

# CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM FAMILY INFORMATION CAMP 2022 HANDBOOK

June 6 – August 19, 2022



**REGISTER EARLY**

**Camps Fill Up Quickly**

Discounts for active members  
Convenient online registration  
at [cmaquarium.org](http://cmaquarium.org)

**KINDERGARTEN  
TO HIGH SCHOOL  
PROGRAMS**

# WELCOME

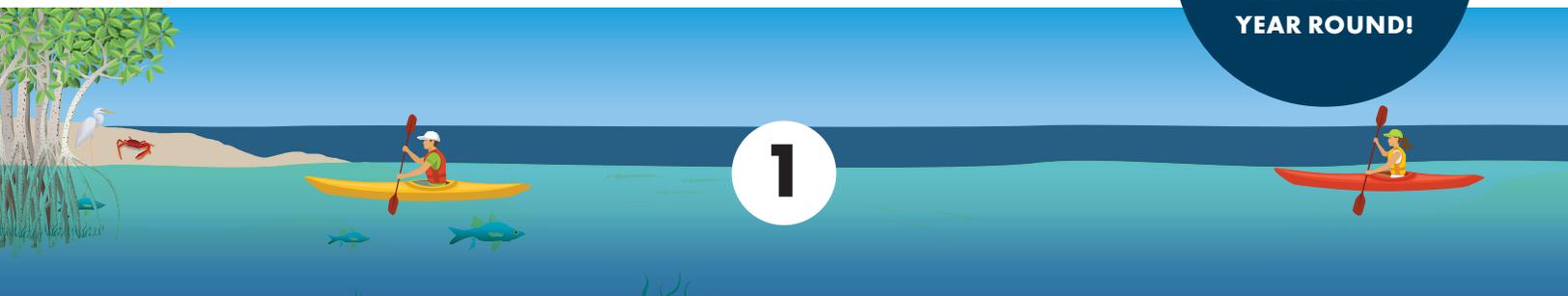
Clearwater Marine Aquarium offers your child(ren) a fun and educational experience. Our camps consist of hands-on activities, tours through the aquarium, learning-based crafts, and other educational activities which engage your child in an environment that encourages active participation.

Camp curriculum is based on age range. To determine which camp is best for your child, please read through the **camp descriptions** on our website at **cmaquarium.org** with your camper to determine which camps they would enjoy the most. Campers may not participate in camps that are above their age range. A camper is able to join in on a camp that is geared for students his/her age or younger.

Our camps are monitored in the classrooms by a team of CMA staff members, and college-age interns, and volunteers – all of whom have received full background screenings. For camps which include snorkeling, the boats are supervised by Coast Guard certified Captains in addition to staff and college-aged interns. Campers always have access to water they can stand in during snorkeling camps. Snorkeling experience is not required for camps which have snorkeling activities. For camps such as these, the number of participants is determined based on Coast Guard boating regulations and camper safety. In addition, camps that include animal encounters have very limited availability. For these reasons, we are unable to overbook any of our camps.

Thank you for enrolling your child in Clearwater Marine Aquarium camps. Enclosed in this booklet are details that will help you and your family have a successful program.

– CMA Camp Staff



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# SUMMER CAMPS

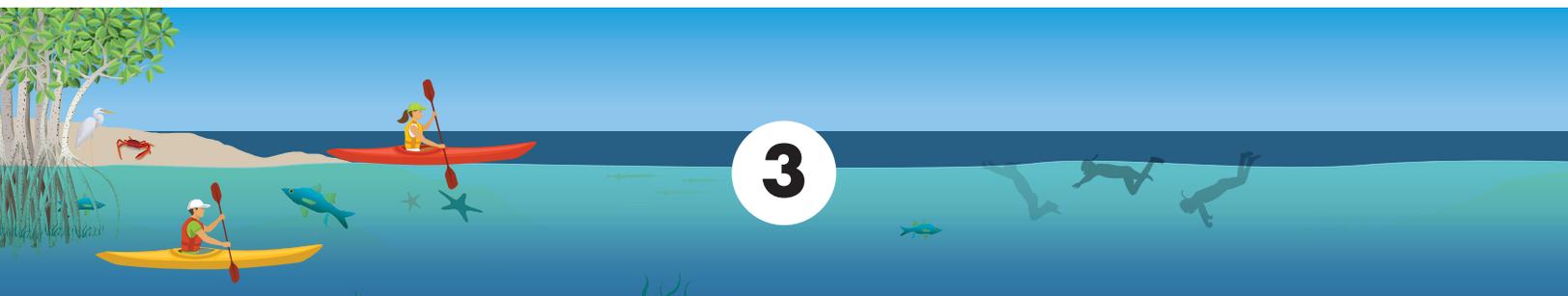
Camps run Monday through Friday.

