

An aerial photograph of Buzzards Bay, showing numerous small islands and a large number of boats scattered across the water. In the foreground, a sandy beach is visible with many people and umbrellas. A large, semi-transparent white rounded rectangle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the logo and title text. The logo consists of a blue square with the word 'buzzards' in white lowercase letters, 'BAY' in large white uppercase letters, and a green horizontal bar below it with the word 'COALITION' in white uppercase letters. Below the logo, the title 'Onset Bay Center Program Handbook' is written in large, bold, black uppercase letters, and 'Summer 2024' is written in a smaller, bold, black uppercase font.

buzzards
BAY
COALITION

**Onset Bay Center
Program Handbook**

Summer 2024



Dear Parents, Guardians, Families, and Participants,

We are so excited that you have chosen the Onset Bay Center as part of your children’s summer adventure. Our staff is committed to ensuring that the activities your children participate in are safe, fun, and filled with a lifetime of memories on Onset Bay.

We ask that you please take the time to go over this handbook with your children to ensure the best possible summer experience. This handbook provides important information to help prepare you and your children for this summer. It includes information about the program, policies, and procedures.

If you still have questions after reading through the handbook, please don’t hesitate to contact Angie Weldon, the Onset Bay Center Manager, at 508-999-6363 ext. 283 or via email at weldon@savebuzzardsbay.org.

We cannot wait for this summer’s adventures out on the water!

Sincerely,

The Onset Bay Center Staff

ALL religions, races, countries of origin, sexual orientations, genders, ethnicities, immigration status, and abilities are welcomed at the Onset Bay Center.

Onset Bay Center 2024 Summer Programs

This document serves as a guide for all participants of OBC programs and outlines behavior expectations, water safety precautions, items to bring each day, and prohibited items/actions.

Important contact information:

Stuart Downie
Vice President of Outdoor Explorations
Office Phone: 506-999-6363 ext. 227
Email: downie@savebuzzardsbay.org

Angie Weldon
Onset Bay Center Manager
Office Phone: 508-999-6363 ext. 283
Email: weldon@savebuzzardsbay.org

Arrival and Departure

We ask that all participants arrive on time and get picked up promptly to each session. Arriving late disrupts the program and distracts other participants. Please let us know if you will be late with a quick call or email. Please do not arrive more than 5 minutes early for drop-off or pick-up at the end of the session. If early pick-up is necessary, please contact Angie Weldon to coordinate.

Children should arrive ready to go, with sunscreen applied and appropriate clothing on.

Program	Drop Off Time	Pick Up Time
Onset Bay Explorers	8:30 AM	4: 00 PM
Full Day Sailing	9:00 AM	4:00 PM
Half Day Sailing (Morning Session)	9:00 AM	12:00 PM
Half Day Sailing (Afternoon Session)	1:00 PM	4:00 PM

Each session will start at the Onset Bay Center located at 186 Onset Avenue, Onset, MA. Guardians will be asked to drop off children at the entrance to the Onset Pier, where an OBC staff member will be stationed to escort your children to the meeting site by the flagpole. Your children will be ready for pick up at the same location at the end of their program. We check ID's for all persons picking up children in our care before dismissing them and will only dismiss children to adults listed on their registration form. Please let all authorized pickups know that they will need to show identification at pickup. To alter your child's list of authorized adults for pickup, please contact weldon@savebuzzardsbay.org



- 1- Pull into the Onset Pier.
- 2- OBC staff member will be greeting you here at your car. If you need to spend a longer period of time at drop off, please find a parking space to avoid blocking the entrance for other vehicles.
- 3- Children will gather by the flagpole at the center at the beginning and end of each session.
- 4- Please pull up if there is a line of traffic behind you or if you need to spend an extended period of time at drop off. Continue this direction to exit the lot.

No child will be permitted to walk home unless a parent has expressly given permission. If you would like to give permission for your child to walk home, please contact weldon@savenuzzardsbay.org.

What to bring to the Onset Bay Center:

(Every child will have a cubby to use for the week at OBC)

The Onset Bay Center will provide all equipment, supplies, and life jackets to program participants.

