



Boothbay
Sea and Science
Center

Discovering the ocean
through community
sailing and education

Welcome and Parent Guide Summer 2024

Welcome to the Boothbay Sea and Science Center! We so very much appreciate the opportunity and privilege to welcome you and your child to the Center this summer! As parents, the need for information and feedback regarding your child's experiences and daily progress throughout the program is priceless. For these reasons, we've assembled this Welcome and Parent Guide.

At the Boothbay Sea and Science Center, our primary goal is to get everyone excited about the ocean! Developing an appreciation for the art of boating and sailing as well as embracing our role as good stewards of the land and sea is what we're all about. BSSC prides itself on being safe, positive and fun! We believe that boating, sailing, seamanship and an understanding of our ecosystems are skills that are useful throughout our lifetime.

As we plan for onsite learning, we continue to follow the Federal, State of Maine, and local healthcare organizations CDC COVID-19 Policies and Guidelines and the Recommendations. At a moment's notice, BSSC is prepared to adjust to any changes that support our commitment to safe, healthy, equal and affordable access to our onshore and on-the-water summer programs.

This Parent Guide contains information about our uniquely integrated Sailing, Boating and Marine Science Program.

The Boothbay Sea and Science Center ... making a difference by helping our youth to develop independence, self-confidence, respect for others and the marine environment and a lasting love of the sea.

Sincerely,
Pauline T. Dion
BSSC President, Executive Director

Medical Forms

In an effort to keep your child safe and focused, the following requirements are in effect immediately. If you have any questions, comments and/or concerns, please always feel free to email us at info@boothbayseaandsciencecenter.org or call BSSC Executive Director Pauline T. Dion at 207-350-5357 (cell) or 207-315-6746 (office - after June 1) or 207-751-2999 (Dion cell) at any time!

BSSC Medical Form, Immunization Record, Physical Exam Record, and Vaccination Record:

This form and these records must be completed and submitted **no later than two weeks before your child(ren)'s program starts:**

1. The **BSSC Medical Form** ([filled-out online in your Active Camps account](#));
2. A **current Immunization Record** (from your child's physician and [upload online in your Active Camps account](#));
3. A **Physical Examination Record** done within one (1) year of your child's program start date completed by your child's physician and [upload online in your Active Camps account](#)).

Note: You may use the BSSC form found here:

<https://www.boothbayseaandsciencecenter.org/forms/BSSC-physician-examination.pdf> or your physicians' form if they prefer that format.

COVID-19 Policy

The BSSC follows the CDC guidelines recommending the COVID-19 vaccination and the CDC "Isolation Recommendations" (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV>). You may also see the [BSSC Immunization Record and Vaccination Record policies](#) for more information.

Please note: All Boothbay Sea and Science Center staff will be vaccinated against COVID-19 unless a Medical Exemption from COVID-19 Vaccination has been approved by BSSC.

Safety requirements

In an effort to keep your child safe and focused, the following requirements are in effect immediately. If you should have any questions, comments and/or concerns, please always feel free to email us at info@boothbayseaandsciencecenter.org or call BSSC Executive Director Pauline T. Dion at 207-350-5357 (BSSC cell) or 207-315-6746 (office, after June 1, 2022) or 207-751-2999 (Dion cell) at any time!

Footwear:

All participants are required to wear "**closed toed**" footwear. This footwear includes any "closed toed" sandal with a heel strap. Unfortunately, **flip-flops are not acceptable footwear**. Your child will spend

time in the water exploring the rocky shore ... we recommend your child have a pair of closed toed “water shoes” or boots or bring an extra pair of shoes.

Water, Sunscreen & Ticks:

Sunburn and dehydration can ruin your child’s day and create health problems. Please be sure to include sunscreen (cream/lotion **not** spray) in your child’s backpack. At BSSC, keeping your child hydrated throughout the day is a priority. If a child arrives without a water bottle, we will charge parents \$2.00/day for the use of a BSSC water bottle. There are ticks in Maine! Fifteen species of ticks can be found in Maine. The two ticks of the most concern to humans are: Deer tick and American dog tick. BSSC will be vigilant about checking your child for “ticks” while they are at the Center. However, please be sure that you [check your child for ticks when they return home](#).

Life Jackets:

BSSC has a very strict lifejacket policy. All program participants, staff and volunteers are required to wear lifejackets at all times while shore side and on the water. It’s important that the lifejacket is the correct size for your child’s size and weight. According to the US Coast Guard, if a life jacket fits properly it will help keep your child’s head above the water. Too big, and the life jacket will ride up around your child’s face. Too small, it will not be able to keep your child’s body afloat. Life jackets designed for adults **will not work** for children!

