

### MARSH SCHOOL PROGRAM GUIDE FOSTERING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP' SINCE 1969 Revised 2020

Natural science Biodiversity Cultural history Outdoor recreation Life cycles Connection Energy & You Canoeing History Snowshoe Stewardship Health Birds of prey Escape, Explore, Experience Discovery Pond study GPS navigation wetlands Physical activity Wet 'N' Scaly All seasons inquiry-based Team building Sweetwater harvest Experiential Compass orienteering Habitats Water Ecosystems





### ESCAPE...



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# ABOUT US

Welcome to **Marsh School!** Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre has been providing outdoor experiential learning focused on the natural world, conservation and environmental stewardship since 1969. Our educational programs are developed and facilitated by fully trained and experienced Outdoor Educators. The staff & volunteers of Wye Marsh are a team of enthusiastic Naturalists who are excited to share their knowledge while you gain the many benefits associated with participating in outdoor physical activities.

### What makes us UNIQUE:

- Our programming compliments classroom or home based learning with outdoor experiential lessons, and provides participants with opportunities to interact with, develop caring and concern for, and take action in the places where they live, study, and play.
- Our Outdoor Educators (Naturalists) provide connections between the Ontario education curriculum and the world around us, allowing participants to directly observe impacts and issues by exposing them to the many points of view that must be considered in making choices to preserve the health of the natural environment.
- We believe that learning while having fun encourages immediate and long term involvement in conservation and environmental stewardship.
- Our unique setting National & Provincial Wildlife Area, Important Birding Area, provincially significant wetland, designated as an area of natural and scientific interest, home to Trumpeter swans (Provincially rare bird), species at risk, productive & biodiverse ecosystem - provides endless opportunities to make unique connections.
- Facilities and trails are accessible to all physical levels.

### EXPLORE...



### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

### How to use this GUIDE:

A successful and enjoyable trip comes from planning and preparation. This guide is designed to outline the planning process and to provide you with the necessary tools that will ensure your trip to Wye Marsh is the highlight of your year!

Step 1. Choose program(s):

- Program sessions are two hours in length, making up a half day (typically 10am-12pm or 12:30pm-2:30pm). Two sessions can be combined to make up a full day (typically 10am 2:30pm). Program times can be flexible in order to accommodate travel arrangements.
  - Ensure that you choose one alternative program & two alternative dates in the event that your first choice is unavailable.

Step 2. Submit request:

- Visit <u>https://www.wyemarsh.com/school-programs</u> and submit a Day Trip Booking Request online form or contact our Reservations and Education Coordinator, who would be happy to assist you with your planning
- Please note that a Booking Request does not imply a booking/reservation.
- Step 3. What to expect:
- A Booking Confirmation will be sent via email within two business days of receiving your booking request. Please share its details with all participating leaders/supervisors.
- Payment will be due upon arrival unless alternative arrangements have been made at the time of booking (e.g. credit card payment over the phone, cheque in the mail or issuing an invoice following the date of visit)
- We will be heading outside in most weather! In the event of inclement weather (high winds, lightening etc.) we will provide alternative programming until the conditions improve.
- Cancellations can be made up two weeks in advance but are subject to a \$50 administration fee. Groups who cancel after

### EXPERIENCE...















OUT IN NATURE

### PLANNING

All of our programs are two hours in length, making up a half-day. Any two programs can be combined to make up a full-day. For more detailed information regarding the planning of your trip, please refer to the 'Reminders' section on page 14.

Curriculum Connections \land Grade Appropriate								: Fall	N/F	Spi	ring 🤇	) Wir	nter 🧼
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ROGRAM AVAILABILI

### AT A GLANCE

	Program Title	IK/SK	1	2.	3	4	5	6	7	8	S S	Offsite	Season
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crea	GPS Navigation							*	*	*	*		🖋 🛆 矝
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	Marsh Exploration by Kayak*										•		A 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4
utdoor	Snowshoeing*		٠	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	۲	(A)
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History	Program Title	JK/SK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	S.S.	Offsite	Season
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	Sweetwater Harvest	*	*	*	•	*	*	٠					$\diamond$
Cultural	Two People One Path (Joint program with Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons)							•	•	*			<b>**</b> 🖒

ites!	Program Title	JK/SK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	S.S.	Offsite	Season
Our	Wetland Wonderers	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		<b>*</b>
Fav	Winter Carnival	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		

\* additional charges apply

\*\*\* Program adaptations can be made to better meet your educational needs. Please email or call for more information

escape...explore...experience....

