



Let's Compare Critters!

at the Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center

Welcome to Spring Break Camp 2024

Thank you for choosing to spend part of your spring break with us at the Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center. We're excited to explore the bay with your camper(s). Please review this packet to ensure you are well prepared for the program. See you soon!

Included in this packet:

- Daily themes
- Daily agenda
- Drop off / pick up Information
- General information
- Packing list
- Contact information





Daily Themes

We all have our strengths and weaknesses — animals included! At Spring Break Camp 2024, each day we'll compare two critters to discover the unique characteristics that help them survive and thrive in the Tampa Bay Estuary.

Campers will take part in fun activities, friendly competitions, and exciting experiments to answer some very important questions... Which turtle would win a sprint? What about a marathon?! Should you hire a crab or a conch for your cleanup crew? Which bird is brilliant at breath holding? Let's find out!

In true Tampa Bay Watch style, this camp will be hands-on, educational, and full of opportunities to interact with the local ecosystem and our resident animal ambassadors.

**Monday,
March 11**

Turtle Tournament

Turtles have been around for millions of years! Join us to explore the adaptations that have kept tortoises stomping and sea turtles swimming for such a long time.

**Tuesday,
March 12**

Battle of the Boneless

In a battle between the mighty crab and the marvelous conch, which creature's hard exterior reigns supreme? Find out during the ultimate showdown of stealth and strength.

**Wednesday,
March 13**

Feuding Feathers

It's the high soaring pelican versus the deep diving cormorant... so, which avian expert will claim the title of top fisher? Let's explore what sets their feathers and their feeding apart.

**Thursday,
March 14**

Mammal Match

Marvelous manatees and delightful dolphins love to frolic in Tampa Bay. But which species would come out on top in a mammal match? The answer might surprise you!

**Friday,
March 15**

May the Best Fin Win

In a fight of the fins, who will win? It's a close race between our local shark species. This camp is all about the features that help them swim with speed and feed with success.

Reminders

- Please bring your ID to camp pick up every day. At the start of camp, guardians will be asked to confirm person(s) authorized to drop off and/or pick up their child. All persons picking up campers will be asked to present an ID at pick up.
- We do not offer before or after care. If your camper must miss any portion of the day, staff should be notified as soon as possible. Activities will proceed as scheduled to ensure all camp participants enjoy the full experience.
- Please be prepared to confirm or clarify any medical needs or other special needs your camper has at drop off.





Daily Agenda

The following is a general agenda that we will follow each day. Changes may be made in case of inclement weather or other conditions out of our control.

9:00 AM: Drop off

**AM: Eco-vessel experience
(boating, trawling, bird watching)**

12:00 - 1:00 PM: Lunch

**PM: Lab / Interactive activity /
Art / Beach time**

4:00 PM: Pick up



Foul weather contingency:

We do our best to ensure that all planned activities are accomplished throughout the camp day, but safety is our first priority, and camp staff and captains reserve the right to change the daily schedule based on weather conditions (e.g. rain, lightning, high winds).

If foul weather occurs during the drop off or pick up time, campers will be kept inside the Discovery Center for safety. You will be responsible for walking your camper up or down the pier. If it occurs once the campers have already started making their way to the drop off spot, campers will be led to shelter safely at the Spa Beach Bistro.

Cancellation refund policy:

If you need to cancel a scheduled program registration, we request ten business days notice prior to the scheduled event date in order to receive a full refund. Cancellations made less than ten business days prior to the scheduled event date will be assessed on a case by case basis for refunds. If a refund is issued, a \$25 processing fee will be subtracted from the refund amount. In the event of an unavoidable emergency or medical concern, a full refund will be issued. Tampa Bay Watch reserves the right to modify or discontinue programs due to inclement weather or to maintain safe operations. In the unlikely event of a cancellation, a full refund will be issued.



Drop Off / Pick Up Information

Drop Off / Pick Up:

Camp drop off time is 9:00 am.

Camp pick up time is 4:00 pm.

For convenience, campers can be dropped off and picked up at the marked location on the map below. This will enable parents to avoid paying for parking on the St. Pete Pier.

Our staff will be stationed at this location from 9:00 - 9:20 am for drop off, and between 4:00 - 4:20 pm for pick up. Please plan to be on time, and contact staff if you are running late.





Packing List

Please bring all REQUIRED items EVERY DAY, and please LABEL all belongings. While we do our best to keep campers' belongings organized, we are not responsible for lost items.

Required

- Swimsuit and clothes that can get wet/ dirty
- T-shirt to wear during water activities
- Lunch
- Sunscreen (lotion, not spray, and ocean-friendly is encouraged)
- Water bottle
- Water shoes or old tennis shoes that completely cover feet (cinch-down or tie-down shoes are best)
- Towel
- Change of clothes and footwear



Suggested

- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Sunshirt/ rashguard
- Snacks

Discouraged

- Cellphones
- Cameras
- Stuffed animals
- Other items of value





Other Important Information

Meals

Lunch will not be provided. Campers must pack lunch and morning/afternoon snacks (if desired) for each day.

Nut-Free Policy

Tampa Bay Watch camps are nut-free to maintain a healthy environment for those with severe nut allergies. Tree nut and peanut products of any sort are not permitted at Tampa Bay Watch. This includes, but is not limited to: almonds, cashews, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, peanuts, pine nuts, pistachios, walnuts, and nut butters of these varieties. Please pack your camper's lunch and snacks accordingly. Please note that Tampa Bay Watch staff reserves the right to withhold any nut product and send items home with the child at the end of the camp day. We greatly appreciate your help to keep our campers safe and healthy.

Contacts

For questions regarding our Spring Break Camp: Let's Compare Critters, please contact our education team at:

tbwdceducation@tampabaywatch.org
(727) 433-2146

