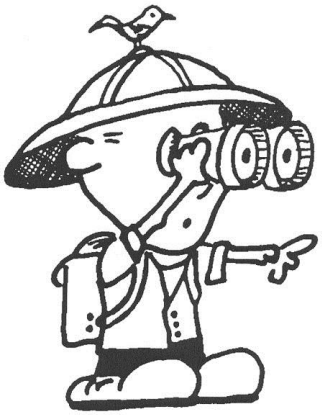

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

Welcome to the **Early Explorers PM camp -July 31st- August 3rd!** I am looking forward to our fun-filled nature experience at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp! To help insure that your child has a safe and fun time, I have a few suggestions:

- **Drop off- 1:00pm pick up- 4:00pm**
  - **Monday and Tuesday at**: Battle Creek Cypress Swamp in the conference room
  - **Wednesday and Thursday at**: Flag Ponds Nature Park at the education building basement, please go around the picnic area to the back door
- **Sign In:** Please sign your child in and out every day, and let us know if someone else will be taking them home.
- **Tips For Making the Drop-Off Less Stressful:** The weekend before, allow your child to be involved in packing their camp bag, including picking out a special snack**;** perhaps, permitting them to pick snacks at the store. If you have the book, *The Kissing Hand,* by Audrey Penn, read it the night before. Get a good-night's sleep. Wake up early enough to have a good breakfast and not feel rushed on the way to camp. On the way to camp talk about some fun things they will get to do (a puppet show every day, see live animals, catching animals with nets). At camp, after signing them in, you can help them find their chair. Allow staff to show you some of the fun morning activity stations, including crafts. Once your child gets started on an activity, give them a quick hug/kiss and a prompt goodbye. Next, the hard part…walk away. Most children are just fine within a few minutes of their parent leaving.
- **Snacks:** Pack a non-perishable food item for snack which can easily be opened by your child. Don't forget to pack a water bottle that can be refilled, if needed. Both parks have a picnic area if you would like to have lunch with your children after the program.
- **Backpacks:** Campers will store all personal belongings in their backpacks, which will be kept in the building except for Thursday, when we need to carry towels and such to the beach.
- **Clothing:** Wear OLD CLOTHES that can get dirty or painted. Please provide a change of clothes.
- **Shoes:** Comfortable shoes are a must, since we will be walking quite a bit throughout the day. For safety reasons, we ask that campers do not wear flip flops or crocs.
- **Bullying:** We want our campers to feel safe; therefore, campers who are bullying others will be permanently expelled from all CCNRD camps.
- **Health/Safety:** While we are having fun exploring nature, I will make every effort to minimize your child's exposure to things like poison ivy, ticks, and jellyfish; however, if your child develops a rash or other symptoms, don't hesitate to contact your physician. In addition, please check your child for ticks after camp every day.

Questions or concerns? Please contact me at **Battle Creek Nature Center** at **410-535-5327** or by email at "**groshopg@co.cal.md.us**" I am looking forward to our nature explorations!

Sincerely,

Gene Groshon

Naturalist

What to Bring:

- ☐ 2 snacks (finger food) for the day
- ☐ Refillable water bottle
- ☐ Backpack
- ☐ Extra Set of Clothes (in a labeled plastic bag)
- ☐ Hat
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Insect Repellent (one that works for both ticks and mosquitoes)
- ☐ 2 or 3 plastic bags for crafts, wet clothes, etc.
- ☐ Towel for drying off
- ☐ Raincoat or Poncho (no umbrellas) if rain is forecasted
- ☐ Small Antibacterial Gel (optional)

What NOT to Bring:

- ☐ Electronic Devices
- ☐ Money
- ☐ Candy
- ☐ Toys
- ☐ Flip flops or Crocs