

Future Marine Scientist Academy

Fall 2023

Beginning September 2023, CBFS will be continuing our Future Marine Scientist Academy and expanding! CBFS is offering 3 local Accomack County high school students (Arcadia, Chincoteague, and Nandua) the opportunity to participate in a variety of marine and environmental science topics, as well as network and learn from a variety of CBFS staff. This is at no cost to the students. Lunch is provided as well as, transportation to and from their respective schools to our field sites; students can also choose to drive themselves to the Field Station to be in the classroom by 11 AM. Two dates per month will be offered beginning. For Fall of 2023, we will begin in September and go through November. For Spring 2024, we will begin February and run through May. One Saturday and one Sunday a month will be offered to students to sign up for one each month. Topics, descriptions, and schedules for each class will be listed below.

Any interested student must fill out an application form and provide a minimum of a 350-word response to “What in nature interests you, and why?” Each session will be capped at 20 students. It is a first come first serve basis based on applications. Applications open August 18th and will be open and accepted on a rolling basis. The link

Application:

The application is a Google form that will be accepted on a rolling basis. Spots are limited and first come first serve, but applications will continue to be accepted. The Google form and a minimum of 350-word response to the question: “What in nature interests you, and why?” must be submitted to Lexi Overdiek at programcoordinator@cbfieldstation.org to consider the application complete.

Success Measurements:

Success will be measured by participation numbers will be recorded for each session. Students will also be given a pre- and post-program assessment of the topics that we will cover to gain an understanding of what they may have known prior, and what they learned throughout the program.

Outline and Schedules:

September 2023: Intertidal Studies

Students will begin to learn about the intertidal area and its subzones by first understanding what a tide is and what causes them. Students will learn about each zone, the characteristics of each, as well as adaptations that organisms utilize to survive in this area. Students will then head into the field to explore the intertidal zone in person. Using quadrats students will identify and discuss differences in each of the intertidal zones, students will also use sieve boxes and seine nets to explore hands-on the lowest of our intertidal zones. Students will also get an opportunity to learn how to identify organisms and practice that skill.

Skills gained: fish identification, safe and proper equipment use (seine net, sieve boxes, shovels, quadrats), safe organism handling practices, organism identification (Fish, marine invertebrates, birds), identify the 3 tidal zones, understanding of tidal influences, identifying types of tides.

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- September 17th and 23rd
- Schedule:
 - Pick up at 9:45-10 AM (Arcadia- 10:30; Chincoteague- 10:30)
 - Classroom portions begins at 11 AM
 - Lunch at 11:45 AM
 - Head into the field 12:30 PM
 - Get to field site 1 PM
 - Participate in 3 different field activities
 - Leave field by 2:15 pm
 - Get back to field station around 2:45 PM
 - Change out of wet clothes
 - Head to drop off at 3:15 pm
 - Drop off Arcadia HS- 3:30 pm
 - Drop off Chincoteague HS- 3:30 pm
 - Drop off Nandua HS- 4 pm

October 2023: Herpetology with kayaking

Students will begin identifying the differences between reptiles and amphibians in the classroom. Students will be shown a variety of online resources for identification of both reptiles and amphibians. Then students will head into the field to the Pocomoke River to enjoy a nice kayak trip. Students will observe any reptiles and/or amphibians that may utilize this habitat. Following that, students will then go on a nature walk while keeping an eye out for reptiles and amphibians to identify.

Skills gained: identification of amphibians and reptiles, safe and proper equipment used (field identification guides, dip nets, hand lenses, kayaks), safely complete a kayak trip

- October 8th and 14th
- Schedule:
 - Pick up at 9:45-10 AM at Nandua HS (Arcadia HS- 10:30 AM, Chincoteague HS- 10:30 AM)
 - Classroom portion begins at 11 AM
 - Head to Pocomoke State Park at 11:45 AM
 - Lunch at Pocomoke State Park 12:15 PM
 - Launch Kayaks- paddle Pocomoke River and Corker's Creek 1 PM
 - Herpetology walk begins by 2:15 PM
 - Leave Pocomoke State Park around 3 PM
 - Drop off:
 - Arcadia HS- 3:30 PM
 - Nandua HS- 4 PM
 - Chincoteague HS- 3:45 PM

November 2023: Ornithology with owl pellet dissection

Students will begin in the classroom to learn how to identify birds by body shape, coloration, beak shape and their habitat. Then students will head into the field to identify birds using binoculars and Bird ID guides. Students will also be participating in an owl pellet dissection!

Skills gained: Bird identification, safe and proper equipment use (binoculars, field identification guides), how to use field identification guides, dissection skills

- November 5th and 11th
- Schedule:
 - Pick up at 9:45-10 AM at Nandua HS (Arcadia HS- 10:30 AM; Chincoteague HS-10:30 AM)
 - Classroom portion begins at 11 AM
 - Owl pellet dissection begins at 11:45 AM
 - Lunch 12:30 PM
 - Head to refuge 1 PM
 - Swans Cove and Toms Cove by 1:30 PM
 - Walk Wildlife loop around 2 pm
 - Leave refuge by 3:15 pm
 - Drop off:
 - Chincoteague HS- 3:30 PM
 - Arcadia HS- 4:00 PM
 - Nandua HS- 4:30 PM

At this time, applications are open for Fall 2023. FMSA will continue in Spring 2024 and will require reenrollment. FMSA can be a full school year commitment for those students who are interested, but we at CBFS also understand sports, work, and other commitments. In Spring 2024 4 different classes will be offered beginning in February descriptions, details and schedules will be distributed at the end of Fall 2023 sessions.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Lexi Overdiek at programcoordinator@cbfieldstation.org or 757-824-5636 ext 106