SUMMER CAMPS
at the
Environmental Education Center
June - August 2020

COYOTE KIDS
ECO-EXPLORERS
AWESIM KIDS
XTREME ADVENTURE

(Ages 4-16)
It has been our pleasure to offer enriching and fun summer camp programs to the children of our community for more than 20 years! Exceptional camp programs for ages 4 to 16 are available. We aim to inspire a life-long love and respect for the natural world, while cultivating a curiosity about the environment and a fondness for science. Outdoor lessons and hands-on experiences are only a few of the benefits our engaging summer programs offer. With over 500 acres of fields, forests, ponds, and river, the Environmental Education Center at Lord Stirling Park offers unique opportunities in a natural learning environment for children of all ages.

**Registration**

Online and in-person registration begins Wednesday, February 5 at 9:00am. Phone-in or mail-in begins Wednesday, February 5 at 11:00am. Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis.

When registering, please provide an email that you check regularly as most communication is via e-mail.

Visit somersetcountyparks.org or call 908.722.1200 Ext. 5002 to register.

**Payment**

Payment policy is specific to each camp program. Please refer to Coyote Kids, Eco-Explorers, AWESIM KIDS, and Xtreme Adventure descriptions for specific payment information. Payment is accepted via credit card, cash or check.

All deposit and final balance payments are non-refundable and non-transferrable for Eco-Explorers, AWESIM KIDS, and Xtreme Adventure.

**Eligibility**

Programs are age-specific. Participants must fall between the minimum and maximum age at the start of the enrolled session.

All programs start and end at the Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920.

The Environmental Education Center welcomes everyone to participate in its programs. If you have individualized needs due to a disability, please call 908.722.1200 Ext. 5324 and we will be happy to arrange reasonable modifications. Six weeks notice is required to ensure that appropriate modifications can be provided.

**Come Prepared**

Please wear comfortable summer clothing, sturdy footwear that can get wet/dirty, and a hat. Bring a day bag with a complete change of clothes, sunscreen, and bug spray. Certain days will require a bathing suit and towel.

Coyote Kids participants should pack a snack and water bottle. Participants enrolled in all day programs such as Eco-Explorers, AWESIM KIDS, and Xtreme Adventure, should bring a minimum of two snacks, lunch, and a water bottle each day. Refrigeration is not available. Please send food in a labeled insulated bag. Campers are encouraged to participate in our waste-free lunch program. Items such as reusable sandwich/snack containers, drink bottles, and cloth napkins are encouraged.

**Participant Expectations**

The following expectations are designed to ensure a successful, positive experience for all camp participants.

- Arrive on time.
- Dress according to each day’s weather and activities.
- Be respectful to staff, peers, and the surrounding environment.
- Keep cell phones and other electronic devices in backpacks or at home.

Failure to meet these expectations may lead to a participant being removed from a program with a forfeiture of fees paid. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact the Naturalist(s) and/or management.
COYOTE KIDS
(Ages 4-6)

Hoooowl! Join the pack for a fun, five-day nature program full of outdoor exploration, live animals, hands-on activities, games, and water play! This program will take place rain or shine. Pack a snack and come prepared to be outside!

Full payment is due at the time of registration. Program fee is refundable if cancellation occurs a minimum of seven days prior to the start of the session.

Mud
June 22-June 26, 9:00am-Noon
Dress for a mess – this is mud week! Explore soils, mud pie creations, and mud art.
$125 per person
Course Code: 51752-16

Habitats
July 6-July 10, 9:00am-Noon
Focus on a different habitat each day while exploring the field, forest, swamp, and gardens!
$125 per person
Course Code: 51752-17

Animals
July 20-July 24, 9:00am-Noon
Discuss a different type of animal each day such as mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and birds!
$125 per person
Course Code: 51752-18

Bugs
August 3-August 7, 9:00am-Noon
Bugs are everywhere! Discover butterflies, dragonflies, aquatic insects, and creatures under fallen logs!
$125 per person
Course Code: 51752-19

For more information regarding Coyote Kids please contact Rebecca Vermeesch at 908.722.1200 Ext. 5334 or rvermeesch@scparks.org.
ECO-EXPLORERS
(Ages 7-9)

For more than twenty years, Eco-Explorers has offered participants a fun-filled adventure in learning and discovery! We help develop an appreciation for nature and a fondness for science through hands-on activities. Hiking, nature lessons, canoeing, field trips, environmental games, arts and crafts, water play or pool time, guest speakers, and more will add up to a fun and educational summer!