Mandatory Items to Bring: (We highly recommend labeling all items with child's name!)

- Weather appropriate clothing: There may be some rainy and cool days where we will still be out on the water. Bring several layers to ensure children are comfortable in all conditions.
- Bathing suit, sun shirt, and appropriate swimwear for water sports. Please wear the clothes you plan to wear for activities and apply sunscreen prior to arrival.
- Secure closed-toe shoes that can get wet- Crocs, water shoes, Keens, or old sneakers are perfect. No flip flops during water activities. All participants wear shoes when on land to avoid hazards.
- Towel
- Sunscreen. Staff will remind and encourage children to re-apply throughout the day. OBC will have additional sunscreen on hand in case children run out.
- Water Bottle. Staff will remind and encourage children to refill throughout the day.
- Breakfast and lunch are provided at no cost for all full-day participants! Weekly menus will be available in advance of the program start. Participants are welcome to bring their own lunch and snacks if desired.

Recommended Items:

- Hat and/or sunglasses
- Extra change of clothes
- Snacks

Items to Avoid:

- Jewelry
- Electronics
- Toys

Other Policies:

Electronics/Cell Phones

Please leave all electronics on shore or at home. Apart from the occasional visual presentation aligned with the program, OBC is screen-free. The Onset Bay Center is not responsible for electronics lost to water. We recommend keeping electronics onshore and out of sight in one of the cubbies at the Center. Staff have watertight bags for their personal cellphones in case of emergencies but use waterproof radios to regularly communicate with other staff & local officials.

Water Safety Regulations

All program participants, including staff, are required to wear a life jacket at all times while on a boat or dock. This is the law for anyone under the age of 12. Children will only go in the water when supervised by staff and always with life jackets.

All participants will have swim and lifejacket checks on the first day of programs, as long as weather conditions are safe to do so. This consists of a safety brief and a check for water confidence, meaning verification that children are comfortable safety wearing a lifejacket in the water. We ask that participants communicate personal limitations and let an OBC staff member know when they notice water hazards (hazardous underwater animals, natural features, etc.).

All OBC staff working with children hold current First Aid and CPR certifications. All staff undergo CORI checks prior to hire with our organization.

COVID-19 Interventions and Regulations

The Onset Bay Center follows the MA Department of Education guidelines for children pertaining to COVID-19. Masks will not be required during program but are allowed for anyone who chooses to use one.

We ask that parents/guardians communicate immediately if any child has tested positive for COVID-19 or if an unvaccinated child has been exposed to someone that has tested positive for COVID-19. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the program, and we will continue to encourage frequent handwashing, especially around eating and drinking times.

Emergencies

In the event of an emergency (extreme weather, incident on the water, incident on the beach, etc.), OBC staff will work quickly to get each group to safety and shelter in place at the Onset Bay Center facility. Parents/guardians will be contacted as soon as possible once the site is secured. Please use the contact information above to contact the OBC Manager with any concerns during these times.

Cancellation Policy

Onset Bay Center will issue a full refund for cancellations more than two weeks from the start of the program. Those who cancel within two weeks from the start date, will receive a 50% refund. Cancellations that occur within 48 hours or during the session are not subject to a refund. Special consideration will be given to any cancellations due to medical concerns.

Discipline

The Onset Bay Center staff expects that all participants will be respectful toward others and the environment and show responsibility for their belongings and for their actions during our programs. We believe in positive reinforcement, and we look for ways to foster and highlight excellent behavior among our participants.

The following actions will take place if behavior becomes an issue:

- Verbal warning and reminders from OBC Staff
- Temporary removal from program (5 minute break)
- Problem-solving conference with OBC lead staff and participant
- Call home to parent/guardian
- Removal for remainder of the day to complete a reflection
- A Behavior Contract and meeting with parent/guardian
- Removal from current and future OBC programming if behavior persists

The following are behaviors that will not be permitted and may result in the termination of your participation at OBC:

- Unsafe behavior
- Bullying
- Derogatory language & swearing, or inappropriate language or behavior
- Fighting, hitting, kicking, or causing physical harm to self or others
- Bringing weapons or dangerous objects
- Smoking