

# Barrier Island Environmental Education Program

St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center

2810 Seabrook Island Rd

Johns Island, SC 29455

Phone: (843) 768 -1337

Fax: (843) 768-4729

[barrierisland@stchristopher.org](mailto:barrierisland@stchristopher.org)

[www.barrierisland.org](http://www.barrierisland.org)

Director: David Gardner

Administrator: Teri Hiers

## Program Goals

- To introduce students, teachers, and chaperones to various ecological concepts such as habitats, adaptations, variety, similarity, behavior, communities, conservation, etc.
- To help children overcome fears associated with the outdoors by teaching them how to better understand nature and to recognize that we are a part of it.
- To spark students' interest in science through the use of hands-on, experiential learning.

## Organization

Barrier Island Environmental Education Program is a non-profit educational service for public and private school youth. It was developed with the guidance and strength of the Diocese of South Carolina and St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center. The past and present support received from participating schools proves its value and makes its continuing existence possible.

## Physical Set-Up

The Barrier Island program is held on site at St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center, located on Seabrook Island, 25 miles south of Charleston, South Carolina. This site encompasses nearly 300 acres of pristine maritime forest, salt marsh, and a mile of beachfront. Participants sleep in winterized cabins located within the dunes. Groups of up to 170 people can be accommodated. The dining hall is a short walk from the cabins. While nature provides the main classroom setting, other classroom buildings include a herpetarium, aquarium, arts and crafts building, and recreation hall. An activity field is available for outdoor recreation.

## Staff

The staff includes the director, administrator, and a teaching staff (Naturalists) of 14 college graduates. Naturalists take the children, in groups averaging between 10-15 students, through their morning and afternoon classes, which have been pre-selected by their classroom teachers. The Naturalists also lead afternoon recreational activities and evening programs. St. Christopher maintains full-time administrative, food service, housekeeping, and maintenance staffs.

## Teacher Involvement

Each participating school is required to have at least one teacher on-site at all times. The visiting teachers, with the help of parent volunteers, supervise the children 24 hours/day...during classes, overnight in the cabins, and during brief free periods throughout the day. We strongly encourage follow-up studies and activities after a Barrier Island trip.

## **Experiential Education**

Barrier Island is one of a few programs in the Southeast which offers opportunities in experiential outdoor education. The value of educational trips is difficult to measure, and often underestimated. The firsthand educational experience gained on a worthwhile trip can seldom be duplicated in the classroom. Sometimes classroom learning is restricted to memorizing and learning from books; experiential education provides students with opportunities to put into practice the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom.

## **Curriculum**

The Barrier Island curriculum is designed to be an extension of the classroom curriculum. Although the classes, for the most part, are based on local barrier island ecology, they deal with universal concepts and touch many subject areas - science, history, and physical education. All of the classes are activity-oriented. Participation of the entire group keeps everyone interested whether the group is involved in a scientific experiment on the beach, collecting samples from the pond, playing a game illustrating food webs, or playing Hide and Seek to demonstrate the importance of camouflage. With this approach, children often learn without realizing it. Instead of being lectured, children learn to find answers to their questions through their own efforts.

# Barrier Island Teacher Checklist

## 2 Weeks after reservation is made

- Confirm that you received your contract with Teri, Barrier Island Administrator. The non-refundable deposit amount and due date are listed on the contract. Sign and return the contract with the nonrefundable deposit by this date.

## 3 Months in advance

- If your original numbers have dropped significantly (below 70%), or if you need to cancel your reservation, this is the last date that you can do so without penalty beyond your deposit. ***NOTE: If you cancel your reservation or significantly reduce your number within 90 days of your scheduled visit, you will be responsible for a payment equal to 70% of the latest agreed-upon numbers received by the 90-day deadline.***

## 2 Months in advance

- Reservation Information Form due (make sure to include tentative number of participants)
- Copy of certificate of school liability insurance due.
- Send Permission & Medical History forms home with students to be completed by parents/guardians

## 1 Month in advance

- Curriculum Request due.
- Confirm final numbers of boy, girl, adult male, and adult female participants with Teri.

## 2 Weeks in advance

- Fax/email Special Needs Information Form (**very important** for dietary needs...we cannot accommodate needs if we do not know about them).
- Call/email and confirm classes, numbers, field groups, table groups, and cabin groups. Make us aware of any last minute changes and special needs/concerns.
- Design nametags with participants' name, cabin, table and field group assignments. Please make nametags semi-permanent/waterproof since they will be worn during all activities.
- Make certain that attending teachers and chaperones know their responsibilities. Remember that everyone (students, teachers, chaperones) needs to participate in all classes and activities.
- Remind students that they will be away from home, living in a cabin with other students and adults for a few days. They will need to be prepared to function and cooperate responsibly in a close social community. Other school groups may be attending concurrently, which may require extra attention to behavior and manners as groups interact.

