



# Kids SUMMER camps

discovery + confidence + adventure + friendship

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# discover...

confidence in yourself and your abilities



"Our daughter Maddie attended Guppy Camp last summer. Hands down, it was one of the best experiences of her young life. The staff was extremely professional and kid focused. The instructors made it fun for the campers, and made sure that they were safe. As a father of three, I will make sure all my children learn to love and respect the ocean through Guppy Camp; hands down one of the coolest things a young child can do in this area."

Ben David - New Hanover County District Attorney

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a lifelong passion and respect for the ocean



## amazing coastal ecosystems and marine habitats



"Beck came home and gave us presentations based on the stuff he had learned each day, sometimes even making his own pollution models. He loved pulling the seine nets in the Intracoastal. We had to go to the store and buy our own! Out of four camps this summer, Guppy Camp was Beck's favorite. He's still wearing his rashguard! Awesome!"

Zach - Wilmington, NC

creatures great and small



an experience you will never forget!



"I was really nervous to leave the children in someone else's care while they were in the ocean waves. However, after the first drop off, my nervousness subsided. The children learned so much and even taught me some things throughout the week! Thanks so much! See you next year!"

Kimberly - Hampstead, NC

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## FOUNDER'S LETTER

*Thank you for your interest in our marine science summer adventures for kids!*

After over 15 years facilitating ocean-focused, marine science summer camps, I look back with incredible fulfillment at the first waves and countless smiles I have had the privilege of witnessing. Last year's ceiling is this year's floor, as we strive to make each year more successful by continuing to focus on our core values of Safety, learning, and fun. These values have only strengthened since we first began, and they continue to drive all our programs today.

A surfer's passion is contagious, and I am proud that each member of our professional team of instructors feels the same way I do about the ocean. That passion flows through every aspect of how we live. Because of our love of the ocean, we desire to share the ultimate thrill and enthusiasm with others. It drives us to incorporate vital conservation education and awareness into our camps. When you love something as priceless as the ocean, and all that it provides, you feel obligated to protect it.

I personally welcome your child to come meet other campers and experience the stoke of riding waves. In just one week, your child will learn so much about the ocean and our coastal environment, while having an incredible amount of fun. We pride ourselves on personal attention, so please feel free to call us with any questions. I would be honored to speak with you personally.

With Gratitude,

*Rich*

Founder/President

# our founders

## Rick Civelli

Rick grew up spending his days at the beach, fishing the backwaters, and never missing a surf session. These experiences led Rick to pursue a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from the University of North Carolina Wilmington. He then continued his post-graduate studies in Coastal Geology at UNCW's Center for Marine Science. While working as a marine educator in 1995, Rick developed a marine science and learn-to-surf educational program for the NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher, after which he went on to develop the company. For the past 20 years, he has taught surfing to thousands of students of all ages while enlightening them on the wonders and fragility of our coastal environment.



As a father to two young boys, Rick is even more dedicated to the conservation of our oceans so his sons will have the same opportunities to explore, fish, and surf as they discover the wonders provided to us in nature.



## Jen Civelli

Jen Civelli is a mother of two, an avid lover of sea turtles, a steward for our coastal environment, and served for 13 years as chemistry instructor at Cape Fear Community College. We are thrilled that she has now joined us full-time in the office. Jen's passion for the ocean started while attending college at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo and continued through her graduate studies at San Diego State University. During her college years, through the sport of surfing, Jen began to learn and respect the ocean and all of its inhabitants. Even with her busy schedule, Jen developed Sea Turtle Camp - a marine biology focused adventure camp where teens volunteer with sea turtle rehabilitation at the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Hospital.



Jen felt very fortunate to have the opportunity to move to Wilmington, North Carolina in 2000. She and Rick were married in 2004 and are now kept busy with their own two campers.



**Our mission is to cultivate a love and respect for the ocean by building confidence, developing character and inspiring stoke through safety, fun and learning.**

These programs are not your typical summer camps. Whether riding atop a clear blue wave or exploring the hidden treasures of the beach, campers are involved and engaged in activities that stimulate their minds and stoke them on science. Throughout the day, the mysteries of the ocean are revealed through hands-on, feet-wet activities. Our camps are classrooms without walls and playgrounds without fences.

