

Dear Parents and Campers:

Welcome to the Outdoor Skills summer camp-Monday – Friday, August 2-6! I am looking forward to a 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.*

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

Day	Drop off	Pick up	Location
Monday (8/2)	9am	3pm	Battle Creek Cypress Swamp (Picnic Pavilion)
Tuesday (8/3)	9am	3pm	Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm (Main Driveway)
Wednesday (8/4)	9am	3pm	Kings Landing Park (Pavilion I, by barn)
Thursday (8/5)	9am	3pm	Flag Ponds Park (Education Building)
Friday (8/6)	9am	3pm	Flag Ponds Park (Education Building)

***Please note that we are doing a DRIVE-THRU check-in and check-out this year to avoid having clumps of people at those times. Please watch for camp staff in yellow 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.*

Camp staff will be preparing for the day right up until 9:00 AM. If you get in early, please keep your child in the parking area with you until that time. Please sign your camper in/out each day with camp staff. **On our Flag Ponds day, please do not go around the gate – the park opens at 9am, so please wait if there's a line, we won't start camp without you.**

As always, safety is our primary concern. See the information below for more about our summer camp COVID-19 protocol. Each day at check-in, campers will have a COVID health screening in addition to our normal check-in process.

Want to get through camp check-in faster? Camp forms are due 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, 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.** Camp forms can be found here: [Calvert Nature Society - Summer Camp Forms \(calvertparks.org\)](http://calvertparks.org)

Campers will be expected to wear shoes at all times while at camp, so appropriate shoes are a must. Your child will not be allowed to participate if they only have flip-flops or crocs. Texas, Keens, or other sport-type sandals/water shoes are acceptable as long as they will not pull off in the mud. Sneakers or hiking boots are also good for this camp.

Every day send your camper in clothes that can get WET and MUDDY and send a change of clothes that can get the same. We will be outside for the majority of this camp and sometimes going off-trail. **Please be sure your camper has long pants on (light-weight fabric, jeans are less than ideal) Tuesday and Thursday to protect them from briars and ticks.** Be sure that your camper does a thorough “tick check” when they get home each day.

We will be at a different park for each day of camp. If you need directions, you can find information on each park at: <http://calvertparks.org/visit.html> We will have a tall red flag out at each location, so keep an eye out for that.

Please put bug spray and sunscreen on before coming to camp each morning, and pack more so it can be reapplied during the day. Again, please be sure to have your camper do a thorough tick check each evening after camp.

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 our adventures this summer!

Sincerely,
Tania Gale, Naturalist



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



“Outdoor Skills” camp checklist *Wear these things*

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

Monday– Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

(Activities: safe fire building)

- ___ bag lunch (non-perishable food, no glass)
- ___ a snack – granola bar or trail mix, not candy
- ___ *sunscreen* (be sure to bring extra)
- ___ *insect repellent*
- ___ *hat*
- ___ *old clothes (shorts and T-shirt) that can get dirty*
- ___ *comfortable shoes for hiking **no flip flops or crocs***
- ___ water bottle (one liter)
- ___ backpack with real straps, not string (none w/wheels)
- ___ towel
- ___ plastic bag for wet clothes
- ___ change of clothes and shoes (no flip-flops or crocs) that can get wet and dirty

Tuesday – Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

(Activities: building and finding shelters)

- ___ bag lunch (non-perishable food, no glass)
- ___ a snack – granola bar or trail mix, not candy
- ___ *sunscreen* (be sure to bring extra)
- ___ *insect repellent*
- ___ *hat*
- ___ *long pants that can get dirty – to protects campers from briars, ticks, and mosquitoes*
- ___ *T-shirt that can get dirty*
- ___ *well-fitting, comfortable shoes for hiking **no flip flops or crocs***
- ___ water bottle (one liter)
- ___ backpack with real straps, not string (none w/wheels)
- ___ towel
- ___ plastic bag for wet clothes
- ___ change of clothes and shoes (no flip-flops or crocs) that can get wet and dirty

Wednesday- Kings Landing Park

(Activities: map and compass skills, potential wading in the river)

- ___ bag lunch (non-perishable food, no glass)
- ___ a snack – granola bar or trail mix, not candy
- ___ *sunscreen* (be sure to bring extra)
- ___ *insect repellent*
- ___ *hat*
- ___ *old sneakers to wear in the river – other types of water shoes may be lost in the mud **no flip flops or crocs***
- ___ *old clothes (shorts and T-shirt) to wear while exploring to block the sun and bugs – these WILL get wet and dirty today*
- ___ water bottle (one liter)

Wednesday con’t

- ___ backpack with real straps, not string (none w/wheels)
- ___ towel
- ___ comfortable walking shoes/sneakers – not flip flops or crocs
- ___ plastic bag for wet clothes
- ___ change of clothes that can get wet and dirty

Thursday – Flag Ponds Nature Park

(Activities: Finding wild food and water safely, woods hiking adventure)

- ___ bag lunch (non-perishable food, no glass)
- ___ a snack – granola bar or trail mix, not candy
- ___ *sunscreen* (be sure to bring extra)
- ___ *insect repellent*
- ___ *hat*
- ___ *long pants that can get dirty – to protects campers from briars, ticks, and mosquitoes*
- ___ *T-shirt that can get dirty*
- ___ *comfortable shoes for hiking **no flip flops or crocs***
- ___ water bottle (one liter)
- ___ backpack with real straps, not string (none w/wheels)
- ___ plastic bag for wet clothes
- ___ change of clothes and shoes (no flip-flops or crocs) that can get wet and dirty

Friday – Flag Ponds Nature Park

(Activities: tracking at the beach, wade in Bay, campfire cooking)

- ___ bag lunch (non-perishable food, no glass)
- ___ a snack – granola bar or trail mix, not candy
- ___ *sunscreen* (be sure to bring extra)
- ___ *insect repellent*
- ___ *hat*
- ___ *old clothes (shorts and T-shirt) that can get wet, dirty, and maybe painted*
- ___ *well-fitting water shoes/sport sandals **no flip flops or crocs***
- ___ water bottle
- ___ backpack with real straps, not string (none w/wheels)
- ___ comfortable walking shoes/sneakers -not flip flops or crocs
- ___ towel
- ___ plastic bag for wet clothes
- ___ change of clothes that can get wet and dirty

*if the weather forecast calls for rain, please send a raincoat or poncho

