

# Sea Camp 2024 Handbook



CENTER FOR  
AQUATIC  
SCIENCES

## Sea Camp Contact Information

General camp info: [seacamp@aquaticsciences.org](mailto:seacamp@aquaticsciences.org)

Bri Gonserkevis

Assistant Manager of Internal Programs

Phone: 856-361-1028

Email: [bgonserkevis@aquaticsciences.org](mailto:bgonserkevis@aquaticsciences.org)

Office Hours: 9am-5pm, Tues-Sat

Summer Office Hours: 9am-5pm, Mon-Fri

Alyssa Evringham

Assistant Manager of External Programs

Phone: 856-361-1027

Email: [aevringham@aquaticsciences.org](mailto:aevringham@aquaticsciences.org)

Office Hours: 8am-4pm, Mon-Friday

Federal Tax Number: 52-1647018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Sea Camp hosted by the Center for Aquatic Sciences. We are the non-profit partner of Adventure Aquarium and will be hosting camp in the aquarium building. We have an exciting schedule filled with adventures planned. Please read this entire handbook as it contains important information regarding our camp policies and procedures. Keep this handbook handy during the duration of your child's camp program as you may need to refer to it during camp.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us using the contact information listed on the front of this packet.

Thank you and we look forward to meeting you this year!

Sincerely,

Bri Gonserkevis

Assistant Manager of Internal Programs

Alyssa Evringham

Assistant Manager of External Programs

## Contents

## Summary of Camp

Small Fry .....	p. 4
Ocean Explorers .....	p. 5
Junior Marine Biologists.....	p. 6-7
Registration & Payment Policies .....	p. 8
Camp Attire .....	p. 8
Lunch and Snack .....	p. 8
What to Bring/What Not to Bring .....	p. 9
Medical Forms and Information .....	p. 9
Camper Illnesses .....	p. 9-10
Drop Off/Pick Up Procedures .....	p. 11-12
Camp Hours and After Care .....	p. 12
Field Trips .....	p. 13
Staff .....	p. 13
Absent Campers .....	p. 14
Behavior Management/Expectations .....	p. 14

## Summary of Camp

## Small Fry Camp

Small Fry Camp is a great first experience for our youngest campers with ages 4-6 years old. Children will have many opportunities to learn all about the animals at Adventure Aquarium through hands-on science activities that engage the imagination and encourage curiosity. Typical activities may include: story time, animal-themed crafts, simple science lessons, exhibit visits, outdoor playground visits and animal encounters. For the safety and security of our youngest campers, they will not leave the footprint of the aquarium building. Below is a sample daily schedule. Some days may have more exhibit time or more outdoor playground time than others. Games, science lessons and crafts will change daily.

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
8:30-9am	Early Drop Off and Before Care	Outside Drop Off Location
9-9:15am	Morning Greeting/Ice Breakers	Classroom
9:15-9:45am	Exhibit(s) Tour	Aquarium Exhibit Floor
9:45-10:30am	Outdoor Playground	Aquarium Exhibit Floor
10:30-10:45am	Bathroom & Snack Break	Classroom
10:45-11:15am	Science lesson: Animals Senses	Classroom
11:15-11:30am	Animal Encounter	Classroom
11:30-12pm	Game Time: Animal Bingo	Classroom/Outside Picnic Tables
12-1pm	LUNCH and RECESS	Outside Picnic Tables
1-1:15pm	Story Time	Classroom
1:15-1:45	Quiet time (Nap optional)	Classroom
1:45-2pm	Bathroom Break	Classroom
2-2:30pm	Craft: Octopus Umbrellas	Classroom
2:30-2:45pm	Tidy Up	Classroom
2:45-3:15pm	Exhibit(s) Tour	Aquarium Exhibit Floor
3:15-3:45pm	Move & Groove: Animal Yoga	Classroom/Outside Picnic Tables
3:45-4pm	Pack Up & Pick Up	Outside Pick Up Location
4-5pm	After Care	Outside Pick Up Location

## Ocean Explorers Camp

Ocean Explorers Camp is an adventurous experience where campers ages 7-10 can dive deep into their favorite ocean topics and develop their love of marine life

through hands-on science activities. Camp themes are designed to foster the imagination while inspiring further science learning. Typical activities may include: crafts, experiments, animal encounters, behind-the-scenes tours, outdoor games in Wiggins Park, walks along the Camden waterfront, and visits to the gift shop. Below is a sample daily schedule. Some days may have more exhibit time or more outdoor playground time than others. Games, science lessons and crafts will change daily.

