



# 2026

## Sea Adventures Handbook

Physical Location: 3690 Cedar Beach Road, Southold NY  
Suffolk County Marine Education and Learning Center



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## Section One: Introduction to Peconic Dunes 4-H Camp



### **Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County**

The Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County (CCE Suffolk) is the local branch of Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), a statewide community education agency established in 1917. As part of the U.S. Land-Grant University System, created in 1862 to advance public education and community development, CCE Suffolk operates under the administration of Cornell University, New York's land-grant institution.

CCE Suffolk is a subordinate governmental agency with an educational mission, structured in accordance with guidelines set by Cornell University on behalf of the State of New York. As a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, it is part of the national cooperative extension system—an educational partnership among county, state, and federal governments. Each Cornell Cooperative Extension association is independently governed by an elected Board of Directors, with oversight from Cornell, ensuring that local, state, and national priorities are met.

Dedicated to addressing Suffolk County's most pressing challenges, CCE Suffolk collaborates with elected officials at all levels, government agencies, local nonprofits, and community organizations to deliver research-driven solutions. Our team of over 200 educators, specialists, and researchers works across four core program areas: 4-H Youth Development, Community Education, Agriculture, and Marine. Through our affiliation with Cornell University, we leverage world-class expertise, technology, and programming to foster a more resilient and sustainable Suffolk County.

The location of Peconic Dunes 4-H Camp has been used to provide summer camp experiences to youth since 1924, the county owns the property and in 2003 contracted with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County to operate it.

For more on what CCE Suffolk has to offer [www.ccesffolk.org](http://www.ccesffolk.org)

### **Peconic Dunes 4-H Camp**

Peconic Dunes 4-H Camp is a place for young people to get outside, unplugged, and enjoy the best things in life—friendships, fresh air, discovery, confidence, and a sense of belonging. Located on the North Fork of Long Island, nestled between the shores of the Long Island Sound and Great Pond, Peconic Dunes offers one-week overnight and day camp sessions. Activities include kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, snorkeling, fishing, archery, outdoor cooking, team sports, environmental sciences, crafts, multimedia, music, theatre, and more.

Evening programs offer time for fun, fellowship, and reflection. Overnight campers can enjoy campfires, talent shows, a dance, and other activities that encourage campers to create meaningful friendships and lasting memories.

# 4-H

## 4-H is Community for ALL Kids

For more than 100 years, 4-H has welcomed young people of all beliefs and backgrounds, giving kids a voice to express who they are and how they make their lives and communities better.

Through life-changing 4-H programs, nearly six million kids and teens have taken on critical societal issues, such as addressing community health, engaging in civil discourse, and advocating for opportunity for all.

New York State 4-H is a part of Cornell Cooperative Extension and our state office is housed in the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research on the Cornell University campus, in Ithaca, NY.

Peconic Dunes Camp supports this and is open to all and believes in a model where young people can express their unique differences in a safe environment.

In 4-H, we believe in the power of young people. We see that every child has valuable strengths and real influence to improve the world around us. 4-H is delivered by Cooperative Extension—a community of more than 100 public universities across the nation that provides experiences where young people learn by doing.

New York State 4-H provided summer camp programming to 10,000 young people attending our 30 day and overnight camps across the state. Making each camper's experience fulfilling and memorable were hardworking 500 camp counselors, staff and volunteers.

### 4-H'ers are...

- 2x more likely to feel positive about their wellbeing;
- 3x more likely to feel competent;
- 2x more likely to make healthier choices;
- 2x more likely to participate in out-of-school-time science programs; and
- 4x more likely to make a positive contribution to their communities.

<https://4-h.org/>

<https://www.nys4-h.org/camps>



# POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

## Positive Youth Development: PYD

The science behind the success of 4-H is Positive Youth Development, a comprehensive approach to promoting learning and development. Its goal is to help young people feel empowered and develop critical life skills that allow them to reach their fullest potential.

PYD is a part of every 4-H opportunity, helping kids thrive with the following elements.

