



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## Assateague Island National Seashore

PO Box 38, 8586 Beach Rd.  
Chincoteague, VA 23336  
757-336-6577 (phone) 757-336-5203 (fax)  
www.nps.gov/asis

### *Assateague Island National Seashore*

# 2016 Environmental Education Programs

**What:** Expand the boundaries of your classroom to include Assateague Island! Choose from a variety of programs that provide students with opportunities to discover and explore the island's wildlife and habitats from beach to bay.

**When:** We will be offering programs in April & May, Wednesdays through Fridays. Please see our insert for suggestions on maximizing your learning experiences on Assateague Island. Programs are offered on a first-come, first-serve basis, so schedule early! Reservations should be made at least 2 weeks in advance.

**Where:** Assateague Island National Seashore, Virginia District  
Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia

**How Many:** To facilitate a quality learning experience, some programs are limited to 15 students. At least 2 chaperones (a 1:5 ratio is ideal) are required on all programs.

**Contact:** Gretchen Knapp 410-629-6084 or  
757-336-6577 press 2, then 1

*There is no charge for programs, but donations are gratefully accepted.  
Your Confirmation Form will serve as your entrance fee waiver.*





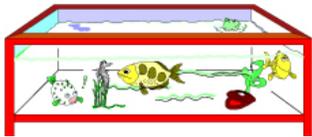
# National Park Service Programs

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These programs are offered *Wednesdays through Fridays* in April and May. Teachers, please stop at the Toms Cove Visitor Center (8586 Beach Rd., Chincoteague, VA 23336) to meet with the rangers presenting the programs and to coordinate logistics.

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## Aquarium Talk



**Age range:** All ages (Targeted for Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade)

**Duration:** 1 - 1.5 hours

**Science SOL:** K.6, 1.5, 1.8, 2.5, 2.7, 3.4, 3.5, 4.5

A firsthand introduction to the creatures that live in the waters surrounding Assateague Island. Students will learn about this fish-eat-fish world and the fascinating adaptations some creatures have evolved to keep from being someone else's lunch! This half-hour segment is combined with a short beach activity.

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## Beach Walk



**Age Range:** All ages

**Duration:** 1.5 hours

**Science SOL:** K.2, 1.5, 1.8, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 3.4, 3.6, 3.10, 4.8, ES.8a, ES.13C, 5.6, 6.7, LS.10

Assateague is moving! Students find out where and why as they explore the processes of barrier island ecology. Students will also discover the necessary adaptations required to survive in this ever-changing environment.

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## Marine Explorers



**Age Range:** 7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Science SOL:** BIO.7, BIO.9, LS.4, LS.5, LS.9, LS.10

Using basic sampling and collecting equipment, students explore the island from beach to bay to learn how the habitats weave together to form a barrier island ecosystem. This program is designed for returning groups or groups that are studying barrier island ecosystems. Students will get wet to their knees. Wear shoes and clothing that can get wet.

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## Salt Marsh Adventure



**Age Range:** All Ages

**Duration:** 1.5 hours

**Science SOL:** K.2, 1.5, 1.8, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.10, 4.5, 4.8, 5.6, 6.7, LS.7 (b,c,d), BIO.9, LS.9, LS.10

Is the salt marsh a wonderland or a wasteland? A menace or a marvel? Students discover the answers for themselves as they explore the intriguing qualities of the salt marsh. Students will be getting their feet wet and muddy.

# Get Prepared!

Enhance your class trip to Assateague Island through a pre-visit activity. Choose an activity that will familiarize the students with your chosen program topic and Assateague Island. Here are a few tips to help you develop and conduct an activity:



- For general information visit websites:  
 Assateague Island National Seashore: <http://www.nps.gov/asis>  
 Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge: <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/chincoteague/>
- Prepared pre- and post-visit activities are available on our websites for some of the programs. Park Service brochures are also available by request.
- Utilize resources such as Project Wild and Project Wild - Aquatic:

Pre-Visit Activity	Grade Level	Education Program
Aqua Words	K - 8	Aquarium Talk Beach Walk Salt Marsh Adventure
Everybody Needs a Home	K - 3	Beach Walk Salt Marsh Adventure
Learning To Look, Looking To See	K - 8	All Programs
Marsh Munchers	3 - 6	Marine Explorers Salt Marsh Adventure
Shrinking Habitat	4 - 7	Beach Walk Marine Explorers Salt Marsh Adventure
Water We Eating	K - 12	Aquarium Talk Beach Walk Marine Explorers Salt Marsh Adventure

Don't forget to prepare the students for the outdoors.

**Proper footwear and clothes are a must!** Several layers of clothing and outerwear will keep students comfortable as temperatures on Assateague Island usually average 10 degrees cooler than on the mainland. If rain is forecast, please bring appropriate rain gear. Footwear that can get wet and muddy is needed for several of the offered programs. Supplying parents and students with this information will help ensure a successful learning opportunity.

