

VIMS SUMMER CAMP 2014

Frequently Asked Questions

The following is a list of Frequently Asked Questions about the VIMS 2014 Summer camp programs.

- **How much do the summer camps cost?**
All of the summer camps are free.
- **Why is there a lottery system as opposed to signing up first come, first serve?**
The lottery system was implemented in 2010 to make the application fairer for all students, schools, and families. Everyone has equal time to find out about the camps and get their applications turned in.
- **Why do you ask on the application if our student had attended camp last year?**
Because of the popularity of the VIMS Summer Camps, and in an effort to reach more students every year, we are giving preference to those students that are not repeating the same camp. For example, if your student attended Sea Squirts camp last year because they were entering 1st grade, and now they are entering 2nd grade and still eligible for Sea Squirts camp, preference will be given to other students that have not had the opportunity to attend Sea Squirts camp yet. This will not affect your chances of being selected if your student has aged up into a different camp. For example, if your student attended Sea Squirts camp last year because they were entering 2nd grade, and now they are entering 3rd grade and eligible for Bay Buddies, their prior camp attendance will not affect their preference in being accepted.
- **What are the times of the camps?**
The Sea Squirts, Bay Buddies, and Chesapeake Champions camps run from 9am-4pm. Estuary Explorers will run from 9am on Monday, June 23rd through mid-day on Saturday, June 28th.
- **Where do the camps take place?**
The Sea Squirts, Bay Buddies, and Chesapeake Champions camps are held at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point, VA. Estuary Explorers will leave from VIMS in Gloucester Point, but we will spend the week at the VIMS Eastern Shore campus in Wachapreague, VA.

- **Can I sign up my student for the same camp, two years in a row?**
Students may apply for the same camp, two years in a row, although preference will be given to those students that have not attended camp in the past. To clarify, if your student attended Sea Squirts camp last year, and is still eligible for Sea Squirts camp this year, preference will be given to those that were not accepted last year. If your student has aged up into a new camp this year, this does not apply to you.
- **Which camps are day camps and which are overnight?**
Only the Estuary Explorers camp for rising 7th and 8th grade students is overnight.
- **The dates for the Estuary Explorers camp include 6 days. Is that a typo?**
No. The Estuary Explorers camp will leave VIMS in Gloucester Point, VA on Monday, June 23rd and will travel to the VIMS Eastern Shore Lab in Wachapreague, VA where we will stay for the entire week. Students will be picked up by their parents on Saturday, June 28th after giving a presentation on the final day of camp.
- **I have multiple students in the same age group. Is it possible to sign up all of my students for the same camp?**
You may sign up as many students as you would like for a camp. However, each individual student must be selected by either the lottery system (for grades 1-4) or application process (for grades 5-8) in order to be able to attend the camp. That is, if one of your students receives is selected for a spot in the camp, it does NOT guarantee that their sibling/friend also has a spot.
- **I have students in different age groups. Can my 7th grader attend the 4th grade camp so that they can attend camp in the same week?**
No. All students must apply for the camp designated for their own age group.
- **Why are there two sessions of the Bay Buddies camp and not two sessions for other age groups?**
Last year, the demand for a camp for the 3rd and 4th grade age group was the highest. We are offering two sessions of the Bay Buddies camp to accommodate that demand. Due to time limitations in the summer, we are not able to offer additional sessions of any other camp.
- **When I turn in my application, does that guarantee my student a spot in the camp?**
No. Turning in an application does NOT guarantee your student a spot in the camp. For the Sea Squirts and Bay Buddies camp, the application enters your student into a lottery for camp spots. For the Chesapeake Champions and Estuary Explorers, the application will be used by a review panel to select students for the camp. By April 9th you will receive an email notifying you if your student was selected (either through the lottery system or application process) for a spot in the camp.

- **Why do you ask for a teacher's name for the Estuary Explorers camp?**

Teacher references are requested only for the Estuary Explorers camp in case the review panel would like to contact teachers for more information on the students during the selection process. Teachers will only be contacted if more information is needed. Teachers do not need to submit a written reference, and do not have to be the science teacher. Students must select a current teacher, but from any subject area.

- **When will I know if my student is selected for camp?**

All students will be notified by April 9th if they were selected for camp.

- **I completed the online application for Chesapeake Champions. Is that all I need to do?**

No. For Chesapeake Champions and Estuary Explorers, there are Statement of Interest essay questions that must also be answered and emailed to Sarah McGuire Nuss at mcguire@vims.edu. These questions must EACH be 150 words for Chesapeake Champions, and 250 EACH for Estuary Explorers. This is the primary way that we select students for these two camps so please encourage your student to spend some time working on their essays.

- **I accidentally closed the window including the required Statement of Interest essay questions. Could you resend the questions and word requirements?**

- **Chesapeake Champions** - To complete your application, please email your responses to the following essay questions to Sarah McGuire Nuss at mcguire@vims.edu by April 1st. *Answers to EACH QUESTION should be a minimum of 150 words.* Submissions that do not arrive by April 1 or that do not contain the minimum word requirement will not be considered. Please be sure student includes their name at the top of each page of their responses. Please note that applicants will be selected primarily by their responses to these questions. Please use as much detail as possible as it will likely be a very competitive year for applications. You will be notified by April 9th, 2014 if your student(s) was selected for camp.
 - Why are you interested in marine science and what topics interest you?
 - What do you want to learn by attending this camp?
 - Why should you be selected for this camp?
- **Estuary Explorers** - To complete your application, please email your responses to the following essay questions to Sarah McGuire Nuss at mcguire@vims.edu by April 1st. *Answers to EACH question should be a minimum of 250 words.* Submissions that do not arrive by April 1 or that do not contain the minimum word requirement will not be considered. Be sure student includes their name at the top of each page of their responses. Please note that applicants will be selected primarily by their responses to these questions. Please use as much detail as possible as it will likely be a

very competitive year for applications. You will be notified by April 9th, 2014 if your student(s) was selected for camp.

- Why are you interested in marine science and what topics interest you?
- What do you want to learn by attending this camp?
- What characteristics do you have that would make you a good fit for this week-long overnight camp?