## Arrival at Barrier Island

- Bring Permission & Medical History with you to hand in as soon as you arrive.*** If your school needs access to this information while on-site, please make copies to keep with you.
- Final payment (made out to The Diocese of South Carolina) is due upon arrival.

## Assigning Groups

Two weeks before your trip, Teri will send you an email with how many field groups, table groups, and cabin groups you are allotted. This information will go on each participant's nametag. Please do not assign students to any groups before receiving the group assignment email from Teri.

### Field groups

Named by letter: A, B, C, etc. These are the groups that students are in during their classes and evening activities. They **usually** consist of 10-15 students and **must have at least 1 adult**.

### Table groups

Named by numbers: 1, 2, 3, etc. These are the groups you will sit with in the dining hall. There is a **maximum of 12** people per table and **must have at least 1 adult**.

### Cabin groups

Teri will give you specific cabin names. These are the groups you will be sleeping with. Each cabin holds 10 people and **must have at least 1 adult**. However, we strongly recommend 2 adults per cabin and as such, we offer the incentive that the second chaperone per cabin attends for free (essentially making both adults half price).

We will do our best to honor your requests for the numbers of groups, but please be flexible, and do not begin assigning participants into groups until you have confirmed everything. When assigning groups, careful planning can avoid potential problems. Try to avoid grouping incompatible children together. Although children must remain in their assigned groups for the entire trip, we do suggest mixing up field, table, and cabin groups so that the children are grouped with a wider variety of other children which will encourage social interaction.

# A Typical Schedule at Barrier Island

Depending on which half of the week you arrive, your schedule may look something like this:

## Monday-Wednesday

### Monday

11:30-12:00	Arrive and go to cabins
12:15-1:30	Lunch
2:00-3:00	Orientation, Tour
3:00-5:00	Class
6:00-7:00	Dinner
7:30-9:30	Evening activities & snack
10:00	Lights Out!

### Tuesday

8:30-9:15	Breakfast
9:30-11:30	Class
12:30-1:30	Lunch
2:00-4:00	Class
4:30-5:15	Beach Recreation
6:00-7:00	Dinner
7:30-9:30	Evening activities & snack
10:00	Lights Out!

### Wednesday

8:00-8:45	Breakfast
8:45-9:15	Clean cabins
9:30-11:30	Class
12:00-12:45	Picnic Lunch
1:00	Goodbye!

## Wednesday-Friday

### Wednesday

11:30-12:00	Arrival
12:15-1:30	Lunch
1:30-2:00	Go to cabins
2:00-3:00	Orientation, Tour
3:00-5:00	Class
6:00-7:00	Dinner
7:30-9:30	Evening activities & snack
10:00	Lights Out!

### Thursday

8:30-9:15	Breakfast
9:30-11:30	Class
12:30-1:30	Lunch
1:45-2:30	Beach Recreation
3:00-5:00	Class
6:00-7:00	Dinner
7:30-9:30	Evening activities & snack
10:00	Lights Out!

### Friday

8:00-8:45	Breakfast
8:45-9:15	Clean cabins
9:30-11:30	Class
12:00-12:45	Lunch
1:00	Goodbye!

Please note that this is a tentative schedule. Depending on weather and other unforeseen circumstances, these times may change slightly.

# Medical Information & Requirements

Please download & print the Permission & Medical History form separately:

<http://www.stchristopher.org/index.php?BIPDF>

*All schools are responsible for their own medication administration and medical care while on site. We will provide a locked medication room for the safe storage and dispensing of the medications. Any guest that needs immediate medical attention beyond the scope of the designated school healthcare provider, will be referred to the medical center at Freshfields Village (4 miles away): Kiawah Seabrook Medical Center (Roper St. Francis affiliate), 345 Freshfield Drive, Johns Island, SC 29455, 843-768-4800. In addition, all of our naturalists are CPR and First Aid certified, and can provide basic first aid when the designated school healthcare provider is not immediately available.*

The Barrier Island Program Permission & Medical History Forms **must be completed and signed by each child's parent or legal guardian.** Because the form serves as permission/waiver to participate in the program, teachers and adult chaperones in attendance must also complete and submit the form. **Alphabetize** and check to make sure all forms are signed and filled out completely. Please have forms ready to turn in as soon as you arrive. If you will need access to this information while on-site, please make copies for your records.

**NOTE:** We cannot accept a child whose form is not complete. A child who arrives at Barrier Island without a parental signature will be sent home.

Alert us at least two weeks before your arrival of any person with special dietary restrictions by listing these on the Special Needs Form (available on our website). The week before you come, the Barrier Island Food Services Director will contact parents/guardians who have indicated that they wish to be contacted in order to discuss menu items. We cannot accommodate special diets if we do not know about them in advance.

