

Dear Parents and Campers:

Welcome to the **Marvelous Mud** summer camp--June 24 – June 28! I am looking forward to a muddy and fun-filled experience this summer. Please go over the attached checklist with your camper so that s/he will be fully prepared for camp. *We will be holding camp rain or shine – please be sure that your camper is dressed appropriately for the weather - and in clothes you are ok with your camper never wearing again (it IS Mud Camp afterall).*

Below is a drop off/pick up schedule for the week:

Day	Drop off	Pick up	Location
Monday (6/24)	9am	3pm	Flag Ponds
Tuesday (6/25)	9am	3pm	Flag Ponds
Wednesday (6/26)	9am	3pm	Flag Ponds
**Thursday (6/27)	6:00pm	overnight	Flag Ponds
Friday (6/28)		9am	Flag Ponds

***Please note that camp begins at 6:00pm on Thursday and that there is no camp after 9:00am on Friday. We will have a family potluck cookout Thursday night, which will be followed by an overnight for the campers. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided, but please bring a side dish or dessert to share. We will have a sign-up sheet on the first morning of camp; let me know what food you can bring, as well as the number of people you will be bringing. The family dinner will close with awards for the campers and will wrap up about 7:30pm.*

Please help camp staff to protect our campers. Campers will be expected to wear shoes at all times while at camp, so appropriate shoes are a must and wearing long pants will help to protect them from getting scratched by branches, etc.. as we wade in the mud.

We will be hiking, running, and wading in the mud – neither flip flops nor crocs stay on the feet during these activities, so please leave those shoes at home. Your child will not be allowed to participate if they only have flip-flops or crocs. Tevas, Keens, or other sport-type sandals/water shoes are acceptable as long as they will not pull off in the mud. If you have comfortable “amphibious” shoes that can go from land to water and back – they make a great option vs. bringing a change of shoes – that’s what I’ll be wearing.

Please be sure that your camper does a thorough “tick check” when they get home each day.

When you arrive at Flag Ponds each morning, stop at the entrance station to tell Flag Ponds staff you are here for the summer camp. **If there is a line at the gate, please do not go around (in the afternoon as well).** If you cannot get through until after 9:00, don’t fret. We won’t start camp without you, even if its 9:15 by the time you get through the gate. Camp staff will be preparing for the day right up until 9:00 AM and cannot check your camper in before then. Please sign your camper in/out each day with camp staff.

Please put bug spray and sunscreen on before coming to camp each morning, and pack more so it can be reapplied during the day.

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.

Questions or concerns? Please contact me at Battle Creek Nature Center at 410-535-5327 or by email @ “tania.gale@calvertcountymd.gov” I look forward to celebrating mud week with you!

Sincerely,

Tania Gale

Naturalist

“Marvelous Mud” camp checklist**Wear these things**

Take the “Unplug Challenge” --Please leave all electronics at home

Monday –

(Activities: Beach Pond and Bay Mud Exploration)

- ___ bag lunch (non-perishable food, no glass)
- ___ *sunscreen* (be sure to bring extra)
- ___ *insect repellent*
- ___ *hat*
- ___ *swimsuit*
- ___ *old clothes to wear while exploring to block the sun and bugs*
- ___ *well-fitting water shoes/sport sandals/old sneakers**no flip flops or crocs***
- ___ water bottle
- ___ backpack (none w/wheels)
- ___ comfortable walking shoes/sneakers -not flip flops or crocs
- ___ towel
- ___ plastic bag for wet clothes
- ___ change of clothes

Tuesday –

(Activity: Swamp Wade-in)

- ___ bag lunch (non-perishable food, no glass)
- ___ *sunscreen* (be sure to bring extra)
- ___ *insect repellent*
- ___ *hat*
- ___ *swimsuit*
- ___ *old clothes that can get dirty...really dirty – long pants and long sleeved shirt for extra protection while wading in the swamp muck*
- ___ *old sneakers or well-fitting water shoes/sport sandals **no flip flops or crocs***
- ___ water bottle
- ___ backpack (none w/wheels)
- ___ towel
- ___ plastic bag for wet clothes
- ___ change of clothes
- ___ comfortable walking shoes (not flipflops or crocs)

Wednesday-

(Activity: Creek Crawl and Mud Pit Visit)

- ___ bag lunch (non-perishable food, no glass)
- ___ *sunscreen* (be sure to bring extra)
- ___ *insect repellent*
- ___ *hat*
- ___ *swimsuit*
- ___ *old sneakers to wear in the creek – other types of water shoes may be lost in the mud*
- ___ ***no flip flops or crocs***
- ___ *long pants and long-sleeved shirt (old ones that can get really dirty) to wear over swimsuit in the creek to block bugs and scratches*
- ___ water bottle
- ___ backpack (none w/wheels)
- ___ towel
- ___ plastic bag for wet clothes
- ___ change of clothes and shoes (not flipflops or crocs)

Thursday/Friday –

(Activities: Family Cookout, Sunset Beach Exploration, Night walk, Campout)

- ___ *insect repellent*
- ___ *water shoes/sport sandals*
- ___ *(no flipflops or crocs)*
- ___ *shorts and T-shirt over bathing suit*
- ___ *bathing suit*
- ___ water bottle
- ___ backpack
- ___ extra shorts and t-shirt
- ___ plastic bag for wet clothes
- ___ towel
- ___ *hiking shoes/sneakers*
- ___ ***long pants and long-sleeved shirt** – (campers will be more comfortable if they have warm clothes to put on after being in the water)*
- ___ *jacket or sweatshirt*
- ___ ***rain jacket or poncho***
- ___ *sleeping bag and pillow*
- ___ *sleeping pad (optional)*
- ___ *pajamas*
- ___ *flashlight*
- ___ *personal toiletries (in a ziplock labeled with camper’s name)*

