

# CAMP KINGFISHER

## SUMMER 2026

### Parent Packet & Camper Guidelines



**Camp Director: Debby Head**

**Assistant Camp Director: Morgan Gage-Cole**

**Camp Registrar: Sarah Wood**

**Camp Office:**

**(770) 992-2055 ext. 222**

**Camp Cell Phone: (678) 341-0761**

**[s.wood@chattnaturecenter.org](mailto:s.wood@chattnaturecenter.org)**

**[www.chattnaturecenter.org](http://www.chattnaturecenter.org)**

**Located at:**

**Chattahoochee Nature Center**

**9135 Willeo Road**

**Roswell, GA 30075**

**Mailing Address:**

**Camp Kingfisher**

**P.O. Box 769769**

**Roswell, GA 30076**

Dear Camp Kingfisher Family,

Welcome to the 2026 Camp K Family! We know that you might have a lot of questions about your camper’s experience with us here this summer. And this packet will answer them! We are so honored that you have chosen to send your camper(s) to Camp K this summer. We are all looking forward to meeting you. And if you’re returning, welcome back! We cannot wait to see how your campers have grown this past year.

There is a lot to know about summer camp, and we are here to introduce you to Camp Kingfisher and everything you will need to know before your camper’s session gets here. Be sure to check out the table of contents below, where you can jump to any section of the packet you would like. As always, please don’t hesitate to reach out to our staff with any questions you might have.

We look forward to seeing you this summer!!

**Debby Head**  
**Camp Director**  
[d.head@chattnaturecenter.org](mailto:d.head@chattnaturecenter.org)

**Morgan Gage-Cole**  
**Assistant Camp Director**  
[m.gagecole@chattnaturecenter.org](mailto:m.gagecole@chattnaturecenter.org)

**Sarah Wood**  
**Camp Registrar**  
[s.wood@chattnaturecenter.org](mailto:s.wood@chattnaturecenter.org)

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## CAMP KINGFISHER POLICIES

### Changes and Cancellations Policy:

1. **Customer-initiated cancellation:** All cancellation requests must be emailed to [s.wood@chattnaturecenter.org](mailto:s.wood@chattnaturecenter.org) at least 10 business days before the session start date. Cancellation requests that are not made via email will not be honored. Please read below for more information and be sure to carefully check your camper's session dates and group before submitting any requests.
  - i. Any cancellation emailed on or before April 15<sup>th</sup> will be refunded less a 15% cancellation fee.
  - ii. Any cancellation emailed after April 15<sup>th</sup> will be refunded less a 30% cancellation fee.
  - iii. Any cancellation emailed **less** than 10 business days before the session start date will not be refunded.
2. **Camp Kingfisher-initiated cancellation:** Camp Kingfisher may cancel a session/camp day due to the following:
  - i. Minimum registration requirements are not met.
  - ii. Acts of Nature that interfere with camper safety.

**Should Camp Kingfisher deem it necessary to cancel a camp session/day:** families will get the option to receive a full refund\*, a credit to your account for future camp use, or the option to donate your refund to the Camp Kingfisher Scholarship Fund.

\*A full refund will only be offered for full session cancellations.

Refunds are issued to the original form of payment.

### Illnesses and Medication Policy:

1. If a camper's illness causes them to miss 3 or more days of camp in one week, they may make up the dates in a later week based on availability. A doctor's note is required to receive a Sick Day Credit. The remainder of the session must be purchased at a prorated rate. Sick Day Credits are valid until the end of the following camp season (2026 credits are valid through August 2027).
2. Camp Kingfisher does not employ a registered nurse. All camp staff are First Aid, CPR, and EpiPen certified.
  - i. Campers with emergency medications, such as an EpiPen or inhaler, must carry their medication on their person while attending camp. Action plans and medication instructions are required to be on file with camp administration. Copies of the action will be provided to camp staff directly. We recommend sending medication in a small bag or fanny pack that can be easily carried. —Action plans can be emailed to [s.wood@chattnaturecenter.org](mailto:s.wood@chattnaturecenter.org)
  - ii. If a camper needs medication that is administered regularly, it should be given to camp administration with the child's name, medication name, and clear instructions. It will be stored in a secure location in the camp office.
  - iii. If your camper requires a daily injectable medication, please contact Debby Head to discuss.

