

Summer Nature Program Procedures

Weather Related Information

All Summer Nature Program activities are held rain or shine. Most of the time will be spent outdoors with access to shaded program areas unique to each age group. For the safety of our participants, in the event of forecasted extreme heat or severe weather, The Wetlands Institute will cancel Summer Nature Program activities for the day. We will make every attempt to make this decision prior to the start of the day. If you have a question about weather-related early dismissals or schedule changes, please call The Wetlands Institute at (609) 368-1211 to find out full details.

Pick Up and Drop Off Procedure

Pick up and drop off times can be confusing with all the program participants and general public in the same area. To help alleviate some of that confusion, when picking up and/or dropping off your child, please make sure your child's Summer Nature Program Instructor is aware of your actions. To limit disruptions, please wait until all Summer Nature Program activities have finished. If special arrangements need to be made for early afternoon pick-up or late morning drop off, or if your child is leaving with someone other than usual, please let us know in writing.

For the health and safety of all participants, any child exhibiting symptoms of illness and/or with a temperature above 100.4 Fahrenheit will not be allowed to attend Summer Nature Program and will be sent home. Children will not be allowed to return to Summer Nature Program until they are no longer exhibiting symptoms and/or have a temperature less than 100.4 Fahrenheit. Please notify us if your child is sick or has recently had close contact with someone with COVID-19. In this instance, they will be asked to stay home.

All activities will take place on site at The Wetlands Institute except for Field Trips and Beach Day. **If your child's schedule includes a Field Trip or Beach Day, please read the information below for special instructions related to pick up and drop off.** Otherwise, please plan on picking up and dropping off participants at The Wetlands Institute at the start and end of each day.

Field Trip Information for Children Age 5-13

Children ages 5–13 have a special field trip to an offsite location on Wednesday!

Information about that week's scheduled field trip, including specific details on timing and possible drop off locations will be given out at Monday's parent meeting. If for some reason you cannot come to the Monday meeting, please be sure to ask your child's Summer Nature Program Instructor for the field trip information handout. Some field trips may involve cookouts and/or swimming opportunities. All field trip costs have already been included in the program fee.

If the field trip includes a drop off location, please do not drop off your child unless your child's Summer Nature Program Instructor is present on site. Children should be picked up promptly at the same location at the conclusion of their day. **Please pick up children ages 5–13 at 2:00 P.M.**

Throughout the day, when applicable, all children, staff members and volunteers will be asked to follow the health and safety protocols of the hosting field trip site. If you wish to stay with your child during the field trip, you may do so. As needed, you will need to pay any entrance fees separately if one is required.

Beach Day Information for Children Age 5-13

Children age 5–13 have beach day on Friday!

At 9:30 A.M. on the appropriate day, participants will meet The Wetlands Institute staff at the parking lot at Stone Harbor Point located at the south end of Seven Mile Island just beyond 122nd Street on the ocean side of 2nd Avenue. Please do not drop off your child unless your child's Summer Nature Program Instructor is present on site. Children should be picked up promptly at the same location at the conclusion of their day. **Please pick up children ages 5–13 at 2:00 P.M.**

- **Directions to Stone Harbor Point Parking Lot:** Drive east on Stone Harbor Boulevard towards Stone Harbor. Go over the bridge into Stone Harbor. At the second light turn right onto Second Avenue. Drive south all the way to the end of the road and turn left into the parking lot.

What to Bring and How to Prepare

A prepared child makes for one very happy participant! Listed below are several steps that you can take to make sure that your child has the best possible experience while attending our programs.

- Wearing old clothes is best! The week's activities are most fun when approached hands on. Children will probably get messy and quite possibly muddy and/or wet. Children will do activities that could involve paint and markers. Please dress your child appropriately.
- Foot protection is essential throughout the week, even in the water, due to jagged shells and rocks. Most water shoes do not provide adequate protection and flip-flops do not stay on little feet in water or mud. Sports sandals (a waterproof sandal with straps) or old submersible sneakers are most effective. Occasionally shoes are lost in the marsh mud! Please do not send your child in new or expensive shoes.
- Please watch the weather. Cool or rainy weather might warrant a light jacket; hot sunny weather will necessitate sunblock, a hat, and/or extra clothing for protection. Please send the appropriate clothing with your child each day.
- Children may wear bathing suits on beach day and some field trip days, as program participants will be doing activities or playing in the water while at the beach or on the field trip. A small towel is a very good idea for sitting on and/or drying off wet and sandy feet.
- **Please pack light on field trip and beach days!** Every good idea in the morning can become a heavy thing to carry by midday, especially for younger children walking up and down on the beach trail. Backpacks or an easily carried small bag are best.
- We recommend the use of sunblock **every day** and extra can be packed for reapplication. Bug spray can be used according to your choice.

- **Children age 4 do not need to bring a lunch.** They will be provided with a prepackaged and sealed mid-morning snack.
- **Children ages 5–13 should bring their own sack lunch or reusable, waterproof container. Please make sure to write the child's name on their lunch.** We store lunches in coolers on hot days and bulky lunch boxes do not fit easily. There will always be plenty of water available for drinking and reusable water bottles are encouraged.
- Ticks are an ongoing problem anywhere in New Jersey and can be found almost anywhere out-of-doors. We will make every effort to minimize this danger; however, there can be no guarantee that a participant will not pick up a tick. Checking for ticks should be an ongoing daily routine when children have been outside. Authorities believe that ticks need 24 hours to imbed before they can convey Lyme disease, so carefully checking your child each night can avoid this problem.

Get ready to enjoy the shore! We are going to have a great week!



Take the WASTE FREE Lunch Challenge!

Fridge Packing Reminder

YES, Please!	NO, Please AVOID!
REUSABLE LUNCH CONTAINER	paper or plastic bags
REUSABLE CONTAINER (Tupperware-type)	plastic wrap, foil, waxed paper or styrofoam
REUSABLE DRINK BOTTLE or THERMOS	single-use containers
REUSABLE STRAW Stainless steel, bamboo, paper, etc.	plastic straws
CLOTH NAPKIN to wash and re-use	paper napkins
CUTLERY/SILVERWARE to wash and re-use	plastic forks, knives, & spoons
HEALTHY SNACKS!	over-packaged snacks and chips

ReTHINK!

