



PROTECT OUR OCEANS®

# MYSTIC AQUARIUM

## Summer Camp Caregiver Handbook 2024<sub>version11.14.23</sub>



Welcome to summer camp at Mystic Aquarium! This handbook contains information which will be helpful as you and your camper prepare for camp. With health and safety as our number one priority, we are happy to provide unique and memorable summer camp experiences. Mystic Aquarium offers the perfect environment to enjoy and explore animals while having outdoor adventures in nature. In addition, each camp will have its own dedicated classroom within the Milne Ocean Science and Conservation Center, which is separated from the public, to continue learning and exploration. In accordance with the State of Connecticut requirements for youth camps, Mystic Aquarium has established stringent guidelines to ensure camper and educator safety. Mystic Aquarium Summer Camps are fully licensed by the State of Connecticut and are also accredited by the American Camp Association. Our amazing adult staff are eagerly awaiting the excitement of camp and are all trained for those unexpected emergencies (CPR/AED/First Aid), should they arise.

***The mission of Mystic Aquarium is to inspire people to care for and protect our ocean planet through conservation, education, and research.***

***The mission of the Mystic Aquarium Summer Camp program is to educate and motivate campers of all ages to care for and protect our ocean planet.***

I am sure your camper will have a wonderful experience this summer while attending their Mystic Aquarium Summer Camp. I look forward to seeing them all as they enjoy this camp season.

Becky Hirsh  
Camp Director

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## ACCREDITATIONS AND STAFF TRAINING

The health and safety of your camper is of the utmost importance at Mystic Aquarium summer camps. To ensure the highest standards are being met, Mystic Aquarium summer camps are accredited through the American Camp Association ([www.acacamps.org](http://www.acacamps.org)) as well as licensed by the State of Connecticut (<https://www.ct.gov/oec>). To obtain certification as a state licensed youth camp, we undergo an extensive review and inspection process to affirm that we exceed all state requirements for health, cleanliness, and food service as well as emergency management plans, health care, management, staff training and performance review. Accreditation through the American Camp Association is a voluntary process that goes above and beyond the state licensing requirements and demonstrates Mystic Aquarium's commitment to ensuring your child is in a safe, nurturing environment. Only 75 camps in Connecticut are currently accredited through ACA.

All camp counselors and staff employed by Mystic Aquarium summer camps are required to be over the age of 21 and have experience working with youth. Each staff member is certified in First Aid, CRP/AED, and Medication Administration of rescue inhalers, Epi-pens, and oral medication. All summer camp staff members are screened and have successfully passed reference and background checks. Additionally, camp staff members receive extensive training in classroom management, developmentally appropriate curriculum, facility protocols for safety and performance, conduct working with children and child protection.

## REGISTRATION FOR CAMP

### HOW DO I REGISTER MY CHILD?

Registration is completed online at [www.mysticaquarium.org](http://www.mysticaquarium.org). If you need assistance, please contact the Education department at [educationinfo@mysticaquarium.org](mailto:educationinfo@mysticaquarium.org) or call 860-572-5955 ext. 431. Camp registration for each week will close 2 weeks prior to the start of camp. If you are trying to register after this time for a particular week, contact [educationinfo@mysticaquarium.org](mailto:educationinfo@mysticaquarium.org) or 860.572.5955 ext. 431 to inquire about availability. Each camp is tailored to the specific grade ranges; please register your camper for the grade range that they are entering during the next school year.

**New for 2024**, campers who are registered for a different grade range than identified on their paperwork will be placed in the appropriate camp if space is available, or their fee refunded.

**To consolidate and ensure camper health information security, we use the electronic health record system CampDoc.com for all required paperwork. The Camp Director will send you a welcome email when your CampDoc login credentials are available; you will not be able to log into CampDoc until you receive this email. All registered campers will then receive a follow-up email from CampDoc.com with detailed instructions on how to log in, submit required health forms, and paperwork. The website is secure, encrypted, and password protected. If you have used CampDoc.com in the past, the previous year's information will be visible, and you will be able to update it as needed. All camp paperwork is due no later than two weeks prior to the start of your camp week. Campers who do not have all forms completed prior to the first day of camp will not be allowed to participate in camp, per state licensing requirements. This includes a signed doctor form, physical form, and any necessary medication forms. Questions regarding this policy go to [bhirsh@mysticaquarium.org](mailto:bhirsh@mysticaquarium.org).**

### CAN I CHANGE MY CAMP SESSION AFTER I HAVE ALREADY REGISTERED?

Yes, camp session dates can be changed with at least two weeks' advanced notice prior to the start of the camp session, and as space allows. All rescheduling and cancellation requests must be made in writing; please contact the Education department at [educationinfo@mysticaquarium.org](mailto:educationinfo@mysticaquarium.org) with your request.

## WHAT IF I DO NOT WANT TO TURN IN MY PAPERWORK EARLY?

All camp paperwork is due no later than two weeks prior to the start of your camp week. Campers who do not have all forms completed prior to the first day of camp will not be allowed to participate in camp, per state licensing requirements. This includes a signed doctor form, physical form, and any necessary medication forms. Questions regarding this policy or assistance with uploading forms, please contact [bhirsh@mysticaquarium.org](mailto:bhirsh@mysticaquarium.org).