## Helping Youth Thrive

- Sparks: Providing a place where youth can find and explore what sparks their interest.
- Belonging: Creating spaces of belonging—where ALL kids feel welcome and physically and emotionally safe.
- Relationships: Nurturing positive, supportive and empowering relationships between youth and adults and youth and their peers.
- Engagement: Challenging and encouraging youth to pursue their own learning and growth. Promoting active engagement where youth have a voice.

PYD also has six core concepts, referred to as the "6 C's of PYD." These include:

1. Competence—positive view of one's actions in specific areas, including social and academic skills
2. Confidence—an internal sense of overall positive self-worth and self-efficacy
3. Connection—positive bonds with people and institutions that are reflected in exchanges between the individual and their peers, family, school, and community and in which both parties contribute to the relationship
4. Character—respect for societal and cultural norms, possession of standards for correct behaviors, a sense of right and wrong (morality), and integrity
5. Caring—a sense of sympathy and empathy for others
6. Contribution—contributions to self, family, community, and to the institutions of society

<https://4-h.org/about/what-is-pyd/>





## Section Two: Goals and Outcomes

### Goals

#### Make Friends

One of the great benefits of sleepaway camp is the opportunity to make friendships that last a lifetime. Every activity at Peconic Dunes strives to build caring relationships between every member of the camp community. Camp traditions also reinforce positive relationships and provide lasting memories.

#### Be Healthy

Healthy minds work best with healthy bodies! We continually work to create a healthy balance of activity, nutrition, and rest. Everyday our entire community gets at least 8-hours of sleep, plus a mid-day siesta...and when we're not relaxing we're playing!

#### Learn

"Learning by doing" has been the 4-H motto since 1902. There are five program areas that support hands-on learning: Expressive Arts, Outdoor Skills, Sports, Environmental Science, and Waterfront.

There are many in-depth activities covering a range of topics so our developing scientists, artists, leaders, athletes, and outdoors people can all find something they like best. Challenge activities are 2 hours long and campers work in age appropriate groups. Campers can pick the same activity all week, or a different one each day.

#### Have Fun

We believe everyone learns best when they're having fun. No one makes camp more fun than a Peconic Dunes counselor. Our staff shares their passions and interests in an engaging and enjoyable way.

**Everything good, everything magical happens between the months of June and August."**

**— Jenny Han**



## Outcomes

Specific outcomes that address camper physical, social, and mental well-being:

- An increased sense of independence, self-confidence, and self-reliance.
- A greater knowledge of the natural world and the interconnection of all living things.
- Appreciation and acceptance of social and cultural differences.
- An understanding that flexibility, sharing, and consideration of others are essential for group living.
- An excitement and enthusiasm for new experiences.
- New and lasting friendships with people of all ages.
- Further develop respect for themselves, peers, and environment.



## Section Three: Program

|              | SAMPLE<br>SCHEDULE            |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| 8:35-8:55 AM | Arrival                       |
| 9:10 AM      | Round Up  <br>Announcements   |
| 9:15 AM      | Boating                       |
| 11:00 AM     | Arts & Design                 |
| 12:00 PM     | Lunch                         |
| 12:30 PM     | Afternoon<br>Program   Siesta |
| 1:30 PM      | Choice                        |
| 2:30 PM      | Marine Education<br>  Snack   |
| 3:30 PM      | Departure                     |

**Trips:** Sea Adventures Marine Camp has a weekly trip scheduled every Thursday. Check our website for the updated trip schedule. In addition to the information on the website, parents will receive trip information weekly detailing trip specifics for that week.

Sea Adventures offers programming that allows campers to learn new skills, challenge themselves, and accomplish meaningful goals while fostering connections with peers and staff. We split our activity time between electives (Choice) and group-based activities (Cabin Activities). Campers select their electives daily and their options are always rotating so each week is a unique experience!

**Cabin Activity:** Campers will also have fun with their cabins each day participating in a variety of activities around camp. Cabin activities are set in the schedule with intention to ensure that your camper experiences a wide breadth of activities that camp has to offer. Each cabin group has a carefully curated schedule of cabin activities throughout the week to foster engagement with all program departments at camp. Cabin activities will include boating, arts and crafts, and marine education.