## Medical Provisions

Barrier Island reserves the right to send any student home who arrives ill or becomes ill during his/her stay, or behaves in a manner determined "unsuitable" by the Barrier Island management.

## Emergency Procedures

Barrier Island staff members have been trained in emergency procedures. In an emergency, the staff person will see that appropriate action is taken and that medical attention is prompt. **Each school is responsible for bringing one vehicle that is designated as the emergency vehicle (for instance, if a student needs medical attention beyond basic first aid).**

## Non-Emergency

All medications will be administered by school personnel or someone appointed by each school to do so. The local urgent care center is 4 miles away and can handle anything beyond basic first aid during regular business hours.

# Reservation Information Form

Barrier Island Environmental Education Program  
2810 Seabrook Island Rd.  
Johns Island, SC 29455

Phone (843) 768-1337 Fax (843) 768-4729  
E-Mail: barrierisland@stchristopher.org

**Please send in at least two months prior to your trip.**

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Trip: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated arrival time (suggested: 11:30am): \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_

To assist with parking upon arrival & departure, how many buses will you be bringing? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be having lunch on the day you arrive? (served at 12:15pm)  Yes  No

Estimated departure time (suggested: 1:00pm): \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you eat lunch onsite on departure day? (served at 12:00pm)  Yes  No

If no, do you need a bag lunch?  Yes  No

If your bus drivers need lodging and/or meals, these must be booked in advance:

Do you need bus driver lodging (includes breakfast)?  Yes  No

If yes, how many bus drivers are you bringing? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, do they need meal packages (lunches/dinners)?  Yes  No

Do drivers staying offsite need lunch on drop-off/pick-up days?  Yes  No

Estimated number of students: Male: \_\_\_\_\_ Female: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated number of adults: Male: \_\_\_\_\_ Female: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Total Persons: \_\_\_\_\_

## We agree...

- To respect the privacy of Seabrook Island Residents. We will not drive through their property or go beyond the St. Christopher boundaries.
- To bring at least one car with us that will remain onsite for the duration of our stay.
- To have at least one representative of the school onsite at all times.
- To have one or more adults stay in each cabin unit to supervise the students.
- To provide an authorized individual to dispense medications/handle medical needs.
- That no one will bring alcohol, illegal drugs, or weapons to Barrier Island.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Barrier Island Curriculum Request

Please send in one month prior to your trip.

E-Mail: barrierisland@stchristopher.org, Fax (843) 768-4729

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Trip: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check this box if you are a Christian school and would like a faith-based curriculum.

Choose classes from the following list plus 2 alternate classes (mark with an "A")  
8 hours if you will be here a half week / 16 hours if you will be here a full week.

## Two Hour Classes

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Let's Sea   | <input type="checkbox"/> Seining (warm weather only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Moccasin Trail  | <input type="checkbox"/> Need-A-Friend               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WoodStalk/Claws (excluding Jan)   | <input type="checkbox"/> It Skinks                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WoodStalk/Wetlands  | <input type="checkbox"/> Wings & Things              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pondering Life/Entomology   | <input type="checkbox"/> Pondering Life              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eco-tour boat trip (additional contract cost, contact office for availability & cost) |  |

## One Hour Classes

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entomology            | <input type="checkbox"/> Paws for Thought             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human Impact          | <input type="checkbox"/> Pondering Life               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> It Skinks             | <input type="checkbox"/> Scales & Tails (winter only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loggerhead Dig        | <input type="checkbox"/> Seining (warm weather only)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost & Found          | <input type="checkbox"/> Sharks                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Mammal Madness | <input type="checkbox"/> Wings & Things               |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> WoodStalk                    |

## Evening Activities (Choose 4 for half week, 8 for full week plus one alternate)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Astronomy (Dec-Feb only)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Games (Rec. Field)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campfire                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Night Walk (Dec-Feb only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Challenge                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Noodle Hockey             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Debate (45 min)                | <input type="checkbox"/> Square Dance/Disco        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Debate (90 min = 2 activities) | <input type="checkbox"/> Talent Night              |

If you have special learning objectives for each class, please include a list attached to this form, or write notes on reverse.

# Directions to Barrier Island

2810 Seabrook Island Rd.

Johns Island, SC 29455

Phone (843) 768-1337

## From Charleston:

1. Take SC 700 over Ashley River Bridge south out of Charleston.
2. Take first right after crossing Wappoo Cut Bridge. (You will still be on SC 700, also called Maybank Highway).
3. Follow SC 700 through Riverland Terrace over Stono Bridge to John's Island.
4. Continue on John's Island on SC 700 to second crossroad (Bohicket Road). There is a Seabrook Island sign at this intersection. Turn left.
5. Follow Bohicket Road approximately 15 miles to Seabrook Island.
6. Stop at the Seabrook security gate to identify yourselves as guests of the Barrier Island program. They will have you listed by school. Continue on the same road (now Seabrook Island Road) to the first stop sign. The entrance to St. Christopher/Barrier Island is on the right, approximately 2.7 miles from the gatehouse.

