

Summer Programs

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the student to instructor ratio?

Most camp programs are limited to a maximum of 8 children and will have 2 instructors. This is a reduced number of campers due to current COVID-19 guidelines and subject to change based on guidelines set by New York State, Nassau and Suffolk Counties, and the CDC.

Do I need to be concerned about my child's food allergy?

Programs are scheduled to last only a half day (from 1½ to 3 hours long) so we will not be eating lunch or snack. Campers are encouraged to bring a water bottle, but please save snacks for before or after camp. Food allergies can be indicated on the medical form given to each camper before the start of camp. Children attending the supervised lunch session will be asked not to open their lunch during camp programs.

Will the children be swimming?

Children who participate in Curious Naturalists, Field Explorers, Junior Biologists, Pond Adventures, Pond Experience and Salt Marsh Exploration will have an opportunity to explore Franklin's Pond and/or the salt marsh. There will be no swimming, but they will be permitted to wade in the water up to their waist. Children will be reminded of their boundaries each time they encounter a water activity.

Can my child participate in more than one week of camp?

Camp activities will repeat from one week to the next, but we have had children repeat programs. If your child doesn't mind doing an activity twice, he or she is welcome to attend a camp program more than once.

Should I be concerned about ticks?

Ticks can be found anywhere on Long Island, including your own backyard. It is always good practice to do a quick tick inspection after playing in the outdoors. Many of our camp programs explore the Nature Conservancy trail in the St. John's Pond Preserve, but we remain on a maintained trail reducing the risk of coming across a tick.

What should my child wear?

Children will spend time outdoors each day. Please dress appropriately for the weather. Appropriate footwear includes closed-toed, captive-heeled shoes (sneakers or water shoes). We also recommend a hat and sunglasses. Some of our campers will have an opportunity to visit the salt marsh or Franklin's Pond. They will be notified the day before and can wear a bathing suit under their clothes.

What should my child bring with them?

We ask that every child brings a water bottle and a small backpack to carry their belongings.

What activities will my child participate in during week long camp programs?

Close Encounters of the Natural Kind: Children will participate in hands-on outdoor adventures while they explore the Hatchery and St. John's Pond Preserve. They will also participate in story time, nature crafts, and meet many of our animals up close.

Curious Naturalists: The majority of our time will be spent outdoors exploring the Hatchery & Aquarium and neighboring habitats. We will spend a day exploring a woodland habitat as we walk the Nature Conservancy trail in St. John's Pond Preserve, and a day using dip nets and a seine to collect animals as we wade in Franklin's Pond. Time will also be spent exploring the Hatchery & Aquarium and learning about the animals that live here.



Field Explorers: We will spend a day exploring a woodland habitat as we walk the Nature Conservancy trail in St. John's Pond Preserve, a day using dip nets and a seine to collect animals as we wade in Franklin's Pond, and a day exploring the salt marsh. Students will also have an opportunity to explore the Hatchery & Aquarium.

Junior Biologists: Students will use scientific techniques to explore and compare different environments. Each day we will study the environmental conditions and animals that live in a different habitat: woodlands, salt marsh and pond.

Do you still have questions about our camp programs? Contact Krissy at (516) 692-6768 or krissyf@cshfishhatchery.org.