**Choice:** One hour camper electives that are rotated on a daily basis. Campers pick choice activities at lunch.



## Program Activities

**Art & Design**—Explore a variety of art mediums at the Art & Design. Showcase your creativity through blockprinting, clay sculpture, weaving, sandart and more!

**Improv**—Our counselors lead campers in engaging and hilarious improvisational games that will have the whole group laughing! Improv games activate creative thinking and language while building confidence in our campers.

**Music**—Campers will explore a variety of instruments during our music sessions including drums, recorders, and ukuleles! Counselors lead campers in high energy games that expose them to rhythm and tempo.

**Kayak**—Paddle on the bay with our boating instructors and an American Red Cross (ARC) certified lifeguard! Learn the correct strokes and how to maneuver on the water. Play games on the kayaks such as relay races, piano keys, and freeze tag.

**CORCL**—Spin, paddle, and race your way into paddling skills on the bay. A round boat that is easier for our younger campers to maneuver and a great introduction to watercrafts! Campers play games such as infection, relay races, and freeze tag accompanied by boating instructors and an ARC certified lifeguard.

**Standup Paddleboard**—Work on paddling and balance while standup paddleboarding on the bay! Games to play include gladiator, piano keys, relay races, and SUP yoga. This activity is supervised by our boating instructors and an ARC certified lifeguard.

**Marine Education**—This project provides campers with the opportunity to explore marine ecology. Throughout the week they will go seining to discover many different shells on the beach, live snails, crabs, fish, horseshoe crabs, and much more. Campers will explore touch tanks, learn about local marine ecology, and may have the chance to do a shark dissection.

**Beach Volleyball**—Bump, set, spike, and SERVE on the beach! Develop skills needed to play a fun and competitive volleyball game. Beginners start with playing Newcomb to hone their skills.

**Field Games**—Campers rotate through a variety of games including badminton, crossnet, and gaga.

## **Section Four: Camp Life**

### **Check In and Check Out Procedures**

Check In Camp activities begin at 9:00am each day. Please drop off your child between 8:35 and 8:55am each day. Drivers will not be permitted to exit their vehicles at drop off. On your child's first day at camp, he or she will take a swimming test (weather permitting). Please have your child wear a bathing suit under his or her camp attire. It's a good idea to apply sunscreen before leaving home.

### **Check Out**

Pick-up time is between 3:15pm and 3:30pm. Campers will be waiting with their counselors at the gate. Earlier drop-offs and later pick-ups cannot be accommodated because it disrupts the camp schedule. However, if special circumstances require an earlier pick-up time, please arrange it with the camp office in advance. Parents/Guardians will not be permitted to exit their vehicles.

**IMPORTANT for ALL CAMPERS: Only authorized individuals listed in their Peconic Dunes account are permitted to be pick up campers. To add an authorized pick-up, login to your Peconic Dunes account, scroll down to the authorized pick-ups heading and click add/edit. Be prepared to show appropriate identification.**

### **Cabinmate Requests**

### **Our Philosophy**

Camp has always been a place where campers forge some of their closest, lifelong friendships. One of the great benefits of overnight camp is making new friends from different places and backgrounds. Peconic Dunes 4-H Camp encourages campers to attend without being concerned whether they will know their cabin-mates since there will be many opportunities to meet and make friends. We attempt to provide as diverse a cabin group experience as possible by limiting the number of campers in each cabin from any known social circle or specific town. Our goal is to create cabin groups that offer campers the opportunity to meet as many new people as possible from a variety of backgrounds, interests, and life experiences.

### **Concerns**

We want to avoid cliques that can form when too many campers from the same school or hometown are in the same cabin. These cliques can make camp life difficult for campers who don't belong and for counselors who are trying to foster bunk unity and comradery.