### REQUIRED CAMP PAPERWORK FOR MYSTIC AQUARIUM CAMPS

Camper Information	Contact, emergency information and health history	Parent Signature required
Medical Paperwork	Recent Physical <b>and</b> vaccination record – school health record completed within 3 years is accepted.	Doctor's signature required
Administration of Medication	<u>If Applicable</u> . Permission for Aquarium staff to administer medication. <b>All medication must be in original containers. You must also have your care/action plan.</b>	Doctor's signature required
Individual Plan of Care	<u>If Applicable</u> . Complete the Individual Plan of Care form for your camper for special health care needs, behavioral issues, or other considerations. <b>Please See Below.</b>	Parent Signature Required

## INDIVIDUAL PLAN OF CARE FOR A CHILD with SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS, DISABILITIES or BEHAVIORAL CONCERNS

The purpose of this form is to provide the camp with information that will allow the staff to provide a quality camp experience to your camper as required by the State of Connecticut. This must be turned in at least 2 weeks prior to the camp week starting, by either uploading it to CampDoc or emailing it to the Camp Director at [bhirsh@mysticaquarium.org](mailto:bhirsh@mysticaquarium.org).

This form is to be completed whether or not your child has a diagnosis. Situations that will require this form, but not limited to only those listed below are:

- Diagnosed conditions, allergies, and illnesses on your camper's medical form.
- Any request from you as a guardian regarding your camper such as: needs repeated direction, apply extra sunscreen, tends to wander, frightened by loud noises, frightened by insects, needs a quiet space to settle down, gets angry easily, or any special request made by you.
- Your camper has emergency medication such as an inhaler or EpiPen. If you have an action/care plan for this from your physician, that is acceptable.

## TRANSITIONS DURING CAMP

Mystic Aquarium camps are based at the Aquarium's Milne Center, located by the penguin exhibit. Although every camp day is different; there are many adventures throughout the Aquarium. Each camp will have at least five transitions in and out of the classroom area each day. An example of a camp day schedule includes:

- 9:00 Check in
- 9:30AM Watch a penguin session and speak with a penguin trainer at the Penguin Exhibit
- 10:00AM Penguin class in the classroom
- 10:45AM California Sea Lion show in Marine Theater
- 12:00PM Lunch in Classroom
- 12:30PM Green Exploration
- 1:15PM Activity on adaptations of dinosaurs in the classroom
- 2:00PM Craft in classroom
- 2:45PM Visit Dino Seas exhibit
- 3:30PM Journal/Dinner Talk
- 4:00PM Leave for the day

Campers are prepared for all transitions but if your child has difficulty with transitions, you will need to complete an Individual Plan of Care for your child prior to the camp session starting and speak directly with the Camp Director. In the event that an individual camper refuses to transition to another location with the camp, the emergency contact will be called to pick up the camper for the day.

## WHAT COMMUNICATION SHOULD A GUARDIAN EXPECT FROM THE CAMP DIRECTOR?

The Camp Director will keep you informed of all important camp matters in a timely fashion. We have found that when information is sent out too soon, it tends to get lost in the email shuffle. However, please feel free to reach out to the Camp Director with any questions.

**CampDoc Information:** Our CampDoc portal will be available no later than the middle of February for you to complete the camp forms. Once this is ready, you will be sent an email to the one you provide at registration that will explain the process. If someone other than you is completing the forms, we will also need their email. Please send this information to [bhirsh@mysticaquarium.org](mailto:bhirsh@mysticaquarium.org). This email will also contain this handbook as an easy reference.

**Welcome Letter:** Beginning in April, an email will go out to every guardian welcoming you to camp. This email will be sent to the address that was provided during registration. It will have a reminder of your camp session dates, a reminder of when forms are due, information about the check in and pick up location and process, what your campers will need for camp, dates of planned trips off Aquarium grounds, reminders regarding the Individual Plan of Care form and medication forms, our illness policy, our cancellation policy, and camp contact information.

**Camp Forms Reminder:** Three weeks prior to the start of the camp week, the Camp Director will send an email to anyone who is missing any forms or information. This email should be acted upon ASAP. Camp forms are required to be at the camp no later than two weeks before the first day of camp.

**Itinerary:** All camp participants will receive an itinerary at check in on the first day of camp. The itinerary provides an outline of possible activities for the week, including planned special activities and a reminder of items your child may need for each day. Please note that activities may change due to unforeseen circumstances. If this occurs, the parents will be notified by the Camp Director via text or email, or through the CampDoc text system.

**Behavior Issues or Illness:** The Camp Director will immediately reach out to the guardian regarding behavioral issues or illness during camp. Minor injuries (i.e., scraped knee, paper cut, splinter, etc.) or behavioral challenges (i.e., refused to eat lunch, spoke out in camp, etc.) will be addressed with the guardian at pickup at the end of the day.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Call the Mystic Aquarium main line and then dial the appropriate extension. Camp Offices are staffed during regular business hours (7:45am-4:30pm), Monday through Friday. All calls and messages left on weekends, after hours and on holidays will be returned within the next business day.

