



MATAGORDA BAY NATURE PARK

Summer day camps are open to ages 5-12 and \$225 per week.

GULF GAMES Week 1: June 10-14

Jump into a realm of coastal competition. Since the dawn of civilization, humans have been competing for the biggest fish, and wrestling was so popular among the Karankawa tribe who called the Texas coast home that they were nicknamed the “wrestlers.” Embody that competitive spirit this week with fun-filled games and activities.

- Engage in an archery match to see who can shoot straight as an arrow
- Compete in a beach obstacle course and mini golf tournament
- Race to climb the 30’ rock climbing wall
- Practice throwing an atlatl or spear
- Visit Matagorda County Museum in Bay City, Texas, to learn even more about the Karankawa way of life
- Meet and learn from a local Texas Game Warden

SEASIDE DETECTIVES Week 2: June 17-21

Delve into the world of coastal creatures to unravel the mysteries of their environments and way of life. Investigate the basic anatomies and physiologies of birds, reptiles, mollusks, crustaceans and fish to uncover what amazing adaptations they possess to survive these harsh habitats.

- Practice your cast net skills and fish the Colorado River
- Dig near the dunes to see who’s hiding in the tunnels
- Search for small bubbling holes in the swash zone
- Identify tracks in the sand and make an animal cast track
- Examine skulls, bones, feathers and fur
- Take a trip to Sea Center Texas in Lake Jackson, Texas, to learn about aquatic animals
- Observe native animals up close in a live presentation

MARINE MISSIONS Week 3: July 8-12

From boat captain to biologist and everything in between, discover different coastal careers and how professionals put those special skills to the test.

- **Marine ecologist:** Test physical and chemical properties of water. Pull a plankton net and examine microorganisms under a microscope. Find out what can be caught in a sein net. Take a field trip to Palacios, Texas, for more exploration.
- **Boat captain and fishing guide:** Check out a shrimp boat and talk to the captain. Build your own mini boat and test its floating capabilities. Craft nautical rope knots and go fishing.
- **Engineer:** Take a walk on the jetties and learn how they were engineered. Test your skills by crafting the most elaborate sandcastle. Examine a hurricane-proof structure then try to engineer a hurricane-proof house model. Take a field trip to the Colorado River Locks for a private tour of the facility by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- **Oceanographer:** Construct and fly a kite on the beach to explore air currents. Learn about water density with a fun bubbling blobs activity. Find out how the moon affects ocean tides then model the moon phases using cookies.
- **Wildlife biologist:** Biologists have placed transmitters on sea turtles, sharks, whales, snakes, birds and even butterflies to track their movements and behavior. Use radio telemetry to track and mark the location and behavior of what you find. Observe migration information on real sea turtles.