



## **Annapolis Maritime Museum & Park Summer Camp Program**

*Helping to Provide a Lifetime of Memories and Environmental Stewardship*

### **Scholarship Support**

#### **About the Summer Camp Program:**

Annapolis Maritime Museum's (AMM) Education Center launched its summer camp program in 2015. The popular camp program has grown from reaching 20 campers in 2015 to a projected enrollment of over 350 in 2021. The summer camp program is developed and implemented by the Education Center's experienced education team and allows children to connect to the wonders of the Chesapeake Bay. Ecological lessons are woven into daily activities as campers explore Back Creek and Annapolis to discover the unique maritime history and ecology of the Bay. Camp experiences are five days long and include nature walks, team-building games, arts and crafts, STEAM-based experiments, and a wide variety of recreational and educational activities. The camp experience gives the camper life-long memories that promote learning and environmental stewardship.

#### **AMM's Educational Experience:**

The Education Center at AMM provides a valuable set of learning experiences for children in the Annapolis area. On average, the Education Center serves over 12,000 children teaching them about the history, ecology, environmental sustainability, and cultural traditions of the Chesapeake Bay. We believe that inspiring an early connection to the Bay establishes a foundation for future environmental stewardship.



The Education Center staff at the AMM is exceptionally qualified to provide quality, sustainable educational programs to students in Anne Arundel County. With over 35 years of combined environmental education experience, the current staff has successfully implemented and managed the Education Center since 2014, growing the programs by over 100% during this time. The key personnel has worked with and developed programs for public schools and community groups. Participants in the Museum's Education Center come from a wide variety of backgrounds throughout the State of Maryland.

#### **Statement of Need:**

Annapolis Maritime Museum & Park (AMM) believes that every child, regardless of financial background, should be allowed to grow and explore through summer camp. AMM's Summer Camp program provides children with the opportunity to connect with their natural environment and experience such quintessential Annapolis memories as kayaking, fishing, chicken necking, and wading into the water. Most importantly, AMM's summer camps allow children to unplug and explore the natural environment after months of sitting in classrooms. Camp not only offers children an opportunity to learn about the Bay and obtain an appreciation for nature, but also allows them to develop social skills by improving peer socialization, promoting self-worth, and fostering nurturing and positive relationships between teachers and students.

AMM campers will get their hands wet and feet muddy while exploring our 12-acre Park campus with wooded trails, a secluded cove, and marsh habitat on the shores of Back Creek. We offer several camp opportunities for campers entering Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Activities are specifically designed with each age group in mind. Our youngest campers will enjoy hands-on animal investigations, water play, arts and crafts, and stories, while campers in 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade are challenged with additional water-based adventures including kayak and boat excursions, standup paddleboarding, and fishing.



**Unfortunately, the dream of a summer camp does not exist for many kids in the Annapolis and surrounding areas as families struggle to meet basic needs.** Each year we receive numerous requests for scholarships. This year is no exception with 7.1 percent of Anne Arundel County children under the age of 18 living below the poverty level. Because summer camp is critically important for children to have opportunities to grow emotionally, build social skills and have fun while being physical, AMM believes it is vital to offer summer camp scholarship spots to families in need in and around the City of Annapolis. Without scholarships, these children would not have the opportunity to engage in positive, hands-on experiences.

Support from community stakeholders like you helps us to provide the camp experience for these youngsters that will create memories that will last a lifetime and inspire them to be life-long environmental stewards of our precious natural resources. A contribution of \$350 earmarked for our summer camp program can enable one student to participate in a one-week camp or you can send two children from one family for \$700. We hope you will consider a contribution.



Annapolis Maritime Museum is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations and sponsorships are fully tax-deductible. The Annapolis Maritime Museum & Park educates youth and adults about the Annapolis area's rich maritime heritage and the ecology of the Chesapeake Bay through programs, exhibits, and community events.