



Young Explorers

Frequently Asked Questions

Quogue Wildlife Refuge
3 Old Country Road
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programs@quoguewildliferefuge.org

What are the program hours?

The Young Explorers is a 4 day program - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and a Thursday evening night hike. 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.

Thursday - 9 AM - 12 PM Mud day, and night hike from 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

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

Please pack an individual and labeled snack/ lunch and water for your child each day. On off-site trips, please have children bring a packed lunch, with an ice pack if needed, 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 child dress for the Young Explorers Program?

EVERYDAY: Campers 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, intense 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 may rinse off mud at Refuge, please bring towels for your car, etc. Parents, don't forget to bring your camera!
- **Thursday Night Hike** - Come back to the Refuge at 7 PM to 10:00 PM for a night hike. Dress for the weather and wear sneakers, apply bug spray at home.

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 adventure. The ferry fare to Sunken Forest is included in the price of camp. You are more than welcome to come to Sunken Forest on the same ferry as the camp, but must pay for your own personal ticket fare.

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

Due to the popularity of the Young Explorers and Explorers program, you can sign your child up for only 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 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 Kayaking launch site (and pick-up from these locations). If you cannot drive your child, we can help you arrange transport with other campers' parents. More information will be provided on exact locations.

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.

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 render them unable 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 campers during any given week.

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/>

Ferry fare is included in the camp registration fee.

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.*