## CAMP TIMES

- Half day morning camps (8:30am – 11:30am), or
  - Half day afternoon camps (1:00pm to 4:00pm), or
- Purchase a morning and afternoon camp for a full day camp experience (8:30am to 4:00pm). Half day camp sessions must be purchased separately to make a full day camp (excluding Advanced Marine Biology).

## 2021 CAMP PRICES

Prices vary by camp and can be found under each camp description. **Camp discount pricing is available to those members with pair, pod, or Winter's Circle memberships.**



# NO TIME TO PACK A LUNCH? NO PROBLEM!

## LUNCH

Catered lunches can be purchased for an additional **\$35.00 + tax** for the week. For those purchasing lunch, lunches must be purchased for the entire week, single day purchases are not available. It is recommended that you also send your camper with two snacks and water even if purchasing lunches for the week. Campers are also welcome to bring his/her own lunch to camp. Please note that there is no refrigeration or microwave oven available; do not send items that are highly perishable or require heating. Please pack your camper's lunch in a container with his/her name on it. **No other food will be available for purchase** at camp beyond the pre-paid catered option.

**We are not able to meet special dietary requests for the catered lunches.** Parents are strongly encouraged to provide your own lunch and/or snacks if your child cannot or will not eat the items on our menu.

## LUNCH MENU\*

All lunches will be served with a drink, cookies, and one of the following: fresh chips, a fruit cup or baby carrots with ranch dressing. Lunches on particular days cannot be substituted.

- Monday – Corn Dog Nuggets
- Tuesday – Cheeseburger
- Wednesday – Pizza
- Thursday – Chicken Tenders
- Friday – Grilled Ham & Cheese Sandwich

\*CMA reserves the right to substitute if necessary.

## CAMPER ALLERGIES

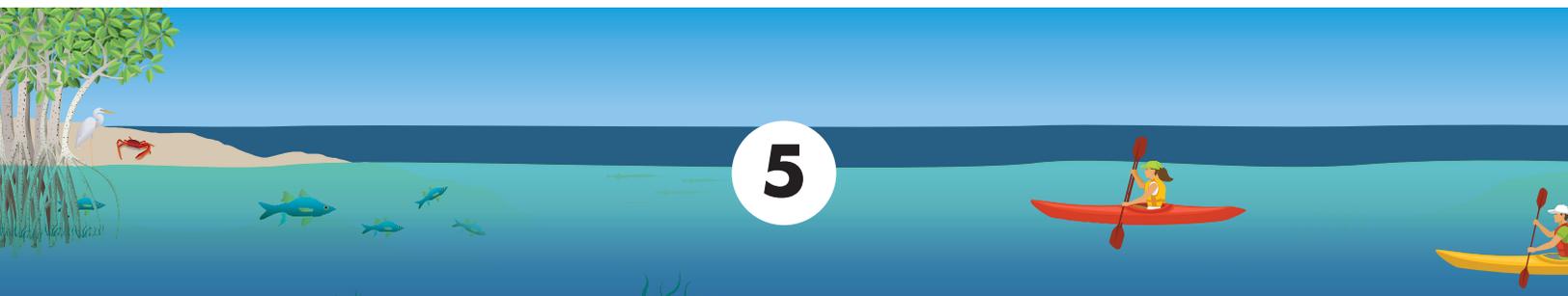
Clearwater Marine Aquarium will make every reasonable effort to reduce the risk to children with severe allergies or anaphylaxis. The Aquarium is not free of food items and non-food items that may lead to a severe allergic or anaphylactic reaction. **Due to a significant increase in severe nut allergies, CMA will no longer allow items containing peanuts or tree nuts in camp.** Please pack your camper's lunches and snacks accordingly and refrain from packing items that contain nuts such as trail mix, granola bars, hazelnut spread, and peanut butter. We greatly appreciate your help in keeping our campers safe and healthy. It is the parent's responsibility to inform the Camp Supervisor verbally and in writing that his/her child has an allergy, is anaphylactic, or potentially anaphylactic. This must also be listed in the camper registration form.

# REFUND POLICY

Refunds on camp payments will be processed once written notification has been submitted by emailing the Supervisor of Education Programs at [camps@cmaquarium.org](mailto:camps@cmaquarium.org). In the event of a cancellation, an 80% refund will be issued if the written cancellation request is received 15 days or more before the first day of camp. Cancellations with 14 to 5 days prior to the camp start will receive a partial refund of 50% of the total cost. Cancellations 4–0 days prior to the camp start will NOT receive a refund.

