

Dear Parents and Campers:

Welcome to the Marvelous Mud summer camp--June 27-July 1! I am looking forward to a muddy and fun-filled experience this summer. Please go over the attached checklist with your camper so that s/he will be fully prepared for camp. We will be holding camp rain or shine – please be sure that your camper is dressed appropriately for the weather - and in clothes you are ok with your camper never wearing again (it IS Mud Camp after all).

Drop off/pick up schedule for the week:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Drop off</u>	<u>Pick up</u>	<u>Location</u>
Monday (6/27)-Wednesday (6/29)	9am	3pm	Flag Ponds Nature Park
Thursday (6/30)- <u>no camp before 6pm</u>	6pm	overnight	Flag Ponds Nature Park
Friday (7/1)- <u>no camp after 9am</u>	9am		Flag Ponds Nature Park

LOGISTICS –

- Please note that we are doing a DRIVE-THRU check-in and check-out Monday - Wednesday. Please watch for camp staff in gray shirts who will be directing you in your car to check-in. We will have a tall red flag at the drive-thru check-in location – so keep an eye out for that, too. Stay in your car – we will come to you.
- If your camper will need to miss part of camp – come late/leave early – please alert me ASAP. We are often far afield and having a camper leave early/come late can be a disruption for the day’s schedule.
- When you arrive at Flag Ponds each morning, stop at the entrance station to tell Flag Ponds staff you are here for summer camp. If there is a line at the gate, please do not go around (in the afternoon as well). Camp staff will be preparing for the day right up until 9:00 AM – we will not begin without your camper/s.
- Help make check-in faster - camp forms are due one week BEFORE the first day of camp. Camp forms can be mailed to Battle Creek Nature Center or dropped off at the center during business hours. You may need these forms if, for example, your child will need to bring ANY medication to camp, if you are carpooling with another family, or if your child has a severe allergy. All our camp forms can be found here: [Calvert Nature Society - Summer Camp Forms \(calvertparks.org\)](http://calvertparks.org).

SAFETY –

- We have the following safety precautions for Summer Camp this year:
 - All our camp is planned to take place outside – exceptions include: coming into the building to use the restrooms or needing to shelter indoors from extreme weather.
 - For the overnight – we will be sleeping in tents outside. There will generally be 2 campers/tent.

SAFETY continued...

- We will encourage social distancing as much as possible.
- Camp activities have been planned so that they involve as little touching of shared objects as possible
- Hand washing - if we are close to a building with indoor facilities, we will use soap and water. If on the trail, we will use hand sanitizer.
- **If your camper is at all feeling unwell – please keep them home.**
- Campers will always be expected to wear shoes while at camp.
- Wearing long pants and long-sleeved shirts will help to protect campers from getting scratched by branches, etc. as we wade in the mud. I realize that this is a weird request in the summer. Know that we are usually wet – so the long pants/long sleeves are not as much of an issue as one might think.
- Neither flip flops nor crocs stay on the feet during camp activities, so please leave those shoes at home. Old sneakers or sport-type sandals/water shoes are acceptable as long as they will not pull off in the mud. If you have comfortable “amphibious” shoes that can go from land to water and back – they make a great option vs changing shoes.
- Please be sure that your camper does a thorough “tick check” when they get home each day.
- We will not tolerate bullying of any kind while at camp; campers found to be bullying other campers will be permanently expelled from all CCNRD summer camps.

Questions or concerns? Email is best - “tania.gale@calvertcountymd.gov” or call Battle Creek Nature Center at 410-535-5327

I look forward to celebrating mud week with you!

Sincerely,

Tania Gale, Naturalist and Mud Enthusiast



“Marvelous Mud” camp checklist - **Wear these things**

Take the “Unplug Challenge” --Please leave all electronics at home

Monday (Activities: Bay/beach mud exploration)

- ___ bag lunch (non-perishable food, no glass)
- ___ snack (trail mix, granola bar, or similar)
- ___ hand sanitizer
- ___ sunscreen (be sure to bring extra)
- ___ insect repellent
- ___ hat
- ___ old clothes to wear while exploring to block the sun and bugs – long-sleeved shirt recommended
- ___ well-fitting water shoes/sport sandals-no flip flops/ crocs
- ___ water bottle (approx. 1 liter)
- ___ backpack (none w/wheels)
- ___ towel
- ___ rain jacket or poncho
- ___ plastic bag for wet clothes
- ___ full of clothes and shoes - not flip flops or crocs

Tuesday (Activity: swamp wade-in)

- ___ bag lunch (non-perishable food, no glass)
- ___ snack (trail mix, granola bar, or similar)
- ___ hand sanitizer
- ___ sunscreen (be sure to bring extra)
- ___ insect repellent

___ hat

___ old clothes that can get dirty...*really dirty* – long pants and long-sleeved shirt for extra protection while wading in the swamp muck

___ old sneakers or well-fitting water shoes/sport sandals-no flip flops or crocs

___ water bottle (approx. 1 liter)

___ backpack (none w/wheels)

___ towel

___ rain jacket or poncho

___ plastic bag for wet clothes

___ full change of clothes and shoes - not flipflops or crocs

Wednesday (Activity: creek crawl/mud pit visit)

___ bag lunch (non-perishable food, no glass)

___ snack (trail mix, granola bar, or similar)

___ hand sanitizer

___ sunscreen (be sure to bring extra)

___ insect repellent

___ hat

___ old sneakers to wear in the creek – other types of water shoes will be lost in the mud-no flip flops/ crocs

Wednesday continued ...

- ___ long pants (not capris) and long-sleeved shirt (old ones that can get *really dirty*) to wear in the creek to block bugs and scratches
- ___ water bottle (approx. 1 liter)
- ___ backpack (none w/wheels)
- ___ towel
- ___ rain jacket or poncho
- ___ plastic bag for wet clothes
- ___ full change of clothes and shoes - not flipflops or crocs

Thursday/Friday (Activities: Family Cookout, Sunset Beach Exploration, Night walk, Campout)

- ___ insect repellent
- ___ water shoes/sport sandals-no flipflops or crocs)
- ___ shorts and T-shirt
- ___ water bottle (approx. 1 liter)
- ___ backpack
- ___ extra shorts and t-shirt
- ___ plastic bag for wet clothes
- ___ towel
- ___ hiking shoes/sneakers
- ___ ****long pants and long-sleeved shirt**** – (*campers will be more comfortable if they have warm clothes to put on after being in the water*)
- ___ sweatshirt or jacket
- ___ ****rain jacket or poncho****
- ___ sleeping bag and pillow
- ___ sleeping pad (optional)
- ___ pajamas
- ___ flashlight
- ___ personal toiletries (in a Ziplock labeled with camper's name)

Tents, smores, breakfast are provided for the overnight. Please do not send extra food.