## OWL GROUPS

Campers are divided into groups based on their Fall 2026 grade level. Programs are customized to fit these grade levels and group ratios vary by Owl Group.

### **Owlets\*:** 4-Year-Olds

- ❖ Must be **4 years old** by session start date
- ❖ 1 Counselor: 5 Campers
- ❖ 10 Campers per group

### **Screech Owls:** Rising K / 1<sup>st</sup> Grades

- ❖ Must be 5 years old by session start date
- ❖ 1 Counselor: 6 Campers
- ❖ 12 Campers per group

### **Barn Owls:** Rising 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades

- ❖ 1 Counselor: 9 Campers
- ❖ 18 or 9 Campers per group

### **Barred Owls:** Rising 4<sup>th</sup> / 5<sup>th</sup> Grades

- ❖ 1 Counselor: 9 Campers
- ❖ 9 or 18 Campers per group

### **Great Horned Owls:** Rising 6<sup>th</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup> Grades

- ❖ 1 Counselor: 10 Campers
- ❖ 10 Campers per group

### **Travel Program\*:** Rising 8<sup>th</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup> Grades

- ❖ 1 Counselor: 5 Campers
- ❖ 10 Campers per group

## DRESS UP DAYS

We celebrate the end of each week with the opportunity to dress up. Participation is optional and at your child's comfort level. Please ensure outfits are weather appropriate and can get dirty. We strongly encourage a changes of clothes.

**Please do not send props or cover your child's face.**

### 2026 June Dress Up Days

- Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>: Animal Day
- Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>: Tie-Dye Day
- Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>: Backward Day
- Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>: PJ Day
- Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>: 626 Day (aka Character Day!)

### 2026 July Dress Up Days

- Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>: Beach Day
- Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup>: Crazy Head to Toe Day
- Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup>: Team Day
- Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>: Camo (Camouflage) Day
- Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup>: Color Day

## **CONSTRUCTION AT CNC: HOW WILL IT AFFECT CAMP?**

Chattahoochee Nature Center will be undergoing construction this upcoming summer season, so that our facilities can be around for another fifty years of learning and exploration!

### **How will construction impact camp?**

- “The gym,” also known as Kingfisher Hall, will be under renovation during the entire 2026 Summer camp season.
- Other visible changes to our facilities will include construction fencing and modified pathways around CNC campus, such as the Plaza Conference Room, Kingfisher Hall, and parking lot.

### **How is camp navigating construction?**

- Camp Kingfisher, having already previously implemented safety precautions during Summers 2020-2021, will rely on that experience to provide the same standard of excellence we’ve always demonstrated for Summer 2026. Changes to expect for this upcoming summer will include:
  - Each camp group having a “homebase,” instead of being in the “gym.” Each “homebase,” will be an air conditioned indoor space where campers can store their belongings.
  - Adjusted carpool procedures.
    - Camp Kingfisher’s administration team will have a better idea of how carpool will operate closer to the start of the summer 2026 camp season.
    - This will be communicated as we learn more.
  - All construction areas will be clearly marked and safely separated to have minimal impact on campers’ routines.
  - Camp Kingfisher’s traditions, such as bug juice and amoeba (morning announcements and skits), will still be part of the camp experience for summer 2026.

### **How will camp families be provided construction updates?**

- The latest construction updates will be provided in the pick-up pass/camp schedule email that we send out the Friday before your camper’s session begins with us.

### **How will camp staff be trained to handle the construction changes?**

- All camp staff participate in an extensive training program with us prior to the start of the camp season. Staff will be trained on how to navigate around the construction sites safely while still providing the fun camp experience that Camp Kingfisher is known for.

