

Program Overview

- Camps run 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
- For students entering grades 5 and 6
- Cost is \$10 per camper per day for each two-day experience
- Sessions limited to 40 campers
- Snacks, water and prizes provided

Our staff consists of professional environmental educators from Ramapo College of New Jersey, which operates the MEC and the Center for Environmental and Scientific Education, the “green” classroom building where many MEC programs are held.

Things to Bring

- Bag or box lunch (reusable containers encouraged)
- Water bottle
- Hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, bug spray
- Any medications

What to Wear

- Dress for the weather
- Old sneakers (may get muddy or wet) or aqua shoes (NO flip flops)
- Rain jacket or poncho (if forecast calls for rain)

Contact Information

We welcome any questions and invite you to visit us and see our facilities. For more information contact Jenny Mejia at 201-460-8300 or Jenny.Mejia@njmeadowlands.gov.

Two DeKorte Park Plaza
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

Meadowlands Environment Center

ENVIRONMENTAL EXCURSIONS MADE FOR YOU!



**Meadowlands
Environment Center**



**TWO-DAY
MEADOWLANDS
FIELD TRIPS
FOR GROUPS**

July 5—August 12

Activities are conducted on the grounds of DeKorte Park and in the MEC's Center for Environmental and Scientific Education.



The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission's Meadowlands Environment Center (MEC) is offering a fun-filled and educational "Environmental Experience" program this summer for campers entering fifth and sixth grades from *Town Recreation Programs*, *Boys or Girls Clubs*, *"Y" Clubs* and *4H Clubs*

Located in Richard W. DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst, the MEC offers hands-on learning in a unique urban wetlands setting.

Campers will find academically oriented programs in ecology, astronomy and sustainability (renewable energy, solar power). The two-day programs feature activities ranging from field ecology and solar exploration to designing eco-friendly models and investigating the trails and impoundments of DeKorte Park. Working in teams, campers will compete in environmental challenges and competitions.

Each two-day "Environmental experience" has a theme that is reflected in all camp activities. Many activities are weather and tide permitting.

Special this year! One day of Salt Marsh Safari occurs at the MEC, the other day begins and ends at **Liberty Science Center** with instruction from MEC staff.

Salt Marsh Safari

Theme: Ecology & Exploring our Local Estuary

Dates: July 5-6, July 12-13, July 26-27, August 2-3 and August 9-10

Activities: Field experiences will have campers testing water samples, examining plant life, and collecting live aquatic specimens. Adaptations, food chains, and wetland values will be discussed. Campers will be introduced to the watery world of plankton by using microscopes to observe live specimens and conduct tests to determine density.

Team Challenge: Design-a-Drifter—Relying on density, anatomy, and imagination, each camper team creates and assembles its own plankton model. May the best drifter win!

Eco Engineers

Theme: Sustainability & Green Building Design

Dates: July 7-8 and August 4-5

Activities: Touring the Center for Environmental and Scientific Education facility at the MEC, campers will investigate what makes our new building "green" (it ain't paint!). Campers will be introduced to an official rating system for "green buildings", and participate in activities to demonstrate environmental design principles for conserving energy, water and other resources. We will also teach how architects draw or build scale models of their designs to share with others.

Team Challenge: Green Building Design—Eco Engineer teams will build scale models of a new recreation center, incorporating as many environmental principles as they can. Teams having the "greenest" design will be in the running for "gold".

RAMS

(Ramapo and Meadowlands Survival)

Theme: Health & Nature

Dates: July 19-20 and July 21-22

Activities: The goal is for students to learn how to best prepare themselves to survive in many environments—from the marsh, to school, to home. Campers will learn where food comes from, how to prepare cool and easy-to-make snacks, and how nature helps make food healthy.

Team Challenge: Teams will compete in botanical and triathlon challenges for "survival" points. The team with the highest score at the end of the camp will receive prizes.

Astro Adventures

Theme: Astronomy & Our Solar System Inside-Out

Dates: July 14-15, July 28-29 and August 11-12

Activities: Campers will have fun in the sun while learning about our closest star and its neighborhood (our solar system). We'll study images of the dynamic nature of the sun and learn how to conduct safe solar viewing with a SunSpotter, eclipse glasses, and a solar telescope. Kinesthetic demonstrations will show us the reasons for seasons here on Earth and how we can harness the sun's energy to power our buildings. We will then meet Earth's closest neighbor, our moon, by building models of its scale and phases. Scale models of the planets will also accompany a guided media tour of the rest of our solar system.

Team Challenge: Planetary Passport—Teams become astronomical tourists in a large-scale model of the solar system, answering questions about Earth's nearest neighbors to gain the resources needed to finish the race through space.