Full or partial refunds will NOT be issued to summer campers who attend one or more days of camp. Clearwater Marine Aquarium reserves the right to separate or combine camps. Clearwater Marine Aquarium also reserves the right to cancel a camp for any reason. If your camp is canceled, you will be contacted a minimum of three 3 days in advance.

We require a minimum of three (3) participants per camp session. If we do not meet the minimum required participants by the Wednesday prior to camp, the camp will be canceled and full refunds, or rescheduling, will be conducted.



## CAMP DROP OFF

Camp parking is on the 2nd floor of the parking garage. Follow signs to the Richard O. Jacobson Education Center. Campers **MUST** be escorted to the classrooms and signed in each morning by a parent or guardian. It is recommended that you arrive 15-minutes prior to the start of camp to ensure your camper is signed in before camp begins promptly at 8:30 am or 1:00 pm.

## LATE ARRIVAL/CAMP ABSENCE

Academic programming will begin promptly at the start of camp; it is important that campers arrive on time. If you know ahead of time that your camper will arrive late, please leave a voice mail with the Supervisor of Conservation Education Programs at 727-441-1790 x 270.

## DAILY MEDICATION

If your camper is required to take medication during camp hours, please provide the medication in packaging with the pharmacy label and clearly marked with the camper's legal name, medication name, and dosage instructions. The medication must have been given at home at least once (first time medication use cannot occur at camp). Fill out the **Daily Medication Authorization to Dispense** form provided by the camp staff at check-in. We will not administer medication that is past the expiration date. Medication cannot be stored with your child's belongings. Instead, please give the medication and the form to the Supervisor of Conservation Education Programs. Epi-pens will be stored with the camp teacher in the teacher's travel bag.

We will not administer any prescription medication without proper written permission. If the Daily Medication Authorization to Dispense form is not fully completed or does not match the prescription label, we will notify you that we will be unable to dispense the medication.

## EPI-PENS

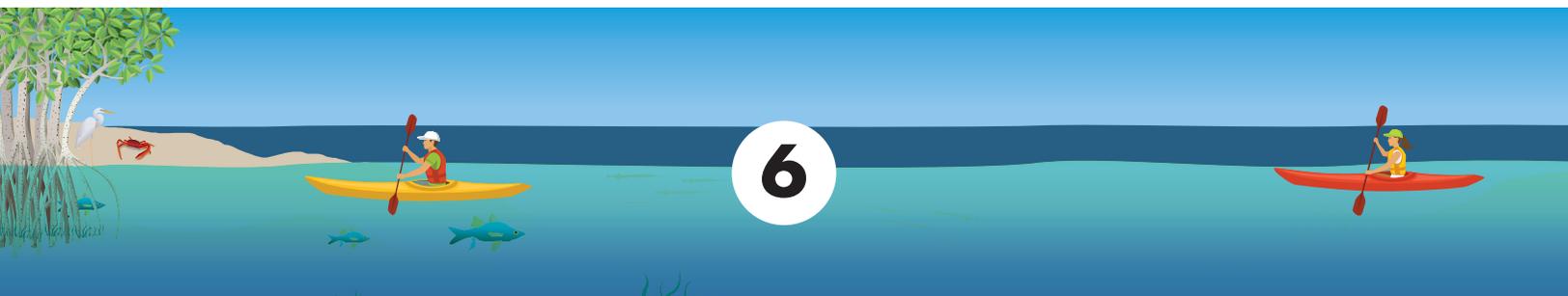
If your child has an Epi-pen, you will be required to attest that he/she has been trained by a physician and is fully knowledgeable of how and when to use the Epi-pen. If your child needs to use his/her Epi-pen, we will immediately call 911 and assist with the administration.

## ILLNESS OR INJURY AT CAMP

If an emergency occurs, 911 will be called immediately. You will be asked to pick-up your camper immediately if your camper shows any of the following symptoms: fever 100°F or higher, severe and persistent cough, vomiting, conjunctivitis (pink eye), sore throat, ringworm, lice, severe headache, or any symptoms of COVID-19 as provided by the CDC recommendations during the time of camp.

