



## **The South Fork Natural History Museum (SOFO) announces the Marine and Environmental Science Summer Programs for 2021**

The Marine and Environmental Science Summer Programs consist of four (4) days of adventure exploring marine and freshwater habitats and the ecology of their fascinating, secretive occupants. Your child will come away with a new appreciation for our diverse environments here on the East End of Long Island's South Fork.

### **"Peanut Bunker" Marine and Environmental Science Week**

- For children 6 – 8 years of age
- Program runs Monday through Thursday August 2 – 5, 2021
- Drop off and pick up is at daily locations on the eastern South Fork
- Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### **"Sea Bass" Marine and Environmental Science Week**

- For children 9 – 11 years of age
- Program runs Monday through Thursday August 9 – 12, 2021
- Drop off and pick up is at daily locations on the eastern South Fork
- Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Peanut Bunker program is an exciting way for children to experience marine and freshwater ecosystems. Your child will explore science themes with hands on learning activities at different field sites each day. Whether collecting pond insects, observing birds, seining in eelgrass beds, or wading through a salt marsh, your child will learn to identify plants and animals and understand how organisms interact to create an ecosystem. Animal adaptations for finding food and to avoid being eaten will be explored. Finally, your child will become a marine biologist for a day and participate in ongoing research using scientific instruments onboard a SUNY Stony Brook Southampton Marine Research Vessel.

The Sea Bass program is an exciting way for children to understand how organisms interact with each other and how they are adapted to their environment. While digging for clams, wading in a salt marsh, snorkeling in an eelgrass meadow, and trawling for larger fish and crustaceans they will observe and learn to identify local fish, bird, and invertebrate species. One day is devoted to pond ecology: collecting and identifying pond insects, invertebrates, amphibians, and plankton. Finally, your child will become a marine biologist for a day and participate in research sampling using scientific instruments on a SUNY Stony Brook Southampton Marine Research Vessel.



## **The South Fork Natural History Museum (SOFO) Marine and Environmental Science Summer Programs 2021**

Exploration sites are in East Hampton and Southampton and will vary daily. Programs are drop off/pick up at daily locations; there is no bus transportation this year. Specific site locations and a supply list will be provided one month prior to the start of the program. Please register your child for the week that is appropriate for his or her age group. Due to COVID-19 limitations on class size and popularity of the program, sessions fill up quickly. **Sign up early and include membership number, completed Registration Form, Environmental Education Release, Medical/Consent Form and Payment.**

### **COVID-19 Protocols**

**SOFO follows all COVID-19 protocols as required by the Department of Health for the safety of our participants and environmental program leaders. Face masks are required during all outdoor activities when staff and participants are less than six feet from each other.**

**A detailed itinerary and supplies list for participants will be emailed to parents prior to the start of each week.**

***Registration Forms will be available for download @ [www.SOFO.org](http://www.SOFO.org) on **Sunday, March 28, 2021 @ 9:30 am.*****

SOFO members will be given preference until **April 5, 2021 when general registration opens.**

Non-members have the option of purchasing a membership by phone or online by PayPal.

Payment is due at Registration.

You will be notified as soon as possible of your reservation status.

**Due to popular demand the summer programs are first come, first served.**

**First consideration will be given to active SOFO Members. To check the status of your membership please call the museum before filling out and submitting your registration form.**

**Cost for The Marine and Environmental Science Summer Peanut Bunker Program, Ages 6-8, is \$1000 for SOFO members, \$1200 for non-members.**

**Cost for The Marine and Environmental Science Summer Sea Bass Program, Ages 9-11, is \$1000 for SOFO members, \$1200 for non-members.**

All correspondence and questions please direct email to: [rgelling@sofo.org](mailto:rgelling@sofo.org)



## SOFO Marine and Environmental Science Summer Program 2021

**Director / Instructor: Robert Gelling**

Rob taught science at Kings Park High School for 31 years until his retirement in 2017. After completing his BS in Geology and MAT in Earth Science Education at Binghamton University in 1984/86, he began his career at KPHS teaching Biology and Environmental Science. He has over those years taught Regents Earth Science, AP Geology, Independent Science research, Astronomy, and an independent study program called the Environment Team. Rob created an extracurricular program called the *Student Environmental Action Society* in his first year and advised the group that engaged in eco-projects every year thereafter. The room he taught in was called the Environmental Center and featured a Critter Lab, Courtyard Classroom with greenhouses and a pond, and recycling station. Rob also coached Kings Park's Boys Winter and Spring Track and is First Aid/CPR certified.

After "retirement", Rob took a leave replacement position at St. John the Baptist High School. There he taught Regents and Honors Biology and coached JV Boys basketball. More recently, he is now the STEM Teacher at the K-8 Laurel Hill School in East Setauket. In his third school year there, he is a special teacher where students come to his classroom known as the STEM Lab. There he offers his students project-based experiences that provide an opportunity to explore the engineering design process.

Summer experiences for Rob have included research at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, teaching in a residential BOCES Marine Science Enrichment program in the Hamptons/Montauk, directing the SCOPE Environmental World summer program, eight summers on the Long Island Aquarium education staff, shark satellite tagging and release experiences with SOFO's Shark Research & Education Program, and directing SOFO's Marine Science Summer Programs 2014-21.

