

Camp Piankatank Educational Programs for Day Trips



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Welcome

Camp Piankatank's Education Program offers outdoor educational field trips focused on coastal ecosystems for grades 3-8. We strive to create awareness, increase environmental literacy, and inspire stewardship of our coastal environment. We would like to share some tips with you to ensure your students have a memorable and positive experience. Please take a few moments to review the information and contact us with any questions.

Forms you must have available to turn in on the day of your field trip:

1. A list of all students attending the field trip.
 2. Student Field Trip Permission Form with parent/guardian signature. *Your school field trip permission form will meet this requirement.
 3. Teacher Acknowledgement and Adult Chaperone Forms with appropriate signatures.
- *These are Piankatank forms that must be filled out.

What to Expect

Booking: The first step in planning is to make a booking. Give us a call or email. We will set a date. We will need the following information to make the reservation: an estimate of the number of attendees, your lunch plans, and your preferred activities.

Arrival: We ask that groups arrive on time and stay on schedule to help our staff provide the best programs for your group. When you arrive, our staff will be ready to meet you and direct buses to the appropriate location for unloading. Teachers should exit buses first for on-site instructions with our staff. Please be prepared to provide all requested paperwork at this time.

Chaperones: We recommend chaperone/teacher supervision rates at a ratio of 8 children per one adult. We recommend that chaperones not bring younger siblings along.

Student Groups: Prior to arrival, ask the Piankatank staff how many groups your students should be divided into. Make sure the students and chaperones know their group number/name prior to unloading.

All belongings for the day should be unloaded as students unload.

Buses- Buses can access our property. Buses must stay on the paved and gravel roads on our campus. IF they try to drive through the grass and it has recently rained, your day is about to get a lot more difficult.

Lunches- You can bring bagged lunches for students. Camp Piankatank does provide the option of purchasing bagged lunches from our food services team for \$9/person. We can provide refrigeration. The whole group must have the same lunch plan, either everyone brings a lunch, or everyone purchases a lunch from us. We can accommodate most

common food allergies and vegetarians, if these are reported at least one week before arrival. All lunches are eaten in our outdoor pavilion area.

Restrooms will be available before we begin activities. Please convey to chaperones your school's policy on supervising students at the restroom and traveling to the restroom, which could be a long walk from your activity site.

Water- Camp Piankatank provides water coolers at the pavilion and at activity sites. WE DO NOT PROVIDE CUPS. A reusable water bottle is on the "what to bring" list for this purpose.

Campus: Know that we have a large campus, and activity locations may be far apart. There will be a lot of walking from station to station and a long walk to the bathrooms.

Rain Plans- If it is raining on the day of your scheduled field trip. We do have several indoor activity options. Kids look forward to their field trips all year, so we encourage you to make the indoor options work. If these options do not meet your goals, we can reschedule your field trip to another date.

Cost- Payments will be collected by check or e-check. We will send an invoice when finalized attendance numbers are reported. One invoice will be sent to the coordinating teacher. Credit card payments will incur a 2% processing fee (no fee if paid by check).

Bringing your own lunch rate: \$18/Student \$10/Adults

Piankatank Provided bag lunch (\$9) \$27/Student \$19/Adults

*The whole group must have the same lunch plan/rate.

What to wear/bring for program activities:

- ✓ Field clothes that can get sandy, muddy, and wet
- ✓ For Marsh Activities and Canoeing, (if your school has signed up for this):
Closed-toed shoes that can get sandy, muddy, and wet (water shoes).
 - A towel
 - A set of dry clothes
 - A dry pair of shoes (and socks if appropriate)
- ✓ For the pool, (if your school has signed up for this): Swim trunks or Bathing suit (1-piece or tankini for the girls) and a towel.
- ✓ For team building course or rock wall, if your school has signed up for this: closed-toe shoes (tennis shoes).
- ✓ Sunglasses and/or hat
- ✓ Reusable water bottle
- ✓ Sunscreen & Bug Spray
- ✓ If changing: Bring a bag for wet clothes

Camp Piankatank Education Program Classroom Teacher Acknowledgement Form

Welcome to Camp Piankatank! We look forward to your group's visit. To ensure that everyone visiting our campus receives important information, we require each classroom teacher to share all safety information with adults and students attending the field trip.

Please have all adult chaperones attending sign the Adult Chaperone Signature Form to acknowledge they have received this information. Thank you for your assistance.

