

CHINCOTEAGUE BAY FIELD STATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – SCHOOL PROGRAMS

1. How long do trips last? What does a typical schedule look like?

Trips can range from ½ day to a full week. You get to decide how long you’d like your trip to be! Different trip lengths allow for different class arrangements and options. Our most popular trips are 2 or 3 nights. See below for a schedule for each trip type.

½ Day (Available all week)

	Day 1
MORNING	Check-in
	Class choice
AFTERNOON	LUNCH
	Check-out
EVENING	

- Check-in will occur between 8:30-9:30 AM
- ½ day schedule includes lunch and your choice of 1 half-day field classes or labs.
- Boat trips can be scheduled for an additional fee

1 Day (Available all week)

	Day 1
MORNING	Check-in
	Class choice
AFTERNOON	LUNCH
	Class choice/Check-out
EVENING	

- Check-in will occur between 8:30-9:30 AM
- The 1 day schedule includes lunch and your choice of 1 half-day field classes or labs.
- Boat trips can be scheduled for an additional fee

2 nights *ARRIVING MORNING*

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
MORNING		BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST
	Check-in; Coastal Ecology	Class choice	Class choice & Check-out
AFTERNOON	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH/BOX
	Boat/Class choice	Boat/Class choice	
EVENING	DINNER	DINNER	
	Class Choice	Free Night	

- Check-in will occur between 9:30-11:30AM
- The two-night program includes 7 meals, lodging, and your choice of 5 half day field classes or labs (including boat trip)

2 nights *ARRIVING AFTERNOON*

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
MORNING		BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST
		Class choice	Class choice & Check-out
AFTERNOON	Check-in	LUNCH	LUNCH/BOX
		Boat/Class choice	
EVENING	DINNER	DINNER	
	Coastal Ecology Lecture	Class choice	

- Check-in will occur between 1:00PM – 4:00PM
- The two-night program includes 6 meals, lodging, and your choice of 4 half day field classes or labs (including boat trip)

3 nights

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
MORNING		BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST
		Class choice	Class choice	Class choice & Check-out
AFTERNOON		LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH/BOX
	Check-in	Boat/Class choice	Boat/Class choice	
EVENING	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	
	Coastal Ecology Lecture	Class choice	Free Night	

- Check-in will occur between 1:30-4:30PM
- The three-night program includes 9 meals, lodging, and your choice of 5 half day field classes or labs (including boat trip)

4 nights

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
MORNING		BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST
		Class choice	Class choice	Class choice	Class choice & Check-out
AFTERNOON		LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH/BOX
		Check-in	Boat/Class choice	Free Time	Boat/Class choice
EVENING	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	
	Coastal Ecology	Class choice	Class choice	Free Night	

- Check-in will occur between 1:30-4:30PM
- The four-night program includes 12 meals, lodging, and your choice of 8 half day field classes or labs (including boat trip)
- Four-night programs include two free time blocks which may occur at any point throughout the trip

2. How does pricing work for trips?

All pricing is per person and includes all meals, lodging, classes, lab space, educators, and one boat trip. Prices are updated each year and posted in November or December for the following year. For 2023, chaperones pay the same price as students, with the exception of one discounted chaperone per 20 students. Starting in 2024, there will be one chaperone price and one student price.

3. Is transportation provided?

Transportation is not included in the per person price to allow schools to bring their own buses if desired. CBFS has a full fleet of vehicles available for rent. The rental price includes the vehicle, driver, and fuel, so there are no hidden fees. Vehicle options are 14-passenger vans or full sized school buses that can accommodate up to 44 passengers.

4. Can CBFS accommodate dietary restrictions in the dining hall?

Yes! CBFS food service staff is equipped to deal with all common dietary restrictions and allergies including vegetarian, vegan, gluten free, and Kosher diets as well as common food allergies. Please provide a list of all dietary restrictions at least two weeks prior to your trip start date to allow for menu planning and food delivery.

5. What classes can we select while at CBFS?

A full list of available classes can be found at our website, but some of our more popular options are:

Oceanography Research Cruise – Students will perform chemical water quality tests, deploy Otter Trawls, and collect plankton samples. This is a truly hands-on experience for students! They will be given the opportunity to perform all tests, including nitrate, phosphate, dissolved oxygen, pH, and salinity measurements. Then they'll assist CBFS staff with deploying and retrieving the Otter Trawl, a

large net that takes samples of organisms that will either be identified on the boat or taken back to the lab for Micro & Macro Organism Lab.