### **Policy**

With these goals in mind, we will do our best to accommodate (but can't guarantee) one and only one cabin mate request from each overnight or day camper. To see our full policy please check out [peconicdunecamp.com](http://peconicdunecamp.com)

## **Photos & Videos**

Photos are regularly uploaded to the Photo Gallery of our registration system where parents can view them for all the weeks their camper is registered. Videos are uploaded to the camp YouTube channel on a weekly basis. Our social media accounts will also feature curated photos, videos, and interviews.

## **Homesickness**

There are many things parents/guardians can do to prevent homesickness and help your child adjust to camp.

1. Visit the camp in person or online so that your child will become familiar with the camp and its programs. The more a child knows about the camp, the greater the comfort level.
2. Be positive about all the activities and opportunities camp has to offer. Highlight activities that aren't available in school or at home.
3. Prepare together. This may include shopping for camp supplies and packing.
4. Practice some skills that will help the adjustment to camp life, like walking around at night with a flashlight or living out of a duffel bag for a weekend.
5. Avoid sharing your worries with your camper. Sometimes, what parents are feeling is a form of "child sickness", that is, they are anticipating missing their children as much as children may miss home. Saying "I'm really going to miss you," or "We're not going to have as much fun without you," may increase a child's anxiety.
6. Set reasonable expectations for your camper. If you went to camp, share your experience but remember, each child is unique and leave room for your child to have his or her own unique experience. If you did not go to camp, just be positive and optimistic as you would in preparing your child for any new experience.

Facebook is a great tool to connect with other parents and ask for advice. You can also contact the camp office and we'll be happy to help.

## **Important Note About Homesickness**

Camp staff make every effort to help campers who struggle with separation from home. If, after one or more nights at camp, a camper is still homesick and unwilling to adjust to camp life, the parent will be asked to take the child home from camp, in which case, there will be no refund or credit.

## **Supervision**

### **Ratios**

Campers are supervised at all times. Staff are provided with rosters and attendance sheets for all cabins and activity groups at camp. Attendance is taken at meals, round up, activities, periodically throughout the day.

The New York State Department of Health sets supervision requirements for children's camps based on program area, age, and activity level. We meet or exceed the standard ratios described below:

### **Day Camp (ages 6+):**

- 1:8 – general supervision
- 1:12 – passive activities

### **Specialized Activities:**

- 1:25 – lifeguards on duty
- Archery lead instructor must be 21+ years old

### **Certifications**

Peconic Dunes staff are trained and receive certifications for their roles at camp as detailed below:

- Lifeguards–American Red Cross certifications in Responding to Emergencies, First Aid and CPR, and Lifeguarding
- Boating Instructors–Training and assessments by American Canoe Association instructors
- Health Center–We have a health designee who is trained in first aid and CPR onsite

### **Contacting Camp**

It is important for the safety of all campers that our phone lines be available for incoming and outgoing calls. For this reason, we ask that you refrain from calling camp unless you need to change your camper's pick-up time or there is an emergency requiring your child's immediate attention. Camp office hours are 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. If you are calling outside of office hours, please leave a message and camp staff will return your call as soon as possible.

### **Weekend Hours**

If you need to contact camp during the weekend, please email [peconicdunescamp@cornell.edu](mailto:peconicdunescamp@cornell.edu) for the fastest response. Sea adventures staff do not work on weekends.

## **Rules & Code of Conduct**

Please review the camp rules with your child before he or she comes to camp. We have 3 simple rules to create a healthy and happy community:

1. Be Safe
2. Be Respectful
3. Have Fun!

All youth participating in Peconic Dunes 4-H Camp program are required to uphold the values of the NYS 4-H program and conduct themselves according to these standards. The NYS 4-H Camp Code of Conduct is signed during registration for all camp programs.

### **NYS 4-H Camp Code of Conduct**

#### **Head: Think Clearly and Make Informed Decisions**

- I will follow all camp rules, schedules, and guidelines, and comply with the expectations of camp staff and volunteers.
- I will make thoughtful choices that promote safety, belonging, and learning for myself and others.
- I will accept outcomes of camp activities and contests with grace and be open to new ideas and feedback.
- I will ask for what I need and be clear about what that is and let staff or fellow campers know how they can help.

