



# South Fork Natural History Museum

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF NATURE EDUCATION

## The South Fork Natural History Museum (SOFO) announces our 11th Annual Marine and Environmental Science Summer Programs for 2024

The Marine and Environmental Science Summer Programs consist of five days of outdoor education adventures exploring marine and freshwater habitats and the ecology of their fascinating inhabitants. Your child will come away with a greater appreciation for our diverse environments here on the East End of Long Island's South Fork.

### **“Sea Bass I” Marine and Environmental Science Week**

- For children ages 9-11 who are entering grades 4, 5, or 6 this September, 2024
- Program runs Monday through Friday July 22-26, 2024
- Drop off is at SOFO at 8:30 AM, transportation will be provided, pick up is at SOFO at 3:00 PM
- Rate: **\$1,250 for SOFO members, \$1,625 for non-members**

### **“Peanut Bunker” Marine and Environmental Science Week**

- For children ages 6-8 who are entering grades 1, 2, or 3 this September, 2024
- Program runs Monday through Friday July 29-August 2, 2024
- Drop off is at SOFO at 8:30 AM, transportation will be provided, pick up is at SOFO at 3:00 PM
- Rate: **\$1,250 for SOFO members, \$1,625 for non-members**

### **“Sea Bass II” Marine and Environmental Science Week**

- For children ages 9-11 who are entering grades 4, 5, or 6 this September, 2024
- Program runs Monday through Friday August 5-9, 2024
- Drop off is at SOFO at 8:30 AM, transportation will be provided, pick up is at SOFO at 3:00 PM
- Rate: **\$1,250 for SOFO members, \$1,625 for non-members**

### **“Fish Hawks” Marine and Environmental Science Week**

- For children ages 12-14 who are entering grades 7, 8, or 9 this September, 2024
- Program runs Monday through Friday August 12-16, 2024
- Drop off is at SOFO at 8:30 AM, transportation will be provided, pick up is at SOFO at 3:00 PM
- Rate: **\$1,350 for SOFO members, \$1,750 for non-members**

## Age Level Program Descriptions

The **Peanut Bunker** program is an exciting way for children to experience marine and freshwater ecosystems. Your child will explore age appropriate science concepts with hands-on learning activities at different field sites each day. Whether collecting pond insects, observing birds, seine-netting 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 I, II** 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 bed, 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 freshwater 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 **Fish Hawks** program is a Marine Environmental Science week for older children. It will provide an opportunity to observe the natural environments we explore each day with a level of scientific inquiry that could prepare them for STEM and research programs in middle and high school curricula. While hiking through a maritime forest, kayaking in a salt marsh, snorkeling in an eelgrass bed, and trawling for ocean fishes and crustaceans, they will develop an understanding of the ecological relationships between local fish, water birds, crustaceans, mollusks, seaweeds, marsh plants, plankton and the nonliving parts of an ecosystem: water, air, sunlight, and sediments. Your child will help collect information on marine life populations and the health of our local marine ecosystems.

Exploration sites are in East Hampton and Southampton and will vary daily. Specific site locations, a supply list and hour by hour itinerary 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. **Sign up early and include completed Registration Form, Environmental Education Release, Medical/Consent Form and Payment Information.**

**Registration Forms will be available for download at [www.sofa.org](http://www.sofa.org) on Monday, February 5, 2024 at 10:00 AM.**

SOFo members will be given preference until **Saturday, February 10, 2024, 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 \$1,250 for SOFO members, \$1,625 for non-members.**

**Cost for the Marine and Environmental Science Summer Sea Bass I, II Program, Ages 9-11, is \$1,250 for SOFO members, \$1,625 for non-members.**

**Cost for the Marine and Environmental Science Fish Hawks Program, Ages 12-14, is \$1,350 for SOFO members, \$1,750 for non-members.**

Please direct all correspondences and questions to: [rgelling@sofo.org](mailto:rgelling@sofo.org)