### BIODIVERSITY

### Amazing Amphibian Adventurer

This will likely be participants' first exploration into the unique world and morphology of amphibians. This program provides participants with the opportunity to get up close and personal with some of Ontario's native amphibian species. Participants will learn plenty of fun facts about our local amphibians and amphibians of the world, as well as discover the important part they play in environmental stewardship and in helping Ontario's Species at Risk.

### **Animal Adaptations**

All animals exhibit physical and behavioural adaptations that help them to survive in their environment. Participants will take an in-depth look at the amazing adaptations of the beaver, through a metaphorical dress-up activity, a beaver signs habitat hike, and a beaver dam construction competition. Participants will also get up-close and personal with live turtles and snakes as they learn about reptilian adaptations and the effects humans have had on their habitats.

### **Animal Games**

Games, games, and more games! Participants will learn to appreciate the diversity of form and function in the animal world as they investigate animal adaptations, habitat needs, and stewardship initiatives. Educational, kinetic and fun, this program is sure to get its participants actively engaged in the lives of the animals that call Ontario home.

### **Animal Habitats**

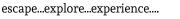
A habitat is a home. Participants will explore the essential components of habitat needed by all living things, including themselves, as they partake in energetic games, an ecosystem simulation, and a wetland habitat hike. Participants will also use dip nets to investigate the adaptations of the aquatic invertebrates that call the Marsh home.

### **Animal Tracking**

Abundant in numbers, but very rarely seen, Wye Marsh's winter inhabitants have left stories of their travels behind in the snow. Designed to kindle awareness and understanding of Ontario's winter-active mammals, this program focuses on identifying animal tracks and scats, as well as animal adaptations, behaviours and winter survival techniques.



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### INVESTIGATION

### **Birds of Prey**

This exciting program will give participants the opportunity to be brought face-to-face with the grace, majesty, power and intelligence of birds of prey. Participants will learn all about the different types of birds of prey, their habitats, adaptations, and life histories, all the while being delighted by these magnificent animals in flight. In addition to the live bird show, participants will explore the characteristics of birds of prey through a dress-up activity, as well as the concept of interconnectedness through an interactive investigation of the food chain. \*additional charge applies (see booking information on page 13).

### **Classifying Complexity**

The biodiversity found on our planet includes an astounding variety of organisms. Participants will learn how to organize this amazing diversity, how and why taxonomists have classified the Earth's more than 1.4 million identified species, and how to create a functioning dichotomous key of their own. Participants will explore the aquatic ecosystem and its invertebrates and botanical species as they identify unknown species with the help of a dichotomous key.

### **Ecosystem Explorers**

Participants will investigate first-hand the concepts that are the foundation of ecology and explore the interactions between and among abiotic and biotic components of two ecosystems. They will hike their way through a terrestrial ecosystem, dip net their way through an aquatic ecosystem and play games that will set a solid foundation in the exploration of ecology. Participants will also assess the impacts, both positive and negative, of human activities and technologies on the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems of the Wye Marsh.

### **Energy Changes Everything**

An interactive program designed to promote energy conservation initiatives that encourage participants to consider how their everyday choices can have a positive impact on the environment. The flow of energy is an essential feature of every ecosystem, not to mention our daily lives. Participants will explore the various forms and sources of energy found within the Wye Marsh ecosystem, as well as ways in which energy is transformed and conserved. Participants will also visit the Wye Marsh wind and solar station to learn about renewable vs. non-renewable resources and the choices they have when it comes to energy use and conservation.

### Seeds & Needs

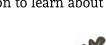
Through first hand exploration of the various plants, both Native and Invasive, that call the Wye Marsh home, participants will learn about the roles and interrelationships of plants in the Wye Marsh ecosystem, as well as their day-to-day lives. Participants will also learn about plant anatomy, the basic needs of plants, and plant growth through engaging, hands-on games and activities.