Name	Title	Phone Number or Office Extension	Email and other information
<b>Camp Cell Phone</b>	<b>7:45am-5:00pm</b>	<b>860-625-2104</b>	<b>Please call or text this number first during camp hours. This phone is not on when camp is not in session.</b>
<b>Aquarium Main Line</b>		<b>860-572-5955</b>	
Becky Hirsh	Camp Director	Ext 158	<a href="mailto:bhirsh@mysticaquarium.org">bhirsh@mysticaquarium.org</a>
MaryEllen Mateleska	Alternate Camp Director	Ext 156	<a href="mailto:mmateleska@mysticaquarium.org">mmateleska@mysticaquarium.org</a>

Kelly Matis	Alternate Camp Director	Ext 320	<a href="mailto:educationinfo@mysticaquarium.org">educationinfo@mysticaquarium.org</a>
Education Dept.		Ext 431	<a href="mailto:educationinfo@mysticaquarium.org">educationinfo@mysticaquarium.org</a>

Do not hesitate to contact us for any of the following:

1. You are running late or there is traffic.
2. Your camper is not feeling well and will not attend camp that day.
3. You unexpectedly need to pick your camper up early. (Please note that it may take more than 15 minutes to get your camper to you in the event of an unscheduled early pick-up as the campers move throughout the Aquarium)
4. You have a question about the activities.
5. Another person will be picking up your camper – they will need to have ID.
6. You have a concern or constructive feedback.

## PAYMENT RECEIPT & TAX ID

### **RECEIPT OF PAYMENT FOR SUMMER CAMP AND FEDERAL TAX ID:**

Many parents will use their flexible spending account to pay for summer camp. The confirmation letter, which you receive via email when you register your camper, is your receipt of payment for the camp session. If you need a receipt from the Camp Director, please notify the Director on the first day of your camp week.

The federal tax ID for Mystic Aquarium is: 06-1480300

## CANCELLATION and REFUND POLICY

Contact the Education department directly at [educationinfo@mysticaquarium.org](mailto:educationinfo@mysticaquarium.org) regarding cancellations and refunds.

All refund requests must be made in writing and as soon as you know you need to cancel.

The Mystic Aquarium will provide a full refund for any camp that we cancel for any reason.

No refunds will be issued for non-attendance once a camp session starts.

No refund will be issued for a camper who is asked to leave camp for behavioral reasons.

Refunds will be considered at the discretion of the Camp Director, in the event of illness.

Our standard refund/cancellation policy is as follows, once we receive your request:

30 days or more from the start of the camp week - 100% of the camp fee will be refunded.

29 - 15 days from the start of the camp week - 80% of the camp fee will be refunded. The 20% admin fee is not refunded.

14 days or less from the start of the camp week – Refunds requested for cancelling camp during this time will not receive a refund. Please contact the Camp Director directly to discuss your options.

## BATHROOM REQUIREMENTS

**Campers in all camps must be toilet trained and able to use the bathroom independently to attend camp at Mystic Aquarium.**

**As a requirement for enrollment**, all children need to be fully toilet trained. The camp is not licensed for an under-three endorsement (sections 19a-79-10) from the Office of Early Childhood which means that staff are not permitted to change diapers/pullups or wipe a child, however they may assist them verbally as to how to clean themselves and change their clothes. The requirement for children to enter the program is that they need to be able to use the

bathroom independently. Due to the uniqueness of this environment, the amount of time that is spent visiting exhibits and partaking in special events, being able to use the bathroom independently is imperative and essential to being able to take full advantage of everything the Aquarium has to offer.

We do suggest that you consider the practicality of the clothing a camper wears to camp. The clothes should be easy to take off and put back on while in the restroom. One-piece outfits are not recommended for camp.

**This means that a child:**

- 1. Knows when they need to use the bathroom.**
- 2. Can unfasten, pull down bottoms and underwear.**
- 3. Pull underwear up and pull up and fasten bottoms.**
- 4. Can get on the toilet, wipe themselves, flush the toilet and wash their hands.**
- 5. In the event of an accident, the camper must be able to change clothes and clean themselves up.**
- 6. Diapers or pullups are not permitted.**

Staff are always monitoring campers via sound while using the restrooms. All staff are aware that campers of any age may have an accident and will assist by providing clean clothes for the camper, assisting with buttons or zippers as needed and providing items the camper may use to clean themselves up. This is done with respect and discreetly so as not to embarrass the camper.

In the event a camper has a bathroom accident and the camper is not able to fully clean themselves up and change clothes, the Camp Director will call the guardian to come in to assist the camper according to regulations. Should a health emergency occur, the staff will step in at that point.

Special needs campers will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

## STAFF TO YOUTH RATIOS

Ages 3-5	1:6 ratio	Ages 6-8	1:9 ratio	Ages 9-16	1:9 ratio
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## HEALTHCARE POLICY

Mystic Aquarium Summer Camp has the safety and wellbeing of your camper at the forefront of our programming. Camp staff will review all camper medical forms prior to the beginning of the camp week. Any questions that arise will be presented to the Camp Director to inquire about with the guardians. During the camp week, guardians will be contacted by either the acting Camp Director or a direct camp counselor (if off site) regarding camper illness. The acting Camp Director will contact the guardian regarding any injury during camp. Contact the Camp Director with any questions.