### **Who is the best point of contact for questions about construction?**

- If you have any additional questions then please contact our Camp Director, Debby Head, for further assistance. Her direct number is (770) 992-2055 ext. 232 and her email address is [d.head@chattnaturecenter.org](mailto:d.head@chattnaturecenter.org).

Thank you for your flexibility as we share this excitement in Chattahoochee Nature Center’s growth! We’re confident campers will continue to enjoy the same safe, joyful, and memorable Camp Kingfisher experience you know and trust!

## FIRST DAY OF CAMP: WHAT TO KNOW

### Here are our top 5 suggestions:

1. Label everything.
2. Wear clothes that can get dirty and closed toe shoes.
  - **No crocs or sandals please!**
3. Don't forget your swimsuit and towel if you want to swim.
  - We recommend packing a change of dry clothes.
4. Leave all toys, phones, smart watches, and other electronics at home.
5. Get ready to have fun at camp!

**Forms:** The following items are required to be on file before you attend camp. If we are missing either your Summer 26 Camper Form or immunization records, you will be required to submit them before dropping your camper off. Please note, we **must** have current immunization records or exemption documentation before your child can participate in Camp Kingfisher.

- Summer 26 Camper Form
- Current Immunization Records or Exemption
  - If you attended in 2025, this is already on file. You may need to submit updates records if your camper had any recent immunizations.
  - Email records to [s.wood@chattnaturecenter.org](mailto:s.wood@chattnaturecenter.org)

**Before Camp Email:** A few days before the first day of your camp session, typically the Friday before the session start date, we will email you a digital pick-up pass and the schedules for the following week.

***Friendly reminder that the latest construction updates and procedures will be provided in the Pick Up Pass email the Friday before your camper's session with us!***

**Camper Updates:** If you need to make any updates or changes to your camper's information after you've registered and completed the Camper Information Form, please email [s.wood@chattnaturecenter.org](mailto:s.wood@chattnaturecenter.org) and we will make any changes necessary.

**Friend/ Do Not Pair Requests:** You may request your camper to be paired with two friends during the registration process. Please email [s.wood@chattnaturecenter.org](mailto:s.wood@chattnaturecenter.org) to add a buddy. While we will do our best, we cannot guarantee that campers will be paired together. If a "Do Not Pair Request," cannot be met, then our Camp Administration will reach out before the start of the session. Please note the following requirements:

- We must receive requests at least two weeks before your session starts.
- Campers must be registered for the same Owl (Age) Group and session.
- 1-week session campers and 2-week session campers cannot be grouped together due to the nature of the programs
  - Any session labeled numerically (1-10) is a 1-week session.
  - Any session labeled with a letter (A – D) is a 2-week session.

## CAMPER DROP OFF AND PICK UP

### Drop-Off:

**8:00am to 8:55am**

Drop-off will be carpool-style. **We ask that only campers exit the vehicle to ensure carpool continues moving.**

If you need extra time for goodbyes or getting ready, please park in a parking spot prior to entering the carpool line.

Camp staff will assist with the check in process and makes sure camper enters safely into our facility.

### Pick-Up:

**3:45pm to 4:45pm**

Pick Up will be carpool style. We ask that you stay in your vehicle as camp staff escorts your camper to your vehicle.

**We request that your camper's digital pick-up pass is ready to be shown in the pick-up line. Camp Staff are required to see the pass before your camper enters the vehicle.**

Helpful tip to make carpool run as smoothly as possible:

- Take a screenshot of your digital pick-up pass and add it to your favorites for quick access.
- If someone else is picking up your camper, please forward your digital pickup pass via email or by sending a screenshot to the authorized pickup person.

**No Pick Up Pass?** A photo-ID that matches one of the authorized contacts under the account (originally set up during registration, may be updated prior to camp).

If you would like to add any additional authorized contacts to your account, please email [s.wood@chattnaturecenter.org](mailto:s.wood@chattnaturecenter.org) for assistance.