(Continue Below)

## From I-26:

1. Traveling toward Charleston on Interstate 26, take I-526 exit, heading for Savannah.
2. Take Highway 7-Highway 17 exit. Turn right at light and immediately right again onto Highway 17 South.
3. Proceed approximately 4.4 miles to John's Island/Seabrook Island turn off at Main Road. There is a Burger King and two convenience stores at this intersection.
4. Turn left onto Main Rd. and proceed approximately 19 miles to Seabrook Island.
5. Stop at the Seabrook security gate to identify yourselves as guests of the Barrier Island program. They will have you listed by school. Continue on the same road (now Seabrook Island Road) to the first stop sign. The entrance to St. Christopher/Barrier Island is on the right, approximately 2.7 miles from the gatehouse.

(Continue below)

## From Highway 17:

1. Traveling north on Highway 17, turn right at John's Island-Seabrook Island turn off at Main Road. There is a Burger King and two convenience stores at this intersection, which is located several miles south of Charleston. (If you are traveling south on Highway 17, you will be turning left at John's Island-Seabrook Island turn off)
2. Proceed approximately 20 miles to Seabrook Island.
3. Stop at the Seabrook security gate to identify yourselves as guests of the Barrier Island program. They will have you listed by school. Continue on the same road (now Seabrook Island Road) to the first stop sign. The entrance to St. Christopher/Barrier Island is on the right, approximately 2.7 miles from the gatehouse.

(Continue below)

## Once You Come Through The Entrance to St. Christopher...

1. Stay right, passing Susanna's House on the left, and following the signs marked **Barrier Island Parking**. Turn left into the large dirt parking lot.
2. All vehicles should park in this area.
3. This is where a Barrier Island staff member will be watching for and meeting you.

## Schools using bus transportation

It is our policy that you bring at least one vehicle to be used in case of an emergency.

If the bus driver(s) want to eat a meal or stay overnight at Barrier Island, arrangements must be confirmed IN ADVANCE with Teri. See website for cost for drivers – meals and lodging are separate.

## Dear Barrier Island Teacher,

Even after you arrive at Barrier Island, with checklist completed and children in tow, your job is not finished.

**YOU** are the primary educator for your students, and they will pattern their response to this program after yours. We require teacher/chaperone participation in all of our classes, as well as during our Beach Recreation (free time) and evening programs. This type of outdoor, experiential education offers unique opportunities for students and teachers to interact and to see each other in an educational environment outside of the classroom. You set the example.

### Safety and Supervision Policy

All schools are required to provide adequate chaperones to supervise freetime, cabins and help with class supervision. A chaperone is any person screened by the school to be competent in a supervisory role for students (i.e. 18yrs old or older, with background check on file with school).

For safety reasons, we require that at least one chaperone accompany all classes. Although the Barrier Island staff is trained to handle discipline problems, chaperones are required to help in discipline. Any training or help you can give your chaperones prior to their trip will help them deal with children that require more attention and/or distract from class.

These are our recommended supervision ratios:

Overnight: 2 chaperones/10 students  
Classes: at least 1 chaperone/15 students (in addition to the naturalist)  
Mealtimes: at least 1 chaperone at each table (tables seat 12)  
Freetime: 1 chaperone/10 students

In addition, we require that at least one teacher from each school be present, on property at all times. Teachers and other adult chaperones from your school, are needed to supervise children when they are not involved in a Barrier Island class or activity (e.g. overnight in cabins, before and after meals, between classes, etc.) We ask that one adult sit at each table during meal times to assist the Barrier Island staff with supervision. Prior to each meal we will have a moment of silence for those that would like to have personal prayer, reflection, or quiet time.

**NOTE: Swimming is not permitted. There are times when wading is allowed, such as during Beach Recreation, while seining, or after the mud pit, but otherwise children should not be in the water.**

### Evacuation Policy

Since we are located on the southern coast of SC, rarely will a hurricane approach our location, however, once the hurricane is 3 days out from St. Christopher, we will issue an evacuation of all guests. With this in mind, all 3 day field trips will never need to be evacuated, because the trip will be cancelled before you arrive. However, 5 day field trips do have the possibility of requiring evacuation. When it is deemed necessary, the school office will be notified, and arrangements for student pick-up will be dealt with through the lead teacher/administrator for your school.

### Reservation Policy

On the first of each month at 6:00am, all the dates for that same month in the following year become available. For example, on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 at 6:00am, all of November 2015 becomes available. You will need to know the desired dates, number of children and adults, and alternate dates when

making the reservation. Please know that we try our best to accommodate everyone, however we do ask that you be flexible when reserving dates. There is a link to our online reservation form on our website.