Try It on for Size:

1. Check the manufacturer’s label to ensure that the life jacket is a proper fit for your child’s size and weight;
2. Make sure the jacket is properly fastened;
3. Have your child hold his/her arms straight up over their head;
4. Grasp the tops of the arm openings and gently pull up;
5. Make sure there is no excess room above the openings and that the jacket does not ride up over your child’s chin or face. For the best fit, have your child try the life jacket in shallow water under safe and supervised conditions.

Cellular Telephones:

During class time, your child’s cell phone will be kept in their backpacks. If you need to reach your child during class hours, please call the Boothbay Sea and Science Center at: 207-315-6746 (office); 207-350.5357 (cell); 207-751-2999 (Dion cell)

Please always know that we very much appreciate your understanding and support regarding these important policies.

Sincerely,
Pauline T. Dion
President, Executive Director

General Information

If you have any questions comments and/or concerns or a need for additional information, please always feel free to call, email or meet with us at any time at BSSC.

Important Telephone Numbers:

Boothbay Sea and Science Center: 207-315-6746 (office); 207-350-5357 (cell)

Pauline T. Dion – President, Executive Director: 207-751-2999 (cell)

Please call BSSC at: 207-315-6746 or 207-350-5357 or 207-751-2999 any time your child will be absent from the Program.

Email Addresses/Website:

Boothbay Sea and Science Center: info@boothbayseaandsciencecenter.org

Pauline T. Dion : pauline.dion@boothbayseaandsciencecenter.org

BSSC Website: www.boothbayseaandsciencecenter.org

BSSC Facebook page: facebook.com/BoothbaySeaAndScienceCenter

Rain Gear & Sunscreen & Water

On rainy days, please be sure that your child wears a rain jacket with a hood or has a hat (rain pants are desirable but not required). We highly recommend that while out on the water your child wears UVA/UVB Protection sunscreen lotion. We leave product and SPF rating to your discretion. **Every day, please be sure your child arrives having applied sunscreen, brings a full bottle of water, and sunscreen.**

Parking for Drop Off & Pick Up

There is **no onsite parking** on our campus at 12 Carter Road. Youth attending our summer program that require transportation will be dropped-off and picked-up at the Murray Hill Road Public Boat Launch, which is just beyond the entrance to the center. BSSC staff will be on-hand to direct traffic and walk children to the Center. Times for drop-off and pick-up will be assigned prior to your child's first day in their program.

Friday Family Cookouts

Family Friday Cookouts return this summer courtesy of the BSSC. Parents, guardians, and siblings are welcome to join us at 12:00 noon for grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, and all of the fixings.

Parent Walkabout

On Monday mornings beginning June 17 from 8:30 am to 9:00 am BSSC is offering parents of children registered in the 2024 summer program a tour of the campus and an opportunity to meet and talk with the members of the summer staff. Off-campus parking only. For more information, please email Pauline Dion at: info@boothbayseaandsciencecenter.org

Safety Guidelines and Procedures

At the BSSC, a system of constant supervision is in place. Please know that all Sailing and Science Staff strictly adhere to all BSSC's on and off the water safety policies guidelines and procedures.

General Supervision Guidelines

1. Instructor is immediately accessible to all participants.
2. Instructor is alert to hazardous conditions and abnormalities and is able to react immediately and appropriately with a cell phone or VHF radio.
3. Instructor is certified in First Aid/CPR/AED.
4. Instructor does not leave sight of participants, and participants are required to stay within sight of the instructor.

General Safety Guidelines

1. Instructor is aware of the capabilities of their participants.
2. Instructor uses the various resources at his/her disposal to maintain an awareness of weather.
3. Instructor checks the equipment used in the program on a weekly basis.
4. First Aid kits are available and easily accessible on large boats (20+ feet) and on the dock.
5. An additional individual able to render additional assistance will be monitoring the area or be available on VHF radio channel 16 and/or cell phone.

