The Ernest C.
OBERHOLTZER
Foundation

Host Weeks on Mallard Island

Bring your people to a place of history, nature, beauty, and inspiration.

The Oberholtzer Foundation invites you to apply to bring 8-10 people to Mallard for a Host Week shaped by your interests and passions. Whether your group includes artists, writers, conservationists, educators, or people brought together by a common curiosity, Mallard offers a wholly unique setting.



> ***"In one word, magic."***
>
> – Host Week participant

What Is a Host Week?

A Host Week brings together 8-10 people on Mallard Island from Sunday afternoon through Saturday morning. Each week grows from a shared interest or theme aligned with the Foundation's mission and vision. Past groups have explored Indigenous water protection, landscape architecture, writing, painting, music, and wilderness advocacy.



A place to gather, create, and explore

Paddle a canoe or kayak, explore neighboring islands, swim, birdwatch, photograph or sketch the landscape, tend the gardens, study lichens, read, share meals, make music, gather around a fire, or enjoy quiet time with a good book.

What does a host do?

Develop an idea or theme and apply to host; assemble a group of 7–9 other people; shape the experience; manage participant payments; and facilitate the week. You don't need to be a professional facilitator or plan every moment.

Mallard Island is a small island on Rainy Lake, a beautiful natural setting along the international border.

Bring your people. Shape your week.
Find inspiration on Mallard.

Life on Mallard

Mallard offers a rustic, semi-wild experience. The Foundation provides accommodations and two caretakers who remain on the island throughout the week. Historic houses and cabins have electricity and wood stoves, but no running water. Filtered drinking water is available at a central station. There are three outdoor composting toilets and a simple solar shower. Accommodations are lovely but modest; guests may share sleeping spaces, privacy varies by building, and there is generally no internet access. Rainy Lake weather can change quickly, so layers and rain gear are a must. The terrain is uneven, with rocky trails and footing that can be challenging.



Program details

- Group size: 8–10, including host
- Length: Sunday afternoon through Saturday morning.
- Fee: $450 per person; $3,600 minimum for eight people or $4,500 for ten.
- Application deadline: December 31, 2026.
- Applicants provide three preferred dates.
- Selected hosts are notified in January.
- Payment: $2,550 due April 1; remaining balance due May 1.

Ober's legacy and the Foundation's mission

Ernest Carl Oberholtze–Ober–was a canoeist, writer, photographer, wilderness advocate, and founding member of the Wilderness Society. The Foundation fosters Ober's legacy and North Woods island home as a source of inspiration, renewal, and connection to Indigenous Peoples, kindred spirits, and the natural world. Gi-Bezhig-oomin (we are all one).Through the Foundation's Elder-in-Residence program, participants may have opportunities to learn about Anishinaabe cultural teachings and practices, depending on the availability of Elders and teachers.

Care Note

Participants are responsible for their own travel to the Tilson Creek public landing. Participants provide breakfast and lunch; dinner is shared through the group's cooking teams.

Caring for Mallard's buildings, books, gardens, collections, archives, and natural surroundings is part of every visitor's responsibility.

Have an idea for a group and a week on Mallard?

eober.org/news

Selected hosts receive additional information about arrival, accommodations, meals, packing, and island procedures.

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