is manned 24/7 however, if you are planning on arriving between the hours of 1600 and 0630 contact the CDO ahead of time so that we can prepare for your arrival.

Ratings Present at Unit: Cutter has Boatswain's Mates (BM) and Machinery Technicians (MK), Food Service Specialist(FS), and Electrician's Mate(EM). However, we are co-located with Sector Sault Sainte Marie at which all rates are represented.

Location Of Nearest Exchange: At the Sector on base

Religious Denominations in the Area: the surrounding areas are a host to all denominations, and an ample amount of different churches, temples, mosques and synagogues to choose from.

Surrounding Area: There is always plenty to see and do, whether it is indoor or outdoor. See link for videos about the location and activities. <http://www.sault-sainte-marie.mi.us/>

Typical SA/SN Job Assignment: Buoy Deck Rigger, Boat Crewmember, Inport Security Watchstander.

Typical FA/FN Job Assignment: Boat Engineer, Engineer of the Watch, Inport Security Watchstander.

Duty Rotation:

INPORT WATCH TYPE AND DUTY ROTATION FOR SA/SN: 1 in 4

INPORT WATCH TYPE AND DUTY ROTATION FOR FA/FN: 1 in 4

UNDERWAY WATCH TYPE AND DUTY ROTATION FOR SA/SN: Helmsman 1 in 3

UNDERWAY WATCH TYPE AND DUTY ROTATION FOR FA/FN: Engineer 1 in 3

Break-in Status: New members will be in a break-in status and will stay onboard every third day for a 24 hr period, until fully qualified. typical 1 month.

BAH: All Cutter personnel married live in Coast Guard Owned housing (see link) <http://www.uscg.mil/d9/sault/gru/gruinfo/housing.htm> 4 miles from the Ship or may ask for a required waiver to receive Basic allowance to live on the market. Single members E4 and below live in apartments provided by Sector Housing. E5 and above receive BAH and live on the economy.
An example of the BAH Rate for a Single E-5 with dep \$686.00 w/o 642.00
Rate Of Auto Insurance For Typical 18-20 Yr Old Single Male: 1200 pr. year
Single Female: 900 pr. year

Where Do Most People Bank: There are many banks in the area to choose from, from small local banks as well as all of the nation-wide chains.

Is There A Credit Union In The Area: Yes, there are also several credit unions located here.

Is There A Mall In The Area: Across the River in Canada access with a passport. In the US, it's a three hour drive to Traverse City/Marquette.

Where Do Most Dependents Receive Medical Care: War Memorial Hospital, There are several primary care physicians locally.

What Level Of Tricare Is Available? Tricare Prime Remote is what is currently available to members at this location. Ensure you update or start the paperwork for that immediately.

Is Concordia Dental Available: Yes

Is It Advisable To Bring Dependents Along When Reporting?: Yes

