

Summer Program FAQ's

What is the student-to-instructor ratio?

Most programs are limited to a maximum of 12 to 14 children with two instructors.

Will programs be held indoors or outdoors?

The majority of our activities take place outdoors. Indoor visits are typically limited to restroom breaks, weather emergencies, or opportunities to view an animal exhibit.

Will the children be swimming?

Children participating in Curious Naturalists, Field Explorers, Junior Biologists, Pond Adventures, Pond Experience, and Salt Marsh Exploration will have the chance to explore Franklin's Pond and/or the salt marsh. While swimming is not permitted, children may wade in the water up to their waist. Clear boundaries will be established, and participants will be reminded of the guidelines before every water activity.

Can my child participate in more than one session of the same program?

Program activities are designed to repeat from week to week. If your child enjoys revisiting activities, they are more than welcome to attend a program multiple times.

Should I be concerned about ticks?

Ticks are common throughout Long Island, including in your own backyard, so it's always a good idea to perform a quick tick inspection after outdoor activities. Many of our programs include exploring the Nature Conservancy trail in the St. John's Pond Preserve, however, we stay on maintained trails to minimize the risk of encountering ticks.

What should my child wear?

Children will spend time outdoors daily, so please ensure they are dressed appropriately for the weather. Acceptable footwear includes closed-toed, captive-heeled shoes (sneakers or water shoes) – flip-flops and open-toed sandals are not allowed. Some of our programs will visit the salt marsh or Franklin's Pond. You will be notified if our child's program is scheduled for one of these activities so they can wear a bathing suit and suitable footwear for wading in the water.

What should my child bring with them?

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

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

Programs are scheduled to last only 1½ to 3 hours, so there will be no time allotted for lunch or snacks. Participants are encouraged to bring a water bottle, but we ask that snacks be saved for before or after the program. Any food allergies should be noted on the child's medical form. For those attending the supervised lunch session, children will be asked not to open their lunches during program activities.

What happens if my child feels sick?

All participants are asked to monitor their health before attending each day. Individuals showing symptoms of illness will not be permitted to participate in programs. If your child is feeling unwell, please keep them home and inform the Hatchery staff before the start of the program.

Can I get a refund?

All payments are non-refundable and non-transferable. Refunds or makeups will not be provided for illness, absences, or cancellations. If you wish to change the session of your program, a \$20 transfer fee will apply. Transfers must be requested at least two weeks in advance and are subject to availability.

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