**Rates (see the Rate Page of our website for current charges)**

Our rates include the following services: complete program including professional teaching and support staff, overnight accommodations, and all meals and snacks.

**Souvenirs**

All Barrier Island merchandise will be available through the St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center Gift Shop. This will allow access to additional St. Christopher merchandise as well. Gift shop hours will be assigned by field group to maximize shopping time and minimize wait time. The Gift Shop can accept cash, check and credit cards (Visa and MasterCard only).

If you prefer to pre-order souvenirs and pay with a single check from the school, please download the order form from our website and email, mail or fax it back to us. We prefer to receive this form from you in advance so we have time to pull your order and have it ready for you.

Before and after you arrive, feel free to communicate any problems, expectations, or observations to the Barrier Island administration. We, in turn, will do the same. Clear communication and cooperation is essential for the program to run smoothly for everyone. We greatly appreciate your feedback and would like all adults present on the trip to fill out our online evaluation after returning home (available at [www.barrierisland.org](http://www.barrierisland.org)).

Sincerely,  
The Barrier Island Staff

## **Dear Barrier Island Chaperone,**

Thank you for joining the children in this unique adventure to the Barrier Island Environmental Education Program. Your participation in this field trip is very important. We want your experience to be enjoyable, so please read this letter carefully so that you fully understand your role and responsibilities in the Barrier Island community. Our program is designed to benefit all participants, and we encourage you to become involved with classes and other activities.

### **About Your Cabin:**

All cabins have 10 bunk beds (except for Kingfisher which sleeps 20). Each cabin has at least one sink, shower, and toilet. All cabins have heat and air-conditioning. You will be in charge of one cabin. Some cabins are stand-alone cabins while others may be connected to other cabins but the only thing these cabins share are porches. Each cabin is its own private unit.

### **Cabin Supervision:**

One of the chaperone's main responsibilities is cabin supervision. You will be in charge of as many as nine boys or girls in a cabin unit and will function as parent, policeman, and role model.

Please be sensitive to the needs of your children. Many of them may be away from home for the first time. Some may need definite limits enforced. Children tend to follow your example with responsibilities such as cabin clean-up, quiet periods, and bedtime. Check with teachers to learn of any special needs to consider in settling your group. (For example, bed-wetters shouldn't sleep on top bunks; incompatible campers shouldn't sleep next to each other.)

Do not allow reckless or irresponsible behavior in the cabin; people get hurt and facilities are damaged when children are rowdy and/or unsupervised. Any damages incurred by a student's reckless behavior will be billed to the student. If your group has excess energy, take them to the beach for a game. Keep your cabin groups together; either go as a group to the beach or have everyone stay in the cabin. No student is allowed to go anywhere without an adult.

At the first opportunity, you should sit down with your cabin group and discuss various procedures. The more involved the students get in policy-making, the more agreeable they are to those policies. Here is a list of suggested topics: Introductions, Morning Clean-Up, Shower Schedule, Appropriate Behavior, Storage of Clothes, Lights-Out Time (10:00pm), Departure Preparations on Wednesday or Friday, and Cabin Clean-Up.

It is mandatory that every cabin be supervised by an adult throughout the night. Chaperones also need to supervise in cabins before and after each meal, during rest time, between classes, and after the evening programs. Chaperones are responsible for the safety of the children at these times.

Evening programs and snack generally conclude at 9:30pm. Students and chaperones are to return to their cabins by 9:30 to prepare for bed and have lights out by 10:00pm.

We ask that if you take your cabin group out early in the morning, please make sure they are quiet when they are in the cabin area. This is to ensure that other camp guests can sleep or otherwise enjoy the quiet time. Early morning beach walks are a great way to start the day; however, early morning basketball games in the middle of the cabin area are a great way to ensure you'll have cranky classmates!

### **Camp Rules**

- Students are not allowed to go anywhere without an adult.