## CLASSROOM AID POLICY

Clearwater Marine Aquarium welcomes children of all ability levels to join us for our programs. In order to make accommodations we ask that families contact the Camp Supervisor in advance to make special arrangements to ensure your camper has the best experience possible. If your camper requires an additional classroom aide, that individual must be over 18 years old and have completed a background check through the state of Florida no less than two weeks in advance of the camp start date. Families are responsible for making the arrangements and covering the cost of the background checks. Per the Florida Department of Children and Families, no individual may interact with children in a summer camp program without level 2 background clearance. Please contact the Supervisor of Conservation Education Programs at 727-441-1790 x270 or [camps@cmaquarium.org](mailto:camps@cmaquarium.org) to make arrangements and for more information.



## BOATS

Per the United States Coast Guard, campers are not required to wear life jackets on Clearwater Marine Aquarium vessels. However, for camps which include snorkeling activities and other boating activities, life jackets are available on board at all times. If you would like your camper to wear a life jacket while snorkeling, please inform your camp teacher during sign-in. The camp boats are Coast Guard certified, with railings and other necessary safety features. Clearwater Marine Aquarium staff are first-aid and CPR trained. For snorkeling camps, all campers will have access to water they can stand in. Campers are not required to have previous snorkeling experience to participate in snorkeling camps.

## PICK UP PROCEDURES/SAFETY AND SECURITY

For your child's safety, we require adults picking up children enrolled in camp to have their photo ID available so the camp staff can verify the name on the pick up authorization form. Your child will NOT be released to any person not listed on the camp registration form or to any person without proper identification. Please be patient, we will need to check off each child before he or she leaves with an authorized adult. Again, this is for your child's safety. If you need to add someone to the pick up authorization forms, contact the Supervisor of Conservation Education Programs at 727-441-1790 x270 or camps@cmaquarium.

## CAMP ATTIRE

Campers should wear comfortable clothing and shoes. All summer campers will receive a complimentary t-shirt on the first day of camp. (If your camper is signed up for multiple camps he/she will receive his/her t-shirt at the start of each camp.) **Summer campers must wear their camp t-shirt each day.** Additional t-shirts may be purchased during the online registration process, by calling the Supervisor of Conservation Education Programs at 727-441-1790 x270, or during check-in at the welcome desk.

Clearwater Marine Aquarium is not responsible for any clothing that may become soiled or for any lost or stolen items. **PLEASE NOTE:** No shoes with wheels, such as Heelys or roller sneakers, are to be worn during camp. For snorkeling camps, proper closed-toe water shoes must be worn at all times. **Campers will not be permitted to snorkel without closed-toe water shoes.**



## WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP

We recommend packing a snack and bringing a refillable water bottle for all campers.

**Lunch Box/Bag** – Two snacks, lunch, refillable water bottle or sports drink (if desired).

**PLEASE NOTE:** Soda should not be sent in your child's snack and lunch packs. Soda causes bloating and can make your child sick when exposed to extreme heat. To avoid this problem, please send only water or sports drinks with your child.

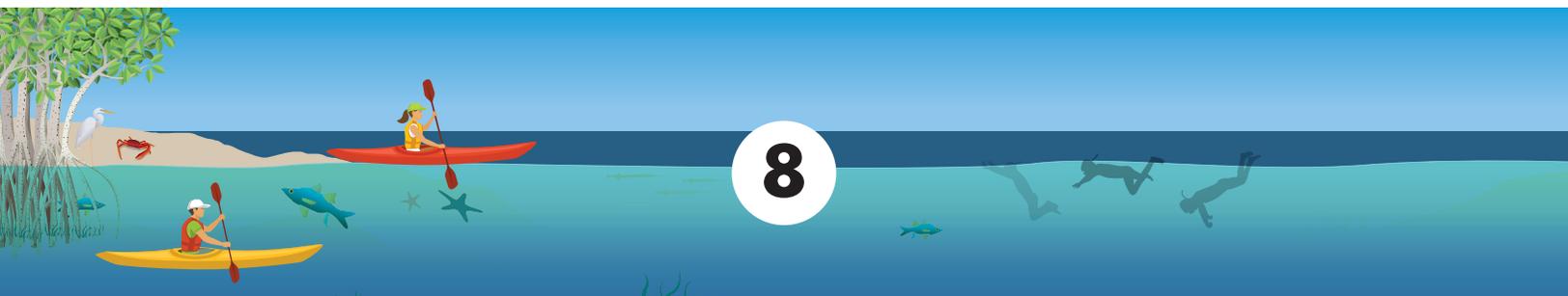
Lunches will be kept indoors, but not refrigerated, so please avoid perishable items. Lunches and/or beverages frozen overnight will stay fresh longer. Individual coolers are acceptable, if well marked with camper's name. Microwaves will not be available to prepare camper lunches.