Intertidal Studies – Students will learn all about the intertidal zone and the specific adaptations of organisms that live there. In the classroom, they'll get background on the sub-zones of the intertidal zone and the stressors that are faced in each. In the field, they'll conduct population studies using quadrats, sieve boxes, and a seine net. Organisms will be identified in the field or taken back to the lab for Micro & Macro Organism Lab.

Wetland Ecology – Students will learn all about what makes wetlands wetlands. Then they'll head out into the field to experience a tidal salt marsh first hand. This is definitely our muddiest class!

Barrier Island & Dune Ecology – Students will learn about barrier island formation and dune ecosystems in the classroom, then head out into the field to observe a mature dune transect. This class gives schools the opportunity to access NASA's Wallops Island, a restricted access barrier island. Please note, CBFS staff is only approved to escort US Citizens and Green Card holders. Unfortunately, we are not able to escort foreign nationals. The alternative site for this program is Assateague Island.

Micro & Macro Organism Lab – This lab gives students the opportunity to discuss water quality data from their boat trip, take a close look at plankton, and put their taxonomy skills to the test while classifying and identifying the organisms collected during their program.

Other classes offered include:

- Fish Biology
- Soil Science
- Maritime Forest
- Coastal Botany
- Kayaking (16 participants max; additional fee)
- Ornithology
- Aquarium Maintenance & Animal Husbandry
- Squid Dissection
- Shark Dissection (additional fee)
- Marine Invertebrates

6. How much background will my students need for these classes?

No specific background or prerequisites are required! Our educators are trained to work with learners of all backgrounds and knowledge levels. It is helpful to have basic science knowledge, but CBFS educators will cover all specific information necessary for success during our classes. We want to cater our programs to your needs and goals, so please reach out to discuss what we can do to help reach those! We can scale lessons up or down in complexity and depth.

7. How many students can I bring? Will we all be in the same group?

CBFS can accommodate a maximum of 140 students at one time. Large school groups will be broken into smaller groups of no more than 20 students. Each group is required to have at least one chaperone with them at all times. Depending on the school size, groups may be travelling together to the same sites or on opposite schedules to allow for efficient space use.

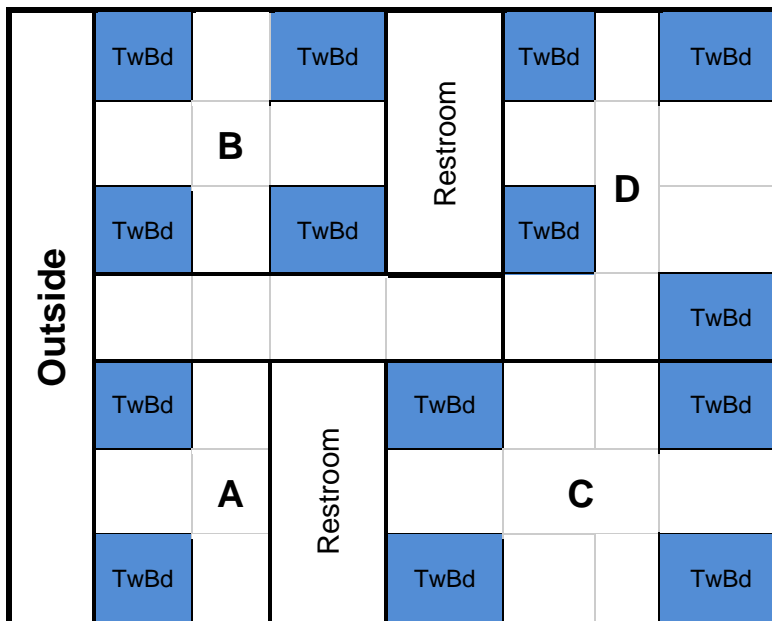
8. Lodging is provided. How does housing work?

School groups are housed in Red Knot Residence Hall. Red Knot is suite style, with four bedrooms and two bathrooms per suite. Each suite can hold a maximum of 14 participants. When CBFS receives your final student numbers, we will assign enough dorms for everyone to fit comfortably. One chaperone is

required per dorm. We do assign enough dorms that male and female students may be kept separate, however, CBFS does not have any policies around male vs female housing. Genders may be mixed, and we leave housing decisions up to the school, teachers, and parents.

CBFS is welcoming and inclusive to ALL who want to learn. Please reach out if you would like to discuss housing options for participants who do not fit within the male/female binary.

See below for the floorplan of a Red Knot suite. Suites may be laid out slightly differently from suite to suite, but the same basic layout applies to all.



9. How do I sign up for a program?

Signing up is simple!

First, contact CBFS to see if your desired dates are available for your group size. You do not need exact numbers at this point! Just an estimate. It's always better to estimate high and drop your numbers, as we aren't always able to increase group size after the fact. We suggest having one or two backup dates handy just in case. We book up to 12 months in advance.