## GENERAL ILLNESS POLICY

**Call or text the camp cell phone at 860-625-2104** prior to check-in at 8:45am and leave a message if your camper is ill or will miss camp for the day. After check-in is complete, a camp staff member will call the guardian of any camper not in attendance to verify that they will not attend camp that day, unless a message has been left on this phone. **DO NOT CALL THE OFFICE PHONE TO REPORT AN ABSENCE.**

To provide a healthy camp environment for all, please keep your camper home if there are **any** signs of illness. Campers may not participate in camp if they exhibit any of the following conditions:

- Fever over 100° F -must stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever resolves without the use of fever reducing medication.
- Vomiting or diarrhea within the past 24 hours of the camp's start time.
- Conjunctivitis – red, itchy eyes, discharge, until under medication for 24 hours.
- Persistent cough or congestion that is not due to a documented condition.

- Any contagious disease.
- Suspicious rashes or lesions with bleeding or oozing. Rashes can be an initial sign of a viral illness.
- Lice or other infestation. A doctor’s note verifying no infestation is required to be able to return to camp.
- Conditions preventing a camper from active participation such as lethargy, sleepiness, constant coughing, and runny nose.
- Receive a positive test for or are experiencing lingering symptoms (cough, congestion, runny nose, lethargy, etc.) related to COVID, RSV, and/or Flu. Children must stay home for a minimum of 5 days and then wear a mask for an additional 5 days and until cough resolves. If a child will not continuously wear a mask, they must stay home for 10 days and until cough resolves. They must also meet the return to camp requirements stated below.

## **RETURN TO CAMP REQUIREMENTS**

- Camper is symptom free for a full 24 hours and can fully participate in all program activities.
- Camper has an official care plan in place, due to a documented health condition identified by a physician. Examples include acid reflux, allergies, asthma, chronic cough, etc.
  - Symptoms of documented conditions could also be due to a communicable illness, so must be monitored.
- Campers have a physician’s note indicating they were seen, can return to camp with no restrictions, and their symptoms are not contagious.
  - Even with a physician’s return to camp note, if the child has a lingering cough, runny nose, or congestion, they must wear a mask.

## **CAMPER INJURY and ILLNESS DURING CAMP**

### **IN THE CASE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS WHILE CAMP IS IN SESSION:**

In the event your camper is injured, or becomes ill during the camp day, the Camp Director or Camp Counselor will contact the emergency phone number which has been provided on the morning sign-in sheet. The camp staff members will explain the injury/illness, and how it was treated. It will be determined at that time if the camper will stay for the duration of the camp day or leave early. If the camper is ill, pick-up time will be discussed. At pick-up time, camp staff will discuss with the guardian the injury/illness and verify the treatment. Any camper sent home from camp due to an illness must remain symptom free for 24 hours before returning to camp, unless given written permission by a physician.

## **EXPOSURE TO NATURAL ELEMENTS POLICY**

Mystic Aquarium camp staff members are not permitted to apply any type of non-medicated/non-prescription topical lotion or spray to children (for example, sunscreen, tick/bug spray, moisturizers, and lip ointment) without permission, supply, and instructions from caregivers. It is the caregivers’ responsibility to apply any type of non-medicated/non-prescription topical lotion or spray to children prior to the camp day to reduce risk of exposure to sun and ticks while outdoors. If written permission, supply, and directions are provided, camp staff will apply the non-medicated/non-prescription topical lotion or spray to non-sensitive areas while in view of other staff. These items should not be accessible to children, so please notify staff if your child has them. If a tick is found crawling on a camper, a staff member can remove it. If the tick is attached or embedded in the camper, per state regulations, the caregiver will be contacted to remove the tick. It is the caregivers’ responsibility to check their child for ticks daily.



## COVID-19 SPECIFIC INFORMATION

In accordance with the State of Connecticut requirements for youth camps, Mystic Aquarium has established the following guidelines to ensure camper and instructor safety for this summer. This will be updated as necessary.

- If a camper develops any symptoms during the camp day, they will be removed immediately to a dedicated, isolated area. The guardian will be contacted by the Camp Director to come in and process a covid test provided by the Aquarium. Should the camper test positive, the camper will be sent home.
- Mystic Aquarium camp will follow all suggested CDC protocols should a camper/staff member test positive. If you test positive for COVID-19, stay home for at least 5 days, and isolate from others in your home. You are likely most infectious during these first 5 days. Wear a high-quality mask if you must be around others at home and in public. Do not go places where you are unable to wear a mask. Follow this link to see how long you need to quarantine at home and when you can return to camp. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html>
- Covid vaccinations are strongly recommended for campers, but not required.

