



# Summer Ecology Program

Grades 2nd to 6th  
(age specific weekly sessions)

## Frequently Asked Questions

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Quogue Wildlife Refuge  
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### What are the program hours?

The Summer Ecology Program is a 5 day program - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (unless otherwise noted). Drop-off is at 9:00 AM and pickup is at noon, 12:00 PM.

### What should I pack my child with for the day?

Pack your child a snack and drink in a small labeled lunch box (no peanut products please). Please do not pack a large backpack or extra clothes, but feel free to bring towels after the program ends. Please do not send your child with anything valuable, especially electronics that could get wet or damaged. 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. Counselors will be aware of this and will carry the EpiPen in our First Aid kit.

### How should my child dress for the Summer Ecology Program?

EVERYDAY: Children must wear closed 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 and immersive exploration program - old clothes are a must!

- **Monday** - Intro day. Please dress for the weather (T Shirt/shorts/sneakers)
- **Tuesday** - Exploring Chocolate Pudding Pond - old sneakers and old clothes that can get wet.
- **Wednesday** - Mud day - wear clothes & shoes that can get really muddy. Children will rinse off mud at Refuge, please bring towels for your car, etc. Parents, don't forget to bring your camera!
- **Thursday** - Beach Day, Dune Rd. Children will be seining in shallow water, please wear water clothing. Swim trunks, water shoes, sun-protective clothing.
- **Friday** - Exploring the Refuge's Field Habitat - please dress for the weather with close-toed shoes.

### I have a very mature child. Can he/she join a camp week for an older age group?

Unfortunately not. We have specific age groups each week so that we can base our lesson plans, explorations, and curriculums based on age. We must also keep to the planned grade levels for our Health Department permits. Please only sign up for the appropriate grade level. Thank you for understanding.

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

Due to the popularity of the Summer Ecology Program, you can sign your child up for one session each summer. Weekly sessions are based on your child's grade entry level, please follow these guidelines when registering.

### Do I need to drive my child to Beach Day on Thursday?

Yes. Parent drivers are needed to drive their children to Dune Road on Thursday. Time frames will be provided. Parents MUST park on the BAYSIDE. We will provide parking passes to ensure that you do not receive a ticket if you decide to stay at the beach (Southampton Town Parking Permit Required). These passes are for BAYSIDE parking only. If you cannot drive your child, we can help you arrange transportation with other campers' parents.

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

In the case of inclement weather, we will plan to spend the camp day indoors for most of the day. We will still explore outside if there is a light rain. If inclement weather changes the schedule of the beach day, you will be contacted with the phone numbers and email that you leave on the application.

### 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?**

Our registration varies from week to week, but typically we have between 10 - 24 children during any given week.

### **I have a child in the Summer Ecology Program and a younger child in Little Naturalists. Who do I pick up first?**

Please pick up your Little Naturalist before picking up your child from the Summer Ecology Program. On Beach Day, please pick up Summer Ecology Program Campers first at 11:45 AM from the beach, then head back to the Refuge for Little Naturalist pick up. Thank you!

### **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 4 teenage volunteer assistant counselors. 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.

### **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.*