Each week will include an off-site field trip with school bus transportation. All trips are related to session theme and may include sites such as Turtle Back Zoo, Liberty Science Center, and various parks throughout the state. Trip locations are chosen within a 60 minute radius from the Environmental Education Center.

Eight nature and science-themed sessions are offered. Description, duration, and price vary per session.

A non-refundable, non-transferrable deposit of $150 per person, per session is due at registration. Non-refundable and non-transferrable balance is due by Friday, May 1.

Extended care is available for each session from 4:30pm-5:30pm for an additional $42.50 fee. For the week of June 29, the extended care fee will be $34 due to the July 4th Holiday schedule.

Aquatic Adventures
June 22-June 26, 8:30am-4:30pm
Learn about the properties of water and observe aquatic wildlife during this water filled adventure!
$360 per person
Course Code: 50101-25

Dino Rocks NEW!
June 29-July 2, (No program Friday, July 3), 8:30am-4:30pm
Love Dinosaurs? This 4-day session is for you! Learn about a variety of dinosaurs and all their fascinating characteristics.
$288 per person
Course Code: 50101-26

Swamp Scientists
July 6-July 10, 8:30am-4:30pm
Put on your lab coat and conduct fun, wacky experiments while finding out more about the science behind nature!
$360 per person
Course Code: 50101-27

Creature Feature
July 13-July 17, 8:30am-4:30pm
Earth is home to a variety of amazing animals. Meet special animal guests and become an expert!
$360 per person
Course Code: 50101-28

Mystery in the Swamp
July 20-July 24, 8:30am-4:30pm
There are a lot of mysteries to solve in the Great Swamp! Be sure to bring your sense of adventure!
$360 per person
Course Code: 50101-29

Animal Olympics NEW!
July 27-July 31, 8:30am-4:30pm
Jump, skip, and run your way through Eco-Explorers while discussing the Olympics and comparing animals to athletes.
$360 per person
Course Code: 50101-30

Scales & Tails NEW!
August 3-August 7, 8:30am-4:30pm
What do Bearded Dragons, Ball Pythons, and dogs have in common? They are all pets! Meet a variety of pets and learn the importance of pet care while assisting with critter care.
$360 per person
Course Code: 50101-31

Bugtastic
August 10-August 14, 8:30am-4:30pm
Fly, crawl, hop, and buzz through the week while learning all about bugs and their amazing characteristics!
$360 per person
Course Code: 50101-32

For more information regarding Eco-Explorers please contact Vanessa Darras at 908.722.1200 Ext. 5335 or vdarras@scparks.org. A parent handbook is also available at somersetcountyparks.org.
The AWESIM KIDS program will be starting its 25th summer season this year! AWESIM KIDS offers a unique combination of learning and summer vacation fun. Spend days hiking, boating, learning about local wildlife, exploring the park, meeting interesting people and professionals, and going on unique day trips. AWESIM KIDS encourages hands-on learning and peer leadership opportunities while working together in both small and large groups. Each two-week session, although individually themed, offers a variety of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) projects. In addition, favorite activities such as berry picking, boating, and swimming are repeated throughout the summer.

An optional overnight (sleepover) will take place the first Thursday of each session. A healthy dinner, snacks, and drinks will be provided. Evening activities may include night hikes, star gazing, and other weather permitting activities. Please note: participants get picked up the following Friday, between 7:30am–9:00am.

Each week AWESIM KIDS will travel by van to an off-site location. Group will depart at 9:00am and return at approximately 4:30pm. Each trip is related to the session theme.

A non-refundable, non-transferrable deposit of $150 per person, per session is due at registration. Non-refundable and non-transferrable balance is due by Friday, May 1.

Extended care is available for each session from 4:30pm-5:30pm for an additional $85 fee. For the session starting June 22, the extended care fee will be $76.50 due to the July 4th Holiday schedule.

H Meets O
June 22-July 2 (no program Friday, July 3), 8:30am-4:30pm
Every living thing on Earth depends upon water. Learn about our amazing blue planet while exploring both salt and fresh water habitats. Plan to get wet and dirty while paddling on ponds, exploring streams, and spending time in kayaks. Paddling experts will teach strokes and safety while having a good time with friends. Sleepover Thursday, June 25; pick-up Friday, June 26, 7:30am-9:00am
$648 per person
Course Code: 50102-50

Survive
July 6-July 17, 8:30am-4:30pm
This session is all about the basics of both animal and human survival including finding safe water for drinking, shelter for protection from the environment, gathering food, and additional hands-on activities. Whether making a piece of rope, learning to tie basic knots or learning basic wilderness first aid, there will be a challenge every day.
Sleepover, Thursday, July 9; pick-up Friday, July 10, 7:30am-9:00am.
$720 per person
Course Code: 50102-51

