



Dear Parents and Campers:

Welcome to the *Spring Bioblitz* overnight 2022—April 14 (10:00AM) thru April 15 (9:00am).

Please go over the packing checklist together so that campers will be fully prepared for camp – this will be especially important for this camp, with the wild swings in the weather this time of year. *We will be holding camp with some rain, snow, or shine; warm temperatures or freezing cold – please be sure that your camper is dressed appropriately for the weather and has extra clothes packed. If it looks like a total wash out, camp would be canceled.*

This camp will begin on Thursday, April 14 at 10am at the Flag Ponds Education Building. We will have camp all day Thursday and overnight to 9am Friday, April 15. The park will be closed to the public on Thursday and the front gates will be pulled closed. Let yourself in outgoing gate (it will be closed but unlocked), close it after you, and proceed then to the education building (that's the larger of the two buildings). For camper pick-up Friday morning, the park gates will open at 9am. Please until the gates open to enter the park.

Wondering what we'll be doing at camp? Here's a smattering of our activities:

Hiking, playing games, taking part in the "Flag Ponds Great Log Roll Off" – searching for salamanders and other animals just waking up for the year, going for a night search for amphibians in the swamp ...not to mention, making our dinner over a campfire-including s'mores for dessert and spending the night with our new friends in the park. It promises to be an adventure!

We will be camping out in the Education Building Thursday night.

This camp involves a lot of food - dinner Thursday, breakfast Friday, and some snacks will all be provided. If you have any food allergies/issues it is important to let me know ASAP.

If your camper will need to take medication during camp, please let me know in writing before the start of camp and fill out the medication form and bring that with you to camp. You will need a signature from your doctor.

Questions or concerns? Please email me at [tania.gale@calvertcountymd.gov](mailto:tania.gale@calvertcountymd.gov).

All this information can also be found on the [Calvertparks.org](http://Calvertparks.org) event page as well.

I know I'm looking forward to our spring camp adventures – hope you are too!  
See you on Thursday, April 14!

Sincerely,  
Tania Gale  
Naturalist

# Spring Bioblitz Packing List

## What to bring – in a duffel bag or backpack to leave in the building

- extra socks (ideally wool, not cotton socks, tall ones will be better than ankle height)
- extra full set of clothes (including long pants, long sleeved top, and underwear)
- extra sweater or fleece (ideally not a cotton sweatshirt)
- plastic bag for wet clothes
- rain gear or rain poncho
- warm hat for night walk
  
- pajamas
- flashlight or head lamp
- personal toiletries in a Ziploc bag labeled with camper's name
- medications (if needed – please let me know ASPA so I can get you the proper forms)
- extra pair of shoes – sneakers or hiking boots
- bug spray
- sunscreen
- towel
- sleeping bag and pillow
- sleeping pad (optional – we are sleeping inside on the carpet)

## In a backpack to carry on the trail Thursday:

- bag lunch for Thursday
- small snack for Thursday (trail mix, granola bar, etc.)
- water bottle (1 liter size)
- sunscreen
- insect repellent

## What to wear -

### **Head**

- ball cap or visor (or warm knit hat if it will be cold out)
- sunglasses (optional)

### **Upper Body: wear layers – avoid cotton if possible, layers will work best**

- T-shirt or long sleeved shirt depending on weather forecast (a fabric with as little cotton as possible, could be 50/50 blend)
- Wool/poly fleece or sweater (not a cotton sweatshirt)
  
- Warm coat (a hoody is NOT a coat)

### **Lower Body: - avoid cotton if possible (jeans will get wet and be cold)**

- Nylon or poly fleece long pants (again, even a poly cotton blend is better than 100% cotton)
- \*\*not shorts, as we will be walking off trail\*\***

**Feet:**

\_\_\_\_\_ tall wool socks, if you have them, or a fuzzy polyester is better than cotton (with tall socks we can tuck everyone's socks into their pants and avoid getting ticks)

\_\_\_\_\_ Comfortable shoes – sneakers or hiking shoes

**\*\* dinner Thursday, and breakfast Friday will be provided – please do not send extra snacks\*\***

**Take the “Unplug Challenge” - Please *do not* bring any electronics.**

An additional note:

Why Not Cotton clothes?

Once wet, cotton clothes tend to stay wet. Wet cotton clothes will not insulate and do their job of keeping the person wearing them warm. So jeans and cotton sweat shirts will not make great camp wear especially in the spring when the weather is so unpredictable. The weather at Flag Ponds is often quite different from the weather at home. Because it is on the water, spring at Flag Ponds is almost always windy and damp - and it will be chilly, especially at night. Campers will, of course, be much happier if they are comfortable and warm. Here are some other fibers to consider -

**1. Wool** - derives its insulating quality from the elastic, three-dimensional wavy crimp in the fiber that traps air between fibers. Depending on the texture and thickness of the fabric, as much as 60-80% of wool cloth can be air. Wool can absorb a fair amount of moisture without imparting a damp feeling because the water "disappears" into the fiber spaces. Even with water in the fabric wool still retains dead air space and will still insulate you.

**2. Poly Fleece fabrics** - synthetic material often made of a plastic (polyester, polyolefin, polypropylene, etc.). This material has a similar insulative capacity as wool. Its advantages are that it holds less water (than wool) and dries more quickly. Poly fleece is manufactured in a variety of different weights (thicknesses) offering different amounts of loft and insulation. This allows for numerous layering possibilities. The disadvantage of most fleece fabric is that it has very poor wind resistance and hence a wind shell (raincoat or windbreaker) on top is almost always required.