



## Growing Wild Summer To-Bring List - 2026

Welcome to Growing Wild Summer Camp! We are so excited that your child has chosen to spend a week exploring the woods, playing in the creek and learning more about the natural world with us. Since we will be outside, rain or shine, for the duration of our time together, it is important that your child comes prepared with the appropriate gear. Please pay attention to daily weather forecasts and dress your child appropriately and in clothes that can get wet and muddy. If your child arrives to program without the proper gear, our staff may decide it is not safe for them to stay and they will be sent home (no refund will be issued).

**If possible, please label ALL items with your child's name.**

### *What to bring?*

- Weather appropriate and **layered clothing** that can get wet and/or muddy. Even on a hot day, children need a **warm, non-cotton layer** in case it rains or they get cold. Avoid clothing made of cotton, which steals away body heat when wet and takes a long time to dry. Even in hot weather, **long pants** are good to wear as they can protect legs from poison ivy and mosquitoes. Refer to our [Weather Dressing Chart](#) for more information on how to dress for all kinds of weather.
- **Socks**, preferably thin wool or a synthetic (like polyester or polypropylene). Please avoid sending your child in cotton socks if the forecast calls for chilly and/or wet weather.
- Durable **rain gear**, including a waterproof jacket, pants or suit along with rain boots.
- **Footwear** that let your child run around, splash in the creek and also hike through the woods. In warm and dry weather, please send your child in **sturdy and durable shoes or hiking boots** but also pack shoes they can wear in the creek (**rain boots or close-toed water shoes/sandals with a back strap. Please no flip-flops or Crocs; open-toed sandals are not recommended either**). In wet weather, your child should wear **rain boots or outdoor sandals that can get wet**. Refer to our [Weather Dressing Chart](#) for more information on footwear.
- **Snacks and lunch\*** in an easy-to-carry container (like Tupperware or a plastic bag) that can fit in a backpack. Heating food on a campfire will likely NOT be an option this year; please do not pack food that would rely on a fire to be cooked.
- **Water bottle(s)** that can hold at least half a liter.
- **Small, non-breakable hot cup** for drinking wild tea.
- **Sunhat** (like a baseball cap) to keep cool and protect your child's face from the sun.
- **Sunscreen and/or bug repellent** that will be kept in bin along with your child's extra gear (see below) for the duration of the week to be used when needed.
- **Small backpack** to hold your child's gear that fits well and is easy for them to carry. Backpacks with zippers and padded straps are best.
- **Plastic bag with your child's name on it containing a dry change of clothes (shirt, pants, underwear and socks) brought on the first day of the camp week.** These will be kept in a bin with your child's name on it for the duration of the week to use if needed. They will be returned on Friday.



**If possible, please label all items with your child's name.**

\*While bringing snack/treats for the whole group is a nice gesture, please do not bring items intending to be shared unless you have confirmed this with your camper's instructor.

Please note that it is not necessary to purchase any of the items above as new. Check out local thrift stores or ask family and friends for hand-me-downs. If you are looking for new gear, below is a list of some of our favorite brands, some of which are available locally (Ithaca, NY).

For rain gear- [L.L. Bean](#) , [Puddlegear](#) , [Biddle & Bop](#), [Polarn O. Pyret](#), [Reima](#)

For rain boots- [The Original Muck Boot Company](#) (can be found at Agway), [Bogs](#) (sold at Fontanas), [Kamik](#) , [L.L. Bean](#)

For other gear- [REI](#) , [L.L. Bean](#)

### **What NOT to bring?**

- Favorite toy or security object. Sometimes children at this age feel a need to bring something special from home with them to camp. Please try to minimize this if possible, as these items can be distracting and may get dirty, damaged or lost.
- No electronic devices or potentially hazardous objects without checking in with an instructor.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at [primitivepursuits@cornell.edu](mailto:primitivepursuits@cornell.edu) or call us at **607-272-2292 ext 261**. We'll be happy to talk with you!

The Primitive Pursuits Team