## CHECK-IN AND PICK-UP PROCEDURES AND LOCATIONS

- **Please make every effort to arrive on time for the start of camp. Based on our experience, campers who arrive late are frequently worried about missing activities, meeting up with their group late, and feel rushed – this can result in the camper feeling anxious at the start of their camp day.**
- Check-in and pick-up of campers will occur at the Milne Ocean Science and Conservation Center, located at the eastern end of the Mystic Aquarium campus, except for Mystic River Adventure, Marine Animals and Their Environment and Environmental Conservation Camp.
- **Mystic River Adventure** campers will have check-in at the Milne Center each morning. **Pick-up** will be at the Mystic Seaport Museum each afternoon. **Marine Animals and Their Environment** campers will have check-in and pick-up Monday through Wednesday at the Milne Center, Mystic Aquarium. Campers will have check-in and pick-up Thursday and Friday at Project Oceanology, Avery Point. **Environmental Conservation Camp** campers will have check-in and pick-up Monday through Wednesday at Project Oceanology, Avery Point. Campers will have check-in and pick-up Thursday and Friday at the Milne Center, Mystic Aquarium.
- Medications for any camper will be handed in to the Camp Director on Monday morning prior to check-in. Inform the Camp Director if you need the medications back every day or if they may stay at the camp for the week.
- You will need to park in the parking lot for all check-in and pick-up times. Please plan accordingly.
- At check-in, you will be asked to indicate a phone number at which to reach you for that day on the sign in sheet, and who we should expect to sign out your camper at pick-up.
- Guardians of campers registered for Extended Day will be asked if they are picking up before 5:00pm. If so, what time can we expect you?
- Campers will be screened for wellness. Campers who appear ill will not be allowed to attend camp that day.
- Once a camper is checked-in, they will be asked to join the group. To minimize stress for all campers, guardians will check-in their camper and will not follow the camp to the classroom or morning activity. If you are concerned about this procedure, please contact the Camp Director prior to the first day of camp.
- All adults need to show identification at pick-up to be able to sign their camper out from camp each day. We will not allow any adult other than those listed on the sign out sheet to pick up your child unless a previous arrangement has been made. If there is an emergency and an adult not on the pick-up list is sent to pick up a camper, the Camp Director will call the parents to verify permission.

- For any adult who is not on the approved pick-up list submitted prior to camp who will be picking up a camper; provide a note stating: the date, unlisted adult's name, camper's name, and your signature. This must be given to the Camp Director at morning drop off. Contact the Camp Director to add more people to your list.
- No one under the age of 18 will be allowed to check-in or pick-up a camper.
- For the safety of your camper, they must be signed in and out each day. If this is not possible, please contact the Camp Director prior to the camp starting to discuss your options.

## EMERGENCY PICK-UP DUE TO AQUARIUM EVACUATION

If the camp programs being held at Mystic Aquarium must evacuate the facility, the instructors will bring the campers to the *Mystic Hilton* located across the road from the aquarium. Parents will then be called to pick up their campers. We will call the phone number provided to us during the morning check-in first.

Mystic Hilton address for your GPS is: 20 Coogan Blvd, Mystic, CT 06355

## WHAT CAMPS AND PROGRAMS ARE WE OFFERING?

### **Traditional Camps:**

These camps are held solely at the Mystic Aquarium and may include one field trip to a local estuary. Check-in and pick-up will be at the Milne Center, Mystic Aquarium each day.

Entering Grade Level	Camps Involved
PreK-K	Marine Mammal Mania, Turtle-ly Awesome Tots, Shark Club -No Field Trips for these camps.
Grades 1-3	No Bones About It, Totally Turtles, Animal Rescue, Mammals R'Us (no field trip)
Grades 4-6	Naturalist Camp, Invention Camp, Shark Investigations (no field trip),
Grades 7-10	Marine Bio 101

### **Extended Day for Traditional Camps:**

Extended Day is offered for some weeks of our traditional camps Grades 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm-5:00pm. There is an additional fee and campers must be registered in advance. Weeks offered: June 17-21, July 8-12, August 12-16.

### **Partner Camps:**

These camps are held jointly with either the Mystic Seaport Museum or Project Oceanology at Avery Point. They do not have a field trip and check-in and pick-up differs from our traditional camps.

**Mystic Seaport:** *COVID vaccinations are strongly recommended, but not required for campers.*

**Project Oceanology:** *COVID vaccinations are strongly recommended, but not required for campers.*

Entering Grade Level	Partner Camps Involved
Grades 4-6	Mystic River Adventure, Marine Animals and Their Environment
Grades 7-10	Environmental Conservation

**Mystic River Adventure** campers will have check-in at the Milne Center each morning. Pick-up will be at the Mystic Seaport Museum each afternoon.

**Marine Animals and Their Environment** campers will have check-in and pick-up Monday thru Wednesday at the Milne Center, Mystic Aquarium. Campers will have check-in and pick-up Thursday and Friday at Project Oceanology, Avery Point.

**Environmental Conservation Camp** campers will have check-in and pick-up Monday through Wednesday at Project Oceanology, Avery Point. Campers will have check-in and pick-up Thursday and Friday at the Milne Center, Mystic Aquarium.

