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 and residential camp at Project Oceanology for over 44 years, and many of our campers return every year (maybe you?). We are proud to continue this tradition and look forward 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! It is split into 3 parts: Before Camp, During Camp and Last Day of Camp. If you still have questions after reading through it, please either call us at 860.445.9007 or 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.
- Summer Interns
- Junior Counselors

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 fingerprinted for state background checks
- Boat Captains and crew are also part of a random drug pool testing – per U.S. Coast Guard requirements.
- Camp Staff/Student ratio is 1 staff to 12 campers
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.

We must receive the following by June 15:
- Complete tuition
- Completed health forms

What to Bring
- Bathing suit one piece/tankini (no bikinis please)
- Beach towel
- Sunscreen
- Refillable water bottle with name on it
- Water shoes (flip flops are not good water shoes)
- Dry shoes to change into
- Lunch and snack
- Sweatshirt or long sleeves for in the lab

Optional Items
- 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.

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.
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 main entrance and follow the small blue signs for Project Oceanology. Parking is available in Lot D. Please observe all posted parking rules.

Camp Hours
9:00-4:00 Monday- Friday

Monday Morning Drop-Off (First day of camp)
- Drop off takes place between 8:30-9:00
- Park your car in Lot D on campus and walk your camper into the Project Oceanology building
- Please check in with the camp staff at the table set up in the lobby to sign in campers, review contact information and turn in medication if applicable
- Parents and campers proceed to the Geology Lab (Rm. 141) which will serve at the homebase for this camp
- 9:00-9:30 A brief parent orientation will be held and an optional tour of the facilities and boats will be available for interested parents/caregivers

Morning Drop-Off (Tuesday- Friday)
Drop off takes place between 8:45-9:00 in the Geology Lab. Please walk your camper into the Geology Lab to sign them in each morning. Before 8:45 Project O instructors are getting gear and activities ready for our adventure filled day.

Afternoon Pick-Up (Monday-Friday)
Afternoon pick up take place at 4:00 in the Geology Lab. A parent/caregiver will need to sign their camper out. Campers will only be released to those people that have been listed as authorized to transport. You can add additional people to this 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 at 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 the office/administrative 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
Ocean Explorer Academy

8:45-9:00 Check in
9:00-9:15 Stow personal gear, gather science gear for day
9:15-12:15 Habitat Exploration by skiff
12:15-1:15 Lunch in the field
1:15-3:00 Crab Habitat Experiment in lab
3:00-4:00 Journals, team building, games
4:00 Check out
LAST DAY OF CAMP

Closing Ceremonies
Plan to arrive at Project Oceanology at 1:00 on Friday. Please pull up to the front of our building (in the bus circle) where a staff member will give you a parking pass for the dashboard of your car and note your arrival. Proceed to park in Lot D. If you arrive after 1:15, you will need to check in at the front office to obtain parking pass and return it to your car.

Plan on being at Project O until approx. 4:00pm. The process looks like this:

- Closing ceremonies begin in the upstairs classroom promptly at 1:15pm with a slideshow presentation and camp certificates (approx. 30 min)
- After the slideshow presentation campers and 1 guest each will meet in the cafeteria for a safety briefing before boarding the boat. Participants will have the chance to use the restrooms and fill water bottles before the boat trip departs.
- Enviro-lab Cruise from 2:00-3:30. During this time campers will show off what they’ve been learning all week
- Following the boat trip campers will collect personal belongings, journals, water bottles and lunch boxes from the Geology Lab.
- Parent/Caregiver must sign out their camper and pick up/sign for the return of any medications in the Geology Lab

In the event you cannot adhere to the pickup schedule, please call our office at 860.445.9007 as soon as possible to discuss alternative arrangements.

Parent Feedback
Please share your feedback with us! Expect an email via Survey Monkey. Your thoughts and comments help us make our day camps better each year.

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

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