



OUTBACKS

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

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 (original containers)
- Water bottle
- Bible
- Rain gear
- Flashlight
- Sunscreen and bug spray
- Completed GEV health form

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.)

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.

WELCOME TO OUTBACKS

The Outbacks campers will be exploring regional hidden gems for 2024. They will go "out" each day to visit special landmarks and then come "back" to stay in the Log Lodge, with private bathrooms and — ssshhh...whispering now — air conditioning. Campers will be presented a list of options on their first night of camp, and they will choose together how to spend the week. May include an overnight offsite experience nearby for a night or two. Campers will deepen their faith as they learn about the region and practice essential life skills of listening, negotiating, compromise, self advocacy, and planning.

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

If your camper needs to leave camp during the day for any reason, prior notification is required. Please bring or send written documentation of who will be picking up your camper, the time they will be leaving and the time they will be returning to camp. 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.

PHOTOS & UPDATES

Photos from activities throughout the week will be available online. An email will be sent 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.



MISSION STATEMENT

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

OUR VALUES

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

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. GEV 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.

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.