



# OUTBACKS

For questions before, during, or after your camper's stay, please contact us at (507) 346-2494 or [info@goodearthvillage.org](mailto:info@goodearthvillage.org)

## MISSION STATEMENT

Exploring God in Creation, Growing Faith in Community, and Engaging the World as Followers of Jesus

## OUR VALUES

Faith • Community • Friendship  
Fun • Openness • Peace • Service

## WHAT TO BRING

- Sleeping bag and pillow
- School appropriate attire (dress for the weather)
- Hiking shoes
- Water shoes (no flip flops)
- Swimsuit (secure fitting)
- Swim/bath towel(s)
- Toiletries (toothbrush/paste, shampoo, comb etc.)
- Medications (in original containers)
- Water bottle
- Bible
- Rain gear
- Flashlight
- Sunscreen and bug spray
- Face mask
- Completed GEV health form

## WELCOME TO OUTBACKS

Join us out on the mighty Mississippi River for an off-site house boat adventure! We will travel up and down the Mississippi River in a luxury house boat in Pool 9 near Lansing, IA. This adventure will include campfires on the beach, sand dune exploration, swimming and much more. Campers will enjoy Bible studies by the water, team building activities, and scenic views of the bluff country. Come and make new friends during this week you won't soon forget!

## ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

**Check-in** will be on **Sunday at Log Lodge between 3:00PM – 4:30PM**. Please contact us in advance if you will be arriving after the registration time. Families are free to leave once their camper has met their counselor.

A brief **closing program** will be held on **Friday at Three Crosses**, located by Log Lodge, at **1:00PM**. Campers are free to leave once the parent/guardian signs out their camper with their counselor. Pets are requested to be left at home, but may be brought only to check-out, and must remain outside and on a leash. Please clean up after your pet. The **CAMP STORE** will be open after the closing program in the lower level of Log Lodge.

## LEAVING CAMP

This program is an off-site program where campers will be gone from mid morning on Monday through the afternoon on Thursday. During the time in which campers are off site they will not be able to leave their group unless it is an emergency. If someone other than you will be picking your camper up from camp, we encourage you to notify us in writing. This ensures that we are releasing your camper to the appropriate person.

## COVID-19 POLICIES & GUIDELINES

We are **not requiring masks** to be worn at this time. This policy is subject to change throughout the summer based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), state, and local guidelines. We will maintain our website with current controls and procedures.

## WELCOMING STATEMENT *(adapted from Lutheran Outdoor Ministries)*

In all of our programs and activities, Good Earth Village is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment which reflects the lessons Jesus taught us: To love one another, even as I have loved you. (John 13:34)

Good Earth Village values diversity, opposes discrimination, and promotes equal opportunity for all people, regardless of age, disabilities, race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, or others who are often marginalized. Good Earth Village will strive to provide an environment where all people are valued as unique individuals. We will work to ensure that participants in all our programs and activities can reach their full potential by living and working in a community of inclusivity and mutual respect.

## PHOTOS & UPDATES

Photos from activities throughout the week will be available the week after camp, on our website through a private webpage. An email will be sent during the week that includes a link and password to access them. Follow GEV for highlights throughout summer camp season by visiting [facebook.com/goodearthvillage](https://www.facebook.com/goodearthvillage) and [instagram.com/gevillage](https://www.instagram.com/gevillage). You do not need a Facebook or Instagram account to access these photos.

## TELEPHONE

A valuable experience at camp is uninterrupted time away from one's home and normal routine. Campers use of Good Earth Village's phones for incoming or outgoing calls is strongly discouraged. If you have concerns, our staff will be glad to discuss your child's experience with you and can relay messages to your child. Good Earth Village will contact parents and guardians in the case of an emergency or if there are any questions or concerns. We will ensure camper access to a phone in the case of an emergency.

## MEDICATIONS

All prescribed and over-the-counter medications must be turned in at check-in to our Health Officer. All medications must be in the original packaging clearly marked with the camper's name and the dosage instructions.

## WHAT NOT TO BRING

- Cell phone
- Electronics (iPads, hand held games etc.)
- Food, candy, and pop
- Knives, weapons, fireworks, etc.
- Expensive items (clothing, jewelry, smart watches etc.)

## FOR THE WELLBEING OF ALL

### CAMPER BEHAVIOR & DISMISSAL

Our goal for each camper attending a program is to provide an experience of Christian community within a safe environment that promotes spiritual and social growth. Because of this goal, campers are encouraged to participate in all camp activities to their ability. Likewise, campers are encouraged to treat one another and the staff with mutual respect. We expect campers to:

- Abide by the rules and regulations of camp.
- Use language that is affirming and uplifting.
- Respect the rights, privacy, and property of others.
- Respect the property and facilities of the camp.
- Refrain from engaging or threatening acts of physical, sexual, or verbal abuse.

Good Earth Village reserves the right to dismiss any camper. In this rare and unlikely event, registration fees may or may not be returned at the sole discretion of the camp director. If a camper is destructive to camp property (ex. discharging fire extinguisher in a non-emergency situation, graffiti etc.) the parent will be contacted for appropriate reimbursement and/or dismissal from camp. In the event that a camper is displaying hurtful and harmful language or actions, parents will be contacted immediately and the camper will be dismissed from camp.

### DRUG & WEAPON FREE

Good Earth Village is a drug and weapon-free environment. In the event that a camper brings drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, knives, weapons, or explosive devices (including fire crackers) to camp, parents will be contacted immediately and the camper will be dismissed from camp. Good Earth Village also reserves the right to store camper's contraband items that may not be appropriate for their stay. Items will be returned at the end of the program.

### HOMESICKNESS

Homesickness is a natural reaction to separation from familiar surroundings and routines. While our staff is prepared to work with campers who become homesick, there are a few very important tips you can do to help before your child comes to camp:

- Help your camper understand that feeling homesick is natural!
- Language makes a difference. Emphasize that your camper is "going" to camp; try to avoid saying you are "sending" them away to camp.
- Avoid statements like "I'm going to miss you so much. I can't wait for you to come home." Why? Camp will be a terrific experience so be careful not to make your camper feel bad about going away. Instead, say things like "I'm so excited for you! You'll have a great time!"
- Share your own positive camp experiences!
- Please avoid statements like "If you don't like camp, you can come home." Campers who experience difficulties adjusting to camp would then compound the situation by not giving it a fair chance. Instead, your camper then is only focused on going home.

By preparing yourself, you can help your camper avoid homesickness and enjoy a fun, successful and wonderful experience with caring friends and staff members at camp.