

## ***Day Classes***

**If you want to go to the beach, you must choose 2 of 3 of the following.**

**1. Seining:** Students will learn how to use a 30-foot seine net to sample the ocean's rich abundance of life. Several fish species, crabs, and shrimp are commonly caught, as well as squid, jellyfish, and the elusive sea cucumber. We discuss adaptations and behaviors of creatures we catch. This is weather dependent. **Be prepared to get wet and have fun!**

**2. Barrier Island Dynamics:** Study beach geology, barrier island dynamics, and tides right where it all happens: the beach! Students will gain a better appreciation for the plants and animals that call the coast their home.

**3. The Living Beach:** In this class students will explore the species diversity of the Georgia Coast. Students will learn about the plant and animal species that inhabit East Beach and participate in games and activities.

**\*\* You will need to provide your own transportation to the beach. Thank you!**

**Bird Brains:** Students will learn what makes a bird a bird. We will look at a bird's structure and determine how different species are adapted for different environments. Students will become expert ornithologists as we head out to the field with binoculars to locate different species of birds on St. Simons Island.

**Buddy Squad:** (for field groups of 10 or more students) Everyone needs a buddy. During Buddy Squad students will work together with classmates to accomplish a variety of team building activities. Throughout these challenges students should gain skills necessary to work in social settings and be able to relate these concepts in their own lives.

**Cassina:** Cassina is a cultural journey back in time to discover what it was like to be a Timucuan Native American. Make rope, use their tools and weapons, live in a Timucuan style camp, and enjoy tea as we compare the Timucuan culture to our own.

**Comparative Dissection: Cost extra \$3 per student:** Students will get a little fishy in this hand-on dissection. In this class each field group will work in small groups to dissect 2 different species of fish. They will compare and contrast their fish with the other groups, learn about the differences between them, and how they compare to humans and other animals. There is an additional nominal fee for this class.

**Feather Physics:** Students will examine the general principles behind the physics of flight. We will discuss the forms of aerial locomotion, and the animals that use them. Students will be immersed in experimentation, discussion, and observation to understand these flight principles.

**Gator Tales:** By holding snakes, touching alligators, and exploring our turtle enclosures, students will learn about these modern organisms with amazing adaptations. We will identify different species through the discovery process. Discussions and handling of these reptiles will lead students to identify and understand Georgia's indigenous species.

**High Ropes Challenge Course: Costs Extra Per Person (Call for Price):** Learning how to work as a team player requires focusing on communication and listening skills that strengthen trust and self-confidence. Adventure Ministries, LLC. challenge courses (High Ropes-30 feet- and Low Ropes -ground level-) provide exciting and fun opportunities for problem solving and leadership development. High Ropes elements may include, zip line, pamper pole, rock climbing wall, postman's walk, and others.

**Merely Plankton:** Students will become part of an in-depth study about both phytoplankton and zooplankton through hands on activities. Students will collect, observe, and identify living plankton in our microscope laboratory while learning the importance they play in an ocean ecosystem.

**Muck, Snails & Rails:** Marshes tend to be associated with one thing: MUD! These amazing places, however, are more than just mud. They are thriving ecosystems with thousands of species that inhabit them. Students will examine the marshlands here at Driftwood. We will explore the animal and plant species and discover why these locations are so important to pollution control. **Important Note: YOU WILL GET MUDDY! There are two choices, Dry Marsh and Muddy Marsh. Dry Marsh Class is mud on hands face and feet only. Muddy Marsh is completely muddy! THIS IS A VERY MUDDY CLASS AND CANNOT BE TAKEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH CUMBERLAND ISLAND. STUDENTS NEED TO BRING TWO PAIRS OF SHOES, preferably one pair they can throw away when they are done.**

**Ocean Motion:** Explore the world of marine vertebrates and invertebrates in our lab. Students will be able to handle such animals as crabs, sea anemones, shrimp and molluscs in our touch tank. An in-depth study of these animals and their adaptations will be supplemented by a group dissection.

**Trackers:** Have you ever wondered what type of animals live around your home? How can you find out? In "Trackers," students will investigate Driftwood's backyard to learn how to identify animals through close observation of the signs they leave in the forest. Through several activities, students will hone their observation skills and perhaps come face to face with some of our local species.

**Transit Trawl - Costs \$15 extra Per Person (Minimum 30 people charged):** Throw out the net mates! Let's see what we can haul in and study, as we head out on a pontoon boat onto the Frederica River. Lead by a boat captain and his crew, students will learn about trawling nets, trawl boats, and investigate the organisms that we catch. There is an additional fee per person for this class.

