



# SEA CAMP 2020

*Parent Handbook*



# SEA CAMP PARENT HANDBOOK 2020: *COASTAL CONSERVATION*

**Thank you for registering your child for Sea Camp this summer! We are excited to have them join us this season.** Sea Camp is an educational day camp sponsored by the University of Southern Mississippi's (USM) Marine Education Center (MEC). It is designed to foster an awareness and understanding of the Gulf Coast's fragile marine and aquatic environments among children 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grades. The MEC is the education and outreach extension of USM's School of Ocean Science and Engineering (SOSE).

Activities are held both at the MEC and in the field. The number of field trips depends on the grade of the child. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders travel to Fort Maurepas for beach and splash pad fun. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 6<sup>th</sup> grades will travel to Ship Island to learn more about our most visited barrier island and its history.

***Safety is the top priority at the Marine Education Center.*** Children are bused to and from all field trip activities that are not within walking distance. All water vessels are Coast Guard certified and maintained. Swimming is **not** allowed, and shoes (closed-toe shoes during field trips) **must** be worn at all times. All classes meet from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Wednesday & Friday. Thursday (Ship Island field trip for 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades) will be 8:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.; pick up will occur at normal time for campers in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades.

## **Facility Location and Contact Information**

Sea Camp is located on USM's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory Cedar Point site at 101 Sweetbay Drive, Ocean Springs, MS 39564. The facility's phone number is (228) 818-8095 and hours of operation are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## **Registration**

Students are to arrive Monday morning between 7:45 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Parents and children will gather in the MEC Conference Center for registration. The Conference Center<sup>1</sup> can be accessed from the designated parking areas. Sea Camp instructors are available to answer any questions, comments, or concerns from parents and children during Monday morning sign-in.

## **Tuition**

Tuition includes all instructional materials, field trip transportation, admission fees, art supplies, and a t-shirt. A \$50 non-refundable pre-registration deposit is required. The deposit will be applied toward the total due. ***All fees must be paid by the first day of camp. Your child will not be able to participate in the program until they are fully paid.***

## **Refund Policy**

Refunds for paid tuition balances will be made if requested in writing by fax, email, or in person at the MEC administration office<sup>2</sup>, according to the schedule below. If a student is registered for a camp session and becomes unable to attend, full credit can be obtained if applied to an alternate session of Sea Camp. This refund will apply **ONLY** if space is available in the Sea Camp session. Refunds in the form of a personal check may take up to eight weeks for processing. We reserve the right to grant exceptions to this stated policy in certain situations.

### Time of Request - Refund/Credit for Tuition Balance

- At least 15 days before start of the requested camp session = 100% minus \$50 deposit
- 7 - 14 days before start of the requested camp session = 50% minus \$50 deposit

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<sup>1</sup> See attached map, Conference Center is location #4.

<sup>2</sup> See attached map, Administration Building and Exhibit Hall are location #2.

- Less than 7 days before start of the requested camp session = No Refunds

### **Arrival Procedures**

Parents may drop off children between 7:45 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. **Monday will be the only day you will need to exit your vehicle to register and sign your child in the MEC Conference Center.** During registration you will sign your child in and will receive “dash cards” with your child’s information. These “dash cards” will be helpful in picking up and dropping off your child the rest of the week. For the remainder of the week please display your “dash card” in your car window; this allows Sea Camp staff to keep the car line running efficiently. You will drop your child off with a Sea Camp staff member each morning at the MEC (***for your child’s safety, please make sure they are signed in/out EVERY day***) and a staff member will then escort your child to their appropriate group location.

When pulling into the Gulf Islands National Seashore property (via Highway 90) take the second left onto the Gulf Coast Research Lab Cedar Point campus via Laurel Oak Drive. Keep straight until you reach the gray MEC entrance sign (101 Sweetbay Drive); keep on the gravel path, moving at a slow speed until stopped by a staff member. The MEC driveway makes a loop, so please pull forward to drop off your children and return back out of the driveway to campus.