***Friendly reminder that the latest construction updates and procedures will be provided in the Pick Up Pass email the Friday before your camper's session with us!***

### After-Care:

**3:45pm to 5:45pm**

Campers can stay after camp and enjoy free play which is led by Camp Staff.

Please note that this time is not a continuation of the camp day.

After Care options are available for purchase either by the day or by the session length.

If you need assistance with making purchase, please contact the Camp Registrar at [s.wood@chattnaturecenter.org](mailto:s.wood@chattnaturecenter.org) or (770) 992-2055 ext. 222.

**Late Drop – Offs and Early Pick – Ups:**

**Camp cell phone: Camp Cell Phone: (678) 341-0761**

If you need to drop off your camper late or pick them up early, please let us know in advance by telling the check-in staff, [emailing the camp office](#), or by calling the camp cell phone. When you arrive at camp to drop off or pick up, please pull into a parking space and follow the signs to the Camp office, from there a camp staff member will assist you.

**Important note:** the camp cell phone cannot receive text messages.

## WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP EVERY DAY

### Necessities

**(PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING)**

- **Water Bottle:** Reusable with only water
- **Comfortable Clothing:** Clothing that is appropriate for hot weather, outdoors, and water activities.
- **Closed-toe, Closed-heel Shoes:** Tennis shoes, sneakers, hiking boots, etc.
- **Lunch and 2 Snacks:** Packed separately and labeled.
- **Swimsuit and Towel**

### Extras

- **Change of Clothes/Shoes:** (including underwear) Your camper may get wet/dirty.
- **Rain Jacket:** If rain is in the forecast.
- **Bug Spray:** You may apply before coming to camp, but staff cannot assist your camper in reapplication.
  - We recommend bug bands or stickers over spray

## WHAT TO LEAVE AT HOME

**(PLEASE DO NOT BRING TO CAMP)**

- **Toys, electronics (Including smart watches and phones), trading cards, and/or money are not permitted and will be held in the camp office. They will be returned to the camper's grown-ups at the end of the camp day.**
- **Valuables:** We cannot replace lost or stolen items.
- **Crocs/Open Toed Shoes**

## LOST AND FOUND

Camp Kingfisher cannot be held responsible for lost items. Please help your camper(s) take responsibility for their belongings, do not bring valuables to camp, and **LABEL EVERYTHING**. We'll have a Lost and Found table set up during pick-up every Friday. This includes items that were found across campus, from the general pool area to the "homebases." Lost and Found items are held in the camp office for two weeks after each session before being donated. If you discover that you're missing an item after camp is over, please contact the camp office either at (770) 992-2055 ext. 222 or by email, [s.wood@chattnaturecenter.org](mailto:s.wood@chattnaturecenter.org).

## LUNCH AND SNACKS AT CAMP

Campers will eat lunch every day at 12pm. We are not a nut-free facility, so to help keep our campers with allergies safe, we do not allow any food sharing.

### Lunch reminders:

- Lunches are stored indoors, in air-conditioning, but not refrigerated.
- Campers do not have access to a microwave.
- Please pack any necessary eating utensils - Camp Kingfisher is not able to provide silverware.

### Snack reminders:

- Campers will have two snack periods per day.
- If your child is staying for after care, we recommend packing an additional snack.

At Camp Kingfisher, we encourage campers to be friends of the earth. Our goal is to have as little trash as possible, and we appreciate any effort your family makes to reduce waste at camp.

## CANOEING AND SWIMMING AT CAMP

### Canoeing

- Canoeing takes place on Kingfisher, Beaver, and Heron Ponds and is led by certified canoe instructors.
- All campers and staff are required to wear Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs) on the docks and ponds at all times.
- Screech and Barn Owls canoe twice per week with an adult or teen supervisor in the boat.
- Barred Owls canoe 3 times per week with staff supervising from boats.
- Great Horned Owls canoe 3 times per week and have the option of adding on a river trip during their second week of a two-week session.

