

## **FAQ's**

### **What should my child wear to camp every day?**

It's inevitable for kids to get dirty at camp. We suggest your child not wear anything you wouldn't want stained. We recommend sending campers with a change of clothing and socks in case they get wet. Everyday a bathing suit should also be packed or can be worn to camp if they bring a change of clothing. On non-beach days we do use our sprinkler to stay cool.

### **What kind of food and drink should I pack?**

Please pack a SNACK and LUNCH in an INSULATED lunch bag. Your child will also need plenty of water. Please pack a large LABELED and INSULATED **water bottle**. Plastic water bottles can get warm, get misplaced and become unidentifiable. We can refill water bottles throughout the day. Speak to your child about the importance of drinking plenty of water on hot days. Please try not to pack any food items containing nuts as we often get campers with severe nut allergies.

### **Can my child bring a cell phone?**

We strongly suggest that campers leave cell phones at home. Cell phones, like many other modern technologies, are expensive possessions that can easily be lost or damaged during camp. Additionally, camp is an exciting opportunity for children to build a sense of independence and we encourage them to focus on their camp experience.

### **What does my child need on the Yankee III trip?**

On Wednesday before our trip Head Counselors will collect the suggested \$5/person (camper and any additional relatives) to be put towards tips for the mates. The mates are excellent with the campers and help them bait, untangle lines, and educate campers on the location and fishing techniques. Campers are allowed to bring money for a concession stand on the boat that has chips, candy, and soda. Please pack a lunch, water, and snack and bring a hat and sunscreen. Please have your campers wear sneakers. There is no need for a towel or extra clothes.

### **Can I come on the Yankee III with my child?**

Tickets for adults wishing to attend the fishing trip are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The cost is **\$20/adult**. Payment to the Camp Director will secure your spot. If you are coming on the trip with us, you will need to pay the vehicle use fee of **\$8 to park** and make sure to arrive at Captree **PROMPTLY** at 9:45am with your child. Upon arriving please meet us at the Gazebo where you must sign-in your child. You will need to sign-out your child after the trip is completed.

Directions for parents attending the fishing trip will be provided. *We also suggest \$5/child to tip the boat crew, although this is optional.*

### **What if the Yankee III trip is cancelled due to unsafe weather or marine conditions?**

If conditions are deemed unsafe by Yankee III staff, campers will remain at Fuchs' Preserve for a day full of interesting programming, activities and crafts.

### **Do you accommodate special needs?**

If your child requires any sort of special accommodation (i.e. medication dispensation, physical adaptation, verbal or otherwise), please contact the camp office as soon as possible. We do our best to make accommodations when given a reasonable amount of notice and if the accommodation is within our scope of practice.

### **What kind of child is this camp geared towards?**

All types! We try to maintain a good balance of activities throughout the day between crafts, educational programs and more active components such as outdoor games, nature walks, etc. All of our activities are hands-on and interactive to keep children with varied interests and skills engaged as well as excited.

**Is there a multi-child discount?** No. As a not-for-profit organization we cover camp operation costs by the funds we bring in through camp fees. With the amount of families that send more than one child to camp, we would not be able to continue offering camp at the current price.

### **Are there scholarship spots for families in need?**

In the past we have been given generous donations from local entities that are to be used for scholarships for families in need. You will have to contact the Camp

Director to inquire. If we have scholarship spots available, you will need to complete an application with The Family Service League of Long Island who are able to evaluate financial need.

### **What if my child does not turn 6 until the end of summer?**

Age requirements are set by the New York State Department of Health who conduct a preseason inspection as well as impromptu random inspections of our camp. Age requirements are set to protect the children. Inspectors check all paperwork, including immunizations. If we have campers younger than 6, inspectors can shut our camp down.

**How do I get on the wait list if a session is full?** Please call or email Mary Foglia at: [mtm29@cornell.edu](mailto:mtm29@cornell.edu) or call (631) 239-1800 to be placed on our waitlist.

### **I have concerns about beach safety:**

On beach days, we are bussed as a group to Asharoken Beach in Northport. This is a very small, calm and protected Town of Huntington Beach that is staffed with multiple lifeguards. We also have a certified lifeguard on staff. On your General Information Form, it is required that you document your child's swimming ability. If campers are 6-8 years old, they will be allowed in water up to their belly buttons, at most. For campers who are 9-14 years old, staff will evaluate their abilities in a swim test. Non-swimmers will be able to participate in other fun beach learning activities, such as: seining, beach games and scavenger hunts.

