

Hello Marist summer environmental pre-college students (and their families)!

We are looking forward to meeting all of you on Sunday June 29, and to exploring environmental science for two weeks at Marist College and various sites in the Hudson Valley.

We are very lucky to have the Hudson River as a living laboratory, so one of our major themes will be the basics of ecology and the local environment. Another major theme is sustainable development, so throughout the course we'll be applying concepts in conservation, environmental justice, energy, water, and health to the design of future communities.

The format of this class allows us to have a lot more lab and fieldwork than we're able to provide during regular semesters, so we'll be spending a lot of time out of the classroom. Our trips will include a sail aboard the sloop Clearwater, canoeing the marshes around Tivoli Bays, in-river field work at the Mills Norrie State Park, and a trip to a local farm project.

We will go over the course syllabus (including a daily schedule) and hand out textbooks on our first day, so you do not have to purchase any texts beforehand. We do have a pre-class assignment for everyone to complete, which we will send out in a separate email a few weeks before the start date. Marist Housing will contact you about what to bring for your stay at the College and the specific schedule of your first day. In addition to what they recommend, you may want to bring a few other items for our coursework...

Appropriate clothes include t-shirts, a sweater or sweatshirt, shorts, long pants, a bathing suit, and good footwear. Sneakers should be fine for the short hikes we'll be on. For our boat work, you may want sandals or sneakers that can get wet, but something more than loose flip-flops. We'll provide flotation vests when needed. Please bring a good hat or baseball cap as well. Keep in mind there is a good chance that we'll get dirty and wet in the field. We'll provide the textbooks, but you need to be prepared with a notebook and writing utensils. A reusable water bottle will be essential for staying hydrated.

Our field trips will go on rain or shine. It's a good idea to bring a light raincoat for the rainy days and sunscreen for the sunny days.

It's likely there will be mosquitoes, ticks, or other "bugs" at the sites we visit. If you really want to keep the pests away, please bring long pants and long-sleeved shirts, as well as bug spray. We recommend checking yourself for ticks every day since some of them do carry Lyme disease.

You are encouraged to bring a laptop computer if you have one, but it's not essential. Marist has a number of computer labs and a superb library, and there will be plenty of time for research and writing built into the schedule. You'll receive additional notification from the Housing department about campus internet access. We will provide the group with a class thumb drive, as well as shared online files and folders, for students to share work and documents.

You've likely gotten or will get medical or health forms from Marist, but we'd like to know about any medications, allergies, food issues, or physical requirements ahead of time. If you have

anything you should share with to supplement the medical form information, please let us know. Bowser is a certified NYS EMT, so we will have in-house medical staff for much of our field work.

For your first day, Sunday June 30, after check-in, several orientations, and lunch, we'll have our first class. A residential assistant will be on hand to help you with schedules and locations.

Our last day is Saturday July 12. We will have student presentations from 9:30 am until 11:00 am, with refreshments provided by the college. Parents and family members are invited to the final presentations. We'll confirm our exact plans and room in the Student Center closer to the date.

See you soon! In the meantime, feel free to email us anytime.

Chris Bowser, Director, chbowser@gmail.com or chris.bowser@marist.edu

Kate Phipps, Instructor kathryn.phipps@marist.edu

Environmental Science Summer Pre-College at Marist College.

Instructor Cell Phone Numbers: (use sparingly, please)

Bowser's cell phone: (845) 802-4030

Phipps' cell phone: (845) 489-6213

From Chris Bowser:

I am the Science Education Specialist for the NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program and Hudson River Research Reserve, in partnership with the Water Resource Institute of Cornell University. My professional experience includes working as a Peace Corps forestry volunteer in Mauritania, serving as Education Director for the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, mapping river shorelines for the Research Reserve, and teaching at Marist College in the Environmental Science department. I am a founding board member of the Bronx-based Rocking the Boat, where teenagers build traditional boats by hand and use them to study the Bronx River. I earned a Masters degree in Environmental Science and Policy from Clark University, and a Bachelors degree in Biology from Rutgers University. My current work with the NYSDEC focuses on environmental education and community science in the Hudson River Valley. I coordinate an annual estuary-wide monitoring day involving 5000 students at over 80 shoreline sites, and lead teacher training workshops on incorporating Hudson River topics into existing curriculum. I also design education programs for the Norrie Point Environmental Center, and implement a citizen-science project where high school students, community volunteers, and Marist interns study migrating juvenile American eels in several Hudson River tributaries:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZlvMaQemKwU>

From Kate Phipps:

I taught Biology and IB Environmental Science in Oregon, before moving back to my beloved home state of New York. I worked for about nine years with the Land Trust, Scenic Hudson where a lot of my work centered around engaging students and community members with their

local environments, watershed education and engagement, and community engagement around urban park development. I have a strong interest in working towards environmental justice and inclusion in the outdoors. I served on the board of the New York State Outdoor Education Association for about seven years, working to promote outdoor education and support outdoor educators across New York State. I have been teaching at Marist in the Environmental Science department for two years now, and love getting the opportunity to connect with students and engage around the environment. I live in the Poughkeepsie area with my husband, two sons, dog, and chickens.