**WELCOME TO**

 **Birding Adventures CAMP!**

WHERE: Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, Flag Ponds Nature Park and Kings Landing Park

WHEN: Tue, July 5 – Fri, July 8 9:00 am- 3:00 pm

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

Welcome to Birding Adventures Camp! To help insure that your child has a safe and fun time, I have a few suggestions:

* **Drop off and pick up** your child at the specified location promptly at the scheduled times below.
* **Sign In:** Please sign your child in and out every day, and let us know if someone else will be taking them home.
* **Lunch & Snacks:** Pack a lunch of non-perishable food items, or provide an ice pack as we will be carrying our lunches with us all day. Please pack 2 additional snack items.
* **Food Allergies:** Occasionally, we will try wild edibles varying from wine berries to wild greens.  If you would prefer your child does not try any or all of these things, or has any food allergies, please let me know in advance.
* **Backpacks:** Please place all personal belongings in a backpack. Campers will carry their backpacks and supplies with them to the different parts of the park since we do not have access to buildings at this time.
* **Clothing:** dress in comfortable outdoor clothes that can get dirty. Please make sure that your child has a change of clothes for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
* **Shoes:** Comfortable sturdy shoes are a must, since we will be hiking quite a bit throughout the day. For safety reasons, we ask that campers do not wear flip flops or Crocs.
* **Bullying:** We want our campers to feel safe; therefore, campers who are bullying others will be permanently expelled from all CCNRD camps.
* **Health/Safety:** While we are having fun exploring nature, I will make every effort to minimize your child’s exposure to things like poison ivy, ticks, jellyfish, etc; however, if your child develops a rash or other symptoms, don’t hesitate to contact your physician. In addition, please check your child for ticks after camp every day.
* **Covid-19 Safety:** Please see the attached list of Covid Updates for camp. We will try to keep these as up to date as we can.

 I have enjoyed preparing for this camp, and I can’t wait to explore the outdoors with your children. I look forward to meeting everyone this summer, and please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have questions. I can be reached at Battle Creek by phone at (410) 535-5327 or by email gene.groshon@calvertcountymd.gov

Sincerely,

Gene Groshon

Birding Adventures Schedule and Locations

Tuesday: Drop off at **Flag Ponds** at 9:00 am at Picnic Area

 Pick up at **Flag Ponds** at 3:00 pm at Picnic Area

We will be hiking through the park through the forest and beach so bring a good back pack because we will need to carry our things with us as we go. The Picnic Areas is located on the left between the education building and visitor center.

Wednesday: Drop off at **Battle Creek** at 9:00 am meeting at the pavilion

 Pick up at **Battle Creek** at 3:00 pm at the pavilion

We will be exploring the swamp to check warbler nest boxes as well as birding throughout the park and hopefully will attempt to band some warblers as well. The pavilion is located in the back of the parking lot on the right once you enter the park.

Thursday: Drop off at **Kings Landing Park** at 9:00 am at Wisner Hall

 Pick up at **Kings Landing Park** at 3:00 pm at Wisner Hall

We will go kayaking in the morning and search for birds along the marshes of the Patuxent River and Cocktown Creek. Then in the afternoon we will go for a hike. Be sure to bring a change of clothes this day. The pool parking lot is located in the back of the park. You will go to the left and pass Tom Wisner Hall to get to the pool parking lot.

Friday: Drop off at **Battle Creek Cypress Swamp** at 9:00 am at the pavilion

 Pick up at **Battle Creek Cypress Swamp** at 3:00 pm at the pavilion

We will likely be traveling in the van to visit various parks for birding and to attempt to catch some falcons for part of a research study.

Park Addresses

Flag Ponds Nature Park: 1525 Flag Ponds Parkway, Lusby, MD 20657

Battle Creek: 2880 Grays Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Kings Landing Park: 3255 Kings Landing Road, Huntingtown, MD 20639

**Covid-19 Updates**

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

* All our camps are planned to take place outside – exceptions include may include:

· Coming into the building to use the restrooms

· Needing to shelter indoors from extreme weather

* Camp activities have planned so that they do not involve sharing or touching of shared objects and encouraged social distancing as much as possible.
* Campers will not be required to wear masks but may wish to do so when indoors or traveling in the van

We will not be doing health checks during check-in but we ask if your child is feeling sick or has a fever to please not attend camp until they are feeling better.

**What to Bring:**

* (optional) Face mask that covers nose and mouth with no vents
* Lunch (pack in reusable containers ,if possible, to minimize trash)
* 2 additional snacks (finger food) for the trail
* Refillable water bottle (camper will be given 1 on first day of camp too)
* Backpack
* Hat (wide brimmed is best)
* Sunscreen (on and packed)
* Insect Repellent (one that works for both ticks and mosquitoes) {on and packed}
* Camera (optional)
* Binoculars (we will have some we can provide)
* Raincoat or Poncho (no umbrellas) if rain is forecasted
* Small Antibacterial Gel/ hand sanitizer

**What NOT to Bring:**

* Electronic Devices besides a camera
* Money
* Candy (except in your lunch)
* Flip flops or Crocs