

2026 MATES STEM Summer Experience

A week can consist of the following:

- Catch & Identify Barnegat Bay Organisms
- Birds, Reptiles and Marine Mammals
- Salt Marsh Ecology and Habitats
- Bottom-Dwelling Organisms (Benthos)
- Conduct Proper Sampling Methods including Seining on a Boat on Barnegat Bay
- Cultural and Natural Aspects of the Pine Barrens
- Freshwater Sampling and Organisms
- Causes and Ways to Improve Human Impacts on the Barnegat Bay Ecosystem
- Wildlife and Freshwater Fish
- Kayak on a Bay Tributary
- Nature Trails and Fire Ecology
- Applications of technologies in the field and through research studies.

Dates of the MATES Summer Experience

All times are 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Session 1: July 27–30

Session 2: Aug. 3 - 6

This experience is open to MATES students (Incoming Class of 2030 members) and open to rising 8th and non-MATES 9th grade students. Instruction will be by our experienced MATES summer instructors. The program is designed to provide field opportunities and hands-on experiences that make it STEM exciting!



Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science

2026 STEM Summer Experience



Experience Barnegat Bay this summer through this interactive field experience.



“A hands-on STEM Program for middle and high school students“



The Marine Academy of Technology & Environmental Science (MATES) is a school within the Ocean County Vocational Technical School District. Established in the fall of 1994, the program is open to high school students throughout Ocean County. Qualified students can also earn college credits through two local colleges. MATES graduates usually pursue careers in the natural science fields, medicine and engineering by attending competitive colleges. This active program focuses on major concepts and requires a motivated, enthusiastic learner. It is supported by numerous marine and environmental experts, engineers, health professionals, agencies, and learning institutions throughout the east coast.

For more information please contact us at:

MATES@ocvts.org

You can also contact our MATES main office with any questions (609)978-8439

MATES STEM SUMMER EXPERIENCE SPECIFICS

- **Open to our Class of entering 2030 members and rising 8th and 9th graders for the fall 2026.**
- **Please complete the electronic registration here [Google Forms](#) or scan QR code below**
- **The program offers an active, outdoors field component on a daily basis so please prepare to be outside.**
- **All participants need transportation to MATES in the morning by 8 AM, and at the end of the day (3:00 PM).**
- **The cost of the program is \$200.00 for the four days including all field activities!**
- **We will provide a list of items, a permission form, medical form and school sign off form upon registration.**
- **We will notify all participants if there are any costs prior to the start of the program.**
- **The Summer Experience is active and in the field!**



PROGRAM SPECIFICS:

MEETING DAILY AT MATES AT 8:00 AM. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU TEAM UP WITH ANOTHER MATES STUDENT FROM YOUR AREA FOR CARPOOLING AND REDUCING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT.

WE WILL HAVE DAILY FIELD ACTIVITIES USING OCVTs SUPPORTED TRANSPORTATION

STUDENTS NEED TO BRING PLENTY OF WATER, SNACKS, LUNCH. WATER SHOES, TOWELS AND BE PREPARED FOR BEING OUT IN THE FIELD!

Daily schedule is subject to change

Please scan the QR code below to register ...