# DISCOVERY

### Life Cycles

Participants will assume the role of an animal as they uncover the differences and similarities in physical characteristics, lite cycles and behaviours of the following animal groups: insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Participants will also take a closer look at the life cycle of a frog and a butterfly through a fun and interactive dress-up activity, as well as spend some time dip netting for creatures at various life stages, living deep down in the Marsh.

### Look, See, Paint

More than just an introduction to watercolour painting, Look, See, Paint brings a new way to view, appreciate and reconnect with our natural world. Equipped with a portable painting kit, watercolour paper and a view finder, participants will explore the natural beauty of the marsh from an artistic perspective.

### **Our Diverse World**

Participants will explore the values of biodiversity and its impact on ecosystem stability. Through role-playing activities they will experience how ecosystems can fail and recover and uncover the importance of biodiversity and niches. Participants will conduct field work that assists with the conservation of the Wye Marsh and observe and categorize its diversity and abundance.

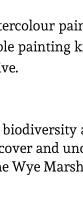
### **Pond Study**

With dip nets in hand, students will learn about the many amazing adaptations the aquatic invertebrates of the marsh possess, as well as what these insects can tell us about the water quality of the marsh. Students will also learn about the interconnectedness of all of the marsh inhabitants as they simulate an aquatic food web, and explore the surrounding habitat by foot.

### **Perfect Pollination**

Participants will be introduced to all aspects of the pollination process. Through interactive activities they will explore the basic parts of a flower and all the ways pollination can happen! They will investigate the important role that pollination plays in our everyday lives. through hands on exploration for types of pollinators and flowers that will lead them to an understanding of our natural diversity.

VATURAL SCIENCE











### SUSTAINABILITY

### Ready...Set...Explore

Participants will explore the world around them as they embark on a marsh discovery hike and investigate the difference between living and non-living things. Participants will be encouraged to question and share their observations with the group as they visit the Swan Treatment Center, walk the boardwalk, and climb the observation tower. Combined with a variety of fun and active games, this program also emphasizes an understanding of, and care for, the natural world.

### **Rocks Solid**, Mineral Rich

Participants will put their scientific investigation and observation skills to the test as they perform a variety of hands-on experiments used to identify and compare various mineral properties. Participants will also learn about the various ways in which rocks are formed, as well as partake in a rock hunt, at the end of which they will use various physical characteristics to describe and sort their finds. Participants will also discuss the importance of rocks and minerals in their day to day lives, as well as how our use of rocks and minerals affects the natural environment.

### **Sensitive Skinned Amphibians**

Participants will learn plenty of fun facts and identification tips as they search the marsh-land for the two dominant groups of amphibians—frogs & salamanders. They will participate in environmental stewardship programs working towards amphibian conservation at the Wye Marsh and discover the role that they can play in helping Ontario's Species at Risk from the National level to their backyard!

### The Dirt on Soil

Soil is an essential source of life and nutrients for many organisms, including humans. Through hands-on activities and investigations, participants will learn about soil composition and soil classification, as well as the interdependence of soil with all other living things. Participants will also dig down into the world of vermicomposting as they learn about the importance of conserving healthy soil conditions for generations to come.





### The Science of Snow

Participants will take an in-depth look at the mysteries of our Canadian winters. Through hands-on games, activities, and experiments, students will learn everything from snowflake formation and identification, to its influence on the plants and animals that call the Wye Marsh home during the winter season.

### Water Systems

Water conservation is a key link between balancing current and future water needs. Participants will investigate the importance of fresh water to the sustainability of life on earth through hands-on activities and first-hand exploration of the Wye Marsh ecosystem. Participants will also explore the valuable role wetlands play in helping to filter and purify water, as well as apply their problem solving skills to design, build and test a water filtration system of their own creation.

### Wet 'N' Scaly

This exciting program provides participants with the opportunity to get up close and personal with some of Ontario's native reptile species. Participants will learn plenty of fun facts and identification tips, as well as discover the importance of environmental stewardship and the role that they can play in helping Ontario's Species at Risk. This program includes a one hour live reptile show in conjunction with an hour of interactive games and activities.

### Your Five Senses

Sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste will all come into play as participants investigate and explore the Wye Marsh ecosystem and its plant and animal inhabitants. Participants will also learn about animal senses as they partake in a variety of fun and interactive sensory games.