We are a family-owned and operated company with clear-cut priorities and an ambitious mission to responsibly share the joys of the ocean with a new generation. Each year we raise the bar in regard to risk management, staff training, improved curriculum, and pure ocean fun. We may make it look easy, but an incredible amount of work goes on behind the scenes.

Our low student to instructor ratio of 4:1 (the surfing is taught at a 2:1 ratio) allows our staff to take the time to understand the needs of each camper. The positive relationship we build with each student is part of the reason so many participants return year after year.

As a completely independent and privately owned company, we are funded solely by our own success. The better we perform, the more we can fulfill our mission. We also know that when it comes down to it - no matter what kind of difference we want to make, and no matter how much you share those values - if our camps are not both educational and exciting, we are not living up to our fullest potential. When you select WB Surf Camp, you support our efforts of making the world a better place.





## ocean and environmental awareness

Because we know that kids' first experiences with the ocean will forever shape their attitudes towards it, we strive to make these first encounters both educational and engaging. We believe that kids should have an understanding of ocean dynamics, water safety, sun protection, basic first aid, and an appreciation for the coastal environment. We want our campers to be able to safely laugh, learn, and have fun, while still enjoying the ocean to its maximum potential.

Each day we incorporate ocean safety topics, reinforcing the importance of staying safe at the beach. All campers will receive their Junior Ocean Safety Certificate at the end of camp. Educating kids at a young age about how they can stay safe while at the beach is imperative, and sets the stage for them to practice ocean safety for the rest of their lives.

Educating our campers on our environment and how they can help protect it is important, because they are the future caretakers of our world. While exploring our coast from the top of a wave to the muddy depths of the salt marsh, campers will form a connection with the environment that will last a lifetime.

### Ocean Safety Education consists of:

- Rip current identification, awareness, and exit
- Longshore current identification
- Wave condition and surf advisories
- UV awareness and protection
- Wave prediction and judgment
- Basic Junior First Aid training
- Coastal conservation awareness
- Point source pollution identification
- Marine science education
- Rays, sharks, and jellies awareness
- Species collection and identification





## our team

Our staff consists of camp counselors who are true mentors for today's youth and bring with them unique experiences, knowledge, and skill sets. All staff are required to go through our extensive training program prior to the start of each season and hold numerous life-saving certifications. Positions in our company are very competitive, so you can feel confident that your camper's instructors are top notch.

Our pre-season team training is designed with the aid of local ocean safety experts outside of our organization, as well as leading educational authorities, to reflect the most current ocean safety information. On a weekly basis, all staff are reviewed using a 30 point inspection. Communication is key to keep a program running smoothly, and reviews are a very important part of this process.



### Team Qualifications

- American Red Cross Lifeguard Certified
- American Red Cross certified in First Aid
- American Red Cross certified in CPR
- Previous experience working in a camp environment
- Extensive pre-season training and certification program
- Dedicated and diverse staff from a variety of backgrounds
- Staff degrees specializing in the marine and environmental sciences
- Thorough background checks are performed on all employees
- Face to face interviews conducted with all employees
- Clean driving records





## commitment to safety

Safety is our first priority as proven by our stellar safety record. We never exceed a student to instructor ratio of 4:1, in order to provide our participants with the safest and most rewarding experience. We put in thousands of instructional hours each year, staying alert and in tune to standardized safety policies and procedures. All of our counselors are trained lifeguards with certifications in American Red Cross First Aid and CPR for the Professional Rescuer. We carry a comprehensive insurance package, including general liability.



We take a significant amount of time in each of our programs to share our knowledge of the ocean. We instruct on how to swim safely, ride the waves, respect others in the water, and avoid and escape rip currents. Campers will learn all about the marine life found in North Carolina's coastal waters to maximize the comfort and amazement of their experience when coming into contact with the breathtaking aquatic world.