#### **Heart: Build Strong Relationships and Show Loyalty**

- In words and actions, I will treat all campers, staff, and volunteers with kindness, respect, and understanding.
- I will avoid bullying, harassment, or exclusionary behavior, help others feel welcome and valued and speak up if I witness this behavior.
- I will refrain from inappropriate behavior in public or private settings.
- I will report any unsafe conditions, accidents, or concerns to camp staff immediately.

#### **Hands: Serve Others and Contribute to the Camp Community**

- I will participate fully in all camp activities, be on time, and complete assigned responsibilities to the best of my ability.
- I will work cooperatively with others and support group decisions by listening to everyone's perspectives and opinions.
- I will respect camp property, the environment, and the belongings of others.
- I will be a positive role model, demonstrating responsibility, teamwork, and leadership.

#### **Health: Maintain Personal Well-Being and Promote Safety**

- I will not possess or use illegal drugs (including the misuse of prescription drugs), alcohol, tobacco or marijuana products or paraphernalia.
- I will not possess or use firearms (except in supervised Shooting Sports programs) or objects that can harm myself or others.
- I will follow all safety guidelines, including staying in designated camp areas.
- I will prioritize my physical, emotional, and mental well-being. I will take care of my personal needs and follow the direction of camp staff and speak up when needed.
- I will support the health and safety of others including fellow campers, camp staff, and the camp community.



## NYS 4-H Camp Code of Conduct Consequences

Failure to comply with the camp code of conduct can result in any of the following consequences, depending on the severity of the situation:

1. Camper will receive a verbal warning by camp staff stating the specific behavior that goes against the Code of Conduct. The camp staff member and camper will review the Code of Conduct again and give the camper an opportunity to ask questions.
2. Camper may remain at camp but may possibly be prohibited from specific activities and/or from attending in the future.
3. Camper may be asked to leave camp. The parent(s) or guardian(s) will be called, and the camper will be sent home at the family's expense. No refund will be issued.

## Inclement Weather

Inclement weather can impact camp activities. Light rain does not alter the camp schedule, but, for the safety and well-being of our campers and staff, severe weather conditions require changes in schedule and program.

If the weather is extremely hot, some activities will be cancelled or modified. Counselors will make sure campers take frequent breaks out of the sun and drink plenty of water.

When rain is heavy, outdoor activities will be cancelled. Campers will move under shelter for alternate activities.

In the event of severe downpours or thunderstorms, campers and staff will go back to their cabins for quiet cabin activities.

The safety of your children is always our top priority at Peconic Dunes 4-H Camp.



## Emergency Response Procedures

Our staff is trained to respond quickly and effectively to any situation. The core elements of our emergency protocol include:

**Monitoring:** We continuously assess weather conditions and environmental factors throughout the day and night.

**Shelter-in-Place:** If conditions become hazardous but not life-threatening (e.g., heavy rain, high wind), campers remain in the classroom.

**Evacuation:** If conditions escalate to the point where remaining on site is unsafe, we have a designated off-site evacuation location at the nearby Southold school. Transportation and logistics are pre-coordinated to ensure a smooth transition if needed.

**First Responders:** Sea Adventures Marine Camp is served by highly qualified Emergency First Responding agencies of the Southold Fire Department and Southold Town and Suffolk County Police Departments.

As part of this oversight:

- We are inspected at least twice each year by Suffolk County officials.
- We are required to maintain a comprehensive, county-approved safety plan, covering emergency procedures, evacuation protocols, supervision standards, and health practices.
- All staff participate in regular emergency drills, and we conduct practice recalls with campers to ensure everyone understands how to respond quickly and calmly in an emergency situation.

## Communication During Emergencies

We are equipped with multiple layers of communication to ensure a rapid and coordinated response:

- **Two-Way Radios:** Radios are stationed across camp and carried by key staff members to ensure continuous, camp-wide communication.
- **Phones:** Most of our staff, including senior leadership, have access to phones for immediate contact with emergency services and camp administration.
- **Central Coordination:** All outside communication during an emergency is routed through the camp office to ensure accuracy and efficiency.

