



WELCOME TO

Birding Adventures CAMP!

WHERE: Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, Flag Ponds Nature Park, Kings Landing Park, Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park, additional locations in the county

WHEN: Monday June 26 - Friday June 30 9:00am-3:00pm

****Wednesday June 28 5:20 am- 11:30am****

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

Welcome to Birding Adventures Camp! To help insure that your child has a safe and fun time, I have a few suggestions:

- **Drop off and pick up** your child at the specified location promptly at the scheduled times below.
- **Sign In:** Please sign your child in and out every day, and let us know if someone else will be taking them home.
- **Lunch & Snacks:** Pack a lunch of non-perishable food items, or provide an ice pack as we will be carrying our lunches with us all day. Please pack 2 additional snack items.
- **Food Allergies:** Occasionally, we will try wild edibles varying from wine berries to wild greens. If you would prefer your child does not try any of these things, or has any food allergies, please let me know in advance.
- **Backpacks:** Please place all personal belongings in a backpack. Campers will carry their backpacks and lunches with them as we travel throughout the parks as sometimes we may eat lunch in the middle of our hike.
- **Clothing:** dress in comfortable outdoor clothes that can get dirty. We do not plan to get super dirt or wet so a change of clothes should not be needed. You may wish to bring a rain jacket to use in case of fowl weather or as an extra layer if chilly such as Wednesday in the early morning or while on the boat on Friday.
- **Shoes:** Comfortable sturdy shoes are a must, since we will be hiking 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, etc; 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. Please have bug spray and sunscreen on before you check in for the day. Please apply any sprays (sunscreen or bug spray) away from vehicles.
- **Covid-19 Safety:** Please see the attached list of Covid Updates for camp. We will try to keep these as up to date as we can.

I have enjoyed preparing for this camp, and I can't wait to explore the outdoors with your children. Please review the schedule and suggested items to bring below. I look forward to meeting everyone this summer, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions. I can be reached at Flag Ponds by phone at (410) 586-1477 or by email gene.groshon@calvertcountymd.gov

Sincerely,

Gene Groshon



Birding Adventures Schedule and Locations

While this is the planned schedule it may change due to weather or other unexpected issues. Monday should not change. If there are updates needed during the week I will let everyone know during pickup of changes for the next day.

Monday: Drop off at **Flag Ponds** at 9:00 am at Picnic Area 1525 Flag Ponds Parkway, St Leonard, MD 20685

Pick up at **Flag Ponds** at 3:00 pm at Picnic Area

We will be hiking through the park through the forest and searching the various habitats for birds. We will also be doing some group activities in the picnic area or building to work on our birding skills throughout. The Picnic Area is located on the left of the parking lot between the education building and visitor center.

Tuesday: Drop off at **Battle Creek** at 9:00 am meeting at the pavilion 2880 Grays Road Prince Frederick MD 20678

Pick up at **Battle Creek** at 3:00 pm at the pavilion

We will be exploring the swamp boardwalk to search for banded warblers as well as birding throughout the park and hopefully will attempt to band some birds as well. The pavilion is in the back of the parking lot on the right once you enter the park just past the dumpster.

Wednesday: Drop off at **Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park** at **5:20 am** first part of parking lot once you enter gate.

Pick up at **Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park** at **11:30 am** at first part of parking lot once you enter gate.

10455 Ward Rd, Dunkirk MD 20654

Please note this day has different drop off and pick up times. Sorry for the abnormal hours but it will be a great experience for the campers to help with a bird banding research project. While helping with this project we will be hiking about 7-8 miles. We will have a place to leave our back packs during the hike. The campers will get to see hopefully many bird species up close and learn more about bird biology and the need for conservation of various species. We will meet in the parking lot just to the right after you enter the gate. The park will not be open at this time so we will be the only vehicles in the park. Pickup will be at the same location.

Thursday: Drop off at **Kings Landing Park** at 9:00 am at Wisner Hall 3255 Kings Landing Road, Huntingtown, MD 20639

Pick up at **Kings Landing Park** at 3:00 pm at Wisner Hall

We will be traveling in the county van to various locations such as North Beach Marsh and Fishing Creek Boardwalk to search for birds of the wetlands. We will also be going on a hike at Kings Landing Park and possibly checking nest boxes for breeding birds. Wisner Hall is located roughly .7 miles after you enter the main park gate. You may park along the fence in front of the building.

Friday: Drop off at **Flag Ponds Nature Park** at 9:00 am at the pavilion 1525 Flag Ponds Parkway, St Leonard, MD 20685

Pick up at **Flag Ponds Nature Park** at 3:00 pm at the pavilion

We will be traveling in the van to the Calvert Marine Museum to go on a boat cruise in search of birds around Solomon's Island and the mouth of the Patuxent River. The museum will supply personal floatation devices for the campers. Afterwards we may check out some other spots in Solomon's Island or southern Calvert for bird species we have not seen yet during our week at camp.

Covid-19 Updates

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

- Most camp activities are planned to take place outside – exceptions include may include:
 - Coming into the building to use the restrooms
 - Needing to shelter indoors from extreme weather, rain or heat
- Camp activities have been planned so that they do not involve sharing or touching of shared objects and encouraged social distancing as much as possible.
- Campers will not be required to wear masks but may wish to do so when indoors or traveling in the van

We will not be doing health checks during check-in but we ask if your child is feeling sick or has a fever to please not attend camp until they are feeling better.

Please review the full Calvert Nature Society Covid Policy here

<https://www.calvertparks.org/resources/Face%20Covering%20and%20Social%20Distancing%20Policy%20CNS-PendingDate.pdf>

What to Bring:

- (optional) Face mask that covers nose and mouth with no vents
- Lunch that we will be carrying with us along our hikes
- 2 additional snacks (finger food) for the trail
- Refillable water bottle (it's best to have at least 32 ounces water for the day)
- Backpack or book bag (no drawstring bags)
- Hat (wide brimmed is best)
- Sunscreen (on and packed)
- Insect Repellent (one that works for both ticks and mosquitoes) {on and packed}
- Camera (optional)
- Binoculars (we will have some we can provide)
- Raincoat or Poncho (no umbrellas) if rain is forecasted
- Jacket if chilly on during early morning banding or the boat trip
- Small Antibacterial Gel/ hand sanitizer



What NOT to Bring:

- Electronic Devices besides a camera
- Money
- Candy (except in your lunch)
- Flip flops or Crocs