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
8:30-9am	Early Drop Off and Before Care	Outside Drop Off Location
9-9:15am	Morning Greeting/Ice Breakers	Classroom
9:15-9:45am	Exhibit(s) Tour	Aquarium Exhibit Floor
9:45-10:30am	Camden Bird Bingo	Camden Waterfront
10:30-10:45am	Bathroom & Snack Break	Classroom
10:45-11:15am	Science lesson: Sea Senses	Classroom
11:15-11:30am	Behind Scenes Tour	Behind the Scenes
11:30-12pm	Game Time: Animal Training	Classroom/Outside Picnic Tables
12-1pm	LUNCH and RECESS	Outside Picnic Tables
1-1:30pm	Touch a Shark/Stingray Exhibit	Aquarium Exhibit Tour
1:30-1:45pm	Animal Encounter	Classroom
1:45-2pm	Bathroom Break	Classroom
2-2:30pm	Expt: DIY Eel Slime	Classroom
2:30-2:45pm	Tidy Up	Classroom
2:45-3:15pm	Exhibit(s) Tour	Aquarium Exhibit Floor
3:15-3:45pm	Move & Groove: Penguin Waddle Relay Race	Wiggins Park
3:45-4pm	Pack Up & Pick Up	Outside Pick Up Location
4-5pm	After Care	Outside Pick Up Location

Junior Marine Biologists Camp gives campers the opportunity to dive deep into marine biology and other STEM topics to understand what it's like to have a science career. Camp themes not only focus on animal-specific topics, but also ocean exploration and technology used to make new discoveries. Typical activities may include: experiments, animal encounters, behind-the-scenes tours, outdoor games in Wiggins Park, marine debris clean-ups along the Camden waterfront, and visits to the gift shop. Below is a sample daily schedule. Some days may have more exhibit time or more outdoor time than others. For activities which require personal protective equipment (PPE), such as dissections and clean-ups, parents will be notified in advance and campers will have access to all the proper PPE.

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
8:30-9am	Early Drop Off and Before Care	Outside Drop Off Location
9-9:15am	Morning Greeting/Ice Breakers	Classroom
9:15-9:45am	Exhibit(s) Tour	Aquarium Exhibit Floor
9:45-10:30am	Marine Debris Clean-Up & Walk	Camden Waterfront
10:30-10:45am	Bathroom & Snack Break	Classroom
10:45-11:15am	Science lesson: Hydraulics	Classroom
11:15-11:30am	Behind Scenes Tour	Behind the Scenes
11:30-12pm	Game Time: Animal Training	Classroom/Outside Picnic Tables
12-1pm	LUNCH and RECESS	Outside Picnic Tables
1-1:30pm	Touch a Shark/Stingray Exhibit	Aquarium Exhibit Tour
1:30-1:45pm	Animal Encounter	Classroom
1:45-2pm	Bathroom Break	Classroom
2-2:45pm	Guest Speaker Visit	Classroom
2:45-3:15pm	Exhibit(s) Tour	Aquarium Exhibit Floor
3:15-3:45pm	Move & Groove: Penguin Waddle Relay Race	Wiggins Park
3:45-4pm	Pack Up & Pick Up	Outside Pick Up Location
4-5pm	After Care	Outside Pick Up Location

Each week of Junior Marine Biologist Camp will also include 1 intensive LAB activity, 1 Guest Speaker Visit, and 1 Field Trip. Labs may be dissections or

engineering builds. Guest Speakers may be researchers from local universities or other experts in the field. Field Trips may be fishing, kayaking, hiking in a local park or possibly a visit to a local museum. The Center will provide transportation for all campers to and from the field trip location. A sample schedule of a field trip day is below.

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
8:30-9am	Early Drop Off and Before Care	Outside Drop Off Location
9-9:30am	Arrival and Bathroom Break	Drop Off Location/Lobby
9:30-9:45am	Travel to Field Trip	Center Van
9:45-12:15pm	Field Trip Activities & Lunch	Off Site Location
12:15-12:30pm	Travel from Field Trip	Center Van
12:30-1pm	Re-Group from Field Trip	Classroom
1-1:45pm	Behind Scenes Tour	Behind the Scenes
11:30-12pm	Game Time: Animal Training	Classroom/Outside Picnic Tables
12-1pm	LUNCH and RECESS	Outside Picnic Tables
1-1:45pm	Science Lesson	Classroom
1:45-2pm	Clean Up & Bathroom Break	Classroom
2-2:30pm	Visit Favorite Exhibits	Aquarium Exhibit Floor
2:30-3:45pm	Shark Realm Talk and Gift Shop	Aquarium Exhibit Floor
3:45-4pm	Pack Up & Pick Up	Outside Pick Up Location
4-5pm	After Care	Outside Pick Up Location

## Registration & Payment Policies

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. A 25% **non-refundable** deposit is due at time of registration. Reservations made without submitting payment will not be valid and may be forfeited. The balance for each week of camp must be paid in full 3 weeks prior to the program. We reserve the right to cancel unpaid reservations within 3 weeks of the program date.