Teacher and Chaperone Responsibilities

- Program – Chaperones must accompany student groups at a ratio of 1 chaperone per 8 students. Active child supervision is required.
- Discipline- Chaperones must be aware of your school's disciplinary procedures.
- Parking- Parking will be directed to our gravel parking lot.
- Speed limit on campus is 10mph. Always be alert to children playing.
- Please know your school's policy on supervising bathroom visits.
- Guest Assistance- Your lead teacher will be provided with a cell phone number of the Piankatank staff member on call.
- Medical Care- Camp Piankatank provides only first aid and emergency medical assistance. Routine medications must be supervised by your school's staff.
- Medical Emergency- If you need to call 911, you must also have someone call Camp Piankatank's staff on call. We will need to meet the emergency personnel at the entrance and direct them to the location of the emergency.
- Prohibitions- Water balloons, shaving cream fights, skateboards, firearms, fireworks, tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, and illegal drugs.
- Swimming- Swimming must occur in our pool only. Pool time must be scheduled.
- Please encourage your group to take care of camp property. Damage charges will be billed to the group leader or school. Extreme cases will result in the suspension of privileges.

I have read and understand the above rules of conduct for guests. I accept the responsibility to inform my group members of these requirements.

Name of Teacher/Chaperone (print) _____

Date _____ Teacher Signature _____

Cell _____ School Name (print) _____

Camp Piankatank Education Program Important Safety Information

Our staff completes a safety training course every year to ensure they are equipped with the knowledge needed to keep students safe near/in the water and on our campus.

Supervision- We ask that all teachers and chaperones supervise their assigned group of students during the field trip at all times and address any safety concerns to our staff. Schools need to provide criminal records background checks, as per your school's policy. Schools need to convey their disciplinary policies and procedures to chaperones.

Chaperones: We recommend a supervision ratio of at least 8 children per one adult. We recommend that chaperones not bring younger children along.

Bathrooms and changing areas: Bathrooms are located in the dining hall and by the pool. Please tell chaperones your school's policy about supervising bathroom visits and changing areas. The bathroom may be a long walk away from your activity site.

Areas of Campus Note: Areas of campus and some specific activities are listed. This does not mean your group is participating in "all" of the following activities or will be in every area listed. You should identify which item is associated with your planned field trip, and discuss safety rules with your students and chaperones.

Trees: Students should not climb or swing from the trees during field trip activities.

Marsh: Closed-toed shoes (water shoes) are required. This is to protect your feet from the sharp oyster shells. Students will not be allowed into the water if they do not have closed-toed shoes on.

Canoeing: Canoeing will be cancelled due to conditions of strong wind (very common in the spring season). Everyone is required to wear a lifejacket (Camp Piankatank provided). The instructor will review how to canoe before students leave the shore. Grades 5 and up, at least one chaperone from your school must go canoeing with the group. Grades 3 and 4 must provide one adult per two canoes, who will go canoeing with the students.

Dock: Students should walk, not run, on the docks. Everyone must wear shoes on the dock. Supervise students closely, as there are no railings.

Beach: If the school allows water activities, the students are allowed to wade up to their knees. They must wear shoes into the water and on the beach at all times.

Teambuilding Course and Rock Wall: Closed-toed shoes are required if participating. Do not go near these activity sites if you are not scheduled to use them.

AED: An AED is located at the camp's dining hall.

Checklist

Here's a checklist to help you ensure that you're ready to go for your field trip!

- ✓ Students and chaperones know the date and time of your field trip.
- ✓ You have reviewed what to wear, what to bring, and safety information with the students, chaperones, and teachers.
- ✓ We have transportation plans in place.
- ✓ We have a plan for lunch.
- ✓ If purchasing bagged lunches (or other meals) from Camp Piankatank, I have reported food allergies and vegetarians to the camp at least one week prior to arrival.
- ✓ You contacted Camp Piankatank with your updated numbers, no later than one week before the trip.
- ✓ You have all signatures on the Adult Chaperone Signature Form
- ✓ You have a Student Permission Form for each student
- ✓ Your students are divided into the appropriate number of groups
- ✓ Your students and chaperones are aware of their group number/name before arrival.
- ✓ I have received the day's schedule from the Camp Piankatank team and conveyed this to the chaperones.
- ✓ Like us on Facebook

Thank you for choosing Camp Piankatank! See you at camp!