- Swimming is not permitted. Please help us keep students out of the water. There are three times when your assistance will be especially important.
  - If you are chaperoning a SEINING class (where kids drag a net through the water to catch fish), please help by keeping those kids not directly involved in pulling the net out of the water until it is their turn. The instructor leading this class will give directions before you begin, but many times the kids will sneak into the water while the instructor is busy with the net. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.
  - At "Beach Rec" or free time we may put a "wading line" in the water to allow numerous kids wading at one time. We will have staff to supervise this activity, and appreciate your watchful eye as well.
  - If your school has selected LET'S SEA, the class culminates with a trip to the mud pit! After leaving the mud pit, the children are allowed to wade up to their knees in the water, sit down, and rinse off before returning to the outdoor showers in the cabin area.
- LIVE ANIMALS MUST NOT BE TAKEN FROM THE BEACH! Many children will want to take home a live sand dollar or hermit crab. If you are not sure whether a shell contains an animal, put the shell in a designated spot before a meal, check to see if its still there after the meal. If the shell moved, you've got a live hermit crab; simply return it to the beach. If the sand dollar is "furry," there's a good chance it's alive. Return it to the water. We teach respect for all living things, please help us with this.
- To maintain privacy, students should only go into their own cabin.
- No food, candy, gum, or soda is allowed in cabins. These things attract critters as well as contribute to the litter problem.
- Make sure lights and water are turned off and your cabin door and windows are closed when no one is in the cabin.
- Clothes and shells must not be washed in the cabin sinks. There are outdoor showers for these things. Sand and mud are a problem here at the beach and they clog the drains.
- Groups in connected cabins should keep noise to a minimum and not disturb others in adjacent cabins. It is also helpful to coordinate bedtimes and lights-out with these other chaperones.
- No radios, electronic games, or similar devices are allowed. Part of the Barrier Island experience is to enjoy spending time with each other.
- Make sure that all children in your cabin have turned in their medicine to the teacher or chaperone from your school who is responsible for medication administration.
- Alcoholic beverages are forbidden while at Barrier Island. If you smoke, please smoke outside only, and away from children. Please throw your extinguished cigarette butts in a trashcan.
- Children are not allowed to use a phone without permission from a teacher or the Barrier Island Director.

## **Dining Hall**

Please pay careful attention to announcements during mealtimes. Students will sign up to be waiters/waitresses; please remind the child who has signed up to be your table's waitperson for the next meal to report to the dining hall 20 minutes early for set-up, with adult supervision. If there is more than one adult in your cabin, please send one with the waitperson. If not, coordinate with other cabins to ensure those in cabins and the dining hall are all under adult supervision.

Meals are served family-style, with 12 settings per table. Everyone eats at the same table each meal. Proper manners should be emphasized. Prior to each meal we will have a moment of silence for those that would like to have personal prayer, reflection, or quiet time.

## **Classes**

Many adults who have been to Barrier Island comment that they learned as much from the classes as the students learned. We require at least one adult to accompany each class in order to help with discipline and safety. Classes cannot begin until an adult from your group is present, so please be on time. You are invited and encouraged to participate in all classes and activities; however, please remember that these classes are first and foremost for the students.

## **Cell Phone Use**

We understand that many of you may still be “working” while you are here at Barrier Island, so important phone calls may come up. Please be respectful of others; if you are in the middle of a class, please step away from the group so as not to disrupt the teaching and activities. Make sure that you are still available to help and monitor students if needed, and please keep your time on the phone limited. Cell phone use in the cafeteria is not permitted. Also, please do not allow students to use your phone to call home without first checking with a teacher. Many times homesickness is made worse when a child hears Mom’s or Dad’s voice.

## **Cabin Clean-Up**

On the final morning, the following clean-up procedure should be done in the cabins by the students:

- Take **ALL** belongings and **ALL** luggage to the bus before breakfast.
- Assign cleaning duties listed on the cleaning caddy checklist, and monitor their completion.
- Check outside for any litter and lost items; bag all trash and take to the designated dumpsters.
- **Please rinse out mud pit clothes and shoes, put them in a trash bag and take them home. You can wash these and give them to any organization accepting clothing donations. Please do not throw them in our trash cans.**

## **Evacuation Policy**

Since we are located on the southern coast of SC, rarely will a hurricane approach our location, however, once the hurricane is 3 days out from St. Christopher, we will issue an evacuation of all guests. With this in mind, all 3 day field trips will never need to be evacuated, because the trip will be cancelled before you arrive. However, 5 day field trips do have the possibility of requiring evacuation. When it is deemed necessary, the school office will be notified, and arrangements for student pick-up will be dealt with through the lead teacher/administrator for your school.

Once you've read and understood your responsibilities, you can relax, enjoy the beach, and take part in a most eye-opening adventure for the kids and yourself. At any time during your stay, please feel free to approach any of our staff with questions or to request assistance. We look forward to meeting you!

After your trip is over, we welcome your feedback. Please complete our online evaluation available at [www.barrierisland.org](http://www.barrierisland.org).

Sincerely,  
The Barrier Island Staff

## To the parents of students coming to the Barrier Island Environmental Education Program

**Dear Parents,**

Welcome to Barrier Island! Your child is one of the select few able to go to Barrier Island this year. In order for your child to be well-prepared for her/his visit, we have prepared this letter. Our parent letter will share with you who we are, what we do, and what your child needs in order to have a fun and successful trip to Barrier Island.

