

2012 SUMMER FIELD EXPERIENCE at the Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center

June 28th through July 2nd OR July 30th through August 3rd
For Students Entering Grades 7 to 9

NJ DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE and CONSERVE WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF NJ are excited to announce a weeklong residential program for motivated students going into grades 7 to 9 who are interested in exploring New Jersey's salt marsh environment.

Students will immerse themselves (*literally!*) into the salt marsh environment. While living at Sedge Island, students will learn a conservation lifestyle and explore the natural and cultural history of Barnegat Bay as well as current environmental issues affecting the bay. Students will leave with a better understanding of the personal choices they face in order to make a positive impact upon their environment.

Participants will:

- Explore the Barnegat Bay ecosystem using kayaks, microscopes, water testing equipment, nets, and other scientific tools;
- Work with biologists gathering information about the flora and fauna of Barnegat Bay;
- Learn about the history of Barnegat Bay through fishing, crabbing, and clamming;
- Develop leadership skills helping to improve confidence in making environmentally-friendly decisions;
- Learn about sustainability and stewardship to, in turn, teach others the value of protecting the environment;
- Encouraged to use their newly gathered knowledge to develop and execute a service learning project in their school



Dates - 2 sessions:

Thursday, June 28 through
Monday, July 2
or

Monday, July 30 through
Friday, August 3

Location: Sedge Island
Natural Resource Education Center,
off of Island Beach State Park,
Seaside Park, NJ

Facility: The "Sedge House" is a renovated duck-hunting lodge, equipped with a common room, 7 bunkrooms, 2 composting toilets, a full kitchen, dining room, front porch, and an upper back deck.

Cost: \$425, includes lodging, meals, instruction, and equipment.

See Reverse Side for Application Instructions

OPEN HOUSE

Learn More, Ask Questions, & Meet the Instructors

Saturday, February 11th, 2012 at 1 pm to 3 pm

Island Beach State Park Interpretive Center, Seaside Park, NJ.

RSVP to Karen Leskie, (609) 748-4347 or karen.leskie@dep.state.nj.us



Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center is located in Barnegat Bay in New Jersey's only marine conservation zone. Students will take a fifteen minute boat ride across the bay's shallow waters to the education facility, a former duck hunting lodge. During their stay at Sedge Island, participants will live a conservation lifestyle since the facility is totally off the grid. Solar panels provide electricity while sewage is composted in Clivus Multrum composting toilets. Residing at this facility for the week will provide students with a unique view of

NJ's natural resources and our human impact on it.

On the last day, parents are invited to join the group for lunch and to see presentations from the students about their week long salt marsh experience.



Application instructions: Space is limited! Applicants will go through a competitive application process. Interested students and parents are encouraged to attend the Open House on Saturday, February 11th.

Applications must be received by March 31st. Electronic applications are strongly encouraged. Send your application to karen.leskie@dep.state.nj.us. *If you must send a paper copy, please call (609) 748-4347 for instructions.*

Applicants will be notified by April 20th whether they are accepted. **A 50% deposit must be received by May 14th to guarantee your spot.** A limited number of scholarship spots may be available. Please include a note with your application if you would like to be considered for a scholarship.

Your application **must** include:

- Application cover page.
- A letter of interest explaining why you want to attend the Sedge Island Summer Field Experience.
- A letter of recommendation from a teacher or community leader that can attest to your character and work ethic.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