## CAMP SESSIONS BY WEEK

<b>Camp Dates</b>	<b>Entering PreK-K Camps</b>	<b>Entering 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</b>	<b>Entering 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>Entering 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>Paperwork final due date</b>
<b>June 17-21</b>	Turtle-ly Awesome Tots 1	No Bones About It 1 <i>(Extended Day Available)</i>	Marine Naturalist 1 <i>(Extended Day Available)</i>		<b>June 3</b>
<b>June 24-28</b>	Shark Club 1	Totally Turtles 1	Mystic River Adventure 1		<b>June 10</b>
<b>July 1-3</b>		Mammals R'Us Mon-Wed Jul 1-3	Shark Investigations Mon-Wed Jul 1-3	High School Field Day -In the Field: Marsh to Sea <u>Monday 1-Jul</u> High School Field Day -In the Field: Field to Stream Tuesday 2-Jul	<b>June 17</b>
<b>July 8-12</b>	Marine Mammal Mania 1	Animal Rescue 1 <i>(Extended Day Available)</i>	Deep Sea Exploration 1 <i>(Extended Day Available)</i>	Marine Biologist 101 1	<b>June 24</b>
<b>July 15-19</b>	Turtle-ly Awesome Tots 2	No Bones About It 2	Marine Naturalist 2		<b>July 10</b>
<b>July 22-26</b>	Shark Club 2	Totally Turtles 2	Marine Animals & Their Environment	Environmental Conservation Camp	<b>July 8</b>
<b>July 29-Aug 2</b>	Marine Mammal Mania 2	Animal Rescue 2	Mystic River Adventure 2		<b>July 15</b>
<b>Aug 5-9</b>	Turtle-ly Awesome Tots 3	No Bones About It 3	Deep Sea Exploration 2	Marine Biologist 101 2	<b>July 22</b>
<b>Aug 12-16</b>	Shark Club 3	Totally Turtles 3 <i>(Extended Day Available)</i>	Marine Naturalist 3 <i>(Extended Day Available)</i>		<b>July 29</b>
<b>Aug 19-23</b>		Animal Rescue 3	Deep Seas 2		<b>Aug 5</b>

## CAMP PROGRAMS

### Entering PreK-K

PreK-K Camp is a half-day, weeklong experience specifically designed for campers entering pre-K or Kindergarten. You may have a hard time deciding which one of our three exciting weeks to choose!

- **MARINE MAMMAL MANIA**

Marine Mammal Mania, one of our favorite PreK-K camps, is all about the marine mammals that call Mystic Aquarium home. This camp will be onsite at the Aquarium, no field trip.

Schedule: Weeklong half day sessions

Monday – Friday, 9:00am-12:00pm: July 8-12, July 29-Aug 2

- **TURTLE-LY AWESOME TOTS**

New this year, it's all about turtles, freshwater, and sea! This camp will be onsite at the Aquarium, no field trip.

Schedule: Weeklong half day sessions

Monday – Friday, 9:00am-12:00pm: June 17-21, July 15-19, Aug 5-9

- **SHARK CLUB**

Shark! That's the call you hear at the beach sometimes. Have some fun learning about these awesome fish. This camp will be onsite at the Aquarium, no field trip.

Schedule: Weeklong half day sessions

Monday – Friday, 9:00am-12:00pm: June 24-28, July 22-26, Aug 12-16

### ENTERING 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE

#### NO BONES ABOUT IT

New for 2024! Come jump into the world of animals without bones, AKA, invertebrates! This camp will take a trip to Bluff Point State Park.

Schedule: Monday – Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm: June 17-21(Extended Day Available), July 15-19, August 5-9

#### ANIMAL RESCUE

Join us in learning about what happens once the stranding hotline receives a call. Whether its about a seal or a turtle, the result is amazing. This camp will take a trip to Bluff Point State Park.

Schedule: Monday – Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm: July 8-12(Extended Day Available), July 29-Aug 2, Aug 19-23

#### TOTALLY TURTLES

Hey turtle lovers, it's time to come out of your shell! Let's learn about turtles. This camp will take a trip to Bluff Point State Park.

Schedule: Monday – Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm: June 24-28, July 22-26, August 12-16 (Extended Day Available)

#### MAMMALS R'US

Come join us for three glorious days of learning about the animals here at Mystic Aquarium that are known as mammals, like us. This camp will be onsite at the Aquarium, no field trip.

Schedule: Monday-Wednesday 9:00am-4:00pm: July 1-3

### ENTERING 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### MARINE NATURALIST

Jump into the world of marine life as you become a Marine Naturalist. This camp will take a trip to Bluff Point State Park.

Schedule: Monday – Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm: June 17-21 (Extended Day Available), July 15-19, August 12-16 (Extended Day Available)

## **DEEP SEA EXPLORATION**

Let's learn all we can about the intriguing depths of the ocean. This camp will take a trip to Bluff Point State Park.  
Schedule: Monday – Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm: July 8-12 (Extended Day Available), Aug 5-9, Aug 19-23

## **SHARK INVESTIGATIONS**

Seeking shark lovers who want to learn about these often-misunderstood fish. This camp will be onsite at the Aquarium, no field trip.

Schedule: Monday-Wednesday 9:00am-4:00pm: July 1-3

## **MYSTIC RIVER ADVENTURE**

Mystic Aquarium and Mystic Seaport Museum are sailing the Mystic River together again! Campers will spend each morning at Mystic Aquarium and finish each day at Mystic Seaport Museum. This is a joint camp with the Mystic Seaport Museum.

Schedule: Monday – Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm: June 24-28, July 29-Aug 2

## **MARINE ANIMALS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT**

Mystic Aquarium and Project Oceanology are once again teaming up for a week of habitat exploration. Campers will spend three days at Mystic Aquarium and two days at Project Oceanology. This is a joint camp with Project Oceanology.

