

Catalina Environmental Leadership Program

Parent Information

Please copy and distribute to all parents.

What is CELP?

Catalina Environmental Leadership Program is a residential environmental and outdoor education program for students in grades four through twelve. The program combines the experience and creative efforts of two established organizations, Catalina Island Camps and Ocean Futures, who have formed a partnership to provide unique learning opportunities for people of all ages. Students learn in a variety of ways from snorkeling adventures to nature hikes to laboratory activities to interactive slide shows and discussions. Mixed in with this curriculum are individual and group challenge activities that encourage students to think more about themselves and their relationship to others. Our program also explores how we can live more sustainably on this planet and what this generation of young people can do to make a difference. The CELP goals are to:

- meet individual school and nationwide goals for environmental education in natural settings.
- provide students with a series of educational processes and adventures.
- inspire curiosity in and appreciation for the underwater world through exploration.
- advance understanding of connections: land to sea, humans to nature, people to people, and present to future.
- encourage critical thought and informed action toward responsible and sustainable living.
- facilitate learning about the natural world while learning more about self and others.

The Site

The site is located at Howlands Landing on the California side of Santa Catalina Island, 22 miles from the port of Los Angeles. Several hundred feet of beach and a private pier provide access to the beautiful water and kelp beds in our own and surrounding coves. The secluded spot allows for ample exploration of the island's unique and unspoiled plant and animal life. In addition to the physical location there are many other qualities that make the site ideal for school year programs.

- All students and chaperones live in simple yet comfortable and clean cabins located right on the beach or in a field overlooking the ocean. Restroom and shower facilities are in close proximity to all cabins.
- The kitchen staff provides three well-rounded meals a day and accommodates special dietary needs if properly notified.
- Instructors are first aid, CPR, and lifeguard certified. They are hired based on skills, character, personality, attitude, and leadership ability.

Contacting Students at CELP

If you wish to send mail to your child please allow at least three days for mail delivery from Los Angeles to the island. Please address mail to:

Your Child's Name, School Name
Catalina Island Camps
P.O. Box 5083
Two Harbors, CA 90704

We have limited phone lines at our site. Please call your school first if you need to get a message to someone at the Catalina Environmental Leadership Program or, if after hours, you may leave an emergency message on our voice mail paging system (626) 291-4669. We check the messages regularly and will follow up with you promptly. You may also call our mainland office during business hours at (626) 296-4040. **There are no phones available for students to use while at camp.**

What to Bring

Clothing:

Warm jacket (nights are cool)
sweatshirt or sweater (preferably with hood)
rain gear (we will be outside rain or shine)
hiking shoes (comfortable for walking)
tennis or running shoes
t-shirts
under clothing
swim suit(s)
jeans or long pants
shorts
warm pajamas
several pairs of socks
hat with brim for sun protection
aqua socks for beach (old tennis shoes that can get wet work well)
warm cover-up (for immediately after water activities)

Optional Items:

beanie hat, gloves (for colder weather)
inexpensive camera, film
underwater camera
playing cards
writing materials, stamps, pen
books
snorkel, mask, fins, wetsuit (CELP **does** provide)
sunglasses
insect repellent
money for store, in small bills (store sells t-shirts, postcards, souvenirs, toiletries, etc.)

***Keep in mind that students will need to be able to carry their own luggage and to store it under their beds.**

***Please label all items with student's name and name of school.**

Personal Gear:

towels (one bath, two beach)
warm sleeping bag (temps to 45°)
pillow
laundry bag
day pack
water bottle or canteen
soap, shampoo
toothbrush, toothpaste
sunscreen
lip balm with sunscreen
flashlight with extra batteries

DO NOT BRING:

radios, tape or CD players
cellular phones, pagers
expensive clothing, jewelry, etc.
food, drinks, candy, gum

Summer and Family Programs

Jean-Michel Cousteau Family Camp: A five-day retreat of adventure, discovery and fun camp activities with Jean-Michel Cousteau and his staff on Catalina Island.

Catalina Island Camps Summer Program: Resident camp for boys and girls ages 8-16 that provides unique opportunities for children to develop life long skills in a fun and cooperative group living environment.

Please call (626) 296-4040 for more information!