NATURAL SCIENCE

page 11







### **Marsh Exploration by Kayak**

**Marsh Exploration by Canoe** 

Whether paddling solo or with a partner, kayaking provides a very intimate and tranquil approach to exploring the marsh ecosystem. After a brief lesson on paddling technique and kayak safety, participants will paddle past blooming water lilies, basking turtles, and a beaver lodge, as jewel-winged damselflies and Red-winged Blackbirds fly overhead. Participants will also explore the marsh on foot as they visit the Swan Treatment Center, walk the boardwalk, and climb the observation tower. - additional charge applies (see booking information on page 13).

Center, walk the boardwalk, and climb the observation tower. —additional charge applies (see booking information on page 13).

### **Cross-Country Skiing**

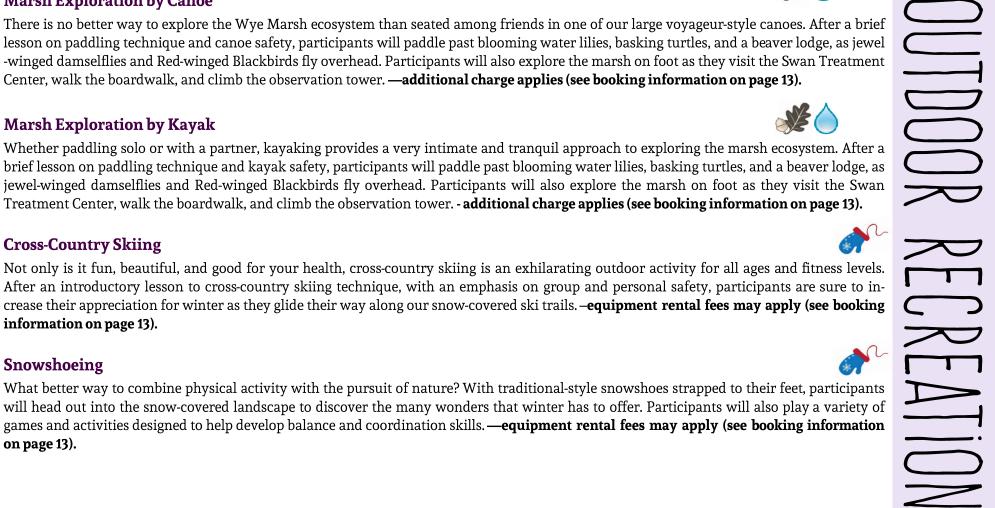
Not only is it fun, beautiful, and good for your health, cross-country skiing is an exhilarating outdoor activity for all ages and fitness levels. After an introductory lesson to cross-country skiing technique, with an emphasis on group and personal safety, participants are sure to increase their appreciation for winter as they glide their way along our snow-covered ski trails. -equipment rental fees may apply (see booking information on page 13).

### **Snowshoeing**

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What better way to combine physical activity with the pursuit of nature? With traditional-style snowshoes strapped to their feet, participants will head out into the snow-covered landscape to discover the many wonders that winter has to offer. Participants will also play a variety of games and activities designed to help develop balance and coordination skills.—equipment rental fees may apply (see booking information on page 13).

### FXPORAION







# PLYSICA

### **Ultimate Survival**

This exhilarating simulation game demonstrates the interactions between predator and prey species, as well as the encompassing ecosystem. Taking on the role of carnivores, omnivores, and herbivores, participants will be challenged to obtain their specific survival needs as they navigate through a forested environment, all the while evading predator species bent on stealing their lives.

### **GPS** Navigation

After an introductory lesson on using Global Positioning System (GPS) units, participants will be asked to correctly answer animal trivia questions that will lead them to geocaches containing animal tokens. Teamwork, problem solving, and keen observation skills will all come into play as participants attempt to collect as many animal tokens as possible within the allotted time.

### **Compass Orienteering**

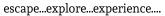
Equipped with nothing more than a magnetic compass and the know-how to use it, participants will trek through the wilderness in search of hidden orienteering markers. Teamwork, leadership, problem solving skills, and accuracy will all come into play as participants navigate our challenging orienteering course in an attempt to piece together an inspirational quote.