**Schedule:** Monday – Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm: July 22-26

## **ENTERING 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Grade**

### **MARINE BIO 101**

Come find out what a Marine Biologist does, and how you can become one. This camp will take a trip to the Barn Island Wildlife Management Area.

Schedule: Monday – Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm: July 8-12, August 5-9

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION CAMP**

Mystic Aquarium and Project Oceanology are once again teaming up for a week of ocean exploration. Campers will spend three days at Project Oceanology and two days at Mystic Aquarium. This is a joint camp with Project Oceanology.

**Schedule:** Monday – Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm: July 22-26

## **ENTERING 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

### **HIGH SCHOOL FIELD DAYS**

#### **A DAY IN THE FIELD: Marsh and Sea**

**Schedule: Monday, July 1**

#### **A DAY IN THE FIELD: Field and Stream**

**Schedule: Tuesday, July 2**

## **EXTENDED DAY**

Need help with hectic schedules? Let your full day camper enjoy an extra hour of activities including a variety of crafts, games, and touring the Aquarium. Available for select camps during the following weeks: June 17-21, July 8-12, August 12-16.

Schedule: Monday – Friday, 4:00pm-5:00pm

## WHAT WILL MY CAMPER NEED TO BRING?

- ❖ Every day, your camper will need appropriate outer clothing, closed toe shoes which can get wet, a change of clothing including shoes, and a water bottle. Full-day campers will also need lunch, and snacks. Half day camps will not need lunch, but they will need snacks. Please check your itinerary to see if you need anything else on a particular day.
- ❖ Hiking and field trip to Bluff Point days: Your camper will need appropriate outer clothing, closed toe shoes which can get wet, a change of clothing including shoes, a water bottle, sunscreen, bug repellent, lunch, and snacks.
- ❖ **Mystic River Adventure** campers will need appropriate outer clothing, closed toe shoes which can get wet, a change of clothing including shoes, a refillable water bottle, a hat, sunscreen, bug repellent, towel, and a wet/dry bag. Swimsuits are optional. Full-day campers will also need lunch, and snacks. Campers are strongly recommended to be vaccinated.
- ❖ **Environmental Conservation and Marine Animals and Their Environment** campers will need the following for camp: extra masks if needed, hat, bathing suit (when at Project Oceanology), towel, water shoes (not flip flops), sweatshirt, appropriate outer clothing, closed toes shoes which can get wet and dirty, a full change of clothing including shoes, a refillable water bottle, sunscreen, bug repellent, notebook. Full-day campers will also need lunch, and snacks. Campers are strongly recommended to be vaccinated.
- ❖ Camper lunch containers must include a cold pack to keep perishable items cool.
- ❖ Please apply sunscreen and bug repellent prior to dropping your camper off.
- ❖ Full day camp campers will be given a camp hat on their first day of camp at Mystic Aquarium. At the end of each day hats will be placed on a table until the next day; no hats will be stacked or stored touching each other. The hat will remain at the aquarium until the last day of camp, when it is sent home with the camper. This does not apply to Family programs.
- ❖ Please do not send your camper with electronics, cell phones, personal sports equipment, plastic straws, live animals, alcohol, drugs of any type or toys to camp. If they must bring any of these items, they will be requested to keep them in their bags. Alcohol and drugs will be given to the Camp Director.
- ❖ Please do not send anything that could possibly be viewed as a weapon. Absolutely no weapons of any type will be allowed. Mystic Aquarium summer camp has a zero-tolerance policy regarding weapons.
- ❖ Caregivers attending the Family Programs should consider the activities and plan accordingly as far as clothing is concerned. We request that you keep your phone at a minimum level of volume to prevent too many interruptions from happening.

## POSSIBLE LUNCH PURCHASE OPTIONS

**Camp lunches, provided by caregivers, are required to include an ice pack to keep the lunches cool. There are limited coolers available during camp for lunches.**

**Mystic Aquarium does not provide lunch for campers.** Below is a list of some, but not all, local places where you may purchase a lunch for your camper before you drop them off.

McQuade's Marketplace: 14 Clara Drive, Mystic, CT 860.536.2054 Opens at 7:00am

Big Y: 79 Stonington Road, Mystic, CT 860.536.5813 Opens at 7:00am

Mystic Market East: 63 Williams Ave, Mystic, CT 860.572.7992 Opens at 8:00am

Subway: 42D Williams Ave, Mystic, CT 860.980.6179 Opens at 8:00am

66 Whitehall Ave, Mystic, CT 860.245.0180 Opens at 8:00am

## ADDRESSES OF CAMP INVOLVED PROPERTIES

<b>Mystic Aquarium</b> 55 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic, CT 06355	<b>Mystic Seaport Museum</b> 75 Greenmanville Ave, Mystic, CT 06355	<b>Project Oceanology</b> 1084 Shennecossett Rd #1, Groton, CT 06340
<b>Bluff Point State Park</b> 55 Depot Rd, Groton, CT 06340	<b>Barn Island</b> 249 Palmer Neck Road, Pawcatuck, CT 06378	<b>Mystic Hilton</b> 20 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic, CT 06355

