

 **Project
Oceanology**
DAY CAMPERS HANDBOOK



Welcome to Project O Camp!

We are thrilled you will be attending a day camp at Project O! Campers have been coming to summer day camp at Project Oceanology for over 45 years, and many of our campers return every year (maybe you?). We are proud to continue this tradition and look forward to an amazing summer!

At camp, your days will be spent cruising the waters of Long Island Sound aboard our research vessels and skiffs. Campers will explore and study local environments like salt marshes and rocky intertidal zones. Under the guidance of professional marine scientists, campers will use oceanographic equipment, measure water quality parameters such as dissolved oxygen and salinity, and capture marine organisms using a variety of fishing nets. Campers will also spend time in our laboratories examining organisms up close and conducting experiments. At the end of the week, expect to be sun soaked and sandy!

This handbook will help you and your family prepare for your week-long adventure so please look it over and get ready! If you still have questions after reading through it, send us an email at: projecto@oceanology.org

Camp Staff

- Licensed Captains operate Coast Guard inspected vessels
- Marine Educators are the Camp Directors and have degrees in Marine Science or related fields.
- At least one licenced lifeguard per camp.

As mandated by the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood – Division of Licensing requirements:

- All camp staff are American Heart First Aid/CPR/AED certified
- All camp staff are certified in the self administration of medication and EpiPen
- All camp staff are certified mandated reporters
- State background checks and Drug tests are required of all staff
- Boat Captains and crew are also part of a random drug pool testing – per U.S. Coast Guard requirements.
- For the 2020 camp season, camp enrollment is capped at 12 students. Project Oceanology will provide each camp with two staff.

BEFORE CAMP

Once you have registered for camp, you will receive a confirmation email that contains a link to your online camp account and forms that will need to be completed well in advance of camp. These forms can also be found on our website: www.oceanology.org/summer-camps.

Before the start of camp, these tasks **MUST** be completed:

- If you are traveling to CT from a state currently listed on the CT Travel Advisory (as stated in Executive Order 7BBB), you, your camper and any person(s) traveling with your camper are required to self quarantine for 14 days from the time of last contact within the identified state. Please refer to the [CT Travel Advisory website](#) for a current list of identified states. You will be required to provide a written statement confirming the self quarantine process was completed.
- Print off the Pre-Camp Health Screening form and begin the daily health check of your child. Bring this form with you to check in on the first day of camp
- Complete all required health forms and Informed Consent and upload them into your camp account (Active Network) as soon as possible (these forms must be reviewed and accepted by our camp directors well in advance of the first day of camp)

What to Bring

- Bathing suit - one piece/tankini (no bikinis please) If possible, please have your camper wear their bathing suit under their clothes each day to camp to reduce the need bathroom use
- Beach towel
- Sunscreen
- Refillable water bottle with name on it
- Water shoes (flip flops are not good water shoes)
- Dry shoes to change into
- Dry clothes to change into
- Lunch and snack in your own lunch box with ice packs or a small cooler if possible. (If that is not possible we will provide cooler space)
- Sweatshirt or long sleeves for in the lab
- Each camper will receive a lightweight buff on the first day of camp, please wear it to camp each day

Optional Items

- Cloth mask
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Rain gear
- Notebook
- Insect repellent

Please do not bring valuables to camp

Medication

If you are bringing medication for your camper, please check these items before arriving at camp:

- The medication is in its original container that has the original prescription label.
ex. Inhalers need to have the box with the prescription label
- The medication is not expired, or in a bottle with an old label that is expired.
- If the form from the doctor lists a specific brand of medication, a generic brand cannot be used as a substitute.
- It would be helpful to bring a copy of your medical administration papers.
- Each medication needs its own form and requires a Doctor's signature. Even over-the-counter medications such as Advil (Ibuprofen), Tylenol (Acetaminophen), Vitamins, etc. require a form with a Doctor's signature. Please call us if you are unsure if a form is required.
- The medication should remain at camp for the duration of the week to avoid the daily transfer of medication between home and camp

State law permits no exceptions so please take the time to ensure each medication, container and label is in order and matches the forms submitted.

Promoting behaviors that will help at camp

- Wellness starts at home.....campers eating healthy, exercising, getting adequate sleep, and finding time to unwind before arriving at camp ensure they are fit and ready for the camp experience
- Talk to your child about:
 - [Face coverings](#) (meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have [symptoms](#))
 - Effective [Handwashing](#)
 - [Cover coughs and sneezes](#)
 - [Social Distancing](#)

DURING CAMP

Arriving at Camp

Directions to Project Oceanology, 1084 Shennecossett Rd., Groton, CT 06340

- I-95 to Exit 87 (Rt. 349) the Clarence B. Sharp Highway
- Turn right at the second traffic light onto Rainville Ave
- Turn left at the next traffic light onto Benham Rd
- Straight on Benham Rd. approx. 1.7 miles to the UCONN Avery Point campus
- Enter via the second entrance and follow the small blue signs for Project Oceanology

Camp Hours

8:30-4:00 Monday- Friday for Marine Science Research Camp, Ocean Explorer Academy & Undersea Technology Camp

8:45-4:15 Monday- Friday for Ocean Camp

Morning Check-in (Monday- Friday)

Monday (Review these 3 notes for Day 1 of check-in only):

1. A Project O staff member will direct your vehicle to the proper check in location on the first day
2. Please have the Pre-Camp Screening form ready for our camp staff.
3. Please have medication ready for check-in.

It's important to note that campers cannot be "dropped off". The mandated daily wellness screening outlined below requires parents and campers remain in their vehicle until our camp staff clears the camper to attend camp.