In over 15 years of teaching summer camps, we have never experienced, nor do we anticipate, any significant problems. Our camps have outstanding safety records, with the highest quality, well-trained, responsible staff. Their training, the extensive interview process, and the high expectations which we hold them to, ensure that our team is of the highest caliber.





## guppy camp

ages 6-10

In our full-day Guppy Camp, your child will be immersed in the many wonders of our coastal habitat. This is the first in a series of programs designed to increase students' appreciation and respect for the marine world. This week-long program contains dynamic curriculum focused on teaching kids how to ride waves safely on boogie boards, while increasing their comfort level in the ocean.

Half of each day is spent developing campers' wave-riding skills. The Guppy program is designed to instill a foundation of ocean awareness and establish a sense of appreciation for the sea. Respecting the ocean is key to enjoying it, Guppy campers are introduced to the ocean through boogie boarding skills; this is not a surfing program. Some children arrive to camp understandably timid, but once they're in the water with their instructors and new friends, it's hard to get them out. Their confidence begins to build from the very first day, bringing you peace of mind the next time you take your Guppy to the beach.



Our progression and proven teaching system instills confidence every step of the way, with your child always staying in shallow water and receiving personalized attention. Our energetic staff reinforces the buddy system while slowly pushing their limits. Your Guppy will learn how to ride waves from the emerald green waters right up onto our warm, white sandy beaches. We offer both locals and vacationers an ecological summer camp experience they will never forget!

We know how important it is for kids to learn how to be team players. For this reason, we have designed our programs to be filled with dynamic, interactive activities that give children the opportunity to build these skills. Beach cleanup challenges and salt marsh scavenger hunts are just examples of our fun group activities. Guppies will "school" together and experience what it means to work and move as a team while going from one activity to another, and looking out for each other out in the water.



"So glad we did this at the end of the summer! My son would have been highly disappointed with his camps the rest of the summer if we did this one first! He had an **absolute blast and wants to do it for 2 weeks next summer.** I am quite the nervous mother and **felt 100% confident** leaving him every day. Your **staff is absolutely amazing** and so positive and upbeat! This exceeded all expectations!"

**Erin - Wilmington, NC**



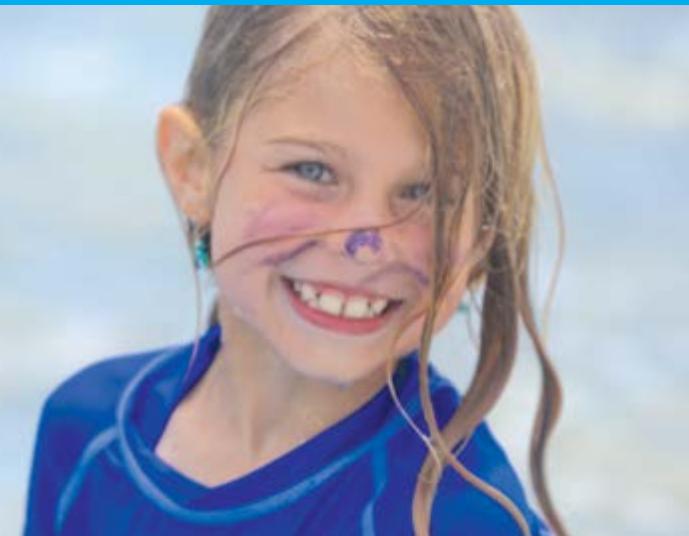
We will travel the coast seeking out the best waves to ride, while learning about different habitats along our area beaches. At each location we emphasize a different element of ocean awareness from avoiding rip currents, identifying longshore currents, reading wave conditions, and protecting ourselves from the elements. The beach will also serve as our classroom as we cover various aspects of first aid training, ensuring that each trip to the beach is a safe one.