Barrier Island Environmental Education Program is a marine science field trip offered by St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center on Seabrook Island, South Carolina. We are located just 30 minutes south of Charleston, on pristine barrier island property with a mile of beach front, and more than 200 acres of undeveloped maritime forest and salt marsh. Dolphins, migrating birds, sea turtles, crabs, shrimp, raccoons, and alligators are just a few of the creatures found here. It is the perfect place for learning about nature, playing in mud, and learning social skills with classmates.

The emphasis of the program is on education, not recreation, although we strongly believe in making learning fun. For example, "Let's Sea" is our two-hour discovery walk on the beach studying barrier island formation, sand dune ecology, seashell identification, and salt marsh life (where students get in the mud). Another favorite is "Need A Friend," a two-hour class focusing on communication and teamwork (even with people you don't like!). The kids really get into "Pondering Life", the one-hour class where students learn about freshwater ecology, insect metamorphosis, tadpoles, and the nutrient rich detritus that enriches our sandy soil. After dinner, evening programs begin, which are generally more recreational than the daytime classes. Following an evening snack, the kids retire to their cabins for the night.

Children sleep in comfortable, climate-controlled cabins in units of up to nine children and one or more adults-either teachers or parent chaperones. During your child's stay, supervision will be provided 24 hours a day by teachers and chaperones, and by the Barrier Island teaching staff during daytime classes and evening programs. As in any school, misconduct will not be tolerated. Children who severely neglect Barrier Island rules may be sent home, without refund. Any damages incurred by reckless behavior will be the responsibility of the student's caregiver.

A completed Permission & Medical History Form must be on file at Barrier Island for any student in attendance. Please be sure to inform your child's teacher of any dietary restrictions and environmental allergies (i.e. insect bite reactions) in addition to listing on this form so that we are prepared for your child's arrival.

An experienced food service staff will provide a carefully planned, well-balanced, menu. If your child has special dietary restrictions (due to diabetes, allergies, religion, etc.) please make sure to let your child's teacher know ahead of time, so they can notify us and we can prepare in advance. If there are significant dietary restrictions and you request to be contacted, our chef will contact you about a week before the trip in order to discuss menu items. While we do our best to accommodate dietary restrictions, in severe cases, our chef may ask you to send supplemental food with your child.

Because of the nature and scheduling of the program, **SWIMMING WILL NOT BE OFFERED**. However, students may get wet in some classes, and wading is allowed during beach recreation times, so kids will need swimsuits or clothes that can get wet for these times. Remember – too much gear will be a burden, but too little gear can create hardship for your child. Keep in mind, old clothes are preferred over new, since most activities will be held outside. **RAIN GEAR IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL** (just in case). Please do not ignore the "Do Not Bring" items. With the teacher's permission, children will have an opportunity to visit the St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center gift shop which carries a wide range of items,

including Barrier Island merchandise. If you wish for your child to be able to purchase souvenirs, you may wish to send some spending money with them. Our Barrier Island items include t-shirts, hats, pencils, stickers, and water bottles.

We ask that you do not visit the center while your child is here. This is an opportunity for your child to learn to function away from home. Visiting parents may not only distract their child, but also make others jealous or homesick.

Students are not permitted to use the telephone under normal circumstances; please refrain from calling your child except in an emergency. In case of emergency only, our phone number is (843) 768-1337. Remember that no news is good news!

Your child will surely appreciate a letter from home during their stay. Please mail letters early, 3 days prior to your child's arrival. Barrier Island will not assume responsibility for lost mail. We do not deliver faxes, e-mails, or care packages to students. Please address your letters as follows:

**Child's Name**  
**School's Name** (This must be included)  
**Barrier Island Environmental Education Program**  
**2810 Seabrook Island Road**  
**Johns Island, SC 29455-6219**

The Barrier Island Environmental Education Program reserves the right to send any child home for destruction of property, aggressive behavior, illness, or any other acts detrimental to the functioning of the program.

Since we are located on the southern coast of SC, rarely will a hurricane approach our location, however, if a hurricane is 3 days out from St. Christopher, we will issue an evacuation of all guests. With this in mind, all 3 day field trips will never need to be evacuated, because the trip will be cancelled before scheduled arrival. However, 5 day field trips do have the possibility of requiring evacuation. When it is necessary, the school office will be notified, and arrangements for student pick-up will be dealt with through the lead teacher/administrator for your school.

Please read the enclosed carefully and feel free to contact Barrier Island or the school to obtain any more information about the program. We look forward to having your child here!

Sincerely,  
The Barrier Island Staff

## Dear Barrier Island Student,

**Hello!** Soon you will be coming to Barrier Island. (YAY!) We can hardly wait. It is so much fun here. You get to do all kinds of fun things while you are here, but at the same time, you will learn a lot.

