



Camp Turner • Allegany State Park

## Additional Information for Explorers

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We will need a permission slip for the High Ropes course at Holiday Valley in Ellicottville. Please download and complete the Holiday Valley Risk Assumption Form prior to arrival.

### Program Explanation

#### Backpacking Trip

The goals of this trip include team building, interdependence, outdoor skills, Leave-No-Trace principles, nature appreciation, fire building, campsite management, hiking protocols, self-care in the wilderness, and openness to God in all things.

#### Week 1

Week one will include partial participation in the regular camp program, including most of our regular camp activities. Additionally, Explorers will spend time planning and preparing for the backpacking trip. Preparations include menu planning, pack fitting, hiking protocols, transportation protocols, behavior on the trail, first aid, campsite setup, packing strategies, gear check and more. Campers will be dropped off in Pennsylvania at a trailhead along the North Country Trail midday on Thursday. Campers will camp at two different sites along the route. Sites have pumps with potable water. The third night will be spent at Willow Bay Campground where campers will enjoy hot showers. Campers will be picked up Sunday morning at Willow Bay.

#### Stay-Over Weekend

The weekend between Week 1 and Week 2 includes a beach trip, dinner out, and Mass in Salamanca, plus a laundry run. All expenses are included. Campers need special gear for backpacking—but not two weeks of clothing.



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### Week 2

The Explorers program no longer includes staff training components. It is now purely recreational, but still excellent preparation for the CIT/Internship program due to its emphasis on character education, team building, and leadership. The CIT/Internship program is now a separate two-week experience for ages 16+.

The second week of Explorers closely follows the regular camp program. Campers may participate in clubs and daytime activities. One afternoon is devoted to the High Ropes Course (additional fee applies). Many evenings include separate Explorer-only activities.

### Gear Provided by Camp

- Tents, poles, stakes, rain fly, footprint
- Backpacks
- All-weather tent ground cover
- Sleeping pad
- 50' paracord
- Cooking equipment, stoves, fuel, water filters
- Food
- First-aid supplies
- Dish soap, shampoo, hand sanitizer
- Trowel
- Toilet tissue with zip-top bags
- Utensils, plate, and bowl

### Clothing to Bring

- Backpacking boots with ankle support (no sneakers)
- 3 pairs backpacking socks (NO COTTON)
- Wicking long underwear (no cotton)
- Lightweight hiking pants (no cotton)
- Hiking shorts



### **Camp Turner • Allegany State Park**

- Two wicking T-shirts
- Hat or bandanna
- Rain jacket (no ponchos)
- Camp shoes (Crocs, Chacos, or old sneakers)
- Lightweight fleece
- 1-liter wide-mouth Nalgene bottle

### **Recommended Personal Items**

- Sunscreen
- Small toothpaste
- Bug repellent
- Flashlight
- Personal medications
- Feminine supplies

Do not pack scented soaps, shampoos, or deodorants. Animals are attracted to scents. Camp can provide backpacks upon request.

### **Optional Items**

- Sunglasses
- Pocket knife
- Gold Bond or baby powder
- Synthetic underwear
- Mosquito-net hat (optional luxury)

We recommend layering instead of bulky jackets. This is a wilderness trip—pack light!

Please alert us now to any dietary restrictions so we can plan properly.

Backpacking boots should be purchased at least four weeks ahead and worn gradually to break them in. If feet are still growing, do not buy top-tier boots.

Sock recommendations and gear shopping tips remain the same as listed in your original text (all preserved).



### **Camp Turner • Allegany State Park**

For female campers: menstruation will not prevent participation; our female staff are prepared to support campers as needed.

### **Important Packing Considerations –**

Think small, think light. You are carrying everything. Ounces matter. Grams matter. A tiny flashlight will be great. A bulky one will not. Travel sized items are the best!

### **Opting Out**

Occasionally, a camper may decide during preparation that they cannot make the trip. This is okay, but a parent will need to pick them up for the weekend, as most staff will be off-site. Campers may return Sunday at regular check-in.

Please email or call with any questions.

See you soon!

John