If you need to reschedule, please contact us at least 2 weeks prior to the program date. Cancellations made prior to 2 weeks in advance will receive a refund minus the non-refundable 25% deposit. **No refunds will be issued for any cancellation requests made within 3 weeks of the camp start date.**

The Center reserves the right to suspend or terminate the enrollment of any camper without refund if we deem it is in the best interest of the camp and/or camper.

## Camp Attire

Campers should wear comfortable play clothes and prepare for indoor and outdoor time. We recommend that participants wear comfortable shorts/pants, socks, and closed-toed athletic shoes.

- DO NOT wear sandals, crocs, or flip flops.
- DO NOT wear crop tops, short shorts, or tight pants such as leggings.

## Lunch and Snack

Please send your camper with a packed lunch each day. We will not be able to provide refrigeration for your camper's lunch, so we strongly encourage sending your child's lunch in a re-usable insulated lunch box. Also make sure they bring a reusable water bottle.

In the mornings, Sea Camp will have a designated snack time during which the Center provides campers with small snacks. Snack is typically goldfish crackers, pretzels, popcorn or a similar food. Nut free and gluten free options will be available.



## What to Bring

- All campers must bring a REUSABLE water bottle.
- Sunscreen and bug repellent are recommended for field trip days. Applying sunscreens and repellents before arriving at camp is encouraged.
- Bring a LUNCH. If your campers would like, pack a secondary snack.

## What NOT to Bring

- DO NOT send your campers with money or valuables unless specifically notified. Center Staff are not responsible for any lost items.
- DO NOT bring portable gaming systems or other electronic devices to camp. The only exception are cell phones, which may be confiscated during the day and returned when camp dismisses. Center Staff are not responsible for any damaged or lost items.
- DO NOT bring personal items such as toys, games, cards, stuffed animals, etc. to camp without asking permission from the Counselors.
- DO NOT bring weapons of any kind, fake or real, to camp.

## Medical Forms and Information

Medical and Parent Consent forms should have been completed online at the time of registration. If there are any specific routines, triggers or cues we should know about that can help us ensure your child has a great time at camp, please let us know. If your child needs other accommodations, please let us know. We will confirm any medical concerns with you at Check In on the first day of camp. Please feel free to contact us with any other additional information or questions prior to camp.

**All campers must have medical information on file with us in order to participate in camp.**

## Medications

Center Staff will not administer medications of any kind without written consent and instructions from parents/guardians. In order for staff to administer medications, they must be in the original container, clearly labeled with a doctor's prescription and instructions for use. Medications must be placed in a clear Ziplock bag clearly labeled with your child's name. It is also recommended you discuss these medications with your child's counselor on the first day of camp. Medications will be kept with your child's counselor at all times, unless the medication requires refrigeration. This includes children who use an inhaler or epi-pen. **All Center Staff are CPR and First Aid certified.**

## Camper Illnesses

In the event a camper becomes ill while at camp, Center Staff will notify the parent or guardian immediately using the contact information provided on the Online Registration form. For the well being of your camper and the safety of other campers in our program, **please do not send your child to camp if they show any of the following symptoms.** If your child shows any of the symptoms below, you will be asked to pick up your child immediately.

- Fever of 100 degrees or more (Campers must be feverless for 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medications before coming back to camp.)
- Pink Eye
- Chronic runny nose with colored discharge
- Ringworm
- Severe/Persistent Coughing
- Sore Throat
- Vomiting/Upset Stomach
- Open rash
- Other contagious illnesses
- Lice (Campers must be treated for at least 24 hours before returning to camp with a doctor's note.)

**If an entire week, and only an entire week, of camp is missed due to illness/injury, a doctor's note is required for a refund minus the non-refundable deposit. Refunds will not be issued for missing a few days during the week.**

## Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures

When searching for the Drop Off/Pick Up location the best address to use is: **2 Aquarium Loop Drive. Camden, NJ 08103.** It will take you to Bain's Deli, right next to the aquarium box office window.

### **First Day of Camp**

On the first day, please walk your child up to meet their counselors. Pull up along the curb of the grassy island, across from the aquarium's box office windows on Aquarium Drive and walk over the Center Staff member with the "Sea Camp" sign to check in your camper.