### **Team Building**

Allow us to put the participants' teamwork skills to the test as we facilitate a series of nature-based team challenges, each one more demanding than the last. Leadership, trust, cooperation, communication and problem solving will all come into play as the participants strive for cooperative success.

### **Wilderness Survival**

After a quick and active introduction to wilderness preparedness, survival priorities, fire starting and shelter building, we will conveniently "lose" the participants in the bush, where, in order to survive, they must work as a team to prepare a survival site, as well as prepare and present a theatrical rescue story!











### TANGIBLE

### **Bannock Roasting**

Bannock has been a staple food of wilderness explorers for centuries. Portable, nutritious, tasty and easy to make, bannock's legendary reputation continues as one of the best wilderness survival foods out there, not to mention a fun and engaging mid-day snack. After roasting their bannock to perfection over an open fire, participants will exercise their minds and bodies as they play a variety of outdoor games and activities.

### **Sweetwater Harvest**

A truly Canadian experience, this seasonally limited program gives participants a firsthand look at maple syrup collection and production throughout the ages. Participants will have an opportunity to visit an active modern day sugar shack, bake bannock over an open fire, and learn how maple syrup came to be, as well as engage their taste buds with a sweet and sugary drop of pure Canadian maple syrup.

### **Two Peoples: One Path**

A joint program with Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, participants will experience what it took for both the Wendat and French to survive in the Wye Valley over three-and-a-half centuries ago. At Sainte-Marie, participants will see how the French used a combination of old and new world technologies to carve a European-style home in the wilderness, and here at the Wye Marsh participants will learn how knowledge of the natural environment can contribute to the survival of all species, including humankind.

Note: This program involves a half day at the Wye Marsh and a half day at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons.

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HOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

### Come and enjoy the best of what Wye Marsh has to offer! Designed to showcase our favourite activities, critters and special spots, these programs are perfectly suited for larger groups and are adapted to please participants of all ages! Please note that these programs are available in the Full Day format only (10am-2:30pm). \*Specialty options—additional fee applies. See page 13 for pricing details.

### Winter Carnival!

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Discover Wye Winter Wonderland! This program will be sure to warm every participant up to the winter season. Choose from the list below to make up your full day of programming (4 hrs):

- \*Birds of Prey Show (1hr)
  - Bannock Roasting (1hr)
- Animal Games (1hr)
- Chickadee Feeding (1hr)
- Animal Tracking (2hr)

### Wetland Wonderers!

Participants will 'wonder' the Wye Marsh with the help of a knowledgeable Naturalist who will get them excited about the Marsh and it's inhabitants. activities: Choose from the list below to make up your full day of programming (4 hrs):

- \*Birds of Prey Show (1hr)
- Bannock Roasting (1hr)
- Animal Games (1hr)
- Dip Netting (1hr)

- Guided Hike (1hr)
- \*Wet n Scaly Show (1hr)
- \*Guided Canoe/Kayak (1hr)
- Look, See, Paint (2hr)

### • Cross Country Skiing (2hr)

• Snowshoeing (2hr)

• \*Wet n Scaly Show (1hr)

• Guided Hike (1hr)





# ECO EDU KITS (EEK)

### Birds of a Feather (Available onsite only)

Explore an assortment of feathers belonging to a variety of species, such as a hawks, swans and owls. You can compare the different types of feathers and their placement on a real swan wing. Using your senses, along with a magnifying glass and a mini hand held microscope, investigate the structures of the different feathers. Discover the birding world while hiking with bird identification aids and binoculars. This kit provides you with a variety of feathers, a real swan wing, a hand held microscope, magnifying glasses and bird ID sheets.

### Finding Your Way (Available onsite only)

Experience the wilderness skill of using a compass. Equipped with a magnetic compass, discovering how to set and read bearings and explore the marsh or navigate our orienteering course. This kit will provide you with magnetic compasses, a map of Wye Marsh, instructions for our orienteering course, and orienteering course cards.

### Wetlands and Watercolours (Up to one week offsite)

Connect with nature through art. Equipped with a portable painting kit and watercolour paper, explore nature from an artistic perspective and get inspired by the landscapes and wildlife around you. This kit will provide you with watercolour paper, watercolour paint sets, a variety of paint brushes, technique cards and view finders.

