

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to participate?

Children currently enrolled in 1st through 5th grade. Fall sessions are for children enrolled in 4th or 5th grade. Spring sessions are for children enrolled in 1st through 3rd grade.

What are the dates and times for each session of C.O.A.S.T.A.L. Kids?

The fall session of C.O.A.S.T.A.L. Kids is held on the first Saturday of the month from September till November. The spring session of C.O.A.S.T.A.L. Kids is held on the first Saturday of the month from March till May. Sessions run from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM each Saturday. Morning drop-off is from 8:45 AM – 9:00 AM. Afternoon pickup is from 3:00 PM – 3:15 PM.

Exact dates for fall 2024 are September 7th, October 5th, and November 2nd.

Can I register my child for individual sessions?

No, C.O.A.S.T.A.L. Kids is designed as a series that explores the diversity of ecosystems and animal groups found in the Lowcountry, while building a child's self-confidence and independence. The series cannot be broken up into individual sessions.

Is it ok if my child is late to a session, gets picked up early, or misses one session?

It is best if participants are present for the full day, each session of the mini-series, so that the group can bond, and participants don't miss any of the adventure. We will spend much of the day outdoors, investigating our natural world. Participants need to arrive early enough to board our adventure vehicles. If your child will be late or must be picked up early, please notify Staff immediately.

How much does C.O.A.S.T.A.L. Kids cost?

Participation is FREE. We encourage anyone with interested children to apply for a spot in the program.

Where do the C.O.A.S.T.A.L. Kids sessions take place?

C.O.A.S.T.A.L. Kids is a partnership between Nemours Wildlife Foundation and Spring Island Trust. Sessions will occur at both locations. Both Nemours Wildlife Foundation and Spring Island Trust are located about 30 minutes from Beaufort. Nemours Wildlife Foundation is on the way towards Charleston, while Spring Island Trust is on the way towards Bluffton. See the parent handbook for more information about each location.

Can I stay on site for a while after check-in? I'm worried that my child will have a hard time adjusting to the new environment.

We have found kids are happiest and adjust more quickly when parents leave promptly after drop-off. Program staff have fun activities planned to engage the kids immediately in their new surroundings. Having parents present after drop-off can often make it more difficult to get kids involved in games and projects.

Is there a waitlist for C.O.A.S.T.A.L. Kids?

There is a limited waitlist. It consists of applicants we were unable to select to participate in the program. If a participant can no longer attend, we will offer the spot to the next child on the waitlist. Parents will be contacted via email if a space opens up.

What is the staff to participant ratio?

Our program maintains a 1:5 staff to participant ratio or lower.

Do you serve food at C.O.A.S.T.A.L. Kids?

No. Participants should bring a hearty, non-perishable, waste-free lunch and snack. There is no refrigeration for lunches; include a freezer pack if needed. Please make note of any allergies your camper has in their Health Form. Additionally, an Allergy Action Plan will need to be completed that provides guidance in prevention and outlines steps to take in case of exposure.

My child requires medication during the day, what should I do?

Children who take medications must be able to take their own medications with limited assistance. All medications must be labeled and accompanied by an Administration of Medication Authorization Form. Medications will be held in a secure location during the session, except for emergency medications which may be carried by the child with parent authorization.