### **Dismissal Procedures**

Pick up in the afternoon will work the same way as arrival. **Please pick your child up as close to 3:00 p.m. as possible to avoid traffic congestion from our other camps (except for campers going into 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade on Thursdays, as pickup will be delayed until 5:15 p.m.). To pick up your child there will be no need to get out of your car. A staff member will be there to collect your signature.** Children will wait in their assigned area until parent/guardian or designated person comes to pick up individual(s). Parent/guardian(s) will then continue around on the gravel drive, back to the main road.

If you have children in multiple camps, you may drop them off and pick them up at the same time (i.e. dropping off a child in Sea Camp and Angler Camp at 8:00 a.m. and pick up at 3:00 p.m.). Please contact the *Camp Coordinator* directly to inform them of your needs. They will need to make arrangements with our educators in both camps.

For early “check out” the parent/guardian or designated persons must enter the administrative offices<sup>3</sup> and inform a Marine Education Center employee of this dismissal.

### **Sign Out Requirements**

\*A parent/guardian or designated person picking up a child **must** be listed on the child’s “deliver and receive” section on their required parental authorization form. Only those listed on the deliver/receive section of the registration or those given written permission can pick up a child from camp.

**\*A signature is always required by the parent/guardian or designated persons.**

**\*A valid driver’s license or government issued photo ID is required for signing out a child.**

### **Items to Bring:**

- Lunch, Drinks (2), Snacks (2)
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Insect Repellent

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<sup>3</sup> See attached map, Administration Building and Exhibit Hall are location #2.

- Closed Toed Shoes (Keens®, Crocs™ or Sneakers)
- Towel
- Small, or Easily Carried Backpack
- Reusable Water Bottle
- Swimsuits (encouraged on field trip days)
- Poncho or Light Rain Gear

### **Discipline Problems**

The group counselor has direct disciplinary authority over a camper. If poor student conduct occurs, the group counselor will notify the summer camp coordinator and/or MEC Director, who will respond accordingly. If the problem persists after corrective measures are implemented, the parent or guardian will be contacted, and the student will be permanently removed from the program. No tuition refunds will be granted.

### **Off-Site Transportation/Safety Policies**

State owned/operated vehicles, or authorized automobile rentals will be utilized for scheduled field trips. All vessels are Coast Guard certified and maintained.

### **General Safety Procedures**

Your child's safety is very important to us. Sea Camp staff members are certified in First Aid/CPR/AED training and have passed a federal background check. Sea Camp does **not** allow swimming at any time during camp. There are times when staff and campers wade in the water for seining, sieving, marsh walks, and beach combing. Fishing from a pier or from the harbor are activities included in the weekly schedule.

The following safety procedures will be observed at all times:

- **ALL** campers will wear **closed-toe shoes** on the beach, in the water, on the fishing pier, trails, and on all watercraft. The University of Southern Mississippi's policies mandate that closed-toed shoes be worn on all University vessels and on all University field trips (NO Chaco's or flip-flops; Crocs™ are allowed only with a heel strap).
- **ALL** campers will wear a Coast Guard approved life vest (secured and/or fastened) during outings on the MEC's research vessel.
- MEC staff are responsible for enforcing general safety rules.

### **Medication Storage/Administration**

Medication is not administered to a child without obtaining a parent/guardian's signature on the required medication form. Sea Camp assistant counselors are responsible for maintaining any medications a student may need. Tylenol/Benadryl may be administered to a child only after checking the camper's registration form. Parents should discuss any medication issues with counselors and/or camp coordinator during registration.

### **Medical Crisis**

Should an emergency situation arise, the coordinator or the student's counselor will tend to the child while the parent is notified. If necessary, the child will be taken to the nearest hospital or clinic until the parent(s) arrive. If parent(s) are unable to be contacted, the counselor will then contact the next emergency contact on the list until someone is notified. All staff members are CPR/AED/Basic First Aid certified by the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons.

## **Medical Crisis Exemptions**

If your child is exempt from medical care on religious grounds you **MUST** provide the name, address, and phone number of a certified practitioner to be contacted in the event of a medical emergency. ***This information must be provided prior to your child's involvement in Sea Camp.***

## **Reporting Child Abuse**

The staff of the USM Marine Education Center has a legal obligation to report any suspected case of child abuse or neglect in the state of Mississippi. The Health Care Regulation provides guidelines on identifying abuse and neglect. Any suspected abuse or neglect will be brought to the attention of the camp coordinator immediately.

