



Island Explorers 2020 – Useful Information

NJA Summer Camp at Sedge Island in Barnegat Bay

Camp Address

Parking Area 21
Island Beach State Park
Seaside Park, NJ 08752
(732) 793-0506

GPS Coordinates for Park Entrance

39° 54' 18.98" N 74° 04' 53.15" W

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 landmark. 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 22, 2020 at 1:00 pm.

Island Explorers Session 2 – Meet Monday, July 6, 2020 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.

Tides and weather forecasts may result in changes to Friday's visit and tour. Updates will be shared via email.

If you can't join us for lunch, please meet your camper in parking area 21 at 3:00 pm.

The Sedge Island Experience

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 shoreline 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.

Life on the island is Spartan! We will be staying in a renovated duck-hunting lodge which has a full kitchen/dining area, a common room and a large screened-in porch. Campers' rooms are gender-separated with one bunk bed per room while staff sleep in both the front and the rear of the Lodge. There are no shower facilities, however campers can rinse off with the hose. Facilities include two outdoor composting toilets. There are no phones or electric lines from the mainland, but we have several cell phones in case of emergencies. Electricity is provided from solar panels and a backup generator. Drinking water is brought over from the mainland. Campers help with cooking meals, washing dishes and cleaning the facility.

What to Bring

Campers will be in, around, and on the water every day; bathing suits, tee shirts, shorts, and closed-toe water shoes will be perfect attire during the day. We will be inside the screened porch at night. NJA and Sedge will have binoculars, field guides, a spotting scope, extra sunscreen, extra insect repellent, kayaks, personal flotation devices (life jackets must be worn during all water activities), water testing equipment, microscopes, nets, and some fishing gear. Leaders will keep their cell phones in waterproof containers.

- **One 1 liter or two 500 ml reusable, unbreakable water bottles. Drinking water during hot days is essential to prevent dehydration.** We will bring gallon jugs of water from the mainland to last us the week.
- All medications must be in original containers

- Sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher); apply early and frequently
- Sunscreen stick (longer protection for ears, necks, faces)
- Insect Repellent (non-aerosol); more DEET= more protection *but* this is a powerful chemical, so read the warning label carefully
- Sunglasses (with lanyard to prevent loss): polarized lenses allow better underwater visibility
- Campers must *bring and wear* a hat with brim for sun protection!
- Closed-toe water shoes must be worn during all water activities (please note Crocs are *not* acceptable footwear)
- Long pants, long-sleeved shirt, and socks (for sun and insect protection)
- Change of underwear for 4 days
- Bathing suit and towel
- Raincoat or wind breaker (poncho not recommended, too windy)
- Warm sweatshirt
- Flashlight
- Personal hygiene products, towel and washcloth
- Sleeping bag or sheets and pillowcase (blankets and pillow are supplied)
- Sleepwear

Optional Personal Items

- Camera
- Binoculars
- Fishing rod and tackle
- Healthy snacks - NO candy

What not to bring

- Portable listening devices including: iPod, smart speaker, boom box, etc.
- Cell phone
- Jewelry, watch, or other expensive items
- Anything that would be ruined if it gets wet

Staffing

Staff are drawn from the following pool of educators (there will be two adults present at all times):

Robin Anderson, NJ Audubon Lead Summer Camp Educator

Robin has many years of teaching experience in middle school Earth Science as well as extensive experience in Environmental Education. Robin has taught our overnight campers for many years and enjoys sharing the out of doors with students.

Lydia Stiles, NJ Audubon Lead Summer Camp Educator

Lydia is a certified elementary teacher of biological sciences and has over 15 years of Environmental Education and teaching experience in physical, earth, and life sciences. She is currently a middle school teacher.

Jessica DiStasio, NJ Audubon Summer Camp Educator

Jessica received her Bachelor of Marine Science from The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey and has been a co-leader at our Island Explorers camp. She previously interned at Sedge Island for the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Sedge Island Program Directorate

We will also have several interns helping our group and the Sedge Island Program Director usually arranges to have a researcher working in the bay meet with our group.

Mike Anderson, NJA Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary Director, will be assisting at the boat launch on Monday. Mike's cell phone number is 973-216-2049. Call if you need directions or if you are going to be late.

Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary Contacts

If you have any general questions about the program, please:

Email Stephanie Punnett, Program Director: stephanie.punnett@njudubon.org

Call Stephanie: 908-396-6594

If you are going to be late for camp drop off on Monday, or need directions while driving there:

Call Mike Anderson, Sanctuary Director: 973-216-2049

Typical Menu*

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Snacks
Monday	N/A	N/A	Cheese tortellini Garlic Bread Plain Pasta & Sauce Salad	Pretzels Watermelon Cookies
Tuesday	Scrambled Eggs Bagels Cereal Bananas Milk/Juice	Sandwiches Cold Cuts PB & J Veggie Sticks Apples	Tacos (hard/soft shell) Meat Rice/Beans/Corn Sour Cream/Salsa Lettuce/Tomato	Chips Watermelon Cookies
Wednesday	Pancakes Cereal Yogurt Fruit Milk/Juice	Sandwiches Cold Cuts PB & J Tortellini Salad Veggie Sticks Apples	Grilled Chicken Strips Grilled Sausage Baked Potato/Sour Cream Grilled Vegetables Salad	Granola Bars Chips/Salsa Cookie Squares
Thursday	French Toast Cereal Yogurt Fruit Milk/Juice	Wraps/Sandwiches w. leftover chicken/ veggies Cold Cuts Fruit	Burgers (regular/veggie) Hot Dogs Corn/Squash Baked Beans Pasta Salad	Veggie Sticks Pretzels Brownies/Smares
Friday	Muffin Bread Cereal Fruit Salad	Pizza Bread Watermelon	N/A	Selection

* This is an indicative menu only – food items may change depending on availability. Please inform us of any food allergies/special dietary requirements *no later than* the Friday morning before Camp which is when food shopping begins.