### Optional River Trip

- Campers in our Great Horned Owl age group, who are also registered in a two week session, have the option to add a river trip to their session.
- River trips will take place during the late nights for our older age groups.
- A certified canoe guide and a counselor will lead the campers on an approximate 2 hour late afternoon river trip down the Chattahoochee.
- River trips are \$50 per camper per trip.
- There is limited availability for our river trip.
- To check availability or to register, please contact the Camp Registrar, Sarah Wood.

### Swimming

- All groups swim daily in our Junior Olympic-sized pool (3ft. to 12 ft. with a rope divider)
- Two American Red Cross-certified lifeguards are on the pool deck guarding at all times, with counselors stationed in the water and on the pool deck.
- Deep End Swim Check: Available to Barn, Barred, and Great Horned Owl campers who wish to swim in the deep end (5ft. to 12 ft.). On the first day of the session, campers swim the width of the pool without stopping or touching and tread water for 60 seconds.
- Campers who choose not to swim will have limited self-directed activities in the shade.

**If your child requires a floatation device to swim, they must bring it with them.**

### Pool and Locker Rules:

The pool is an area of camp with an increased potential for fun as well as for injury. It is important for all campers to abide by the following rules when using the pool and locker rooms:

- The locker rooms are meant for changing and using the restroom only.
- No teasing, bullying, or name calling.
- Walking only.
- Urine only goes in the toilet.
- Get changed as quickly as possible.
- Leave the locker room as soon as you are changed.
- Keep your belongings together and store them in a cubby .

## LATE NIGHT ACTIVITIES

Campers who are registered for either our 2 week Barred Owl (BDO) and Great Horned Owl (GHO) age groups will have the option of staying at camp after hours one evening during their session. This experience is an optional add-on experience that is available for purchase separate from the camp session. During the late night, campers will get extra swim time, have a pizza dinner, an evening activity and a bonfire with s'mores. More information will be sent out to families the week before each late night.

### 2026 Late Night Dates

- **Session 2A Wednesday:** June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- **Chattahoochee Nature Center's Birthday Party: June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026**
- **Session 2C Wednesday:** July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- **Session 2D Wednesday:** July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

**CNC's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration:** All camp families are welcome to join in the celebration! All Barred and Great Horned Owl 2B (June 15<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>) camp families will receive a direct link to register by Camp Administration. All other registered camp families will be able to purchase tickets through the CNC website directly. All camp families who register by May 4<sup>th</sup> will be emailed more information and the registration link. Families who register for camp after May 4<sup>th</sup>, please email [s.wood@chattnaturecenter.org](mailto:s.wood@chattnaturecenter.org) to get the most up to date information about this event. The Chattahoochee Nature Center's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party Celebration is a family event. All minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

## CAMPER BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

At Camp Kingfisher we believe all our guidelines come down to one BIG expectation: RESPECT! This expectation has four big components. Please make sure that your child is familiar with these four respect components prior to attending camp with us. This also extends to the internet and social media.

### Respect Yourself:

- Carry water bottles all day to stay hydrated
- Walking while inside
- Eating your own food (please no sharing food at Camp)
- Telling your counselors when you're hurt, tired, or need help

### Respect Others:

- Keeping hands and other body parts to yourself
- Using kind words
- Sharing Camp Kingfisher property (i.e.: toys, games and supplies)
- Treating others how you want to be treated
- Saying sorry and working to make things right if you make a mistake

### Respect Camp:

- Listen to your counselors and LITs
- Following directions the first time they're given
- Using kind words
- Asking for permission

### Respect Nature:

- Using quiet voices around animals
- Staying on the trails, unless given permission by a counselor
- Looking with your eyes, not your hands
- Leaving nature in nature, unless given permission by a counselor

### How to Show Respect:

- Spreading kindness
- Showing empathy - We all mess up sometimes! Understanding and forgiving others is a big part of making a right out of a mistake and growing up.
- Appreciate differences - Camp Kingfisher is a safe space for all!
- Asking friends or groupmates how you can help

In order to succeed at camp, every camper is expected to make their best effort and follow the camper guidelines set by their counselors and by Camp Kingfisher. Each group will also create their own group expectations for the session. Counselors are trained to make rules positive and to offer reminders and support throughout the day.

