



Owned and operated by
Allegan County 4-H Clubs, Inc.
39000 1st Avenue
Bloomingtondale, MI 49026
Phone: 269-521-3559
Fax: 866-324-2797
www.campkidwell.org
kj@campkidwell.org



2019 Parent Packet

Welcome, and thank you for choosing 4-H Camp Kidwell. Camp Life **CAMPLIFE Summer 2019!!!!** is going to be great and we are excited to have you join us! Please take time to look through the enclosed info. It is full of valuable information. You will find details about what to pack, when check-in and pick-up are, how to send mail to your camper, and much more!

We hope you found the registration process smooth, efficient and user friendly. Your online account is a great resource. Please keep your user name and password in a safe place. Your online account allows you to make payments, adjust personal information, add additional registrations, etc. Your online account also offers you access to our online photo gallery and parent to camper one-way email service. These programs are all free to our families. More details are included later in this packet.

Although, you completed camper forms during the reservation process, please don't forget, we need a copy of the camper's insurance card and immunization record. You can upload these in the document center in your online account.

Again, thank you for choosing Camp Kidwell and we look forward to showing you and your camper our great program!!! If you have questions or need details, please contact me directly at 269-521-3559 or kj@campkidwell.org. I am always glad to help!

Sincerely,

K.J. Kelly
Director
4-H Camp Kidwell
(269)521-3559
kj@campkidwell.org
www.campkidwell.org

Enclosures

OUR MISSION: To provide extraordinary camping opportunities for youth and to be a resource to youth, families, 4-H, schools, groups and organizations throughout the region.

"This Institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

BEFORE ARRIVING AT CAMP

If something doesn't make sense or you have questions, please contact KJ Kelly directly at (269)521-3559 or at kj@campkidwell.org

THINGS TO BRING

Please help your children (and staff) keep track of their things by putting initials on all clothing and personal items with a permanent marker. Personal belongings do get mixed up or misplaced and it is much easier to find the correct owner if the items have initials on them.

SPECIAL NOTE For campers who are interested in horseback riding, long pants and heeled, closed toed shoes are required; Please be sure to include these things so your child can participate in the horseback riding program. This doesn't have to be expensive riding boots or jeans. They will need pants that cover and protect their legs, closed-toe shoes to protect their toes from being stepped on, and heels to keep their foot from slipping through the stirrup. We do have boots here at camp but can't guarantee we will have their size available.

Overnight and Specialty Overnight Campers

As you pack for camp, please remember that your children will be staying with us for at least 5 days. Please be sure they have enough of each item to last them for at least 5 days and we recommend even packing a couple of extra just in case.

Sleeping bag/bedding	Long sleeve shirts (helps with bugs)	Sandals (if desired)	Insect repellent
Pillow	Undergarments	Toothpaste/toothbrush	Life-preserver (if desired)
T-shirts	Socks	Soap and Shampoo	Rain gear
Shorts	Towels – At least 2	Deodorant	
Sweatshirt (helps with cool nights)	Swimsuit	Flashlight	
Long pants (required)	Tennis shoes (required)	Sunscreen	

Junior, Senior and Specialty Day Campers

Please be sure your camper has a bag (a duffel bag or back pack are best) for their items. It is recommended to send an extra set of clothes each day. Please be sure to check their bag each morning before camp to make sure everything is clean and fresh for the next day. Camp is a fun place and sometimes fun is messy.

T-shirt	Swimsuit	Sunscreen	Life-preserver (if desired)
Shorts	Beach towel	Insect repellent	
Long pants (required)	Tennis shoes (required)	Sandals (if desired)	

THINGS NOT TO BRING

Please do not pack items such as food/snacks, money, knives, electronics, fireworks, cell phones, iPods, MP3 players, video games etc. Camp Kidwell will not responsible for lost, broken or stolen items. Such items will be collected and held in the camp office until the end of the camp week.

PREPARING YOURSELF AND YOUR CAMPER FOR CAMP

- Parents/guardians can be just as nervous as their children about a prolonged stay away from home. We appreciate this and are glad to work with you to be sure that your camper is taken care of while they are here and to reassure you of this. We have found it helpful for parents to make a list of information or concerns they would like to share with camp staff and/or review with the Camp Leadership. This ensures nothing is forgotten. We encourage questions and want to be sure we can give you all the information you need. Please write those questions down and ask us before hand and/or when you get here.
- Parents are welcome to call anytime. Our number is 269-521-3559. We are happy to give you a report of how things are going. We do discourage you from speaking with your camper as this can lead to home sickness, but we are happy to check in on them and be sure they are okay.
- We will also be sure to contact you if there are any concerns that arise involving your child. We probably won't call you if they get a minor sliver or scrap a knee, but if they have extended homesickness, have an illness or injury that is out of the ordinary, or have any major or unusual personal issue, we will contact you. We want to work with you to ensure your kiddo has a terrific time! Information and support from you is paramount to this and we will be in contact when the need arises.
- Homesickness is a natural process that all young people go through as they learn how to be independent and away from those folks in their lives who make them the most comfortable. It is quite normal for children to become sad because they miss mom, dad, a dog, their favorite stuffed animal or anything else. Our philosophy on homesickness is to help them figure out when they are feeling this way and help them manage this, so they can enjoy the full camp experience and don't choose

to go home. Sometimes this means there are some tears shed and the camper is temporarily upset. Our staff is trained to offer suggestions on how to manage these feelings, distract the kiddos, and help them grow into a strong and independent young person. If a camper is home sick for a prolonged period or become excessively distressed, we will be sure to contact parents to let you know what is going on and request support in helping your child feel good about their experience. If you have a specific way you would like us to handle your child becoming homesick please be sure to let a member of the leadership team know, and we will be sure things are handled as you would like!

