

Dear Parents and Campers:

Welcome to the Night Owls summer camp--June 29 – July 1! I am looking forward to exploring Flag Ponds at night with you! Please go over the attached checklist with your camper so that s/he will be fully prepared for camp.

We will be holding camp with rain or clear skies, but severe thunderstorms will require us to cancel. The decision to cancel will be made by 2:00pm the day of camp. You will be notified via the email address we have on file at Calvertparks.org. Notice will also be posted on the event page for this camp at calvertparks.org.

Below is a drop off/pick up schedule for the week:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Drop off</u>	<u>Pick up</u>	<u>Location</u>
Tuesday (6/29), Wednesday (6/30, Thursday (7/1))	6:00pm	10:00pm	Flag Ponds Nature Park

Friday (7/2) will be a reschedule day if we have to cancel earlier in the week due to storms

Please note that we are doing a numbered check-in this year to avoid having close clumps of people at those times.

CHECK-IN - When you arrive at the Flag Ponds front gate, look for camp staff in a yellow shirt who will be giving you a number for check-in. Once you have your number, proceed to the main parking lot (by the Education building and Visitors Center) where you can park. Please stay in/near your car until your family's number is called.

CHECK-OUT – The park gates will be pulled closed. Let yourselves in the OUTGOING gate (on the left as you are coming in to the park) and close it behind you. Proceed to the same parking lot and park. You may get out of your car so we can see you, but we will walk your camper to you and have you sign them out at your parking spot.

As always, safety is our primary concern. Please see the information below for more about our summer camp COVID-19 protocol. Each evening at check-in, campers will have a COVID health screening in addition to our normal check-in process – thanks in advance for your patience.

Want to get through camp check-in faster? Camp forms are due BEFORE the first day of camp. **You may need these forms if: your child will need to bring ANY medication to camp, 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 \(calvertparks.org\)](https://www.calvertparks.org/summer-camp-forms). If none of these situations are applicable to you, we should have all your info from online registration.

Camp forms can be mailed to Battle Creek Nature Center or dropped off at the center during business hours. You can mail them here: Battle Creek Cypress Swamp 2880 Grays Road Prince Frederick, MD 2067

Campers will be expected to wear shoes at all times while at camp-even in the water. 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. Wearing lightweight long pants and long-sleeved shirts will provide protection from biting insects, ticks, and branches/thorns as we explore.

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? Contact me by email @ “tania.gale@calvertcountymd.gov”

I look forward to exploring Flag Ponds at night with you!

Sincerely,
Tania Gale, Naturalist



“Night Owls” camp checklist ****Wear these things****

Schedule subject to change

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



Tuesday – (Activity: Forest nightwalk – I’m not planning for this to be a wet day, but you never know)

- ___ snack (trail mix, granola bar, or similar)
- ___ mask or other face covering
- ___ hand sanitizer
- ___ *insect repellent*
- ___ *hat*
- ___ *old clothes that can get dirty...long pants and long-sleeved shirt*
- ___ *sneakers or hiking shoes*
- ___ water bottle
- ___ flashlight or headlamp (not a lantern)
- ___ rain jacket
- ___ backpack (none w/wheels)
- ___ plastic bag for wet clothes
- ___ change of clothes and shoes - not flipflops or crocs

Wednesday- (Activity: Swamp trail and dip netting – this may involve some exploring the edge of the swamp and our feet will likely get wet)

- ___ snack (trail mix, granola bar, or similar)
- ___ mask or other face covering
- ___ hand sanitizer
- ___ *insect repellent*
- ___ *hat*
- ___ *old sneakers to wear in the swamp – other types of water shoes may be lost in the mud-no flip flops/ crocs*
- ___ *long pants and long-sleeved shirt (old ones that can get really dirty)*
- ___ water bottle
- ___ flashlight or headlamp (not a lantern)
- ___ rain jacket
- ___ backpack (none w/wheels)
- ___ towel
- ___ plastic bag for wet clothes
- ___ change of clothes and shoes - not flipflops or crocs

Thursday – (Activities: Beach/tidepools exploration and closing campfire – this is planned to be a wet/muddy day as we waded in to explore the tidepools)

- ___ snack (trail mix, granola bar, or similar)
- ___ mask or other face covering
- ___ hand sanitizer
- ___ flashlight or headlamp (not a lantern)
- ___ *insect repellent*
- ___ *hat*
- ___ *old clothes to wear over while exploring the Bay and pools – we are definitely do some wading*
- ___ *well-fitting water shoes/sport sandals*
- ___ ***no flip flops or crocs***
- ___ water bottle
- ___ backpack (none w/wheels)
- ___ rain jacket
- ___ towel
- ___ plastic bag for wet clothes
- ___ change of clothes and shoes - not flip flops or crocs
- ___ supplies for s’mores will be provided – if your child has allergies, please contact Tania ASAP to discuss a substitute (tania.gale@calvertcountymd.gov)

Thank you for registering for one of our 2021 Nature Discovery Summer Camps.

We want you to know that we are putting into place the following safety precautions for Summer Camp this year:

- All of our camps are planned to take place outside – exceptions may include:
 - o Coming into the building to use the restrooms
 - o Needing to shelter indoors from extreme weather
- We will encourage social distancing as much as possible, even outdoors.
- Camp activities have been planned so that they do not involve sharing or touching of shared objects.
- After campers go home for the day, equipment and surfaces will be sanitized.
 - Staff will schedule hand sanitizing breaks throughout the day. 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.
- All camp staff and campers will have a health screening including a temperature check upon arrival.

Check-in will be a little different this year due to the daily health checks. Please be sure to turn in all your camp paperwork 2 WEEKS BEFORE camp begins. You can mail these (please allow for mailing time) or drop them off at Battle Creek Nature Center. Nature Center hours are: Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:30pm, Saturday 10am-6pm, & Sunday 1-6pm.

Camp staff may have a drive-thru check in process or give you a number when you pull in to help organize check-in. Please do not crowd around the check -in/check-out area. Stay in your car, we will call or come to you.

We recommend contacting your health care provider if you have questions about COVID-19.

For questions about this camp, please email Tania Gale @ tania.gale@calvertcountymd.gov

