

Dear Parents and Campers:

Welcome to the River Runners summer camp—July 12-16, 2021! I am looking forward to our paddle adventures on and in the Patuxent River and its tributaries. Please go over the attached checklist with your camper so that s/he will be fully prepared for camp.

We will be holding camp with rain or clear skies, but severe thunderstorms will require us to cancel. The decision to cancel will be made by 7:00pm the day before. Cancellations will go out via email and be posted on the event page for this camp at calvertparks.org. Prorated refunds will be made if we have to cancel.

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

<u>Day</u>	<u>Drop off</u>	<u>Pick up</u>	<u>Location</u>
Monday (7/12)	9am	3pm	Battle Creek Cypress Swamp
Tuesday (7/13) and Wednesday (7/14)	9am (park @ the POOL)	3pm (park @ the barn)	Kings Landing Park
Thursday (7/15) and Friday (7/16)	9am	3pm	Lower Marlboro Pier

Please note that we are doing a numbered check-in this year to avoid having close clumps of people at those times.

CHECK-IN - When you arrive at each site, look for our big red flag and the camp staff in yellow shirts who will be giving you a number for check-in. Please park and stay in/near your car until your family's number is called.

CHECK-OUT – Park in the same area as we used in the morning, if possible. You may get out of your car so we can see you, but we will walk your camper to you and have you sign them out at your parking spot.

As always, safety is our primary concern. Please see the information below for more about our summer camp COVID-19 protocol. Each morning campers will have a COVID health screening in addition to our normal check-in process – thanks in advance for your patience.

Want to get through camp check-in faster? Camp forms are due BEFORE the first day of camp. **You may need these paper forms if: your child will need to bring ANY medication to camp, you are carpooling with another family, or if your child has a severe allergy.** All our camp forms can be found here: [Calvert Nature Society - Summer Camp Forms \(calvertparks.org\)](http://Calvert Nature Society - Summer Camp Forms (calvertparks.org)). If none of these situations apply to you, we should have all your info from online registration.

Campers will be expected to wear shoes at all times while at camp—even in the water. Neither flip flops nor crocs stay on the feet during camp activities; old sneakers or 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.

I know it sounds weird to be wearing long pants/long-sleeved shirts for kayaking, but we will be spending a goodly amount of time in the river as well as in our boats. Wearing lightweight long pants and long-sleeved shirts will provide protection from the sun, biting insects, ticks, and branches/thorns in the water as we explore.

Please be sure that your camper does a thorough “tick check” when they get home each 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? Contact me by email @ “tania.gale@calvertcountymd.gov”

I look forward to our watery adventures!

Sincerely,
Tania Gale, Naturalist



“River Runners” camp checklist*Wear these things*****

Except for Monday – all gear will be transferred to a borrowed dry bag to go into the kayak.

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

Paddles, kayaks, life jackets, and dry bags are provided

Monday – creek crawl

- Lunch (non-perishable, no glass, in a Ziploc bag)
- snack (trail mix, granola bar, or similar)
- mask or other face covering
- hand sanitizer
- insect repellent*
- sunscreen (bring more)*
- hat*
- long pants and long-sleeved shirt (old ones that can get really dirty)*
- shoes to wear in the water – no flipflops/crocs*
- water bottle (1-2 liters)
- rain jacket
- backpack to stow gear in
- plastic bag for wet clothes
- towel
- change of clothes and shoes - not flipflops or crocs

Tuesday – kayaking basics and safety

- Lunch (non-perishable, no glass, in a Ziploc bag)
- snack (trail mix, granola bar, or similar)
- mask or other face covering
- hand sanitizer
- insect repellent*
- sunscreen (bring more)*
- hat*
- long pants and long-sleeved shirt (old ones that can get really dirty)*
- shoes to wear in the water – no flipflops/crocs*
- water bottle (1-2 liters)
- flashlight or headlamp (not a lantern)
- rain jacket
- towel
- bring gear in a backpack or that will stay onshore
- plastic bag for wet clothes
- change of clothes and shoes - not flipflops or crocs

Wednesday – explore Cocktown Creek

- Lunch (non-perishable, no glass, in a Ziploc bag)
- snack (trail mix, granola bar, or similar)
- mask or other face covering
- hand sanitizer
- insect repellent*
- sunscreen (bring more)*

Wednesday con't

- hat*
- shoes to wear in the water – no flipflops/crocs*
- long pants and long-sleeved shirt (old ones that can get really dirty)*
- water bottle (1-2 liters)
- rain jacket
- bring gear in a backpack that will stay onshore
- towel
- plastic bag for wet clothes
- change of clothes and shoes - not flipflops or crocs

Thursday - paddle on the Patuxent River

(Note – no restrooms/changing area at this site)

- Lunch (non-perishable, no glass, in a Ziploc bag)
- snack (trail mix, granola bar, or similar)
- mask or other face covering
- hand sanitizer
- insect repellent*
- sunscreen (bring more)*
- hat*
- long pants and long-sleeved shirt (old ones that can get really dirty)*
- shoes to wear in the water – no flipflops/crocs*
- water bottle (1-2 liters)
- backpack (none w/wheels)
- rain jacket
- towel
- bring gear in a backpack that will stay onshore

Friday - paddle the river/one of the creeks

(Note – no restrooms/changing area at this site)

- Lunch (non-perishable, no glass, in a Ziploc bag)
- snack (trail mix, granola bar, or similar)
- mask or other face covering
- hand sanitizer
- insect repellent*
- sunscreen (bring more)*
- hat*
- long pants and long-sleeved shirt (old ones that can get really dirty)*
- shoes to wear in the water – no flipflops/crocs*
- water bottle (1-2 liters)
- rain jacket
- bring gear in a backpack that will stay onshore



Thank you for registering for one of our 2021 Nature Discovery Summer Camps.

We want you to know that we are putting into place the following safety precautions for Summer Camp this year:

- All of our camps are planned to take place outside – exceptions may include:
 - o Coming into the building to use the restrooms
 - o Needing to shelter indoors from extreme weather
- We will encourage social distancing as much as possible. Campers will be in individual kayaks
- Camp activities have been planned so that they do not involve sharing or touching of shared objects.
- After campers go home for the day, equipment and surfaces will be sanitized.
 - Staff will schedule hand sanitizing breaks throughout the day. If we are close to a building with indoor facilities, we will use soap and water. If on the trail, we will use hand sanitizer.
- All camp staff and campers will have a health screening including a temperature check upon arrival.

Check-in will be a little different this year due to the daily health checks. Please be sure to turn in all your camp paperwork 2 WEEKS BEFORE camp begins. You can mail these (please allow for mailing time) or drop them off at Battle Creek Nature Center. Nature Center hours are: Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:30pm, Saturday 10am-6pm, & Sunday 1-6pm.

Camp staff may have a drive-thru check in process or give you a number when you pull in to help organize check-in. Please do not crowd around the check -in/check-out area. Stay in your car, we will call or come to you.

We recommend contacting your health care provider if you have questions about COVID-19.

For questions about this camp, please email Tania Gale @ tania.gale@calvertcountymd.gov

