



SEA CAMP 2022



SEA CAMP PARENT HANDBOOK

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) Gulf Coast Research Laboratory's (GCRL) 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 1st to 6th 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. 1st and 2nd grade will explore Davis Bayou and East beach 3rd grade and older will travel to Ship Island to learn more about our most visited barrier island and its history. 5th and 6th graders also get the extra opportunity to tour the Pascagoula River (all trips are weather and vessel dependent).

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 Friday.

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 7:50 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Parents and children will gather in the MEC Conference Center for registration. The Conference Center¹ 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

1 st and 2 nd grade campers:	\$300.00
3 rd and 4 th grade campers:	\$325.00
5 th and 6 th grade campers:	\$350.00

The costs listed above 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 office², 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

¹ See attached map, Conference Center is location #4.

² See attached map, Administration Building and Exhibit Hall are location #2.

What to Bring Each Day

- Lunch, Drinks (2), Snacks (2)
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Insect Repellent
- 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. Should a major discipline problem occur, their counselor will involve the summer camp coordinator and/or MEC Director, who will take appropriate action. 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.

General Safety Procedures

Sea Camp staff members are certified in First Aid/CPR/AED training and have passed a federal background check. Your child's safety is very important to us. 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** staff and **ALL** campers will wear closed-toe shoes on the beach, in the water, on the fishing pier, trails, and on all watercraft.
- **ALL** campers will wear a Coast Guard approved life vest (secured and/or fastened) during outings on the MEC's research vessel.
- **ALL** 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 counselor assistants 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 proceed down the emergency contact list until someone is notified.

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

Arrival Procedures

Parents may drop off children between 7:50 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 EACH and 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 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.** 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 offices³ 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.**

³ See attached map, Administration Building and Exhibit Hall are location #2.

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 Sea Camp 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 attend 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 Samantha Capers (*Summer Camp Coordinator*) at (228) 818-8088 or samantha.capers@usm.edu.

SEA CAMP TENTATIVE 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 Camp Activities
11:30 – 12:30 **LUNCH**
12:30 – 1:30 Camp Activities
1:30 – 2:00 **SNACK**
2:00 – 3:00 Camp Activities
3:00 PM Sign-Out

2:00 – 3:00 Camp Activities
3:00 PM Check-Out

TUESDAY – Miss Peetsy B Bayou Tour

8:00 AM Sign-In
8:00 – 9:30
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 Camp Activities
1:30 – 2:00 **SNACK**
2:00 – 3:00 Camp Activities
3:00 PM Sign-Out

THURSDAY

8:00 AM Sign-In
8:30 – 9:00 Camp Activities
9:00 – 9:30 **SNACK**
10:30 – 11:30 Camp Activities
11:30 – 12:30 **LUNCH**
12:30 – 1:30 Camp Activities
1:30 – 2:00 **SNACK**
2:00 – 3:00 Camp Activities
3:00 PM Check-Out

WEDNESDAY

8:00 AM Sign-In
8:30 – 9:00 Camp Activities
9:00 – 9:30 **SNACK**
10:30 – 11:30 Camp Activities
11:30 – 12:30 **LUNCH**
12:30 – 1:30 Camp Activities
1:30 – 2:00 **SNACK**

FRIDAY – “Fun Friday”

8:00 AM Sign-In
8:00 – 9:00 Camp Activities
9:00 – 9:30 **SNACK**
10:30 – 11:30 Camp Activities
11:30 – 12:30 **LUNCH**
12:30 – 1:30 Ultimate Sea-Vivor Celebration
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 dependent

MARINE EDUCATION CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

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

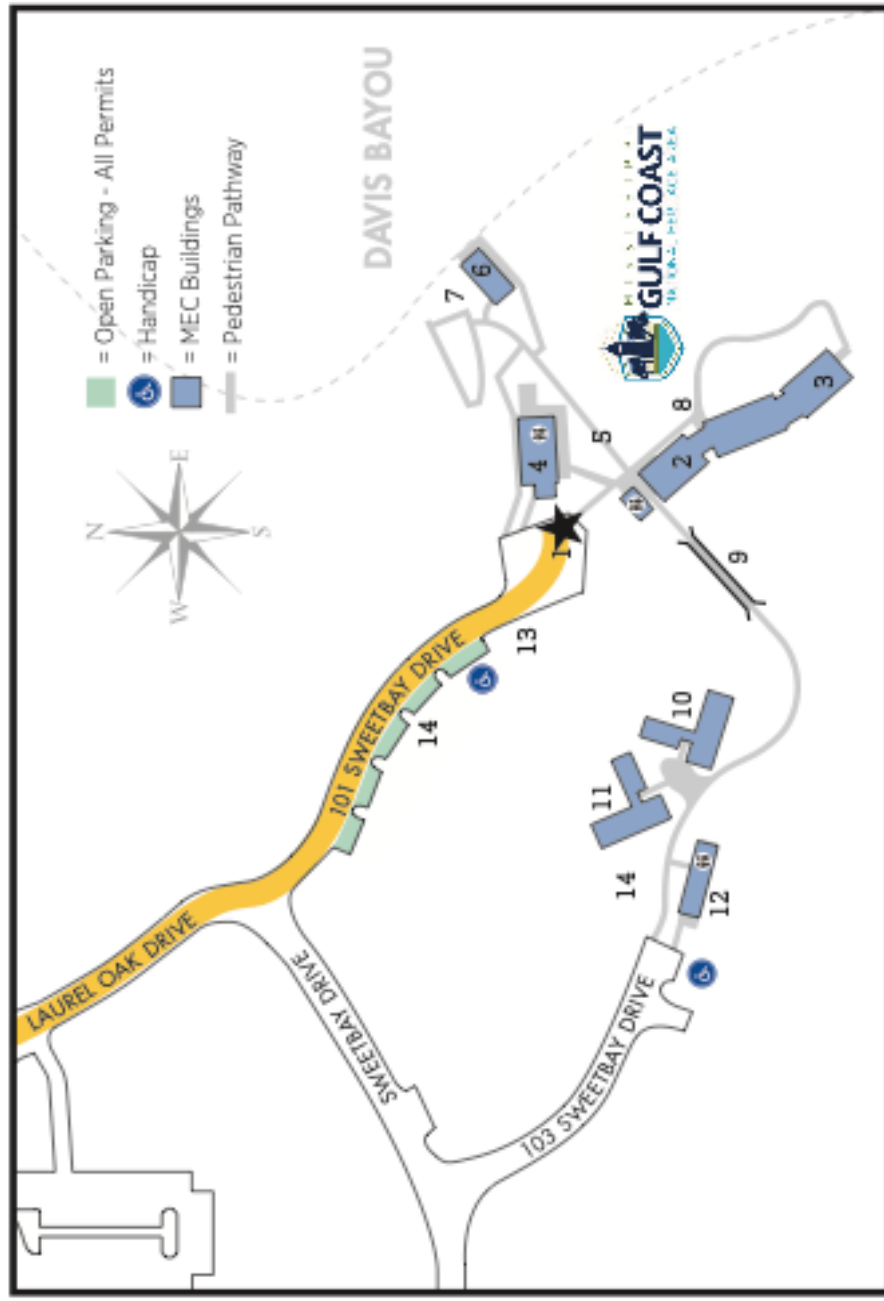
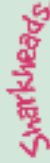
DIRECTIONS

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 or 228.818.8095.

Sponsored by



- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 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 |