

WELCOME TO EARLY EXPLORERS CAMP!

Monday July 29th – Wednesday July 31st @ Battle Creek Nature Center (9am- 12pm)
Thursday August 1st – Friday August 2nd @ Flag Ponds (9am- 12pm)

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

Welcome to Early Explorers Camp! To help ensure that your child has a safe and fun time:

- **Drop off and pick up** your child at the following locations:
 - o **Battle Creek:** nature center conference room
 - o **Flag Ponds:** education building
 - For Flag Ponds, when you arrive there may be a line at the front gate. Please be sure to stop at the entrance station- even if it means you will get in later than 9am. We won't start camp without your camper- promise. **Do not enter the park through the outgoing gate.**
- **Sign In:** Please sign your child in and out every day (with your full name) and let us know if someone else will be taking them home.
- **Tips For Making the Drop-Off Less Stressful:** Before camp talk about the fun things they will get to do (arts and crafts, see live animals, catching animals with nets). At camp, after signing them in, you can help them find their chair. Allow staff to show you some of the fun opening activities, including journals. Once your child gets started on an activity, give them a quick hug/kiss and a prompt goodbye.
- **Snacks:** Pack a nonperishable snack which can easily be opened by your child. Don't forget to pack a refillable water bottle. Both parks have a picnic area if you would like to eat with your children after camp.
- **Backpacks:** Campers will store all personal belongings in their backpacks, which will be kept in the building except for Friday. On Friday, campers will be carrying their own backpacks to the beach so they can change clothes there.
- **Clothing:** Wear OLD CLOTHES that can get wet, dirty, and/or painted. Please provide a change of clothes in a Ziploc bag.
- **Shoes:** Comfortable shoes are a must, since we will be walking quite a bit throughout the day. On Friday, please have your child wear water shoes (such as Teva, Keens, Chacos, etc). For safety reasons, we ask that campers do not wear flip flops or crocs.
- **Bullying:** We want our campers to feel safe; therefore, campers who are bullying others will be permanently expelled from all CCNRD camps.
- **Health/Safety:** While we are having fun exploring nature, we will make every effort to minimize your child's exposure to things like poison ivy, ticks, and jellyfish; however, if your child develops a rash or other symptoms, don't hesitate to contact your physician. In addition, please check your child for ticks after camp every day.
 - o Make sure you child arrives already wearing sunscreen and insect repellant and arrives with extra to reapply throughout the day.

We have enjoyed preparing for this camp and can't wait to explore the outdoors with your children. We look forward to meeting everyone this summer; please don't hesitate to call us (at Battle Creek Nature Center 410-535-5327) if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Aimee Beardmore & Sara Hardegen

Summer Interns

EARLY EXPLORERS CAMP CHECKLIST

****Wear these things****

Monday:

Activities: Meet nature center animals and learn their basic needs, stepping stones

- ☐ Sunscreen (bring extra)
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Old clothes to wear while exploring
- ☐ Old sneakers or well-fitting water shoes (no flip flops or crocs)
- ☐ Hat
- ☐ Raincoat/poncho
- ☐ Backpack (no wheels)
- ☐ Change of clothes/shoes
- ☐ Plastic bag for wet clothes
- ☐ Towel
- ☐ Refillable water bottle
- ☐ Snack

Tuesday

Activities: Swamp Exploration

- ☐ Sunscreen (bring extra)
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Old clothes to wear while exploring
- ☐ Old sneakers or well-fitting water shoes (no flip flops or crocs)
- ☐ Hat
- ☐ Raincoat/poncho
- ☐ Backpack (no wheels)
- ☐ Change of clothes/shoes
- ☐ Plastic bag for wet clothes
- ☐ Towel
- ☐ Refillable water bottle
- ☐ Snack

Wednesday

Activities: Pond Adventure

- ☐ Sunscreen (bring extra)
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Old clothes to wear while exploring
- ☐ Old sneakers or well-fitting water shoes (no flip flops or crocs)
- ☐ Hat
- ☐ Raincoat/poncho
- ☐ Backpack (no wheels)
- ☐ Change of clothes/shoes
- ☐ Plastic bag for wet clothes
- ☐ Towel
- ☐ Refillable water bottle
- ☐ Snack

Thursday

Activities: Forest Excursion

- ☐ Sunscreen (bring extra)
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Old clothes to wear while exploring (long pants for hiking)
- ☐ Old sneakers or well-fitting water shoes (no flip flops or crocs)
- ☐ Hat
- ☐ Raincoat/poncho
- ☐ Backpack (no wheels)
- ☐ Change of clothes/shoes
- ☐ Plastic bag for wet clothes
- ☐ Towel
- ☐ Refillable water bottle
- ☐ Snack

Friday

Activities: Beach Extravaganza

- ☐ Sunscreen (bring extra)
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Old clothes (these will get soaking wet and/or muddy)
- ☐ Well-fitting water shoes (*no flip flops or crocs*)
- ☐ Hat (one that can get soaking wet and/or muddy)
- ☐ Raincoat/poncho
- ☐ Backpack (no wheels)
- ☐ Change of clothes/shoes
- ☐ Plastic bag for wet clothes
- ☐ Towel
- ☐ Refillable water bottle
- ☐ Snack

* Campers will be expected to carry their own gear to the beach. Due to this, please try to keep their packs as light as possible

