



Monmouth County Park System

Environmental Education Programs for Groups



TIPS FOR YOUR TRIP

Thank you for registering for one of our Environmental Education Programs. We look forward to providing an educational and enjoyable experience for your group. Please review the following tips before your program.

What to Wear:

- Dress in layers appropriate to the weather and be prepared for light rain. The air temperature at the beach, on the reservoir, or in the woods is often much cooler than inland locations, therefore an extra jacket or sweatshirt is recommended.
- Wear sturdy closed-toed shoes. Students will not be allowed on the beach at Bayshore Waterfront Park with open-toed shoes, sandals or bare feet.
- Wear clothes that you would not mind getting wet or dirty. For certain programs, students and designated supervising adults will enter the water in their own clothing and their own closed-toed shoes. We suggest wearing old sneakers. Clothing and footwear will get muddy and wet, please instruct participants to dress accordingly. A change of clothing and footwear is required for after the program. Participants may also wish to bring a towel (see “What to Know: Water Programs” below for details).
- Apply sunscreen and bug spray before arriving at your program location
- All boat passengers are provided with personal flotation devices, which **must** be worn.

What to Bring:

- Bring drinking water. Also bring a non-perishable lunch for programs lasting three hours or more (refrigeration will not be available).
- Bring a camera! Please take only candid photographs to limit disruption of the program. Time can be allotted to take group photos. Use of video cameras is not permitted.
- For beach programs at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park and Bayshore Waterfront Park: Bring a cloth bag, coffee can, or plastic container suitable for collecting shells for each participant.
- For programs that include bird house or fossil sieve building: We suggest that supervising adults bring needle nose pliers to assist with holding nails.
- For Birding Basics program: We have a limited number of binoculars available; however, we strongly encourage participants to bring their own.
- For Fossil Programs: Students should bring a clear plastic zip-lock bag suitable for collecting their found fossils.



What to Know:

- Participants must follow all safety instructions.
- Please do not bring siblings. There is no room in the program areas for them.
- For scout programs: Uniform badges, pins, or beads are not provided by the Monmouth County Park System.
- Programs that include a live animal presentation may include one or more of the following animals: snakes, turtles, frogs, toads, and insects.
- During programs near water: Group leaders, supervising adults, and participants are not allowed to enter the water for any reason unless specifically directed by our Program Staff.



Bay Lab

- A seining activity is included in the program.
- One of our staff and one of your supervising adults will accompany the students at all times when seining. Your organization will need to provide at least two supervising adults per class that are willing to enter the water to assist in seining. Chest waders will be provided for these adults.
- Weather and environmental conditions will determine if the students are allowed into the water.
- Students will enter the water in their own clothing and their own closed-toed shoes. A change of clothing and footwear is required for after the program. Students may also wish to bring a towel.
- Occasionally, water conditions will require that students wear chest waders. Our staff will make this determination and will supply waders in these instances. Your students must come prepared to wear their own clothing and shoes into the water.
- If your organization prefers that the students not enter the water, then our staff and the designated adults from your group will do the seining as a demonstration.
- When not seining, students will not be allowed into the water for any reason.

Down by the Bay, Periwinkles, and Seize the Bay

- Your program includes a seining demonstration.
- Your organization will need to provide at least two supervising adults per class that are willing to enter the water to assist in seining. Chest waders will be provided for these adults.
- Students will not be allowed into the water at any time.



My First Fish

- To ensure the safety of all participants, personal fishing equipment will not be allowed during My First Fish programs.

Fossil Exploration

- Your organization will need to provide at least two supervising adults per class that are willing to enter the water to assist with shoveling in the stream (students will not be doing any of the shoveling). We have a limited number of shovels available, but adults may prefer to bring their own.
- Students and designated supervising adults will enter the water in their own clothing and their own closed-toed shoes. We suggest wearing old sneakers. Clothing and footwear will get muddy and wet, please instruct participants to dress accordingly.
- A change of clothing and footwear is required for after the program. Participants may also wish to bring a towel.

Freshwater Monitoring & Management and Pond Study

- A pond study activity is included in the program.
- Students will enter one of our shallow fresh water ponds in hip waders that we provide. Students will use hand nets (also provided) to collect specimens and water samples for our lab activities. Please note: Certain weather and environmental conditions may prohibit students from entering the water.
- Clothing and footwear may get muddy and wet, please instruct participants to dress accordingly. A change of clothing and footwear is suggested for after the program. Participants may also wish to bring a towel.