When checking in, Center Staff will be available to answer any questions. Counselors will be at the grassy island to greet campers **between 8:30 and 9:00 am.** Please do your best to arrive within that window of time.

### **Drop Off**

Throughout the rest of the week, drop off will always be at the grassy island across from the aquarium's box office windows. Staff will be there to greet campers between 8:30 and 9:00 am. Do not drop off your child unless staff is present.

Running late? Call one of the numbers at the front of this handbook when you are about 5 minutes away so that a Center staff member will be able to greet your camper at the Drop Off location by the time you arrive.

## Pick Up

Pick Up is at 4:00 pm every afternoon. At the end of the camp day Center Staff members will bring campers to meet their rides at the grassy island across from the aquarium's box office windows. If you are the first car to arrive, please pull up all the way to the end of Aquarium Drive so aquarium guests can quickly load and unload their passengers. Campers will only be released to individuals on the Authorized Adult Pick Up list. If you need to make changes to the Authorized Adult Pick Up List, contact Center Staff at [seacamp@aquaticsciences.org](mailto:seacamp@aquaticsciences.org) and let the counselors know at Check In.

Running Late? Call one of the numbers at the front of this handbook at your earliest convenience. If it is your first time running late, you will receive a one-time courtesy of no extra charge. **For each day following that you are running late, a \$15 fee will be added to your registration.**

## Camp Hours and After Care

Sea Camp runs from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The earliest that campers can be dropped off in the morning is 8:30am.

After Care is available from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm for an additional \$75 for the entire week. After Care must be registered for in advance. Please note that After Care is provided as a convenience and campers should not expect special programming or activities during this time.

Running late? Campers who are not picked up by 5:00 pm will be brought inside the aquarium and Center Staff will try to reach you by phone. In addition, **a late fee of \$15 will be added to your registration.**

## Office Hours

If you need to reach the Center at anytime, do not hesitate to reach out.  
9:00am – 5:00pm, Monday-Friday Bri Gonserkevis will be available by phone.

8:00am – 4:00pm, Monday-Friday Alyssa Evringham will be available by phone. You can also leave us messages via phone or email at any time.

In the event that Bri and Alyssa are unavailable, email [seacamp@aquaticsciences.org](mailto:seacamp@aquaticsciences.org) or call our main phone number at 856-365-0352.

If you have concerns about billing, please call 856-361-1024

## Field Trips

The Junior Marine Biologists campers go on field trips. Field trips are scheduled to take place within the camp day. Drop Off and Pick Up will be at normal time during field trip days.

One week prior to your first day of camp, you will receive a reminder regarding camp logistics and field trip details. We ask that campers arrive ***no later*** than 9:00 am on field trip days. We will be on a tight schedule with transportation and activities. We will not be able to hold transportation for late campers.

If your child arrives after we have already left for the field trip, your child may join the Ocean Explorers camp (ages 7-10).

If there is a change in our field trip plans, you will be made aware as soon as possible. (Changes may be due to inclement weather.) Center staff reserves the right to cancel trips.

Parents are not permitted to meet campers at field trip locations.

## Center Staff

Sea Camp is staffed by responsible adults who serve as Counselor. Sea Camp is also supported by Volunteer Assistant Counselors, ages 16 and up. The ratio of staff to campers is 1:12, with 1-2 volunteers per group.

All staff are CPR and First Aid certified and have gone through standard background checks.

## Absent Campers

If your campers will be absent on a particular day, please call or email one of the contacts at the front of this handbook with your child's name and their counselor's name, by 8:00 am. **If an entire week, and only an entire week, of camp is missed due to illness/injury, a doctor's note is required for a refund minus the non-refundable deposit. Refunds will not be issued for missing a few days during the week.**

## Behavior Management and Expectations

It is our intent to maintain a positive and safe environment for our campers. If there are any specific routines, cues or triggers that may help Center Staff ensure your child has a great experience at camp, please let staff know. The Center will not tolerate bullying or violent behavior. Parents or guardians will be informed of inappropriate behavior and asked to discuss corrective solutions. Camp Staff have been trained to complete the following steps when managing camper behavior:

1. First verbal warning
2. Second verbal warning
3. "Time Out" away from activity and discussion with Counselor and Manager
4. Manager calls parents to discuss corrective solutions
5. Manager calls parents and child must go home

**If a child's actions are severe enough, steps within this sequence may be skipped. If consequences 4 and 5 are administered, they will be recorded in a written report and provided to the parents/guardians.**

If it is determined by Center Staff that it is necessary to terminate the enrollment of any camper due to behavioral or other concerns, we reserve the right to do so without refund.