



Explorers

Frequently Asked Questions

Quogue Wildlife Refuge

3 Old Country Road
Quogue, NY 11959
631.653.4771
programs@quogueliferefuge.org

What are the program hours?

The Explorers is a 5 day program - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and a Thursday overnight campout here at the Refuge into Friday morning. Drop-off is at 9:00 AM and pickup is at noon, 12:00 PM on Monday and Thursday.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, we take offsite trips, and the hours of the program vary - please see below...

Tuesday - Offsite trip to Sunken Forest (Fire Island). Drop-off in Sayville at 9:00 AM and pickup in Sayville at 2:30 PM to 3 PM. You will be informed if this changes in response to Ferry Time schedules.

Wednesday - Offsite Kayaking Adventure. Drop-off at 9:30 AM, pickup at 2:30 PM. Exact locations will be provided.

Thursday - 9 AM - 12 PM Mud day at Refuge, and night hike & campout from 7:00 PM (Thurs Night) to 9:00 AM (Friday morning).

What should I pack my teen with for each camp day?

Please pack an individual snack/lunch/drink labeled with your campers name. On off-site trips, please have children bring a packed lunch and drink. Please do not send your child with anything valuable, especially electronics that could get wet or damaged. On off-site trips, campers can bring a small waterproof bag with supplies/ lunch inside. Please keep in mind that any bags that are brought will have to be carried by the camper. If your child has allergies that require an EpiPen, please make sure to write this in the medical section of our application, and pack the EpiPen with your child everyday..

How should my teen dress for the Explorers Program?

Campers must wear close toed shoes (flip-flops, crocs, and sandals are not permitted) and we recommend dressing for the weather. Please apply sunscreen and bug spray at home. This is a hands-on exploration program - old clothes are a must!

- **Monday** - Intro day at Quogue Wildlife Refuge. Please dress for the weather
- **Tuesday** - Sunken Forest, Fire Island. Wear water clothes (bathing suit under clothes) and comfortable shoes & clothes for hiking. Bring packed lunch and drink. Apply bug spray at home. Cash for concession/snack stand is optional.
- **Wednesday** - Kayaking - wear water clothes & water shoes or old sneakers. Apply sunscreen at home and pack extra sunscreen, and sun protection (hat etc).
- **Thursday** - Mud Day. Wear clothes & shoes that can get really muddy. Campers will rinse off mud at Refuge, please bring towels for your car, etc. Parents, don't forget to bring your camera!
- **Thursday Night Hike & Campout** - Come back to the Refuge at 7 PM Thursday to 9:00 AM Friday for the campover! Dress for the weather and wear sneakers, apply bug spray at home. Bring change of clothes/ sleeping bag etc for sleepover! Breakfast will be provided.

Are the supplies for kayaking and ferry fare included in the price of camp?

Yes! Quogue Wildlife Refuge provides campers with kayaks, paddles and a life vest on the kayaking trip. The ferry fare to Sunken Forest is included in the price of camp.

Can I sign my child up for more than one camp week?

Only one session of the Explorers program is offered per year. Many of our Explorers who love camp come back to help as volunteer Assistant Counselors in the younger sessions & share their love of all things mud and QWR! If interested, please contact the Refuge.

Do I need to drive my child to Sailors Haven Ferry Terminal and the Peconic River Kayak Launch?

Yes. Parent drivers are needed to drive their children to the ferry terminal and the kayak launch site (& pick-up).

If there is a storm or inclement weather, will camp be canceled?

In the case of inclement weather, we may have to change the weekly plans for offsite trips. If inclement weather changes the camp schedule, you will be contacted with the

phone numbers and email that you leave on the application as soon as possible. Therefore, please provide numbers that we contact you at, with a clear voicemail box.

Why do you need my child's vaccine dates?

Like many summer camps that are permitted to run through the Suffolk County Health Department, we are required to have each child's vaccine information BEFORE the start of the camp week. Please see details on the camp application on how to send this information. Without vaccine dates, your child's application will be incomplete and not able to attend camp. If your child is not vaccinated, please provide us with a written statement that is signed and dated. Thank you.

How many children will be in the camp week?

Our registration varies from week to week, but typically we have between 10 - 24 campers per session.

How many instructors will be teaching during my child's camp week?

During each camp week, there will be at least 2 adult educators, and up to 2 college interns. Adult educators are certified in First Aid and CPR.

If I sign up online, do I also have to fill out an application?

No. Both the PDF application and the online form contain the same information, so you only need to complete one. Please note that payment and vaccine dates must be submitted at the time of application for both the online form and the printable form.

I'm concerned about my child getting bit by ticks. What can I do to prevent tick bites?

Ticks are a part of our natural ecosystem and while we can appreciate that they are often food for other animals, we understand your concern. Throughout the camp day, we teach children how to avoid ticks, by walking in the center of the trail, wearing long white socks and light colored clothing. Because other beneficial insects can be affected by bug spray, please apply these products at home, before coming to camp. Throughout the day, we will take breaks to look at our shoes and legs and do a tick check, and we recommend that you do the same when your child gets home. Please find tick identification resources in the Nature Center for more information.

Will you provide directions to the offsite trips?

Yes. Please see the following pages for directions to the Sailors Haven Ferry Terminal in Sayville.

Follow this link to the Sayville Ferry Service website for more information
<http://www.sayvilleferry.com/>

I signed my child up for camp but now our plans have changed. Can I receive a refund?

A 50% refund will be granted if cancellations are received at least 30 days prior to the start of the camp session. There will be NO refund if the cancellation occurs within 30 days of the first day of the session, therefore please choose your sessions carefully and mark them in your calendar. Cancellation requests must be made by email to:

*Programs@QuogueWildlifeRefuge.org *(Strictly enforced)* Switching camp weeks (if available) will be subject to an additional \$50 processing fee per application.*