### **Guppy Camp helps kids gain a stronger appreciation for the ocean and the environment while increasing their self-esteem and confidence.**

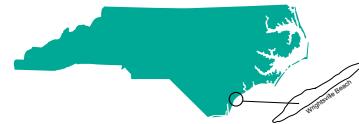
In addition to becoming avid wave riders, campers will become junior biologists as they explore the marine world from the smallest plankton to the biggest waves. Each day the Guppies will discover a different ocean treasure as they catch fish off the Kure Beach Pier, learn about Luna the albino alligator at the NC Aquarium, and meet injured sea turtles at the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Hospital. Don't be surprised when your Guppy comes home and teaches you something you didn't know about the ocean or the environment!

### **Guppy Camp Highlights:**

- Daily boogie board sessions
- Interactive ocean safety instruction
- Meeting the patients at the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Hospital
- Learning to play the ukulele
- Guided tour of the Fort Fisher Aquarium
- Fish collection and identification at Kure Beach Pier
- Salt marsh exploration and animal interactions
- Beach clean ups with prizes!
- Coastal ecology education and conservation



# GROM OCEAN ACADEMY



## grom ocean academy

ages 8 - 11

Grom Camp is the next step toward becoming a dedicated surfer or marine biologist. This full day program is designed to build upon the foundation established in Guppy Camp. In this hands-on, feet-wet program we'll focus on further developing the campers' water stamina and awareness. Students will dive deeper into the marine world, gaining a greater appreciation for the coastal environment.

In addition to daily boogie board sessions, groms really get the chance to kick it up a notch with two surf clinics during the week. This camp is geared toward broadening your camper's dexterity in the waves thru boogie boarding and surfing. Engaging in multiple watersports increases each student's comfort level in the ocean dramatically. With the proper guidance of our certified surf team at a 2:1 student to instructor ratio your camper will progress from advanced boogie boarder to beginner surfer where they will build confidence and independence.



We work hard to ignite a surf stoke in campers that they will carry with them for many years to come. Groms will transition from catching the breakers on boogie boards to riding the waves aboard soft-top surfboards. Since surfing is a physically demanding sport, students need to demonstrate greater swimming abilities. Candidates should be able to swim 25 meters unassisted and be comfortable in water where they can't touch.

In true adventure style, we'll explore the coastline from Fort Fisher to Surf City visiting different field sites and participating in advanced marine biology instruction. Our knowledgeable instructors will open campers' eyes to the busy, bubbling world that lives just below the water's surface. Each field trip to the marsh, dunes, or ocean can reveal new and exciting discoveries. Equipped with nets, buckets, fishing rods, and our Division of Marine Fisheries permit, students will get to experience a day in the life of a marine biologist.





A behind-the-scenes tour of the North Carolina Aquarium will teach us about the work that goes into caring for all the animals in the exhibits. Next we'll travel to the newly constructed Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Hospital for a guided discussion of the perils that face marine turtles both on land and in the water.

### **Grom Ocean Academy is an exciting ecological adventure where campers start on the path of becoming avid surfers or marine biologists.**

Our commitment to the 4:1 student to instructor ratio will ensure that your camper receives personalized, advanced instruction tailored to their learning style. We maintain a small group size to keep students active and engaged. This group dynamic is important as we work together on numerous hands-on lessons, including the continuation of our first aid training.

#### **Grom Camp Highlights:**

- Daily advanced boogie board sessions
- Two half days of surfing taught with a 2:1 student to instructor ratio
- Advanced oceanography instruction
- Meet the patients at the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Hospital
- Behind the scenes tour at the NC Aquarium
- Fish collection and identification at the Kure Beach Pier
- Salt marsh exploration with animal interactions
- Coastal ecology education and conservation





## kids surf camp

ages 6 - 10



Our kids surf camp is located in the warm-water beach town of Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina. During this Learn to Surf program, your child will get on their way to building confidence in the fundamentals of the "Sport of Kings." Each Surf Camp is 5-days long and taught with a professional methodology. This kids surf camp has a student to instructor ratio of 2:1, and is staffed with our professional instructors. Our team consists of trained educators with combined teaching to all ages and different skill levels.

We offer both locals and vacationers alike an ecological surfing experience they will never forget. Bring friends and family, or come by yourself to make new friends from all over!

