



BEAR CREEK CAMP  
**NATURE**  
**DAY CAMPS**

Dear Parents or Guardians,

We are excited that you are joining us for Nature Day Camp! Campers will be grouped together based on age which will allow them to experience all the age appropriate activities that Bear Creek Camp has to offer!

The following information is intended to help you and your camper prepare for camp and have the best possible experience at the Bear Creek Camp. **Even if you are a long-time Bear Creek Camp supporter, please take a few minutes to read through the packet as some things may have changed.** Also included in the packet is the Camper Behavior Contract. We ask that you review this form with your camper, sign and turn in at Check-In. If you are unable to print this form, we will have copies available during check-in.

We are looking forward to having tons of fun and learning about God's awesome creation while at camp. We will begin each day with a fun, activity-based Bible study, and then continue the fun and learning with hiking, aquatic activities, games, arts and crafts, and much more! Lunch is provided for all campers. As campers grow individually and as a group, they will discover ecological connections in the world around them - Nature Rocks!

Thank you for choosing Bear Creek Camp for your child's camp experience!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions concerning your week at Bear Creek Camp.

*Denise Abrams*

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Bear Creek Camp  
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## **Preparing for Camp**

This adventure starts before a camper ever arrives at camp. The anticipation and preparation for camp can have a great impact on the camp experience.

### **Packing**

Please send sturdy comfortable clothes with your camper. The kids will be very active during the week and clothing will get dirty, wet, and muddy as they tromp through the woods, splash in mud puddles, and play in the creek. Please send only items that you and your camper won't be upset if they are ruined. Bear Creek Camp requires that closed-toed, closed-heeled shoes be worn during any running activity. Hiking boots or sneakers are fine for the trails and water shoes or old sneakers for the streams. We do allow a Croc/Keen type of sandal, as long as it has a closed-toe and heel strap on the back.

### **Packing List**

Campers should bring the following items for their use at camp. Some of these items may be stored at camp for the week, but Bear Creek Camp cannot be responsible for lost items. It's best to write the camper's name on all items as we have a lost and found box in the Nature Center.

- Backpack with sturdy straps (to store items and for day hiking)
- Shoes to hike (hiking boots, sneakers or closed toe shoes)
- Water shoes or old shoes that can get wet (no flip flops)
- Swimsuit/Towel
- Water bottle
- Change of clothes
- Sweatshirt/light jacket (mornings are chilly up here) Rain Gear
- Sunscreen & Insect repellent
- Medication (if needed)
- Snacks for the weekly pack-out (peanut-free) are always welcome
- Something white to Tye Dye (T-shirt, pillowcase, socks, bandana, etc.)

### **Items not to bring to camp:**

- Flip Flops
- Electronics (cell phones, iPods, video game systems, etc...)
- Any type of weapon
- Fireworks
- Alcohol, tobacco products, other drugs or drug paraphernalia

## **During Camp**

### **Check-In**

The camping week begins Mondays starting at 8:30 am at the Nature Center (first building as you come into main camp). Check-In does take some time and your patience is appreciated.

### **Before/Aftercare**

Before/Aftercare will be provided at the cost of \$5 per half hour increments starting at 8:00 am until 8:30 am and after 3:00 pm. All campers must be picked up by 5:00 pm. Aftercare payments must be paid in full by Friday pickup via cash, check or online.

## **Medications**

All medications will be collected during Check-In. Please have medicine (prescription & over-the-counter) with you during the Check-In process. All medications must be stored with the Health Care Manager while at camp. Please bring medication in original container with all prescription information on it and bring it to camp in a zip lock bag. Please mark the bag with the camper's name and place a 3x5 index card or piece of paper in the bag with the following information:

- Camper's name
- Name of the medication and the dosage
- Directions for taking the medication
- When the medication is to be taken

## **Illness or Injury**

Bear Creek Camp does not carry primary medical insurance for campers. Parents are financially responsible for the cost of any medical care needed. We will contact parents or guardians of any camper that is taken to the emergency room.

## **Camp Store**

The Bear Creek Camp Store will be open Tuesdays from 12:30 – 1pm & Thursdays from 3:00 to 3:45pm. The camp store gladly accepts cash, checks and credit cards.

## **Camp Group Photo**

A Camp Group Photo (8x10) will be available to purchase for \$8.

Throughout the summer we will also be posting photos on our Facebook page. Due to our internet policies and for camper's safety, all photos will be posted after the week has concluded.

## **Special Needs Campers**

The Bear Creek Nature Day Camp can service children with mild to moderate special needs in an inclusive setting. Our program focuses on building skills and gaining self-esteem as part of the outdoor experience with campers participating in all activities alongside their typically developing peers. Campers must be able to navigate uneven terrain and be potty independent or provide a caregiver to assist with the task. In addition, if a camper requires TSS services at school, they must also have TSS services for the time they are at camp.

## **Our Staff**

The Bear Creek Nature Day Camp Counselors are trained Naturalists. In addition to our summer program training, the counselors are certified in First-Aid and CPR. We also have a registered nurse on site and certified lifeguards. Our counselors are trained to help campers grow through their camp experience. Our food service staff happily accommodates special dietary requirements. If your camper needs additional support while at camp, the camp staff will contact you to work through the situation.

# CAMPER BEHAVIOR CONTRACT

At Bear Creek Camp the safety and well-being of our campers is of the utmost importance. This contract is to serve as a clear expectation for all of our campers regarding their behavior while at Bear Creek Camp. Parents/guardians and campers should read and sign these policies together.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Camper Name Printed), will:

- Follow camp rules and respect the leadership of Staff
- Leave my cell phone at home and understand it will be kept in the Camp Office if I bring it
- Avoid using profanity, vulgarity, and obscenities
- Show respect of others' personal possessions and Camp property by not tampering with, stealing, or damaging the possessions/property
- Willingly participate in camp activities, unless deemed appropriate by Staff
- Only leave a program or activity with permission from Staff
- Positively affect the experience of others
- Protect the health and safety of others
- Avoid fighting in any manner, including physical, verbal, and other
- Accept all individuals as they are
- Not tease, make fun of, or bully others; this includes any unwanted behavior on behalf of someone else, even if I don't believe it is a negative action, either physical, verbal, emotional, or other
- Discuss with my counselor(s) or Staff any unwanted behavior from others and understand Program Staff will be engaged in this concern
- Not use any illegal substance, including, but not limited to, drugs, alcohol, tobacco
- Give all medications, both prescription and over-the-counter, to the Healthcare Manager during Check-In; specific allergic reaction medications will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis
- Not put myself or others in danger
- Respect others' bodies and avoid romantic interactions and sexual conduct of any kind
- Not possess a weapon of any type or threaten the possession of a weapon of any type and understand that if I do so the PA State Police may be called to assess the situation

I understand that failure to cooperate or follow any of the above expectation may result in one or more of the below disciplinary actions, including being sent home, and that the Executive Director has the discretion to deem other behaviors inappropriate on a case-by-case basis.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Camper Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Camper fees are non-refundable if a camper is sent home for disciplinary reasons.**

## Disciplinary Actions

1. If any of the above expectations are not adhered to, Staff will redirect the camper to more appropriate behavior
2. If inappropriate behavior continues, the camper will be reminded of this Behavior Contract and will be asked to decide on action steps to correct their behavior. Staff will work with the camper on these actions steps, but the camper will be the one to decide what action steps to take.
3. If the behavior still does not meet expectations, the camper will be referred to a member of the Program Staff and parents may be called at this time.
4. If behavior is still a problem, the camper may be sent home from Camp.