## Recall System

To ensure swift camper accountability in the event of an emergency, we utilize a camp-wide horn system:

- If a safety concern arises, a horn will be sounded to activate a recall—prompting all campers and staff to return to their designated locations immediately.
- This recall system is demonstrated and practiced during our staff orientation, so that all team members and campers are familiar with the sound and response procedures.

## Ongoing Monitoring & Safety Measures

Our team regularly monitors local weather conditions, rainfall levels, tides at the Sound, and heat index data. These measures ensure that we can respond proactively to potential risks and adjust programming as needed to keep campers safe and comfortable.

Thank you again for entrusting us with your children. We take this responsibility seriously and remain committed to transparency, preparedness, and care in all that we do.

## **First Aid**

A number of camp staff will be certified in first aid and CPR. These staff will be able to provide basic treatment for bumps, scrapes and ouches.

Only epi pens or inhalers are permitted in camp. Campers must be able to self-carry and self-administer their medication. These medications must be accompanied by a Peconic Dunes Sea Adventures Medication Authorization form. These forms need to be uploaded to your account and a physical copy must accompany the medications. Camp is not responsible for medication that is lost or stolen.

## **Camper Illness or Injury**

Parents are usually not notified if their child is treated for minor medical concerns such as cuts or scratches. Parents are notified by phone:

- If a camper becomes ill with a fever of 100.4°F or above, or is vomiting, has diarrhea, or respiratory difficulty, in which case, they will be asked to pick their child up.
- If their camper requires medical treatment that cannot be provided by camp staff

## **Lice & Nits**

Sea Adventures Marine Camp has a NO LICE or NITS policy.

In the event a child must be sent home due to nits or live lice. Families may choose to:

1. Treat camper's hair/belongings and come the next morning for a re-check.
2. Shave the camper's hair and then treat the child's hair and belongings. Bring them next morning for re-check.
3. Ask about availability in another week while the child is treated at home.

## **Upon re-check,**

1. If nits or live lice are discovered, the camper will be sent home immediately.
2. If no trace of nits or lice are discovered, the camper may continue check-in.

In the event lice or nits are discovered during the camp week, all campers and staff who are in the cabin with and/or are related to the individual in question will be re-checked.

## Ticks & Mosquitoes

Ticks, mosquitoes, and other bugs are a part of camp life and spending quality time outdoors. Our staff will remind campers to put on bug spray and check for ticks after activities but we ask that families prepare their campers as well. Please include an insect repellent when packing for their camper and consider treating your camper's clothing with a tick repellent.

## What We Do

We eliminate tick and mosquito hiding areas. Early in spring, during the months ticks and mosquitoes are most active, we implement a mowing and leaf maintenance schedule and begin to identify and manage areas where standing water may attract biting insects.

We educate and train our staff. Our staff members are trained to prepare them as the next line of defense against insect bites. Staff learn how to teach campers in their assigned units how to check themselves for sneaky ticks daily and after higher risk activities such as nature walks in a wooded area.



## Section Five: Preparing for Camp

### Packing List

Important! The following items are not permitted at camp: cell phones or any other technology; weapons of any kind; food products, and candles.

### Clearly label your child's belongings!

Campers should wear comfortable, weather-appropriate clothing: shorts, t-shirt, either sneakers or other closed-toe shoes, and water shoes or sandals for water activities.

### Each Day Camper should bring a backpack with the following items:

- Refillable water bottle clearly labeled with camper's name
- Bathing suit
- Beach towel
- Hat (optional)
- Change of clothes
- Rain gear (if needed)
- Sunscreen (non-aerosol)
- Insect repellent (non-aerosol)
- Snacks (optional)

**\* Campers MUST bring a refillable water bottle clearly labeled with the camper's name.**

The camp is not responsible for lost or missing personal property. Do not bring expensive or irreplaceable items to camp.