### **What are some environmental considerations?**

**Ticks:** On days that we spend at The Fuchs' Nature Preserve, campers are led on guided walks through the preserve. We have not had a problem with ticks in the past, but it is always a possibility. Camp staff does a basic check with campers after our walks. However, we highly suggest doing a thorough scan at home, especially of your child's scalp.

**Poison Ivy:** Our trails do contain poison ivy. We educate campers prior to our walks so that they are able to identify poison ivy. Our staff does a great job making campers aware of its locations, keeping them at a safe distance. There is a possibility that campers may come into contact with the oils accidentally. We recommended that hands are washed with dish soap and cold water after removing and putting on shoes and clothing worn during the nature walk. IvyBlock can also

be used (available at Walgreens). It is FDA approved and can be applied before camp or before our walks to repel the oils.

**Bug Bites:** Please pack bug spray with your child every day. DEET products offer the best protection against mosquito bites, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises. DEET, "does not present a health concern to the general population," the EPA has found. DEET is approved for use on children of any age.

**Can a younger child be placed in an older group with a friend or family member and vice versa?** Due to registration restrictions based on age groups (i.e. 6-8, 9-11, 12-14), we strive to maintain these age appropriate specifications due to beach safety, age appropriate lectures, and maturity. It is a possibility to have these age groups merge but only if we are able to accommodate this switch. For an older child to be switched to the 6-8 group, consideration should be made of the possibility of the older child being "bored" with activities and lessons that have been geared towards the younger children.

**Can I make sure that my child is placed in the same group as their friend/relative?**

Such requests can be made during the online registration process. If you have any concerns or questions, you may call or email ahead of time. Also, please note that even though your campers may be in separate "groups", there are still plenty of activities that allow both groups to interact throughout the day. We have found that the separation can be a good opportunity for siblings to develop independence from one another and allow them to better develop new friends!

**Can we visit/early dismiss our child?**

We believe camp provides an opportunity for youth to acquire self-reliance, and confidence through achievement in a new environment. We ask that parents/guardians refrain from visiting campers during the camp day, unless there is an emergency. Any person visiting the camp, for any reason, must contact the Camp Director prior. If family plans require you to pick up your child early, contact the Camp Director in advance to make the necessary pick-up arrangements.

### **Can I contact you if I am worried about how my child is doing?**

It is important for the safety of all campers that our phone line remain available for incoming and outgoing calls. For this reason, we ask that you refrain from calling camp unless you need to change his/her pick-up time or there is an emergency requiring your child's immediate attention. If your child has any issues, we will contact you.

### **Do parents have to attend Friday Open House?**

Your child looks forward to being able to show you what they have done and learned throughout their week at camp. We strongly recommend making it a priority to come to this event at 1:30PM, putting aside 30 minutes to walk around with your child. If you are unable to stay, please inform your child's Head Counselor or the Camp Director prior so we can make sure your child takes home their belongings and crafts before. For Open House please arrive at Fuchs Pond Preserve promptly at 1:30 to pick-up and sign-out your child with their head counselor at 1:30 PM.

**What payment methods can we use?** Payment is made in full during the online registration process. **AMERICAN EXPRESS & DISCOVER ARE NOT ACCEPTED.**

### **What is the refund policy?**

**Camp fees are non-refundable**, with the following exception: Medical refund requests must be made by **email** to: [mtm29@cornell.edu](mailto:mtm29@cornell.edu) and must include a doctor's note within **5 days of the illness that prevented your child from attending camp** (less a \$25 processing fee). There will be no pro-rating or reduction of fees based on missed days due to illness. Consideration for medical refund requests and extenuating circumstances will be reviewed at the discretion of the CCE Marine Program Director. We reserve the right to suspend or remove a child from camp due to dangerous or extremely disruptive behavior. Refunds will not be given wherein this decision is necessary.

**What is the cancellation policy?** Requests for a non-transferable refund of 50% may be given **30 days** prior to your registered camp session. This request must be made by email containing the date and time to: [mtm29@cornell.edu](mailto:mtm29@cornell.edu) (**Strictly enforced!**).