

February 2010



Dear Parents:

Thank you for your interest in VIERS' Summer Camps. This is the 11th consecutive year that Friends of Virgin Islands National Park has supported Clean Islands International in presenting our summer Eco-Camps. With the support of the Friends and other sponsors, we are conducting four three-day, two-night camps for Virgin Islands students ages 7 to 12 years old. In addition, we are conducting a five-day, four-night science camp for 13 to 16 year olds. And new this year, with additional support from VINP staff, a Ranger-In-Training Camp is being offered to 13 to 16 year olds.

VIERS Summer Camps are presented to help each student understand a little bit more about the environment in which they live in and why it is important to each of us as individuals to protect our environment as best as we can. VIERS' staff and educators will help campers identify what some of their daily responsibilities are in protecting, preserving, and conserving natural resources. The program is designed so that the campers have a lot of fun while learning about the environment through hands-on activities and lessons. This summer we will continue our focus on coastal ecology. Each camper will receive a camp t-shirt and reusable water bottle.

The coastal ecology oriented camps are offered at no charge to U.S. Virgin Islands residents. Eco-camps are offered to 7-12 year olds. The eco-camps are scheduled as follows: Camp 1: July 12, 13, 14; Camp 2: July 15, 16, 17; Camp 3: July 19, 20, 21; Camp 4: July 22, 23, 24. The Science Camp is offered to 13-16 year olds and scheduled for July 26 to 30. The Ranger-In-Training Camp is offered to 13 to 16 year olds and scheduled for July 6 to 9.

There will be hiking, swimming, snorkeling, and fun environmental learning activities. Trained counselors and educators strongly emphasize the preservation of the natural and cultural resources that are found in the Virgin Islands. Certified American Red Cross lifeguards will be on duty for all water activities. Sponsorship is provided for one camp per summer. The fee for participating in additional eco-camps is \$280. Parents are welcome to join their children as space is available. Space is limited to 20 students per camp. A \$30 registration fee is refundable upon completion of the camp or we encourage you to donate the deposit to Friends of VIERS to help us present additional educational opportunities. The registration form, proof of residency, and deposit (please do not send cash) must be received prior to acceptance into the program. Submitting required forms and payment does not guarantee acceptance to the camps. Parents will be notified as soon as possible.

**PROOF OF U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS RESIDENCY IS REQUIRED:** Each camper must provide a copy of some type of proof that they (the camper) are a current resident of the Virgin Islands (such as report card or school ID). If the camper cannot provide proof of current Virgin Islands residency or is not a current Virgin Islands resident, the cost to participate in an eco-camp is \$280 and the \$500 for the science camp.

The Virgin Islands Environmental Resource Station (VIERS) is a facility of the University of the Virgin Islands located in the Virgin Islands National Park on the south side of St. John. VIERS is operated by Clean Islands International, a U.S. IRS 501(c)(3) and USVI nonprofit, organized exclusively for educational, scientific, and charitable purposes. Please contact Hilary Maynard, VIERS Environmental Education Coordinator by phone at 776-6721 or by email at: [educator@viers.org](mailto:educator@viers.org) for registration forms and more information. Forms are also available on our website at: <http://www.islands.org/viers/2010EcoCamps.htm>

Regards,

Forms are available on our website at: <http://www.islands.org/viers>

*Randy Brown*

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