Welcome to Project O Camp!

We are thrilled you will be attending residential 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!

Our waterfront hostel on the beautiful Avery Point Campus will be your home away from home for the week! Campers bunk together, four to each room, with male and female campers separated by floor. Our enthusiastic and highly trained residential staff provide more than just 24 hour supervision: they carefully monitor the needs of individual campers, organize games and activities during breaks in the action, and lend their scientific expertise as they nurture camper enthusiasm for science. The University of Connecticut Dining services provide all meals in our onsite cafeteria, with careful attention to special dietary needs.

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 8 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

Packing for Camp
Please do not bring valuables to camp.

Required Items
- Backpack/Drawstring bag
- Bathing suit (one piece/tankini – no bikinis)
- Beach towel(s)
- Sunscreen
- Refillable water bottle with name on it
- Water shoes (flip flops are not good water shoes)
- Sneakers/Closed toe shoes for boat trips
- Socks
- Long pants
- Shorts
- Tee shirts
- Sweatshirt/Jacket
- Sleepwear
- Bath/Shower towel
- Toiletries
- Pillow
- Bedding (sleeping bag or bed linens and blanket)

Optional Items
- Sunglasses
- Rain Gear
- Flashlight
- Hat
- Notebook
- Insect Repellent
- Small amount of money ($5) for midweek special snack

Please do not pack cell phones, laptops, or readers/tablets of any kind. If campers will need a phone on check out day, we will safely store the device until then (this should be arranged at check in).

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.
- Use the bus circle in front of the Project O building to drop off luggage and pick up a parking pass from a Project O staff member. Park in Lot D.

Check in begins promptly on Sunday at 4pm. If you arrive early, you can explore the UCONN Avery Point campus or enjoy the beautiful view from our oceanfront deck around the back of Project O. Please plan on being at Project O for at least an hour. The process looks like this:
- Camper sign in at table in lobby
- Double check contact information
- Medication check-in station (if applicable)
- Bunk room assignment (Campers get settled)
- Orientation meeting (approx. 20 min)
- Goodbyes
- Tour of facility and research vessels for interested parents (the Camp Director will be available after the meeting if there are any individual concerns)

How to reach your camper while they are at camp
Emails can be sent to your child at camps@oceanology.org. Please put both your child’s name and the name of your child’s camp (e.g. “Ocean Camp”) in the subject line. Emails will be printed out and given to your child during meal times daily. Please be aware that your child will not be able to reply to emails.

US Postal Service
Project Oceanology
1084 Shennecossett Rd
Groton, CT  06340
Attn:  Child’s name, Name of camp

Fax
Our fax number is 860.449.8008. Please put your child’s name and the name of your child’s camp on the cover letter.

Phone
If you need to reach your camper during business hours, please call us at 860.445.9007. For non-emergency calls, please leave a message on the camp phone at extension x310.

Messages will be checked in the morning and after dinner. Campers and staff spend most of their day on boats and exploring the shoreline so we often don’t return back to the building until dinnertime.
In the case of an emergency after hours, you can reach the Residential Supervisor from 9pm – 7am at 860.445.9007 x320. If there is no answer, please leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Campers may call home during the week if they request to do so. Calls home are usually made before bedtime. Parents should expect to hear from a Project O staff member first, and then have an opportunity to talk to the camper. Please end the conversation with a Project O staff member.

If you have any questions, contact any of the Ocean Camp staff; we will help in any way we can.

**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 Residential Camp

Ocean Camp

7:30am  Wake up
8:00am  Breakfast
9:00am  Marine science expedition aboard research vessel
12:00pm Lunch
1:00pm  Barrier beach exploration by skiff
5:00pm  Return to project Oceanology
6:00pm  Dinner
7:00pm  Evening Lab activity
9:00pm  Free Time
10:00pm Lights Out

Research Camp

7:30am  Wake up
8:00am  Breakfast
8:30am  Meet with research partners & mentors, gather equipment for day
9:00am  Trawl for fish and collect water quality data aboard R/V EnviroLab
12:00pm Lunch
1:00pm  Pine Island and Bluff Point by skiff for seining survey
4:00pm  Meet with mentors; process samples in laboratory; enter data
5:00pm  Lab meeting: share stories and troubleshoot experiments
6:00pm  Dinner
7:00pm  Data analysis and writing
9:00pm  Free Time
10:00pm Lights out
**Last Day of Camp**

**Picking up your camper**
Plan to arrive at Project Oceanology at 2:15pm. 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 2:30, 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. 3:30pm. The process looks like this:

- Closing ceremonies begin in the classroom promptly at 2:30pm with a slideshow presentation and camp certificates (approx. 30 min)
- Collect personal belongings from bunk room
- Parent/Guardian must pick up/sign for the return of any medications in lobby
- Please join us for an ice cream social in the cafeteria

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 residential camps better each year.

**Camper Photos**
The photos used to create the slide show during the closing ceremonies will be posted on Facebook. Please “like” Project Oceanology on Facebook to view them. These photos only include campers with a photo release authorization completed during camp registration.