

Activity Information Acknowledgement

Coastal Explorer Camp 2016

The Ocean Institute camps are American Camping Association accredited and a new requirement for this year is a signed Activity Information Acknowledgement form. This information is to make sure parents/guardians are aware of what their child will be doing in camp. By enrolling your child in this camp you are giving them permission to participate in these activities. With your registration information you should find a parent letter and a schedule for the camp your child is attending. These details will help answer some of the questions we are often asked. The Ocean Institute is very safety conscious and works hard to make your child's camp experience the safest possible, but there is always a potential for injury. We hope the information below will help you understand some of the activities at camp so your child will have a fun and unforgettable experience.

Campers participate in a variety of hands-on activities with our instructors that range from arts and crafts, to fish dissections and water chemistry testing. While the Ocean Institute makes every effort to create a safe and fun learning environment, there are some activities that might need explanation:

Outside Activities: Some activities, boat, lunch, and field trips will occur outside. In the summer this usually means in the sun with the risk of sunburn. We do provide shade for some but not all activity areas. The Ocean Institute recommends that sunscreen be applied in the morning before camp and the campers will be asked to reapply sunscreen during the day. Your child will be responsible for applying the sunscreen to themselves and may ask for other camper's help. The Ocean Institute staff or volunteers are not allowed to apply sunscreen by hand.

R/V Sea Explorer Cruise: The *R/V Sea Explorer* is a federally documented vessel which means it does not require the use of passenger life jackets. Approved Coast Guard Certified life jackets are accessible for youth and adult passengers, but are distributed *only* in the case of an emergency. There is a safety rail around the entire vessel and campers are monitored at all times while on the vessel. The vessel is also equipped with heavy scientific gear used to collect samples for camper use during the cruises. These areas are marked and off-limits to the students. Like any vessel during times at sea, the environment of the boat can be slippery and unsteady.

Exploration in the Dana Point Marine Conservation Area: Camp participants will be going to the tidepools in the Dana Point Marine Conservation Area. This is a wilderness area with rough terrain, uneven footing and slippery rocks. Slipping and falling are possibilities. Proper footwear, i.e., closed-toed, closed-heel shoes with good traction, is required. Instructors carry first aid kits and radios. Tides are not very low in the daytime during the summer so if we go into the intertidal area we may not be able to see any tidepool animals.

Kayaking: We utilize dual sit-on-top kayaks so there will be two campers per kayak. Campers are required to wear life vests at all times and to stay on their kayaks. There is an instructor on a separate kayak as well as a certified lifeguard in a safety boat.

Fishing: Campers will be supplied with a conventional fishing pole. The staff and captain will be observing the campers at all times and no overhead casting will be allowed.

Maddie James Seaside Learning Center: This learning lab floats and is a dock where students can discover the techniques and technologies used by scientists. Students are supervised at all times and the facility has rescue equipment readily available.

Beach Day: The campers will be transported to Strands Beach in Dana Point by chartered bus. The company is licensed and certified. Seat belts are not required but, when present, are used and instructors are positioned throughout the bus to ensure behavior and safety. At the beach the Ocean Institute will provide a certified lifeguard and will discuss with the beach lifeguard the conditions of the day. Two instructors are in the water with campers at all times and instructors are assigned to watch from shore. Campers are instructed to only enter the water at waist height and are not allowed to use boogie boards or surfboards.

I have read the description of the program for this camp and agree that my child is physically able and prepared to participate in all camp activities/program.

I, the undersigned parent/guardian, give my permission for _____
to participate in the camp activities.

Parent or Guardian's signature

Date