**Backpack** – Used to transport snorkeling items and/or crafts. For camps which include snorkeling, we do not promise or guarantee that campers will snorkel on scheduled days (please see inclement weather policy). Summer campers should come dressed in a bathing suit underneath their camp t-shirt and bottoms every day. In your camper's backpack, please include closed-toe **water shoes** mask and snorkel, towel, undergarments to change into, sunscreen, hat, and insect repellent. It is recommended that your camper applies sunscreen before arriving at camp as our staff can only assist with spray-style sunscreens. **Please note:** water shoes are extremely important as shells and other items located on the bottom of Clearwater Bay may be sharp and hazardous. **CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM DOES NOT SELL WATER SHOES.**

## CAMP GEAR PACKS

For Summer Camps, the aquarium offers a "Camp Gear Pack" available for purchase. The Camp Gear Pack includes a Clearwater Marine Aquarium towel, a mask and snorkel, refillable Clearwater Marine Aquarium water bottle, sunscreen, and sunglasses – all in a Clearwater Marine Aquarium bag.\* You can also purchase Camp Gear Packs at the registration desk the first day of camp. **PLEASE NOTE:** Camp Gear Packs do not include water shoes. Campers will have to provide their own water shoes.

\*CMA reserves the right to substitute if necessary.



## WHAT NOT TO BRING TO CAMP

Please leave toys, video games, iPads, and other electronic devices at home. Jewelry, money, and other personal valuables should also not be brought to camp. Campers are permitted to bring cell phones, but they must not be used at all during the day (including lunchtime). In order to keep campers focused, campers will be directed to put away any electronic device that presents a distraction or causes a disruption. Clearwater Marine Aquarium is not responsible for any items that are misplaced, damaged, and/or stolen.

## CAMP RULES

- Be respectful and follow directions of all camp staff and Clearwater Marine Aquarium staff.
- Stay with your group at ALL times.
- WALK to all areas and destinations.
- Respect other camper's personal space. No touching, hitting, or horseplay.
- Respect the animals and their environment.

## DISCIPLINE POLICY – CONSEQUENCES IF CAMP RULES ARE NOT FOLLOWED

- A verbal warning and talk with camp teacher. Camp staff will discuss any verbal warnings with parents at pick up.
- A second or more serious offense will result in a Note of Unsatisfactory Conduct which must be signed by a parent or guardian.
- Campers with repeated offenses of CMA rules shall be dismissed from camp without a refund. This is to ensure a favorable learning environment for all.

This Discipline Policy is used as a guideline. Clearwater Marine Aquarium reserves the right to bypass steps when appropriate. The safety of all campers, staff and animals is the highest priority of the Aquarium.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Florida is prone to thunderstorms, tropical storms, red tide, and even hurricanes. There may be times when normal camp schedules need to be altered due to inclement weather or unsafe water conditions. In these instances, Clearwater Marine Aquarium has indoor classroom activities planned for campers. For camps which include snorkeling, traveling, kayaking, or any other outdoor activities (including animal encounters), we will adjust our outdoor schedules in the event of inclement weather or water conditions, for the safety of our campers. We will make every effort to resume normal camp schedules on inclement weather days as soon as possible. Since Clearwater Marine Aquarium does not have control over inclement weather or water conditions, we cannot guarantee that campers scheduled in these camps will snorkel, travel, kayak, or participate in an outdoor activity every day. Therefore, we will not issue full or partial refunds due to inclement weather.

In the event of a hurricane or other event in which the Aquarium may be subject to closure, please check [cmaqarium.org](http://cmaqarium.org) for information on camp operation.

## CAMP ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS

Some of our camps have animal encounters as part of the camp curriculum. Please see camp descriptions on our website at [cmaquarium.org](http://cmaquarium.org) for further details. Clearwater Marine Aquarium is a working marine hospital. Many of our animals are residents due to illnesses or other medical conditions. Therefore, Clearwater Marine Aquarium cannot promise or guarantee that campers scheduled in camps with animal encounters will have an encounter on scheduled days. Clearwater Marine Aquarium will make every effort to reschedule any missed animal encounters due to animal unavailability during the scheduled camp session.

## CAMP SAFETY

We continue to evolve our protocols as we receive information and recommendations from governmental agencies that include, but are not limited to, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Pinellas County Government, and the Florida Department of Health. Protocols are subject to change based on current recommendations.

## IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Vice President of Education

727-441-1790, Ext. 231

Supervisor of Conservation Education Programs

Extension 270

Cell: 727-409-6290

Our goal is to provide quality programming. We hope your camper has a fun and educational time in our camps.

Thank you,

*Clearwater Marine Aquarium  
Education Department*

