



Scherman Hoffman Sanctuaries

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NEW JERSEY
AUDUBON
SOCIETY

ISLAND EXPLORERS 2018

NJA Summer Camp at Sedge Island in Barnegat Bay

Directions: To get to Island Beach State Park, take the Garden State Parkway south to exit 82. Then take Route 37 to Island Beach. Go over the causeway and follow signs to Island Beach State Park (to the right). Proceed to the end of the road and go through the gated entrance to the park. You do not have to pay the park entrance fee. Tell the person at the gate you are part of NJ Audubon Island Explorers Camp and are meeting the group to go to Sedge Island. We will meet at parking area 21, seven miles from the entrance gate. Look for the wind turbine as a land mark. The sign will say "Winter Anchorage" Canoe and Kayak launch. The parking area is on the left. Counselors will meet you in parking area 21 and shuttle gear to the boat launch. If you go too far the road ends; go back to the prior parking area (21). There are facilities at parking area 21. The boat launch is down the sand road across the street from the parking area. There is very limited parking at the boat launch. If you use Map Quest, or Google map, this address will get you to the main office at Island Beach State Park: **Island Beach State Park, Shore Rd, Seaside Park, NJ 08752** 732-793-0506. Parking Area 21 is seven miles into the park. Depending on traffic, travel time is about 2 hours from the Sanctuary in Bernardsville.

Arrival:

Island Explorers Session 1 – Meet Monday, June 25 at 1:00 pm.

Island Explorers Session 2 – Meet Monday, July 9 at 1:00 pm.

Island Explorers Session 3 – Meet Monday, July 30 at 1:00 pm.

Please have lunch before you arrive. Meeting place is parking area 21, "Winter Anchorage", which is located just before the southern end of Island Beach State Park (see directions above). You will have to pass through the entrance to the park. You do not have to pay the park entrance fee. Tell the person at the gate you are part of NJA Island Explorers and are meeting the group to go to Sedge Island. Campers will be ferried to the island on a coast guard approved pontoon boat with a licensed captain.

Departure: One parent or family member is invited to join us for a lunch visit to Sedge Island on Friday at 12:00 noon. Please plan on being there at 11:45 if you will be joining us for lunch. There is limited space on the Pontoon Boat. Depending on the number of people that make reservations, it might be possible for more than one person per family to attend. We will let you know by phone or email after we get a head count on Monday. We should be back on the mainland by 3:00 pm. If you can't join us for lunch, please meet your camper in parking area 21 at 3:00 pm.

Life on the Island: Life on the island is “spartan.” We will be staying in a renovated duck-hunting lodge. The lodge has one bunk bed per room, a full kitchen/dining area, a common room and a large screened porch. There are no phones or electric lines from the mainland. We have several cell phones in case of emergencies. Electricity is provided from solar panels and a backup generator. We will spend a day and night completely “off the grid”. Drinking water is brought over from the mainland. Campers help with cooking meals, washing dishes and cleaning the facility. Shower time will be limited, but we will have solar showers for rinsing off each day. Facilities include two composting toilets.

Our stay will explore both the natural and cultural history of Barnegat Bay, Island Beach State Park, Sedge Island’s Marine Conservation Zone, estuaries, barrier Islands and the Atlantic Ocean. The weather and the tide will determine each day’s activities. Activities will include kayaking around Sedge Island and to Island Beach. We will observe Osprey on nesting platforms feeding fish to their young. We’ll look for nesting Diamond Back Terrapins on the shore line and place predator guards over any nest site we find. Black Skimmer, Herring and Laughing Gulls, several species of terns, Brown Pelican, Great Blue Herons, Black-crowned Night Heron, Great and Snowy Egrets, Glossy Ibis, Oystercatchers and Willet are a few of the species of birds we will see. We’ll learn about mollusks, crustaceans, marine mammals and invertebrates and go crabbing, clamming, fishing and beachcombing. What we find/see/catch will be the focal point of our learning.

See you soon!

Stephanie Punnett, Program Director

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