

Environmental Stewardship Program
FORT CASWELL FIELD TRIP AGENDA
Hip Homeschool Moms, August 21-25, 2016

Sunday, Aug 21

Afternoon arrival and check-in

- 5:00 pm Orientation in Chapel
- 5:30 pm Supper
- 6:00 pm Caswell Gym/Putt Putt open and Evening Activity Options
History Hayride, Coastal Fishing
- 7:30 pm Evening Activity Option
Ghost Crab Hunt

Monday, Aug 22

- 7:30 am Breakfast
- 8:30 am Morning brief in Chapel
- 9:00 am Morning Educational Activities
Estuary Exploration: *Tidal Creek Kayak, Blue Crabs*
Marine Ecology: *Plankton Ecology: Field and Lab*
Tide and Dune Exploration: *Maritime Forest Scavenger Hunt, Turtle Talks*
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm Afternoon Educational Activities
Estuary Exploration: *Marsh Seine, Blue Crabs*
Marine Ecology: *Plankton Ecology: Field and Lab*
Tide and Dune Exploration: *Seashore Discovery Walk, Beach Seine*
- 5:30 pm Supper
- 6:00 pm Caswell Gym/Putt Putt open and Evening Activity Options
History Hayride, Coastal Fishing
- 7:30 pm Evening Activity Option
Ghost Crab Hunt

PROGRAM NOTES:

- ✧ All activities are weather permitting and subject to change accordingly.
- ✧ Each morning activity will be offered at 9am, 10am and 11am and last about 45 minutes.
- ✧ Each afternoon activity will be offered at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm and last about 45 minutes.
- ✧ Sign-up sheets for day and evening programs will be available at time of registration.
- ✧ Kayakers under age 11 must be paired with an adult or older students.

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Tuesday, Aug 23

- 7:30 am Breakfast
- 8:30 am Morning brief in Chapel
- 9:00 am Morning Educational Activities
Estuary Exploration: *Marsh Seine*
Marine Ecology: *Weather Window/Ocean and Air Movements, Squid Dissection*
Tide and Dune Exploration: *Seashore Discovery Walk, Beach Seine*
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm Afternoon Educational Activities
Estuary Exploration: *Tidal Creek Kayak*
Marine Ecology: *Salt H₂O Survey, Squid Dissection*
Tide and Dune Exploration: *Maritime Forest Scavenger Hunt, Turtle Talks*
- 4:00 pm PX Gift Shop open (until 5:00 pm)
- 5:30 pm Supper
- 6:00 pm Caswell Gym/Putt Putt open and Evening Activity Options
History Hayride, Coastal Fishing
- 7:30 pm Evening Activity Option
Ghost Crab Hunt

Wednesday, Aug 24

- 7:30 am Breakfast
- 8:30 am Morning brief in Chapel
- 9:00 am Depart for Bald Head Island Ferry Terminal for off-campus excursion
Bald Head Island Lighthouse Learners Program (lunch provided)
- 4:00 pm Return to campus; PX Gift Shop open (until 5:00 pm)
- 5:30 pm Seafood Buffet Super
- 8:00 pm Bonfire and S'mores with a Pirate @ Maritime Way

Thursday, Aug 25

- 7:30 am Breakfast
- 8:30 am Farewell briefing in chapel
- 10:00 am Check out and departure

~ *Fair winds and following seas!* ~

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ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

ESTUARY EXPLORATION

Blue Crabs - Students learn about the anatomy and behavior of the Atlantic Blue Crab and its importance to our salt marsh ecosystem while trying to catch a few of their own.

Marsh Seine - Students assist staff naturalist with sieves and seines to discover the flora and fauna that abound in NC estuaries, and why they are called the “nursery grounds of the sea”.

Tidal Creek Kayak – Students get a ducks-eye view of the salt marsh- *Spartina*, fiddler crabs and all as they kayak up a tidal creek with staff naturalists.

MARINE ECOLOGY

Oceans and Air Movements - Students record basic metrological data as they learn how the ocean and its currents impact weather patterns on a global scale.

Plankton Ecology - Students use nets and microscopes to sample and observe some of the smallest members of the marine community: the plankton.

Saltwater Survey - Students participate in water quality testing as they learn how abiotic factors such as salinity and temperature affect marine life.

Squid Dissection - Students investigate the taxonomy and anatomy of the squid through conducting a dissection.

Weather Window – Students create a cloud identification and classification tool to use outside for predicting what type of weather may be on the horizon.

TIDE AND DUNE EXPLORATION

Beach Seine - Students explore the surf zone with sieves and seines to sift and sort critters living in this high energy zone of the ocean biome.

Maritime Forest Scavenger Hunt - Students learn about plant communities on a barrier island and investigate plant adaptations for living in sandy, salty conditions.

Seashore Discovery Walk - Students take a beach walk with staff naturalists to look for “treasures” washed up on shore and discuss their role in the marine ecosystem.

Turtle Talks - Students build life-size sand sea turtles as they learn about the biology and behavior of sea turtles around the world.

EVENING PROGRAMS

Bonfire and S’mores with a Pirate - Enjoy an evening of campfire and s’mores with a twist. “It’s a pirate’s life for me!” takes on a whole new meaning as students discover what it was *really* like to be a pirate during the Golden Age of Piracy.

Coastal Fishing - Students learn basic coastal fishing techniques and typical species caught along our coast.

History Hayride – Students explore the grounds of Fort Caswell by wagon while learning about early settlements in the Cape Fear region and historical uses of the fort throughout the last century and a half.

Nighttime Ghost Crab Hunt - A fun evening spent learning about the Atlantic Ghost Crab that includes a beach walk after dark looking for this nocturnal east coast native.

LIGHTHOUSE LEARNERS!

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED (910) 457-7481
For School & Youth Groups



Trip includes:

- ★ Round Trip Ferry departing from Southport, NC
- ★ Smith Island Museum & Old Baldy Lighthouse Admission
- ★ Educational Programs
- ★ Climb the oldest standing Lighthouse in NC
- ★ Explore the history and science of a Lighthouse 1817-1935 and the remains of Ft. Holmes, Confederate Earthworks 1863-1865
- ★ Bag lunch and picnic on the grounds of Old Baldy



Old Baldy Foundation
Bald Head Island, NC
www.oldbaldy.org

Ferry departs from Deep Point Marina promptly at 9:30 am
and returns from Bald Head Island at 2:30 pm

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EXTRA: Optional Activity Day for High School Students

Thursday, Aug 25

- 7:30 am Breakfast
- 8:30 am Farewell briefing in chapel
- 9:30 am Morning Educational Activities
High Marsh Field Studies: *Fiddle Facts, Coastal Birds*
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm Afternoon Educational Activities (4-hr lab)
Marine Biology: *Comparative Dissection Lab*
- 5:30 pm Supper
- 7:00 pm Drift Inn (on-site Internet Café and Game Room), Caswell Gym open

Friday, Aug 26

- 7:30 am Breakfast
- 8:30 am Farewell briefing in chapel
- 10:00 am Check out and departure

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

HIGH MARSH FIELD STUDIES

Fiddle Facts - Students learn about fiddler crab behavior and how populations of organisms are scientifically estimated.

Coastal Birds - Students learn about migratory shorebirds that visit coastal NC throughout the year while searching for food sources currently available to our shorebirds.

MARINE BIOLOGY

Comparative Dissection Lab - Students will have the opportunity to complete four of the Apologia® Marine Biology dissections.

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