With our proven and professional instruction, we instill confidence every step of the way during camp. We strive to build the foundation of a surfer and steward to marine conservation. During our kids surf camp, your child will always receive personalized attention and encouraging feedback from their surf coach. Our energetic staff challenges campers to push through their comfort zones while maintaining an envelope to safety.

Each morning we have "Ground School". Instructors will have your camper paddling, popping up, and learning to fall safely from their board before we even hit the ocean. During this time, we open the floor to any questions and continue to discuss important topics as the week progresses. Your child will



"WB Surf Camp provides an excellent introduction to surfing for children. My 7-year-old went to kids surf camp, and she spent the entire year telling others about how she surfed. When we returned to Wrightsville Beach this summer, surfing was the highlight of her vacation. The instructors provide positivity and enthusiasm. She can't wait until next year...she wants to catch even bigger waves!"

Nancy - Holly Springs, NC



be completely immersed in surf topics from wave dynamics and ocean safety to marine biology, surfboard designs, and so much more. It is guaranteed that they will come home teaching your family a thing or two!

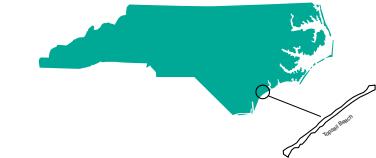
**Have your child learn to surf while taking advantage of emerald green waters, white sandy beaches, and enjoying a week of fun in the sun.**

During our kids surf camps, your child will always be in shallow water and receive personalized attention. Our energetic staff reinforces the buddy system while slowly pushing your child's limits. Some children start off understandably timid, but soon enough it's hard to get them out of the water. With so many instructors and surf buddies having a blast, confidence builds while bringing you peace of mind.

### Kid Surf Camp Highlights:

- 10 hours of personalized surf instruction with a 2:1 student to instructor ratio
- Safe and comfortable learning environment
- Highest quality surf equipment for beginners
- Daily ground school with interactive, surf related discussions including: surfboard design, surfing etiquette, water quality and more
- Beach clean ups with prizes!
- Surfificate of Achievement
- Unlimited photos taken by our professional staff photographer available
- Full time beach safety lifeguard





## carolina ocean odyssey overnight camp

ages 10 - 12

Carolina Ocean Odyssey is a 6-day, residential summer camp program for 10-12 year olds. This exciting program is a partnership with our friends at WB Surf Camp! The primary focus of this program is to introduce campers to a variety of ocean activities while sharing our local coastal environment. Our goal is for campers to gain independence and an appreciation for protecting and enjoying our earth's oceans.

Campers receive expert instruction and care from our highly trained team. Prior to camp, our staff participate in a week of training, which includes lifeguarding, marine science, surf coaching, ocean ecology, childhood development and behavior management. We are dedicated to being partners in parenting with all of our families.



Summer water temps average in the low 80's, so you'll be ready to jump right into adventure! From the sandy shores of Topsail Island, build your confidence in the water as you spend each day participating in a different aquatic activity.

You'll go kayaking, snorkeling, boogie boarding, take a surfing lesson, enjoy a paddleboard tour and more! When you're not in the water, you'll explore our region by land. Keep an eye out for sea turtle nests during morning and evening beach walks. Go behind the scenes at The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center, where you will learn about sea turtle conservation. Discover local habitats through hands-on activities at the salt marsh, dunes and tidal pools – led by our marine educators.



"This is by far the FAVORITE camp of our family (and we've done a few!) Everything is handled so professionally on the registration end, and the kids absolutely love it. The counselors are amazing each summer and I cannot say enough kind things about them!! The activities are varied and hold their interest. Their love of the beach and the ocean is magnified each time they finish a week. They leave teaching us about all they have learned."

Caroline - Charlotte, NC



When not surfing or exploring, campers will be playing classic camp games at our facility in North Topsail Beach. This facility allows us ready access to the beach whenever the tide is right and the waves are rolling. It is also perfect for when we need to recharge. Our air conditioned and comfy rooms will have everyone rested and ready for adventure in no time.