- Check-in times will be staggered by camp. (see above) Please do not arrive before check-in time, as our educators will be preparing for the day.
- Check -in locations vary by camp but all are located near the Project O building. There will be signs posted to guide you to the check-in location. Look for our EZ up tents and Project O camp staff.
- The first car in line will begin the check-in process. Please be patient and remain in your vehicle. All campers will be screened for any observable illness, including cough or respiratory distress, and also by taking their temperature. Temperature must be below 100 degrees Fahrenheit. This screening process will take place in the campers vehicle and it will occur daily.
- You can bring your own thermometer from home and in the presence of Project O camp staff we will ask you to take the campers temperature and display the thermometer reading for our records.
- If you do not have a thermometer of your own, Project O camp staff will use a no touch thermometer to take the camper's temperature, display the reading to you and record for our records.
- Project O camp staff will sign the camper in (to avoid a shared pencil and clipboard)
- Once all the campers have been checked in, they will head to their indoor or outdoor classroom space (depending on the weather).

Afternoon Pick-Up (Monday-Friday)

Afternoon "curbside" pick up will take place at the same location the camper was dropped off in the morning. Each camp will have a separate pick up location on campus. All parents/caregivers will be asked to remain in their vehicle until their turn in line.

A Project O camp staff member will approach the vehicle and ask for photo ID. Camp staff will confirm that the person is listed as authorized to transport. At that point the camper will get into the vehicle. Please note additional people can be added to the list of authorized to transportation list prior to pick up.

Running Late or Absent

If a camper will arrive late or miss a day of camp please call Project O at 860.445.9007 or email the Camp Director as soon as possible:

- Ocean Explorer Academy: Callie Scheetz cscheetz@oceanology.org
- Ocean Day Camp: Marissa Mackewicz mmackewicz@oceanology.org
- Undersea Technology Camp: Debbie Sayer dsayer@oceanology.org
- Marine Science Research Experience: Callie Scheetz cscheetz@oceanology.org

How to reach your camper while they are at camp

If you need to reach your camper during the day please call the Project O main office at 860.445.9007 and staff will help you get a message to our camp right away. All camp staff carry personal cell phones.

Camper Code of Conduct

Honesty, Kindness, Responsibility, Respect and Safety.

We expect all campers to demonstrate care, respect, and responsibility at all times; campers must also exhibit self-control, kindness and follow instructions. If a camper does not abide by these expectations, s/he will be asked to take responsibility for their actions as part of our “3 strikes” disciplinary protocol:

1. Verbal discussion with a counselor or camp director
2. If discussion is ignored and poor behavior/choices continue, a constructive plan for improvement will be created through discussion with the camper, parent/guardian and camp director
3. If behavior does not improve after implementing a constructive plan and discussion with the parent/guardian, s/he will be asked to leave camp without refund of tuition.

Please note any camper who exhibits behavior that is harmful to themselves or to others, including but not limited to bullying, theft, dishonesty, disrespectful actions or language, can be dismissed without our “3 strike” disciplinary protocol. Camp Administrators assume the right to determine when such an incident has occurred. The same applies to any camper found possessing or using alcohol, illegal drugs, or weapons.

A Typical Day at Camp

8:30-8:45	Check in (depending on camp)
9:00-9:15	Stow personal gear, gather science gear for the day
9:15-12:15	Habitat Exploration by skiff or research vessel
12:15-1:15	Lunch in the field
1:15-3:00	Experiments in outdoor classroom
3:00-4:00	Journals, team building, games
4:00	Check out

Parent Feedback

Please share your feedback with us! Expect an email containing a survey about your camper’s experience. Your thoughts and comments help us make our day camps better each year.

Camper Photos

The photos used to create the slide show will be shared via email with google photos. These photos only include campers with a photo release authorization completed during camp registration.

Maintaining a Healthy Environment at Project O camps: What's the plan

- Staff will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g., door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains, bathrooms) within the camp facility
- Daily routine cleaning and disinfection schedule increased to multiple times per day
- Keep each camper's belongings separated from others'
- No communal spaces other than hallways - times staggered
- No nonessential visitors, volunteers, or activities in our facility during camp sessions.
- Daily Health Screening of camp staff as well as campers
- Staff and campers will increase hand washing and hand sanitizing during camp:
 - Upon arrival at camp
 - Before and after eating
 - After bathroom use
 - After equipment use
 - Before departing
- Camp experiences will prioritize outdoor activities on our boats, in the field and in our outdoor classroom spaces. Meals and snacks will be consumed outside whenever possible
- Each camp will have dedicated entrances, rooms, hallways, bathrooms, and skiffs that will not be used by other campers or staff
- Staff will wear masks at all times. Whenever possible, staff and campers will observe 6 feet of social distance

Illness at Camp

In the event of a camper feeling ill, we have a dedicated sick room in the hostel. If a camper becomes sick during the day, one camp staff member will put on full PPE and supervise the camper in the sick room until their parent/guardian can pick them up. A Project Oceanology staff member in reception will monitor the sick room from a computer via Zoom (a video conferencing platform) with the staff and camper visible within the sick room (Zoom will be set to record); We will contact our camp doctor for advice. If our camp doctor advises a COVID19 test, we will advise the parents and notify all camp parents (specific to that camp) that a child went home sick.

If the COVID test is negative, the camper can return to camp if she/he is symptom free. If the COVID test is positive, the camp is shut down and self quarantine restrictions are in effect for those campers and their families and the camp staff associated with that camp.