Next, fill out the School Program Booking Form with your program length, desired classes, approximate student count, and all other pertinent information.

Once your booking form is filled out, you'll receive an invoice that requires a 10% deposit to be paid to officially hold your dates. The invoice will also contain instructions and dates for the rest of the payments.

Final student numbers are due three weeks prior to the program start date. Once your final numbers are received, CBFS staff will send you a detailed schedule and information for your program. If you would like that information further in advance, please just let us know.

After that, you're all set! At any time during this process, please feel free to give CBFS staff a call to discuss options or update trip information.

10. What forms are required?

CBFS requires that all program participants fill out a health form. Participants who do not have these forms filled out will not be able to participate in the field trip. These forms can be sent ahead of time or brought with you during check-in.

11. Does CBFS have any COVID protocols in place?

At this time, CBFS requires temperature checks at the beginning of each day. Masking is not required, but CBFS staff is happy to mask upon request!

12. What should we bring with us?

Participants are responsible for bringing their own bedding and toiletries. Beds at CBFS are twin beds. A list of what each class requires will be provided with the chaperone schedule. We also suggest bringing an outfit or two for free time! There is a full list of suggested items in the Teacher Planning Packet available on our website.

13. What can we do for free night?

Programs that are 2 nights with morning arrival or longer will be given at least one free night. This is a chance for you and your students to take a little brain break and explore all of the awesome things the Eastern Shore has to offer! Options include:

- Beach bonfire
- Campfire on campus
- Fish printing in the lab
- Environmental debate in the lab
- Movie or documentary screening

You are also welcome to just go explore the Island or other local attractions! For your free night, you may choose to have dinner in our dining hall, have a grill-out on the beach or on campus, or eat at a local restaurant. For grill-outs, the chaperones are responsible for all cooking. CBFS provides the grill, charcoal, food, and cooking utensils as well as plates and napkins.

14. Is transportation provided for free night?

No, transportation is not provided for free night. Transportation costs include classes and field trips only. Free night transportation can be arranged for an additional cost.

There are many options available that do not require transportation, though! Feel free to give us a call to discuss specific options.

ADDITIONAL MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

- **Ship Store** – CBFS does have a gift store on campus that offers field station apparel, snacks and drinks, toys, books, water bottles, mugs, and other souvenirs! The ship store is open Monday through Friday, 9:15 AM – 3PM with a closure 12-12:30 for lunch. Your educators will build in time to the program for your group to visit the store.
- **Meal Times** – Meal times are the same each day. Breakfast is 8:00-8:30. Lunch 12:30-1:00. Dinner 5:15-5:45. We share our dining hall with other groups on campus, so please be mindful of meal times and be sure to arrive and depart on time.
- **Quiet Hours** – CBFS observes quiet hours from 10PM until 7AM. This does not mean lights out, but please do be respectful of other groups and staff on campus during those hours. All activity must be kept at low noise levels, and we encourage groups to return to their dorms at that time to avoid disturbing others.
- **Clean-up/Check-out** – Groups are required to assist with cleanup during their check-out process. Students will assist with lab clean-up, led by their educator. Groups are also asked to do a basic clean of the suites before departing, including sweeping out all areas and placing trash in the large trash cans located at the ends of Red Knot.
- **Student Supervision & Free Time** – Students must be supervised by at least one chaperone **at all times**. Please do not allow students to roam campus unattended and unsupervised. We have many groups on campus at one time, so it's important for the safety and comfort of all to supervise your students.
- **Chaperone Expectations** – At CBFS we see chaperones and educators working as partners to host a successful program! We want to work closely with you to ensure that we're fulfilling your needs and goals. We ask that you work with us as well. Chaperones are expected to attend all classes, field activities, and meals with their students. CBFS educators should not be left alone to supervise students except in an emergency. We also encourage chaperones and teachers to share with our educators strategies or techniques for group management that have been successful with your students so that we can support your best practices and provide students continuity in the communication they can expect.

CBFS SCHOOL PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

To book a school program, please email spsc@cbfieldstation.org or give us a call at 757-824-5636. You will be connected to one of our education administrative staff listed below.

- Anne Self, Education Director
- Lexi Overdiek, Program Coordinator
- Claire Teachey, School Program Assistant Coordinator
- Molly Sutton, Assistant Program Coordinator

For questions about billing, please email cbfsfinance@cbfieldstation.org or call 757-824-5636 x104 to speak with our Business Manager or email educationdirector@cbfieldstation.org or call 757-824-5636 x110 to speak with our Education Director.