

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is the Camp Director?

David Matagiese, Education Director

What are the qualifications of the counselors? What are their certifications? Have they had background checks and been fingerprinted? Are they local residents or from another state?

Staff is certified in CPR and First Aid. Most of the IGFA Educational Staff have or are attaining a Bachelors or Masters degree in Environmental Science; others are teachers or full time employees of IGFA. Background checks and fingerprinting have been assessed for all counselors, instructors and staff.

What is the ratio of students to chaperones?

IGFA practices the same standards as the Broward County School District of 1 chaperone to 10 children (1:10); often we have a higher ratio of chaperones to children (1:8). We also have volunteers to aid the instructors each week.

Is the camp program onsite or offsite? If offsite, where?

Both: Mondays and Tuesdays campers spend time at the museum participating in various activities; Wednesdays and Thursdays campers are out on field trips, and every Friday campers get to experience drift-boat or anchor fishing on the Atlantic Ocean.

What is the cost of camp? Are there any discounts?

If you have a regular or a family membership, the cost of camp is \$300 per week. For non-members, the cost of camp is \$325 per week. An early registration **discount of \$50**(off your total) is available for parents/guardians who register by **May 22, 2010**.

The more weeks your child attends, the more you save! Please ask about our multiple child discount for siblings.

Is there a deposit required?

A deposit is not required. However, you must pay for your camp at the time of registration. Your child's space will not be saved unless payment has been received. After care can be paid on a daily basis.

What are the camp hours?

Camp hours are 9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. on Monday through Thursday. On Friday, campers are required to arrive by 7:30a.m. and parents are encouraged to attend the graduation from 3:00p.m to 4:00p.m. After care is offered from 4:00p.m. to 6:00p.m at a rate of \$10 per hour.

Is this camp program co-ed? What are the ages for camp?

Yes, girls and boys ages 8-13 (or going into grades 3-8). Campers are divided into two groups. Children ages 8-10 are in one group; children ages 11-13 are in another group.

What activities will the campers participate in and what will they learn? Are campers required to have prior knowledge and/or experience with fishing?

What is the difference between the Angling weeks and the Marine weeks?

Campers travel to State parks where they explore and fish in different Florida habitats. Activities at IGFA include laboratory exercises that teach aquatic biology, as well as ethical angling practices. Participants learn about fish biology, knot tying, tackle, making lures, tying flies & jigs, and fishing.

Field trips include lakes, wetlands, estuaries, Intracoastal Waterway and the ocean. The campers in the marine program explore the ocean environment, learn about marine animals and their habitats and explore the coastal dunes. Field trips include swimming, snorkeling and fishing on a drift boat on Fridays. The main difference between Angling 1, Angling 2, Angling 3 and Angling 4 are the field trip sites. Campers do not need to attend Angling 1 before attending the other Angling weeks. You choose the weeks your child will attend camp in any order you prefer.

What is the difference between the Angling weeks and the Marine weeks?

While the Angling weeks focus most on fishing and fishing habitats, Marine weeks focus more on the Marine environment and the activities for those weeks include dissections and snorkeling. However, campers will only go fishing on Friday during the Marine weeks.

Is transportation provided to and from camp?

No, each child must be dropped off and picked up by their parent/guardian from IGFA.

What is the procedure for drop off and pick up?

Each morning, a parent or guardian **must** bring the child inside and sign the log sheet at the front desk with the time of arrival and the parent's/guardian's initials. A child **cannot** be dropped off without a parent or guardian signing the log sheet. Each afternoon, a parent or guardian **must** sign the log sheet to pick up their child. Only adults indicated on the Hold Harmless Agreement Form will be allowed to sign a camper out.

What type of vehicle is used when traveling on field trips? Does it have seat belts? Is it air-conditioned? How many passengers does it hold? Who drives the vehicle?

Either a 15 passenger van or an air-conditioned coach bus is used for travel to and from field trips, depending on the number of campers. Coach buses hold anywhere between 45-56 passengers. A bus-licensed driver is in charge of the bus.

Is lunch provided or do the campers need to bring lunch daily?

No, campers need to bring a bag lunch daily. Please provide food that will not require refrigeration. We suggest an extra drink and snack for mid-afternoon. Campers may bring a small, personal cooler if they prefer.

What do the campers need to wear daily?

Campers should wear comfortable casual clothing. Shorts, t-shirts and sneakers are recommended. On days when campers swim, sandals are recommended. Sunscreen and a light jacket are also suggested. Campers **must** wear an IGFA T-shirt **daily**. One t-shirt will be provided for the camper when the parent/guardian signs the camper in. Extra T-shirts will be available in the mornings and afternoons for \$8 each.

What do campers need to bring?

Parents/guardians will be given a sheet for each week of camp informing them of what campers will need to bring each day of the week. The items needed may include a towel, bathing suit, change of clothes, snorkel gear, hat, and sunscreen. Campers may bring a small backpack with their belongings. Please be sure to label all belongings with complete camper's name. On Fridays campers may need motion sickness pills: Bonine, Dramamine or any comparable meclizine brand.

Do the campers need to bring their own fishing equipment?

No, campers are not permitted to bring in **any** of their own fishing equipment. IGFA will provide what they need.

What else should campers not bring?

Campers are not permitted to bring radios, cell phones, money, video games, or anything else that would be disruptive to the camp. *IGFA is not responsible for lost or stolen items.*

Are parents allowed to visit staff and the museum when considering our camp program?**Are appointments required?**

Yes, we encourage parents to visit our facility. Appointments are not required unless you need to speak with a staff member. An advanced notice of your visit will help us better prepare for your arrival and self-guided tour.

Are parents allowed to participate in our camp programs? Can they join the campers on field trips? Is there an additional charge for this?

Yes, parents are allowed to participate during the driftboat fishing excursion! Parents who want to attend field trips will be charged a field trip rate.

What is the healthcare insurance policy? Is there a nurse on-site?

All parents are required to complete a Hold Harmless Agreement Form, which includes the health care information and emergency contact information. All instructors are CPR and 1st Aid certified. If an injury occurs an "Ouch Report" is filled out for the incident and signed by the camper and the instructor. If the incident is major and requires hospital care, a parent/guardian will be contacted immediately.

What if I don't have health insurance?

If health care is needed, the parent's health care insurance policy would be primary and IGFA's health insurance policy would be secondary. If a child were not covered by insurance, IGFA's health insurance would then be primary.

What is our safety and regulations policy? What precautions do we practice to ensure safety? What is the protocol for safety when participating in water activities?

Camp counselors carry a binder which contains all camper emergency information and contact phone numbers. There is at least 1 chaperone for every 10 children, all instructors are CPR and 1st Aid certified (some are lifeguard certified and some are Rescue SCUBA Diver certified), all boats on field trips have personal floatation devices (PFDs) available, and when swimming at beaches lifeguards are present.

What is the protocol if a child is missing?

A count of the children is taken before the bus leaves to and from each field trip site. Counts are also taken when traveling from one location to another. If, after all these precautions have been taken, a child is missing, the proper authorities, the parent and IGFA headquarters will be contacted immediately. TO DATE, we have not had any child missing!!!

What if a child becomes ill?

If your child is ill and cannot attend, please call and notify the staff so that we do not hold the bus or be waiting for your child. If the child should become sick while at IGFA and participating in activities, a staff member would make the child as comfortable as possible and contact a parent/guardian for an early pickup.