## Camper Health Forms

The NYS Department of Health requires a current and complete health profile on every camper. You will complete a health history during registration. After registration you will need to log into your Peconic Dunes account to upload:

- Medication Authorization Form (all campers will be required to submit a Medication Authorization Form)
- Immunization record (only medical exemptions accepted)
- Allergy plan (if your child has a life-threatening allergy)
- At Sea Adventures we only permit lifesaving medications. Epi Pen's and Asthma inhalers. All medications must be self-carry and administered. Our trained staff are able to assist campers when needed.

To upload the Medication Authorization Forms, log into your Peconic Dunes account, select additional options then document center. Uploading forms is the same process as attaching a file to an email... It's easy!

Medications not listed on the Medication Authorization Form will not be permitted at camp. Please be sure to complete the health profile in its entirety.

A new Medication Authorization Form will be required if there are any changes in medication or campers arrive at camp without the medications listed on the form.

**IMPORTANT: The New York State Department of Health prohibits the camp from admitting children with missing or incomplete medical forms. All health forms are due by May 1st.**



## **2026 PECONIC DUNES 4-H CAMP – Payment, Cancellation and Refund**

Policy Payments accepted: Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express are accepted. All credit cards are subject to a 3% convenience charge.

ACH payments are accepted at no-fee. Failed ACH payments are subject to a \$25 returned payment fee. Registration system will retry all failed payments a second time before abandoning payment. Automated emails are sent out to notify. If a failed payment is not resolved within 3 days of final notification, camp reserves the right to cancel registration without notice.

### **Deposit is non-refundable.**

A \$225 deposit per session is required for overnight camp. \$150 deposit per session is required for day camp. \$550 deposit for CIT program

### **Final Payments are due on April 1, 2026**

When registering you will have the option to pay in full or a payment plan. If choosing a payment plan, the registration system will automatically process your payment on April 1st. Before April 1st you can log in and change your preferred payment method.

### **After April 1, 2026**

In addition to the non-refundable deposit, an additional \$125 cancellation fee per overnight session and \$100 cancellation fee per day camp session will be applied. There will be an additional \$250 fee for cancelling the CIT program.

All other monies, minus deposit, and cancellation fee will be returned. All refunds are processed to the credit card in which it was paid.

Families that cancel may apply the account balance minus the non-refundable deposit(s) to a credit for the 2026 season. The credit can only be used by a family member in 2026. Any unused credits will be donated to the camp fund.

### **After May 1, 2026 – No refunds will be issued.**

Overnight campers can purchase “travel protection” during the registration process. This insurance is offered by an outside agency. Please make sure to read the details before purchasing.

### **In the event of illness or injury**

Peconic Dunes 4-H Camp will not admit any camper who shows signs of illness, including a temperature of 100.4oF or above.

If a day or overnight camper becomes ill at camp, he/she will be sent home. Campers can return to camp after being fever free for 48 hours, complete a quarantine period or secure a letter of good health from a medical professional.

A prorated refund will be considered for remaining camp period if a camper becomes injured at camp and the Camp Health Director or Camp Director (or designee) determines that he/she is unable to participate in camp activities and must be sent home.

If Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, based on guidance from Cornell University, New York State, and/or Suffolk County, or circumstances beyond our control, cancels any or all camp sessions, families will receive a refund of all deposits and payments minus a \$100 administrative fee to cover our costs for these transactions.

### **No refunds**

If a camper is sent home for behavioral reasons, including but not limited to violating camp rules and policies (see Parent Handbook), homesickness, non-compliance, failure to thrive (e.g., not eating, sleeping or participating), there will be no refund. A camper who does not arrive, arrives late, leaves early, or attends only part of the session will not receive a refund.

### **Important note about homesickness**

Camp staff make every effort to help campers who struggle with separation from home. If a camper is still homesick and unwilling to adjust to camp life, the parent will be asked to take the child home from camp, in which case, there will be no refund or credit.

