



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## Assateague Island National Seashore

PO Box 38, 8586 Beach Rd.  
Chincoteague, VA 23336  
410-641-1441, press 2 (phone)  
[www.nps.gov/asis](http://www.nps.gov/asis)

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# 2023 Environmental Education Programs

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**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 environmental edprograms in May, September and October. Programs are offered on a first-come, first-serve basis, so schedule early! Reservations should be made *at least 2 weeks* in advance. Please visit our Be Prepared page for suggestions on maximizing your learning experiences on Assateague Island.

**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 two (2) chaperones over the age of 21 (a 1:5 ratio is ideal) are required on all programs.

**Contact:** [education\\_coordinator\\_tomscov@nps.gov](mailto:education_coordinator_tomscov@nps.gov) 410-629-6084 or 410-629-6610

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*There is no charge for programs, but donations are gratefully accepted.*

*Your Confirmation Form will serve as your entrance fee waiver.*

*Programs can be adapted to specific grade levels.*





# 2023 Program Descriptions

Programs are offered in May, September and October. 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.

## 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

Have 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!

## 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! Toes in the water, sand in their hands, and wind in their hair; students will explore the processes of barrier island ecology. Students will also discover the necessary adaptations required to survive in this ever-changing environment.

## Marine Explorers



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

**Duration:** 1.5 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 snug footwear and clothing that can get wet.

**\*Note: Offered until October 9th**

## 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

Salt marshes are some of the most productive ecosystems in the world. Students will discover how salt marshes are formed, how they function, their critical role in the marine web of life and the ecological benefits they provide for the environment. This is an immersion experience. Students will need **footwear that will stay snug and secure on the foot** while in the marsh.

# Be 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

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

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. Visit our Be Prepared page for more information.

