

Gateway

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Gateway National Recreation Area
Jamaica Bay Unit
New York



Camping program at Floyd Bennett Field's Ecology Village

Ecology Village Overnight Camping

Students in grades 5-12 explore the environment, sleep overnight in tents, prepare meals outdoors and practice cooperative living at one of Ecology Village's 4 campsites. Teachers have countless opportunities to enhance instruction in science, mathematics, communication arts and other areas.

There is a \$50.00 permit fee per group (35 students maximum). For teachers new to the program completion of a 25 hour teacher-training course, conducted by the National Park Service and the NYC DOE, is required prior to the trip. For returning teachers, a free 2 hour camping refresher course is required annually.

Day Programs

All programs are 2 hours in length and group size is limited to 35 students. There are no fees for the programs. A 2-4 hour teacher workshop is required prior to class participation in any of the ranger-guided or self-guided day programs. For information regarding programs, please call the Jamaica Bay Education Staff at (718) 338-4306.



Habitats by Land and Sea

In this standards-based program, students in 4th-6th grade work in small teams at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge to discover, explore, and measure/compare environmental conditions, and plant and animal life in two different habitats.

Dynamic Seashores

This standards-based program targets middle school grades. The physical and biological dynamics of the ocean beach at Fort Tilden are explored. Students work in teams and visit the park twice to compare summer and winter aspects of the beach. They collect data in three discipline areas: beach profiling, sediment analysis, and floral and faunal inventories. In the classroom, students prepare reports, graphic displays and present their results to the class.

Operation Explore

Operation Explore is a partnership program of the Department of Education of the City of New York, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, Cornell Cooperative Extension- New York City Programs, and the National Park Service at Gateway.

The program introduces city youngsters to the scientific concepts of adaptation and interdependence in nature; and the interrelationships between their home community and seashore, farm, and forest ecosystems. This year long program, for 4-6th grade students involves hours of classroom instruction, a ranger-guided day program at Gateway National Recreation Area, and a three - day residential camping program at Taconic Outdoor Education Center in Putnam County. Classes also visit a working farm at the Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center.

The Gateway site visit is an introduction to the coastal environment, and to the learning concepts that will be the basis of further instruction. Information learned about the coastal plants, animals, and environmental conditions found at Gateway are then used to compare those found in forest, farm, and home environments.

For further information on Operation Explore, contact John Lancos at 718-354-4560.