

## Marine Science Camp

*Rocky Shores, Freshwater Ecology, Marine Aquaria, Marine Microbiology*



### Course Overview

This camp, run in partnership with the Marine Biological Association (MBA), is for young people between 16 and 24 years old who are interested in marine biology and marine science. It will include sessions on rocky shore ecology, marine citizen science and marine conservation as well as giving in-sights into careers and Higher Education courses. The highlights of the week include an exploration of issues around coastal hazards and flooding, freshwater ecology in Slapton Ley NNR, a visit to the MBA Labs in Plymouth (including marine microbiology and trip on the MBA Research Vessel *Sepia*) and a behind the scenes visit to the National Marine Aquarium. As well as being inspired about the marine environment participants will:

- gain skills in aquatic biology, ecosystem surveys and species identification
- meet working marine scientists
- share their experience with other young people with similar interests.

The fee includes one year's free Young Marine Biologist (YMB) or student membership of the Marine Biological Association for new and existing members. A limited number of MBA travel bursaries are available for existing MBA student and YMB members at: <http://www.mba.ac.uk/research-top-3/awards-grants-and-training#b22>

Financial support from the FSC Young Environmentalists Fund may also be available for participants with limited funds. Find out more at: [www.field-studies-council.org/young-people](http://www.field-studies-council.org/young-people)

FSC are approved DofE providers. Attendance can qualify you for your **Duke of Edinburgh Gold Residential**.

## About the Centre

Opened in 1959 and situated on the Start Bay coast and surrounded by Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve, Slapton has been delivering high quality, inspirational curriculum related outdoor education. We provide courses for schools, universities, individuals and anyone with an interest in the natural world. The surrounding coastline, nearby coastal towns and Dartmoor National Park provide unrivalled opportunities for field courses.

## Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve

The Field Studies Council at Slapton Ley has managed the 214 hectare reserve as an "outdoor laboratory" for education and conservation for over 50 years. More research has probably been carried out at Slapton than on any other nature reserve in Britain. The Ley is the largest natural freshwater lake in the South West and is separated from the sea by Slapton Sands, a barrier beach and shingle ridge. The ley is surrounded by reed, fen and woodland habitats and the reserve is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

## Provisional Programme *(may be subject to change)*

**Sample Programme: (activities subject to change or alteration due to weather)**

<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Arrival before 5pm</b>
	<b>Introductions</b> Opportunity to meet fellow participants, leaders and mentors Discuss personal aims and objectives for the week Introduction to marine biology and to Slapton Ley and the South Devon coast
<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Marine Biological Association and National Aquarium</b> A day in Plymouth to visit the Marine Biological Association labs. There will be a trip on the MBA research vessel <i>Sepia</i> and a chance to examine samples in the microbiology lab. In the afternoon there is a 'behind the scenes' visit to the National Marine Aquarium
<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Flood hazards and coastal management</b> A walk along the coast path to look at the effect of coastal flooding and to consider coastal management strategies. What does the job of a coastal engineer entail? <b>Freshwater Ecology</b> A visit to the nationally important freshwater lagoon of Slapton Ley. Meet the National Nature Reserve staff and gain an insight in to key research being carried out
<b>Day 4</b>	<b>Rocky Shore Ecology</b> A visit to a local rocky shore to survey a wide variety of marine life. Focus on taxonomy and fieldwork techniques and take part in long term monitoring surveys, including the MBA citizen project 'Shore Thing'

<b>Day 5</b>	<b>Research in Marine Ecosystems</b> The day will focus on the value of research and how to plan and carry out practical investigations. Work in small groups plan to complete a short research project on a rocky shore or freshwater ecosystem. Gain skills in project planning, reviewing scientific literature, data collection, analysis and evaluation. Short group presentations on the research projects. Followed by a review of the course and a discussion on future opportunities in marine science. <b>Finish by 4pm</b>
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## Course Tutors

### Course Tutors:

The camp is jointly led by experienced, enthusiastic Centre staff and Marine Biological Association marine biologists. Current marine biology under-graduates will act as mentors.

## Start and Finish Times

Participants are requested to arrive for registration by 17:00 on Day 1. A train station pick-up is offered at 14.30 from Totnes train station. Supper is usually at 18:30. Breakfast will be from 08:00 in the morning. The course will end at approximately 16.00 on the final day. Please vacate your room by 09:00 on day of departure. Storage is provided for your luggage. A train station departure will leave from the centre at 16.15.

## Course Fee

### Which includes:

- Expert guidance by fully trained FSC staff & MBA Biologists
- Rigorous health and safety procedures including 24-hour emergency cover
- Full board and accommodation including a cooked breakfast, picnic lunch, home-made cakes and an evening meal
- All activities during the course

## How to Book

You can check availability and make a provisional booking by telephoning the Centre on 01548 580466 or by completing the online form on the FSC website:

<http://field-studies-council.org/individuals-and-families/family/unaccompanied-young-people.aspx>

## What to Bring

- Boots with good tread and ankle support
- Waterproof jacket and waterproof over trousers \*
- Personal medication
- Warm hat and gloves
- Wash kit and towel
- Wellies \*

- Warm clothing, plenty of layers and changes of clothes
- Small day rucksack
- Head torch (or other torch)
- Sun cream, sun hat, water bottle, thermos flask

\* These items can be hired from the field centre.

## Directions

We are easily accessible via road or rail.

**By car** we are 20 miles from the A38 Devon Expressway, via the A384 to Totnes then the A381 towards Kingsbridge. It is 13 miles from Totnes.

**By train:** Totnes Station is on the South West main line. It is under 3 hours direct from both London Paddington and Birmingham New Street. Pick-up and drop offs to Totnes station are available (see above).