### Animal Tracking (Up to one week offsite)

Although it can be difficult to know who our natural neighbours are, we can use evidence of their existence to help us discover the hidden wildlife around us. Determine which creatures call our, or your, neighbourhood home by learning how to identify them through their tracks and scat. Your kit will provide you with animal tracks id sheets, casts of animal scat and track rubbing plates.

### BOOKING

Day Packages	Cost/Pa	rticipant	Minimum Requirement*	Specialty Program Add-ons	Additional Cost+			
Independent Discover (Unguided—Full Day		8.00	20 participants	Canoe/kayak	+\$5.00/participant			
Half Day Programs (2hrs)	\$9	0.50	20 participants	Animal Show (Wet'N'Scaly or Birds of Prey)	+\$50.00*			
Full Day Program (2 x 2hrs)	\$14	4.50	20 participants	Snowshoe rental	+\$3.00			
				XC Ski rental	+\$8.00			
EEKs	Cost+		Notes	Notes				
Eco Edu Kits	\$50.00	• Some kits	ing is required s only available onsite Deposit Required	'Day Package' rates app specialty *Max. 60 Participan				
·								
	Superviso	Additional Acc	ommodations					
JK - Grade 3 1 supervisor per 5 participants: Complimenta:				Please feel free to info	Please feel free to inform us if you require			
Grades 4 - 12	Grades 4 - 12 1 supervisor per 10 participants: Cor			any accom	modations			
1-1 Support Workers	Additi	ional 1-1 supp	ort workers are free					

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### DETAILS

Overnight Packages	Cost/ Participant	Minimum Requirement							
Tent:: One Night	\$15.00	10 participants							
Tent:: Two Nights	\$17.50	10 participants							
Bunkhouse: One Night	\$20.00	15 participants							
Bunkhouse: Two Nights	\$22.50	15 participants							
Notes									
'Day Packages' rates (previous pg) apply for guided programming throughout your stay. 20 participant minimum is waved.									

\*Please refer to our 'Overnight Visitor Guide' for additional information regarding our facilities.

Wye Marsh Comes to You	Cost+	Additional Information							
Birds of Prey/Wet n Scaly Shows (1hr)	\$350.00	Max. Number of Participants: 60							
All other available offsite programs (1hr)	\$275.00*	*contact us for additional details							
Snowshoeing	\$13.00/Participant	Min. 2 Sessions/Visit with Max. of 2 Classes/Session							
Notes									
+Add an additional \$0.55/km if total travel distance is over 35/km.									

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# REMINDERS

### Planning

**1.** Submit online Booking Request Form; **2.** Await confirmation **3.** Contact 705-526-7809 x220 or education@wyemarsh.com with any questions/concerns or if you need help with your planning.

### Payment

Payment of balance owing is due upon arrival unless alternative arrangements have been made. We accept Visa, MC, money order, cheque (payable to Wye Marsh), debit or cash

### Cancellation

Cancellations can be made up to two weeks in advance but are subject to a \$50 administration fee. Cancellations made after the deadline (and are unable to re-schedule) will be charged our minimum booking fee (\$190—based upon 20 participants for a half-day program).

### Weather

Our programs run rain or shine. In the event of inclement weather, alternative programming will be provided until conditions improve. We recommend that participants dress in loose fitting layers and sport close-toed shoes. Plan for the worst, hope for the best!

### Lunch

Please bring a "litter-less" lunch as you will be required to take all contents back with you. Please note that we are NOT a peanut-free facility.

### **Special Needs Equipment**

Please let us know if you require the use of our all-terrain wheelchairs.

### **Gift Shop**

Souvenirs, light snacks and drinks are available for purchase under leader supervision.

### The Wye Marsh Also Offers

Meeting Rooms, Birthday Parties, Day Camps, Weddings, as well as Badge programs for Sparks, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts!





Curriculum Based Programs Experiential Learning Comprehensive & Fun Safe & Supportive Environment Environmental Stewardship Accessible to All Physical Levels







**WYE MARSH** 16160 HWY #12, P.O. BOX 100 **BOOKING CONTACT** P 705.526.7809 X220 \* F 705.526.3294 EDUCATOIN®WYEMARSH.COM