## **Questions?**

If you have any questions regarding your upcoming Sea Camp, please contact the Marine Education Center (228) 818-8095 and/or Jessi A. James (*Summer Camp Coordinator*) at (228) 818-8091 or [jessi.james@usm.edu](mailto:jessi.james@usm.edu).

# **SAMPLE CAMP INTINERARY**

## **MONDAY**

8:00 AM Registration & Sign-In  
8:30 – 9:00 Introduction/Pre-Tests/Banner  
9:00 – 9:30 Tie-Dye Camp Shirts **SNACK**  
10:30 – 11:30 Introduction to Theme  
11:30 – 12:30 **LUNCH**  
12:30 – 1:30 Nature Trail/Science on A Sphere  
1:30 – 2:00 **SNACK**  
2:00 – 3:00 Art Activity (TBD)  
3:00 PM Sign-Out

## **TUESDAY – Miss Peetsy B Bayou Tour**

8:00 AM Sign-In  
8:00 – 9:30 Science Experiment (TBD)  
9:30 – 10:00 **SNACK**  
10:30 – 11:30 Peetsy B (Davis Bayou Tour and Trawl) \*\*  
11:30 – 12:30 **LUNCH**  
12:30 – 1:30 Outside Activity (TBD)  
1:30 – 2:00 **SNACK**  
2:00 – 3:00 Classroom Activity (TBD)  
3:00 PM Sign-Out

## **WEDNESDAY**

8:00 AM Sign-In  
8:30 – 9:00 Outside Activity (TBD)  
9:00 – 9:30 **SNACK**  
10:30 – 11:30 Classroom Activity (TBD)  
11:30 – 12:30 **LUNCH**  
12:30 – 1:30 Art Activity (TBD)  
1:30 – 2:00 **SNACK**  
2:00 – 3:00 Classroom Activity (TBD)  
3:00 PM Check-Out

## **THURSDAY – Field Trips**

### **Group A (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades)**

8:00 AM Sign-In  
8:30 – 12:00 Fort Maurepas Splash Pad & OS Front Beach \*\*  
12:30 – 3:00 Movie @ MEC  
3:00 PM Check-Out

### **Group B (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grades) and Group C (5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grades)**

8:00 AM Sign-In  
8:30 – 5:00 Ship Island \*\*  
5:00 PM Check-Out

## **FRIDAY – “Fun Friday”**

8:00 AM Sign-In  
8:00 – 9:00 Rescued & Rehabilitated Wildlife Presentation (WCRC)  
9:00 – 9:30 **SNACK**  
10:30 – 11:30 Fly Fishing Demonstration & Fly Tying (MS Flyfishers)  
11:30 – 12:30 **LUNCH**  
12:30 – 1:30 E/V Nautilus Telepresence  
1:30 – 2:00 **SNACK**  
2:00 – 3:00 Popsicle Party/Thank You Cards  
3:00 PM Check-Out

\*\* All vessel and outdoor activities are weather, environmental, and maintenance dependent.

# MARINE EDUCATION CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Gulf Coast Research Laboratory  
Marine Education Center  
101 Sweetbay Drive  
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