All requests for refunds must be submitted on the Refund Request Form found on the camp website

## FAQ's

**Bathrooms and Changing Areas:** There are plenty of bathrooms that also double as changing areas for our campers. There are no showers at this facility.

**Camp Visits/Early Release:** For safety reasons, visitors are not allowed at camp. If family plans require you to pick up your child before the end of the camp week, please contact the office in advance so we can make the necessary arrangements. Best way to reach camp is via email at [peconicdunescamp@cornell.edu](mailto:peconicdunescamp@cornell.edu)

**Camper Attire:** Kids get dirty at camp so your child should not bring anything you wouldn't want stained. Clothing with obscene or offensive text and graphics is prohibited. Campers should wear clothing and bathing suits appropriate for physical activity. Campers should wear a bathing suit every day to camp under their clothes, this cuts down on changing time for water or beach activities

**Cell Phones/Devices:** Cell phones and other electronic devices are not permitted at camp for a variety of reasons: we want campers to disconnect from technology; cell phones are expensive and can easily be lost or damaged at camp; they can be misused. Please do not send your child to camp with a cell phone. Camp management will ask campers to surrender cell phones or electronic devices which will be returned to parents at departure.

**Meals and Snacks:** Campers are to bring a bagged lunch to camp daily. No refrigeration or heating facilities are provided so please pack accordingly. Please do not pack any snacks with nuts or chewing gum as these will not be permitted in camp

Camp does provide a daily snack These can range from items like goldfish to ice pops.

Water is available to refill water bottles throughout the day. Campers with dietary restrictions should list their allergies/restrictions on the health history.

**Problems with Other Campers:** Staff are trained in conflict resolution skills and will be available to help any camper. We consider our community to be family and expect all members to treat each other with respect. We will contact parents whenever their child is involved in an unresolved conflict with another camper.

**Refunds:** Please refer to our refund policy on our website at [www.peconicdunescamp.com](http://www.peconicdunescamp.com)

**Security:** No visitors or guests are permitted on camp property while camp is in session. This site is a working lab so you will see approved CCE employees and volunteers at the facility. Camp uses designated area that are not being used for active research. Our staff is advised to address any unknown persons on the property and request they leave the premises and contact law enforcement when necessary.

**Trips:** Each week Sea Adventures will go on a trip. No additional permission slip is required for these trips unless required by the trip facility. Transportation to and from the trip will be via school bus contracted by the camp. Transportation companies are vetted for safety and camp requires bus company to confirm driving records as per NYS regulation.

For Trips campers are required to wear their camp shirt.

If one of our trip sites should cancel or if weather prohibits us on going on the planned trip we will do everything we can to work on an alternate trip. If we are unable to secure a trip a normal camp day will take place. Sorry to refunds.

**Swimming and Boating:** Campers will get to participate in both swimming and boating activities. All campers will need to take a swim test to participate in swim activities. Campers deemed non-swimmers will be provided with modified swimming activities.

**Special Needs:** Peconic Dunes 4-H Camp programs are conducted in an outdoor environment. We strive to be an inclusive program and will make reasonable accommodations to ensure all children have the same opportunity to succeed at camp. If a child requires special accommodations (i.e. dietary restrictions, medication dispensation, physical adaptation, language, etc.), parents/guardians must notify the camp in advance and indicate needs on the Camp Health Form. Please email us to discuss your concerns and help us plan for success.

**Temperatures:** The average air temperatures in July and August range from a low of 63°F to a high of 81°F. The average water temperature in July and August ranges from 68°F to 72°F.

**Tipping:** The American Camp Association discourages tipping to prevent any sort of favoritism and inequities that may arise. While tipping is at the parent's discretion, we ask parents to be fair and reasonable when expressing gratitude to counselors.

**Lost and Found:** Please remember to label all your camper's items. Items found with a name will be given back to the camper at the end of each day. Items without names will be displayed to try to get them back to their owners. Due to limited space lost and found is disposed of every Tuesday from the prior week.

 Questions

Email us at  
**[peconicdunescamp@cornell.edu](mailto:peconicdunescamp@cornell.edu)**