**Turbid Waters:** The intertidal zone is home to many species of plants and animals. Using both traditional and modern technology to study the biological, physical, and chemical aspects, the students will discover how human and natural factors influence the health of the intertidal zone.

## ***Evening Programs***

**Brain Twister:** Just a few years ago, NASA discovered a new planet just like Earth and they want students to create a Lander that will survive the drop down to the planets surface. Using limited government funds, students will buy their supplies, then build and test their Lander!!

**Evening Beach Exploration:** Humans are most comfortable during the day, but join us as we take you out of your comfort zone, and explore our nearby trails at night! Students will use all five senses to examine what it is like to survive at night. Several nocturnal activities will get participants rethinking the abilities that creatures must have in order to thrive in dark places. This is a seasonal activity.

**Evening Exploration:** Humans are most comfortable during the day, but join us as we take you out of your comfort zone, and explore our nearby trails at night! Students will use all five senses to examine what it is like to survive at night. Several nocturnal activities will get participants rethinking the abilities that creatures must have in order to thrive in dark places. This is a seasonal activity.

**Fire Circle:** Tell stories, sing songs and reflect on your experiences at Driftwood. This activity is done as a large group.

**Got Ink?** Squid are known as one of the most intelligent and intriguing invertebrates in the marine world. By doing their own dissection, and participating in a teacher led discussion, students will be taken on a journey of discovery while learning what makes this mollusc unique.

**Island Cinema:** After a long day of learning and exploring the coast, kick back and relax as Driftwood presents **Island Cinema!** Bring your pillows and your favorite snack and watch a movie on Driftwoods monster-size screen and sound system. This a great option after a long field trip to Cumberland Island or Okefenokee Swamp. Driftwood has a very limited supply of movies to choose from so we recommend bring your own.

**Movin 'n' Groovin:** Students will enjoy free form dancing to kid friendly popular music. Our instructors will also lead students in line dances such as the electric slide.

**Spartina Show:** What do push-ups, scaring monsters, and answering trivia questions all have in common? They're all part of our new evening program: The Spartina Show! The Spartina Show is a mix of trivia, comedy, imagination and so much more. There are 5 different categories in a Jeopardy like setting, teams of students will imagine and create their way through different challenges. With difficulty levels rated as "Mild, Medium, Hot, and Inferno," the challenges are as "spicy" as the difficulty levels!

**Recreation Period:** **This class is supervised by Teachers and Chaperones, NOT our instructors.** This is a free time period where students can use the basketball, volleyball, and tennis courts, as well as the soccer field. Equipment will be provided. This class can also be a day program if you would like.

**Field Trips** \*\*All field trips require transportation by the school to the place of interest.

**Cumberland Island National Seashore Day Trip - \$32 extra Per Person:** Visit this beautiful, undeveloped barrier island that is accessible only by a ferryboat. The 5-mile hike wanders through maritime forest, mansion ruins from the Carnegie family, and along the beach. Students will go seining and study the beach environment as described in the **Living Beach, Barrier Island Dynamics** and **Seining** classes. **We require 7 months notice by the teacher or no assurances can be given.**

**Jekyll Island Day Trip - \$10-\$22 per person** Come and explore Jekyll Island State park! Jekyll is just a short drive away accessible by causeway. We will spend the day hiking on the beach, strolling through the marsh and catching local animal life in our seine nets. Students will also learn about erosion up and down the coast. We will also explore Driftwood beach or what the locals call Bone Yard beach! The same material is covered on Jekyll as it is on Cumberland Island. Students will go seining and study the beach environment as described in the **Living Beach, Barrier Island Dynamics** and **Seining** classes. You may also choose to add in the Georgia Sea Turtle Center for a tour or take the Transit Trawl from Jekyll Island for an additional cost and depending on availability.

**We require 7 months notice by the teacher for the Sea Turtle Center and Transit Trawl or no assurances can be given.**

**Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge Day Trip- \$20 extra per person:** Climb to the top of an observation tower and overlook hundreds of acres of this National Wildlife Refuge where alligators and endangered sand hill cranes are a common sight. Students will learn about the hardships of swamp life at the Chesser homestead and study many rare and endangered plants and animals that live along the edges of a ¾ mile long boardwalk. And, get up close and personal with some of the 13,000 alligators that make their home here on a boat ride through the Suwannee Canal.

**Okefenokee Canoe Day Trip- \$30 extra per person** Paddle down the Suwannee Canal enjoying beautiful scenery and a relaxed atmosphere. Along the way, students will study the flora and fauna located in the tannic acid water ecosystem of Okefenokee Swamp. No prior experience is necessary.