### SEE BELOW FOR INFORMATION ABOUT TIMES AND LOCATION OF CHECK-IN AND PICK-UP FOR EACH CAMP:

Grade Level	Program/Camp	Days of the Week & Hours	Check-In Time & Location	Pick-Up Time & Location	Extended Day
Traditional Camp Entering PreK – K	Marine Mammal Mania, Shark Club, Turtle Time	Monday-Friday 9:00am-12:00pm	8:45am Milne Center Mystic Aquarium	12:00pm Milne Center Mystic Aquarium	N/A
Traditional Camp Entering Grade 1-3, 4-6	Mammals R’Us Grades 1-3 Shark Investigations Grades 4-6	Monday- Wednesday 9:00am-4:00pm	8:45am Milne Center Mystic Aquarium	4:00pm Milne Center Mystic Aquarium	N/A
Traditional Camp Entering Grade 1-3, 4-6	No Bones About It, Totally Turtles, Animal Rescue, Marine Naturalist, Deep Sea Exploration	Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:00pm	8:45am Milne Center Mystic Aquarium	4:00pm Milne Center Mystic Aquarium	5:00pm Milne Center Mystic Aquarium: Weeks of June 17-21, July 8- 12, August 12- 16
Traditional Camp Entering Grade 7-10	Marine Bio 101	Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:00pm	8:45am Milne Center Mystic Aquarium	4:00pm Milne Center Mystic Aquarium	N/A
Partner Camp Entering Grade 4-6	Mystic River Adventure	Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:00pm	8:45am Milne Center Mystic Aquarium	4:00pm Mystic Seaport Museum	N/A
Partner Camp Entering Grade 4-6	Marine Animals and Their Environment	Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:00pm	Monday-Wednesday 8:45am Milne Center Mystic Aquarium Thursday-Friday 8:45am Project Oceanology	Mon-Wed 4:00pm Milne Center Mystic Aquarium Thurs-Fri 4:00pm Project Oceanology	N/A
Partner Camp Entering Grade 7-10	Environmental Conservation Camp	Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:00pm	Monday-Wednesday 8:45am Project Oceanology Thursday-Friday 8:45am Milne Center Mystic Aquarium	Mon-Wed 4:00pm Project Oceanology Thurs-Fri 4:00pm Milne Center Mystic Aquarium	N/A

## DISCIPLINE POLICY

**You are required to initial that you have read and understand our policy on the CampDoc forms. Take note of what is considered as acceptable behavior and talk to your camper so that our camps may be enjoyed by everyone attending.**

### **Children attending Summer Camp at the Mystic Aquarium are expected to:**

- Be responsible for their actions.
- Respect each other and the environment
- Respect the rights and dignity of all fellow campers and staff.
- Base all interactions on honesty.
- Care for themselves and others around them
- Make appropriate choices for themselves.
- Be kind to each other.

### **Behavior considered to be unacceptable includes the following:**

- Endangering the health and/or safety of a child, staff member, volunteer, intern, or animal
- Entering a building, enclosure, or fenced area without permission
- Leaving the program area without permission
- Continuing to disrupt the program in any way.
- The use of profanity, vulgar or obscene words and gestures
- Possession of a weapon
- Stealing or damaging property
- Inappropriate touching of themselves or another child
- We have zero tolerance for bullying, humiliating, or degrading. Any camper who is witnessed by staff bullying, humiliating, or degrading another camper during camp will be immediately removed from camp.
- We have zero tolerance for violence. Any camper who is witnessed by staff purposefully hitting, kicking, or causing injury with or without the intent to harm another camper or staff member during camp will be immediately removed from camp.
- We are all aware of sibling interactions; please note that to be fair to every camper, siblings are expected to adhere to our rules when in camp together.
- Any action which may make another camper uncomfortable.
- In the event that an individual camper refuses to transition to another location with the camp, the emergency contact will be called to pick up the camper for the day. In the event of repeated instances of refusal to transition, the camper will be removed from camp.

### **The following steps will be taken if an unacceptable choice has been made:**

1. All unacceptable choices will be documented on a discipline sheet, including all staff behavior re-directions, discussions with parents, and discussions with the Camp Director.
2. Initially, staff will give a verbal reminder and redirect the camper to a more appropriate behavior.
3. If there is a second incidence of unacceptable behavior, staff will have a private discussion with the camper about the behavior within the sight of another staff. Staff will document the situation to include the problem, possible cause of the problem, and any corrective measures taken. Camp Director will be notified.
4. If unacceptable behavior persists, the guardian will be notified at the end of the day, or sooner if necessary. Staff and Camp Director will ask for input from the guardian regarding the behavior. Staff and Camp Director will check back with the guardian at the end of the following day to report on behavior.
5. If unacceptable behavior persists, or becomes excessive, and the child continues to disrupt the camp program, the Camp Director reserves the right to suspend the child from the program for a period which will depend upon the severity of the issue. There will be no refund issued for behavior related issues.



6. If a child's behavior threatens the immediate safety of the individual, other children, or staff – this includes any hitting, pushing, throwing items, or kicking of any staff or camper, the guardian will be contacted and expected to pick up the child immediately. We have a strict no violence policy and this camper will not be allowed to return to camp.
7. Expulsion from the program will be considered by the Camp Director on a case-by-case basis. There will be no refund offered for an expelled camper.