**We all mess up sometimes — what matters is learning, repairing, and trying again!**

Just like nature, no two situations are the same, so we approach each with patience, kindness, and understanding. Our goal is to help your camper thrive!

## WHEN CAMPER EXPECTATIONS ARE NOT MET

Our camp staff is trained to help keep campers on track by providing reminders of group and camp rules throughout the day. Camp staff will have 1:1 conversations with campers who may be struggling to follow specific rules, and the camper may be asked to sit out of certain activities if behaviors don't improve after counselor intervention. If behaviors continue, group counselors will call a Head Counselor to assist. If intervention from one of the Head Counselors does not resolve the behavioral issue a Camp Administrator will intervene.

## KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE

Campers in the Owlet and ESO groups are still learning how to manage big feelings and keep their bodies safe. We understand that this can be part of their development, and we work closely with campers to help them grow these skills.

- At the same time, physical aggression toward counselors or administrators is not safe and cannot be allowed. Respecting the “grown-ups” of Camp K is a core part of our community expectations.
- To support safety, **Camp K uses a three-strike system** for hitting or physical aggression toward staff. If a camper is brought to the camp office for a third incident in one day, they will be dismissed from camp for the remainder of that day. This is intended as a reset, allowing campers to return the next day ready for a fresh start.

At Camp Kingfisher, we believe in fostering a safe, fun, and respectful community where every camper can grow, learn, and enjoy their time in nature. Depending on the situation, our staff may use different steps to help guide campers back on track. Just like nature, no two situations are the same, so we approach each with patience, kindness, and understanding. Our goal is to help your camper thrive! Not only by holding them to high expectations, but by encouraging them to be their best selves and to build positive relationships with others.

The steps we use are designed to keep Camp Kingfisher a place where everyone can feel safe, respected, and ready to have fun. We know that some days are “off days”, and when that happens, we work closely with parents to figure out the best way forward. Together we'll make sure your camper has an amazing, positive experience at camp! Our goal at Camp Kingfisher is to support every camper's growth and success, while connecting them with nature. The expectations and corrective steps outlined are in place to ensure a safe, respectful, and enjoyable experience for all. We believe in a collaborative approach and will keep parents informed of any concerns, working together to ensure the best outcomes for your camper.

## CONTACT US FOR QUESTIONS!

If you have any questions about our strategies and systems, please contact Debby Head, Camp Director, at (770) 992-2055 x232/ [d.head@chattnaturecenter.org](mailto:d.head@chattnaturecenter.org) or Morgan Gage-Cole, Assistant Camp Director at 770-992-2055 x221/ [m.gagecole@chattnaturecenter.org](mailto:m.gagecole@chattnaturecenter.org)

## CELEBRATING 50 YEARS WITH TIE-DYE!

We're gonna party like it's 1976! Camp Kingfisher is celebrating 50 years of the Chattahoochee Nature Center by tie-dying all Summer!

- Each camper will receive one Camp Kingfisher t-shirt that they will be able to tie dye before the end of their session with us.

### What if my camper is in a two week group?

- If your camper is in a two-week session, such as 2A, 2B, 2C or 2D, then they will ONLY be tie dying the first Monday of their session.

### What if my camper is coming for multiple sessions?

- If your camper is participating in multiple camp sessions with us, than they will receive the option of either buying an additional camp shirt for the cost of \$8.00 to tie dye or they may bring a white shirt from home to dye.

## CAMPER BIRTHDAYS

If your child's birthday falls on a camp day, we would love to celebrate with them!

If you would like to bring birthday treats, please check with your counselors regarding any allergies or food restrictions in your group. Please make sure treats are pre-packaged.



**THANK YOU FOR  
INCLUDING US IN  
YOUR SUMMER  
PLANS!**

**WE'RE LOOKING  
FORWARD TO  
ANOTHER GREAT  
CAMP SEASON!**