### Coastal North Carolina offers a unique setting for a hands-on, aquatic adventure program.

Camp tuition includes: ocean-view lodging on Topsail Island, 24-hour same gender adult supervision, admission to all activities, all equipment, transportation including pickup and return to the Wilmington International Airport (ILM), community service certificate, camp t-shirt and memorable group photo. Campers are responsible for round trip airfare to ILM or transportation to Topsail Island and additional money for souvenirs.

### Carolina Ocean Odyssey Camp Highlights:

- Lodging on historic Topsail Island
- Kayak trip through the salt marsh
- Paddleboard tour through Topsail Island sound
- Marine Biology with the educators at Sea Turtle Camp
- Observe sea turtle care at The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center
- Salt marsh exploration through coastal ecology activities
- Learn ocean safety practices and the importance of conservation
- Enjoy a Hawaiian Luau and traditional camp activities
- Participate in a community service project



# FAQ

## **Are there any special requirements to attend camp?**

Guppy Camp is designed to immerse all campers ages 6-10 in the coastal environment. The only requirement is that they are able to swim and ready to have lots of fun!

Due to the increased physical demand from surfing, campers in the Grom Camp will need to demonstrate greater swimming capabilities. Campers should be between the ages of 8-11, be able to swim 25 meters unassisted, and be comfortable in water where they can't touch.

Since water activities are physically demanding, Carolina Ocean Odyssey requires that campers be able to swim 25 meters unassisted and be comfortable in water where they can't touch the ground. Campers that are looking to build their water stamina in the ocean should consider our Kids Camps. These programs are specifically designed to improve kids' comfort level in and around the ocean.

## **Which program should my child attend?**

**Guppy Camp** is the perfect introduction to ocean safety and helps campers develop confidence in their water skills. Its curriculum is geared toward a younger audience of campers, ages 6-10 and does not include surfing.

The **Grom Ocean Academy** is built on the lessons and activities from Guppy Camp, and will require better water skills and stamina. It does include some surfing, and targets an older age group of campers from ages 8-11.

**Kids Day Camp** for ages 7-10 will learn to surf or improve their skills while taking advantage of warm, emerald green waters and white sandy beaches, and enjoy a week of fun in the sun. During our program, kids will be well on their way to building confidence in the fundamentals of surfing."

**Carolina Ocean Odyssey** is a co-ed residential summer camp for kids ages 10-12. The primary focus of this high quality low enrollment program is to introduce campers to a variety of ocean activities while gaining independence and an appreciation for protecting and enjoying our earth's oceans.

## **What happens if the wave/weather conditions are not favorable?**

Safety is our primary concern, so in the rare event lightning or other storm systems keep us from completing our typical schedule, we have a variety of activities that our instructors will lead the campers through.

## **Will my child be safe?**

Safety is our first priority and we have an outstanding record! We hold our counselors to the highest of standards and pride ourselves in our thorough training, policies, and procedures. Our pre-season team training is designed with the aid of ocean safety experts outside our organization to reflect the most current information. If you have any further questions, please call our office and we will be happy to answer them.

## **How many participants will there be?**

We accept 12 participants per session into Grom Camp, and 14 participants in Guppy Camp. These small group sizes ensure a safe, personalized experience. The Kids Day Camp will consist of 10 campers. Our Carolina Ocean Odyssey program will have 16 available spots. These small group sizes ensure a safe, personalized experience.

## **Do you have references available?**

We would be happy to offer you the opportunity to speak with parents of past participants in order to give you a personal reflection of their experience. Please contact the WB Surf Camp office for a list of references.

## **What happens if I need to cancel after I have already registered?**

Deposits are non-refundable. If you cancel before 60 days prior to the first day of the session you are registered for, your tuition will be refunded, and your deposit can be utilized for any other program during the same summer season. If you cancel within 60 days of the first day of the program you are registered for, you will only receive your tuition refund if we can fill your spot.

## **Does WB Surf Camp carry insurance?**

We carry a comprehensive insurance package, including general liability.



# discover ...

ocean adventures like never before!



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