Science Rules
July 20-July 31, 8:30am-4:30pm
Nature and science go hand-in-hand. From slug slime to sticky webs, flashing fireflies to glowing worms, calling frogs to soaring songbirds; observe nature’s rules about locomotion, adaptations, and much more. Spend time hiking, boating, exploring the swamp, and adventuring on day trips. STEM challenges will be part of the daily fun!
Sleepover, Thursday, July 23; pick-up Friday, July 24, 7:30am-9:00am
$720 per person
Course Code: 50102-52

Yum
August 3-August 14, 8:30am-4:30pm
Enjoy nature’s bounty while learning about wild edibles and growing organic food in the AWESIM KIDS garden; test your creative culinary skills during the awesome iron chef challenges. Spend time hiking the trails in search of high bush blueberries and wild blackberries, when perfectly ripe, are tasty treats, and search for the pollinators responsible for making our food grow.
Sleepover, Thursday, August 6; pick-up Friday, August 7, 7:30am-9:00am.
$720 per person
Course Code: 50102-53

For more information regarding AWESIM KIDS please contact Christa Wood at 908.722.1200 Ext. 5337 or cwood@scparks.org. A parent handbook is also available at somersetcountyparks.org. Once registered, please add kawesim@scparks.org to your contact list to ensure you receive email communication.
XTREME ADVENTURE
(Ages 13-16)

Disconnect from electronics and let nature reconnect you to your wild side! Challenge yourself to an unforgettable week of fun and adventure! Two Environmental Education Center Naturalists are sure to teach you how to crank up the Xtreme factor! No experience is necessary; all you need is a will for adventure!

A non-refundable, non-transferrable deposit of $150 per person is due at registration. Non-refundable and non-transferrable balance is due by Friday, May 1.

Xtreme Adventure Week
July 13-July 17
Adventures may include stand up paddling, kayaking, hiking, and spending a day at a great ocean-side destination. The following is a tentative schedule for the week.

Monday, 8:30am-4:30pm: Orientation and Stand Up Paddling Trip
Tuesday, 8:30am-Noon: Intro to Kayaking at the Environmental Education Center
Wednesday, 8:30am-8:00pm: Pine Barrens Kayaking Trip
Thursday, 7:30pm-11:00pm: Night Hike at the Environmental Education Center
Friday, 10:00am-8:00pm: Island Beach State Park and Seaside Boardwalk Trip

Please note drop-off and pick-up times vary each day and the schedule is subject to change. For more information, please contact Ben Barkley at bbarkley@scparks.org or 908.722.1200 Ext. 5326.

$450 per person
Course Code: 50103-67
MEET THE NATURALISTS

All six full-time Naturalists have an important leadership role within the various camps. Each Naturalist has their own unique niche, but all have a Bachelor’s Degree in a science-related field and bring years of passion, experience, knowledge, and an unmatched level of professionalism to the Environmental Education Center summer camp programs.

Vanessa Darras is excited to begin her 11th summer as the coordinator of Eco-Explorers. She has extensive knowledge of coastal and forest ecology and experience teaching audiences ages infant to 100+. Vanessa loves handling live animals and leading kids on hikes!

Christa Wood has been co-leading AWESIM KIDS for 19 years. She has worked summer camps since she was a teenager and loves it that way! She enjoys exploring the great outdoors and is especially passionate about native plants, dragonflies, and rock/fossil collecting.

Rich Hoffman will begin his 26th summer as co-leader of AWESIM KIDS. He loves the swamp in the summer and especially enjoys the overnights, star gazing, juicy watermelon, black lights, and moths! Rich looks forward to working in the organic garden with campers and helping out Monarch butterflies.

Monica Juhasz co-leads Xtreme Adventure and coordinates all things paddling for Eco-Explorers and AWESIM KIDS. She has been teaching at the Environmental Education Center for 22 years and loves canoeing and kayaking with all the campers. Monica also serves as the pool lifeguard during free swim! Her paddling passions include whitewater and stand-up paddling, including SUP yoga.

Ben Barkley is starting his fourth summer as co-leader of the Coyote Kids and Xtreme Adventure programs. He found his passion for birds at an early age and has been all about the birds ever since! Ben is quickly learning to love all things with wings, as he recently became enamored with butterflies.

Rebecca Vermeesch is starting her second summer as co-leader of Coyote Kids. Summer is her favorite season; it means the beach, fishing, and summer camps! Rebecca has a passion for coastal habitats, and the Great Swamp is easily one of her favorite wetlands. She loves going on hikes looking for animal tracks, frogs, and turtles.