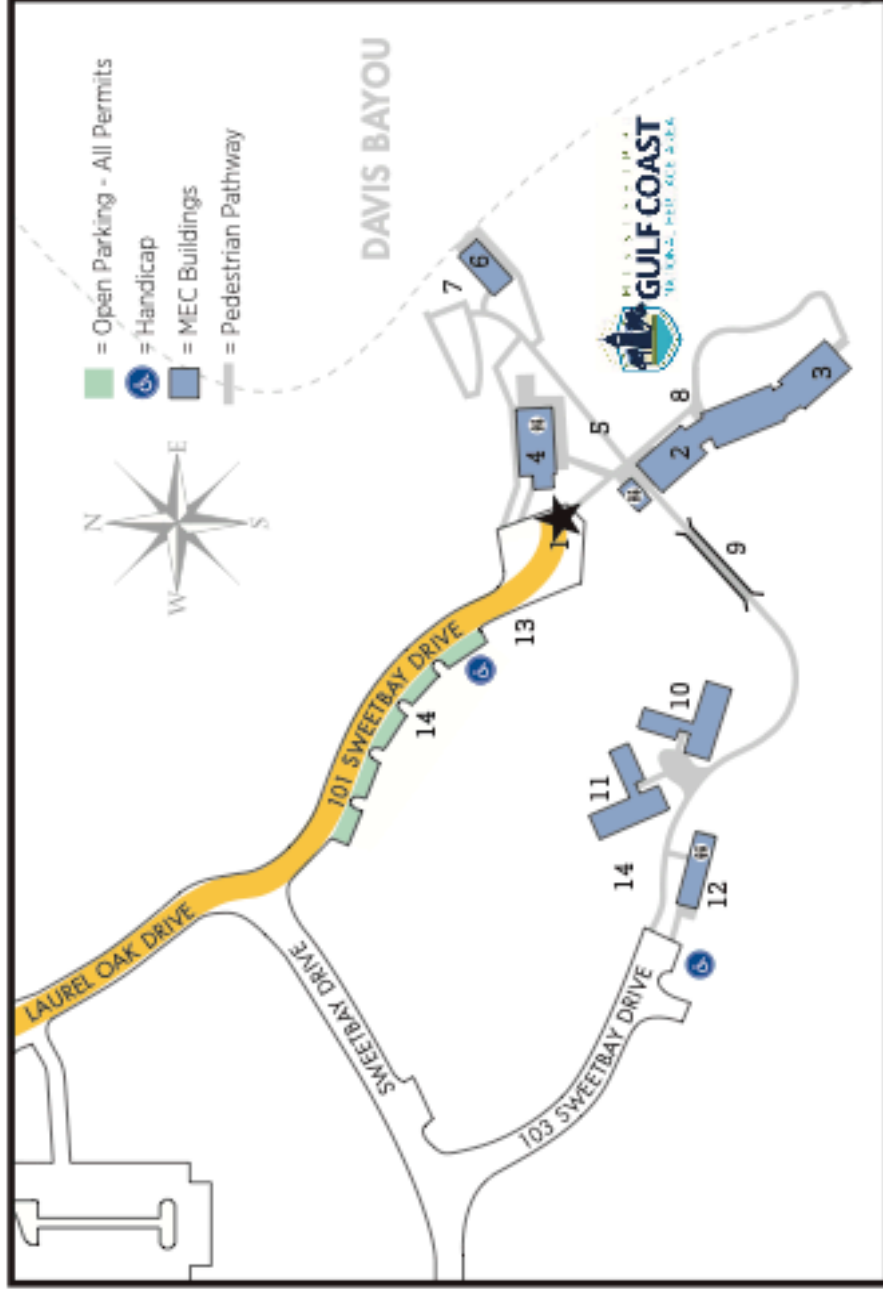
## DIRECTIONS

From Bienville Boulevard (Hwy 90) in Ocean Springs, turn south into Gulf Islands National Seashore Park. Travel on Park Road for 1.3 miles. Make a left turn onto Laurel Oak Drive. Continue to Sweetbay Drive and enter at 101 Sweetbay Drive. There is a student drop-off/turnaround at the end of drive.

For mobile map/directions, Google Maps is recommended.

For more information, contact us at [marine.education@usm.edu](mailto:marine.education@usm.edu) or 228.818.8095.

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|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Student Drop-off                         | 8. Nature Trail               |
| 2. Exhibit Hall and Administrative Building | 9. Bayhead Bridge             |
| 3. Citizen Science Laboratory               | 10. MEC Education Building I  |
| 4. Conference Center                        | 11. MEC Education Building II |
| 5. Courtyard                                | 12. Showers & Restrooms       |
| 6. Pavilion                                 | 13. Bike Racks                |
| 7. Pier                                     | 14. Emergency Blue Phones     |