Emergency Procedures

In the event of an emergency, the following steps will be taken:

1. Instructor will immediately contact on-the-water or on-land support via VHF channel 16.
 - a. If the situation requires immediate assistance or is beyond the capabilities of the water or land support, the US Coast Guard will be hailed via VHF on channel 16
2. Instructor will immediately begin to make the situation safe by:
 - a. neutralizing any sources of immediate harm to participants.
 - b. assisting participants out of the water, maneuvering any vessels to a dock or to anchor, consolidating the group if participants are in multiple boats, administering first aid.
 - c. immediately calling 911 If the assessment is made that a participant is in critical condition.
3. Executive Director, Instructor or persons rendering assistance will contact the affected participant's parent(s) or guardian(s) at earliest opportunity.
4. Instructor will remain at the location of the emergency until it is resolved, or more qualified assistance arrives.
5. After the situation is under control instructor, involved individuals will complete incident reports.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: My child requires transportation to BSSC. What time should my child arrive at BSSC and when should I be there to pick-up my child?

A: Due to the limited parking at our new home at 12 Carter Road in East Boothbay, if your child requires transportation to and from the Center, they should arrive and be picked-up at the Murray Hill Road Public Boat Launch as assigned. All assignments will be made prior to the first day of your child's program.

Q: Can I bring my child later than 8:30 am and/or pick-up my child earlier than 4:30 pm.

A: Yes ... prior arrangements **must be made in writing** to the Executive Director. If at all possible, a 24-hour advance notice is most appreciated.

Q: Can I pick-up my child by boat?

A: Yes ... at 4:30 pm and only with permission from the Executive Director. A 12-hour advance notice is appreciated. And life jackets are required on the BSSC floats and docks at all times.

Q: Is BSSC open on the July 4 Holiday?

A: Yes ... and we will celebrate the holiday with special activities and a lunchtime cookout.

Q: What does my child need to bring each day?

A: Life jacket, bathing suit, sunscreen, towel, a change of clothes, a jacket/sweatshirt/fleece, hat, full bottle of water, and an extra pair of shoes.

Q: What should my child wear?

A: Lightweight, quick dry pants or shorts (please no jeans), t-shirt or long-sleeved shirt, jacket/sweatshirt, closed toed shoes (**required**). Please direct all questions concerning proper footwear to the BSSC Executive Director.

Q: Do we meet on rainy days?

A: Yes! We have lots of fun sea and science activities planned for rainy days including games, crafts, knot-tying, and dry-land skills and training!

Q: Do we always wear life jackets?

A: Yes! Everyone is **required** to wear their life jacket while near or on the water – no exceptions!

Q: To whom should I talk to if my child is having problems?

A: Please speak with the Executive Director.

Q: What weather conditions prevent the sailors from going out on the water?

A: If there is dense fog, heavy rain and/or the threat of thunderstorms, and wind speed beyond the capability of the boat and/or sailor (**we will still meet and have fun!**).

Q: Will my child be in a boat by him/herself?

A: The Turnabout accommodates 2 – 3 sailors. The Sonar is a floating classroom for 6 sailors and an Instructor. Boat assigned is based on each child's skill level and age.

Q: What is the Swim "Test"?

A: The "Swim Test" is held every Monday morning for all newly arriving BSSC participants. This activity is done dockside under strict supervision with your child wearing his/her life jacket. This "test" gives the BSSC instructors the opportunity to evaluate how your child reacts to the "cold" Maine ocean water. Unfortunately, your child cannot attend BSSC's summer program if they refuse to take the swim "test".

Q: Can children and their families attend special events that take place before or after their participation in the program?

A: Yes! We encourage all children registered, along with their families, to attend all the BSSC special events - including the Friday "*Family Cookout*"!

Q: In addition to their lunch what should I also pack?

A: Please pack a hearty morning and an afternoon snack. We encourage fresh fruit, cheese sticks, peanut butter crackers, etc. ... **please no candy.**

Q: What actions will be taken if a child attending the program and/or a member of the BSSC staff becomes sick or test positive for COVID-19?

A: In general, BSSC requires that if a child is sick, shows symptoms of Covid-19 or tests positive for Covid-19 they must be kept at home until they are no longer symptomatic, and the Executive Director must be notified. Additionally, if a child becomes sick while at BSSC, parents or guardians will be notified and asked to pick-up the child as soon as possible.

Q: What is BSSC's refund policy in the event it needs to close due to COVID-19?

A: BSSC will make every effort to run a safe, healthy and responsible program. The fluidity of the COVID-19 situation may cause BSSC to either seek alternates to in-person programming or cancel its summer program. If the BSSC is left with no other choice than to cancel its summer program, BSSC will give a full refund minus a \$25 processing fee or give the option for families to receive a credit towards the 2025 summer program. This policy will only apply to those full weeks that a child was unable to attend and that partial days and/or weeks will not be refunded or credited.

Q: Can I bring my boat to the BSSC floats on the weekend?

A: Unfortunately, the BSSC floats are not available for use on weekends.