

Welcome to Art Adventures in Nature Summer Camp!

August 5-9, 10am-3pm @ Flag Ponds Nature Park

Dear Campers and Families, welcome to **Art Adventures in Nature Camp!** I am very excited to explore the beauty of nature and to see all the wonderful art we will make.

Please join us on **Friday August 9th from 2:00 - 3:00pm** for the 2024 viewing of the Flag Ponds Art Gallery! Enjoy some light refreshments while viewing the beautiful artwork created throughout the week. All artwork will be available to take home at the end of the event.

All family members of campers are welcome, please RSVP with the number of attendees by August 5th

-Location: Our “home base” for camp will be the education building at Flag Ponds Nature Park. This is the first and larger of the two buildings at the main parking lot. When you arrive at Flag Ponds each morning, stop at the entrance station to let them know you are here for summer camp. If there is a line at the gate, please do not go around (in the afternoon as well). Proceed to the main parking lot (in front of the Education Building) – staff will meet you out in front of the building for check in and out.

-Sign In/Out: Please sign your child in and out every day and let us know if someone else will be taking them home. You will need to sign an authorization form for your child to be picked up by anyone besides the person who registered the camper or their emergency contact. This authorization form is due two weeks before camp starts.

If you are going to pick up your camper early or will be arriving late to camp on any days, please let me know as soon as possible.

Camp Forms: Camp forms are due two weeks **BEFORE** the first day of camp.

This means **all camp forms must be submitted no later than Monday, July 22nd.**

*You will have already filled out most of these forms during registration. You will only need to submit additional forms **IF:***

- your child will need **ANY** medication during camp (including inhalers, epi pens, or OTC medications)
- your child is not enrolled in a Maryland public school (you will need to submit their immunization records)
- your child will be picked up by **anyone** other than the person who filled out the registration form and the listed emergency contact

All our camp forms can be found here: [Calvert Nature Society - Summer Camp Forms \(calvertparks.org\)](https://calvertparks.org).

Completed forms can be sent to me at eva.blockstein@calvertcountymd.gov. Before you send in forms, please email me and I will send you a secure email link to submit them through.

-Food/Drinks: We will be having lunch and **TWO snacks** every day. Please make sure to pack these separately and clearly labeled for your camper. Please remember to pack separate snacks for morning and afternoon.

Be sure to pack a large refillable water bottle, even if they have a separate drink in their lunch box.

-Clothing: Wear OLD CLOTHES that can get wet, dirty, and painted! Campers may wear shorts and t-shirts and sandals, since we will be spending a lot of time near the building at our “art studio” space.

Please provide a full change of clothes in a Ziploc bag labeled with your camper’s name. Comfortable shoes are a must, since we will be walking a bit throughout the day. For safety reasons, we ask that campers do not wear flip flops or crocs. Sandals with a strap are acceptable.

Please see the note in the packing list about Wednesday, our WATER/BEACH day!

-Inclement Weather: Our camps are mostly outdoors, and camp will be held rain or shine. Please check the weather forecast every morning before camp begins and dress your child appropriately. In the case of severe weather, campers will be brought to an indoor shelter.

-Health/Safety:

- We will not be doing daily health screenings at check-in, so we ask that you use best practices when deciding whether your camper is well enough to attend camp. If they are feeling sick or have any new symptoms of a possible illness, please keep them home.
- While we are out having fun and exploring nature, I will make every effort to minimize your child’s exposure to things like poison ivy, ticks, jellyfish, etc. However, you should still send your camper with insect repellent and carefully check your child for ticks after camp every day. If you notice any unusual symptoms that may have been a result of something that happened at camp, please report it to me immediately.
- We will not tolerate bullying of any kind while at camp. Campers found to be bullying other campers will be permanently expelled from all CCNRD summer camps.

I look forward to exploring the beauty of nature with your campers and can’t wait for Art Adventures in Nature Camp! Please don’t hesitate to email me if you have any questions or if you have anything you’d like me to know about your camper and how to help them have an awesome week at camp.

Sincerely,

Eva Blockstein (She/her)

Naturalist, Calvert County Parks and Rec

Eva.blockstein@calvertcountymd.gov

Themes/Camp Activity Info:

Each day will include one nature hike for inspiration and material collection, but we will be spending lots of time working different art projects and artistic explorations.

Monday: Discovering Natural Beauty (Seeking Inspiration). We will practice observing nature, learning what we find beautiful, and gaining inspiration from our observations.

Tuesday: The Wonder of Leaves! We will learn about observing leaves and how beautiful different types of leaves are - and all the different ways you can make art with a "simple" leaf!

Wednesday: Water and the Beach! We will create art using materials from the beach and focusing on the beauty of the beach.

****Wednesday will involve a trip to the beach at Flag Ponds, where campers will be wading into the bay. *Please see below for special packing instructions.***

Thursday: Recycled Materials- We will explore how to re-use and turn "trash" into wonderful new pieces of art- and think about how to help the planet with our art!

Friday: The Impact of Art- We will focus on the different ways to show off our art and how to make people think about the meanings of our art. And then we will show off our beautiful art to our families! Please join us **Friday afternoon from 1:30pm-3:00 pm** for the viewing of the "Art in Nature" gallery.

Packing List

Each day, please come prepared with the following items.

WEAR:

- _Sunscreen + Insect Repellent
- _Old clothes to wear while making art (that can get painted on/ dirty!) (shorts/tshirt are ok)
- _Shoes that are securely attached (straps or laces) (*Sandals are ok- no crocs/flipflops*)
- _Sun hat

PACK:

- _Extra sunscreen/insect repellent
- _Backpack (without wheels)
- _Full change of clothes/shoes in a Ziplock
- _Raincoat/Poncho
- _Towel
- _Lunch and **TWO** snacks
- _Refillable water bottle

******Wednesday will involve a trip to the beach at Flag Ponds, where we will be wading in the bay. Campers are required to be fully clothed while in the water*****

Campers should arrive to camp wearing clothing that they can get wear into the bay and wearing their hiking shoes. I highly recommend a lightweight long-sleeved shirt such as a rash guard and quick-dry pants.

Please pack a backpack that they can carry with the following:

- Shoes to wear in the water (must have straps/be secured- crocs/flip flops will **not** be allowed!) *****we will change into these at the beach*****
- Sun Hat
- Towel
- Lunch and snack (that can be eaten on the beach)
- Full change of clothes
- Ziploc bag for wet clothes
- Extra sunscreen