While you are here, you, your classmates, your teachers and chaperones, and the Barrier Island Staff will be a **community**, a group of people living and working together. Your biggest responsibility during your stay will be **cooperation** with others; you will need to think of how to help your group, not just yourself. Remember that even though you are at Barrier Island, you are still in school. Many of the same rules apply, so please be respectful of everyone around you.

Also, you will need to know three things - your cabin group, your table group, and your field group.

**1. Cabin Group** - You will be living in a cabin with about 9 other people, including two adults. Your cabin group will need to set up rules to help everyone live comfortably together. For example: What time will you turn out the lights at night? When will people take showers? Where will you put your dirty clothes? How will you clean the cabin in the morning? The adult in your cabin will help you set rules. Everyone will need to cooperate and follow the rules.

**2. Table Group** - In the dining hall you will be sitting with your table group. There will be about 12 people at each table. At meals you will need to work with these people to make sure the table gets set and the food gets passed around to everyone. Actually, you will each take turns being the "Waiter"/"Waitress" or "Bus person," but you'll find out more about that later. The food is really good too!

**3. Field Group** - This is the best part! During the day, you will be going to different classes with your field group. Classes are lots of fun, because you get to do things like get muddy, catch fish, or hold a live animal. You will have about 10-15 people in each class. You will be taught by Barrier Island Naturalists, who are very interesting people. We might lead you down the beach and through the salt marsh (mud! mud! mud!), or help you catch creatures in the pond or show you where the bobcat, fox, alligators, and owls live (in the maritime forest...). What we really want to show you is how interesting nature is.

**Secret #1** to a great time at Barrier Island.: Remember that we (people) are guests in somebody else's home when we go into the woods, to the beach, etc. We need to respect their home by picking up our own trash, leaving live animals alone (jellyfish, snakes, and everybody else....) and not pulling or hurting them. When you are with a Barrier Island Naturalist, he or she might catch a snake or frog or jellyfish for you to see, but we always carefully put it back where we found it when we're done checking it out. Most of the animals here are smaller, weaker, and more afraid of you than you are of them. Some of them can hurt you, so it is a good idea not to touch any of the animals unless a Barrier Island Naturalist has said that it is safe.

**Secret #2:** The more you pay attention here, the more you get to do. There are no dumb questions at Barrier Island. You can ask us anything! Examples: Why are there waves? How did this island get here? How do turtles stay warm?

We hope that you are excited about coming and learning tons of cool information. We can't wait to meet you! See you soon!

Sincerely,  
The Entire Barrier Island Staff

# Student Equipment List For Barrier Island Field Trip

Remember To Turn In Your Permission & Medical History Form!

Make sure all items have your child's name on them. Clothes should be modest in style and acceptable for school. Only old clothes are needed since new clothes may be ruined by heavy outdoor use. Please know that all clothes have the potential to get VERY DIRTY and depending on what classes your children will be taking, they may need several changes of clothes for water activities

- 1 sleeping bag or bed roll (sheets and blanket) + pillow
- 1 **OLD** outfit to be worn in salt marsh (tie-on shoes required. If cold, please bring layers!)
- 2 pairs of old jeans
- 2 pairs of shorts, bathing suit (warm weather)
- 5 pairs of underwear and socks for 3 days or 8 pairs of each for 5 days
- 3 shirts for 3 days or 5 shirts for 5 days
- 1 sweater or sweatshirt
- 1 warm jacket & hat (cold weather)
- 2 pairs of sneakers (one OLD pair to be worn in salt marsh and other wet classes)
- 1 Raincoat or Poncho
- 1 pair of pajamas
- Toiletries (toothbrush, soap, toothpaste, etc.)
- 2 towels (one for beach, one for shower)
- Insect repellent/sunscreen
- Plastic bag for dirty clothes
- Water bottle or canteen

## Recommended Items

- Disposable camera(s) (with child's name, school, teacher)
- Pen and writing paper; stamped, addressed envelope(s) to go home
- Flip-flops or sandals
- Flashlight
- Sunglasses
- Cash for Gift Shop

**DO NOT SEND:** large amounts of money, candy/gum/food, knives, hatchets, fireworks, weapons, radios, electronic games, cell phones, iPods, new clothes

## Please note...

Children must carry all their belongings from the bus to the cabins (200 yards). Please limit luggage to one suitcase, backpack, or duffel bag, plus one sleeping bag or bedroll. No trunks! A heavy-duty trashcan

liner can be used instead of a suitcase. Avoid sending unnecessary items.

The Barrier Island Environmental Education Program is not responsible for articles left behind, however we do keep Lost & Found items for a week following your child's trip. If you believe your child lost something while at Barrier Island, please give us a call at (843) 768-1337 and we will let you know if we find it!

***Mud pit clothes will be coming home with the students!  
These can be washed and re-worn or donated to any  
organization that accepts clothing donations.***