As you prep them for camp and as hard as it may seem, please help your child enjoy their time at camp by keeping a positive attitude and express excitement about camp (you might have to fake this excitement if you are worried yourself). Please **DO NOT** tell them that they can call home if they feel homesick. This isn't the case. A member of the leadership team will call you when a situation arises if necessary. We don't want your child to be miserable or have a bad experience and if you have a plan for how you would like us to manage any possible home sickness with your child, please just let us know. We want to give our campers the opportunity to grow, and one such chance to grow is showing them they can do things they don't think they can do. Being away from mom and dad for a long time can feel impossible, but when they make it to Friday, the amount of confidence and positivity gained is immeasurable.

We will use skills developed over many years of experience to help your child manage and overcome any homesickness they may experience. Please rest assured that if we have any prolonged or overwhelming concerns/issues we will contact you.

If you have thoughts about our homesickness policy, please feel free to contact me at 269-521-3559 or kj@campkidwell.org

- Campers are NOT allowed to have cell phones at camp and are NOT allowed to call home. Please be sure to explain this to your camper. If a camper is struggling, becomes sick/injured, or has a behavior concern, a phone call from a camp representative to the parent/guardian will be made. Then, together the camp rep and parent will decide on the best way to handle the situation. We know parents worry about their children and we are happy to help them feel at ease. Parents are welcome to call to check in, and we are happy to check on your children and give updates. You can call us at any time to check in or if there is an emergency please call us at (269)521-3559.
- **INDIVIDUALS AUTHORIZED TO PICK UP AND PERSONS NOT ALLOWED CONTACT** - During registration you indicated individuals allowed to pick up your camper as well as anyone who shouldn't have contact with your camper. Anyone picking up a camper will be required to show proper photo identification. Please be sure that anyone coming to pick up your camper knows this and is prepared to present a proper photo ID. Campers will not be released unless the person is on the authorized list and they can provide proper photo ID.

CHECK-IN AND DROP-OFF PROCEDURES

CAMPER CHECK-IN

When children join us, our #1 priority is their safety. To maintain safety in the best way possible, we need to be sure we have the correct information about them. This means during check-in, we will ask you to visit a few stations to ensure we have everything we need. This process can take 45 minutes to an hour for overnight camp and 30 minutes on the first day of day camp. Please plan to spend at least this much time with us. Please do not arrive early to check in! Arriving early will not make this process go any faster. Our staff must get camp ready, have a staff meeting and eat a meal prior to your arrival. We cannot and will not start registration until these things have been concluded.

If your camper will be arriving to camp with someone other than a legal guardian listed on their paperwork/account, please contact us ahead of time. As campers visit each station parents/guardians review documents and are asked to sign the forms showing they have been reviewed, and they are okay or documenting any necessary changes. We need to know the person dropping your camper off can verify this information and sign on your behalf. Or we ask that you call in, review the documents and sign off on them prior to the start of your camper's session.

If for some reason you will be late please let us know, late arrivals are no problem. We need to ensure that we have everyone and that everyone is safe. In the event your camper has not arrived within an hour of check-in concluding, a camp representative will contact you to verify attendance status.

CLOSING CEREMONIES

We invite all family members to our closing ceremonies. This takes place on the last day of camp each week. This ceremony is to recognize all of the great things the campers have accomplished while they were with us. Each camper receives an award, we watch the weekly video(s), and everyone has time to share stories. Please arrive at 1:15 on Friday if you would like to take part in this program. This program can take an hour or longer, so please be sure to plan for this. Please do not arrive earlier than 1:15. We will be finishing up our week and getting things ready for your arrival.

PICK UP AND DROP OFF SCHEDULES

OVERNIGHT CAMP SCHEDULE – **Please do not arrive early to check-in;** we are unable to start the check-in process early and you will be asked to wait. Please be sure resident campers arriving on Sunday evenings have eaten dinner before arriving at camp; we do not serve dinner on Sunday evenings. Please note that pick up time is at 2pm on Friday

Week of Camp		Dates	Drop off	Pick up
1	Surf n Safari OC	July 7 - 12	July 7 at 6:30pm	July 12 at 2pm
2	Horse Crazy OC – Red			
3	Race Kidwell			
4	Kidwell Leaders OC - Red			
5	Adventure Island	July 14-19	July 14 at 6:30pm	July 19 at 2pm
6	Horse Crazy OC - Blue			
7	Shipwrecked			
8	Kidwell Leaders OC - Blue			
9	Mad Science OC	July 28 – Aug 2	July 28 at 6:30pm	August 2 at 2pm
10	Horse Crazy OC – Yellow			
11	Creating S.T.E.A.M.			
12	Kidwell Leaders OC - Yellow			
13	Wet and Wild OC	Aug 4 – Aug.9	August 4 at 6:30pm	August 9 at 2pm
14	Horse Crazy OC – GREEN			
15	Thrills and Chills Ropes			
16	Kidwell Leaders OC - Green			

DAY CAMP SCHEDULE – Please note that Friday pick up is at 2pm.

Week of Camp		Dates	Drop off	Pick up
1	Under the Sea Junior DC	July 8-12	Daily – 8am	5:30pm daily, and July 12 at 2pm
2	Surf' n Safari Senior DC			
3	First Matey Junior DC	July 15-19	Daily – 8am	5:30pm daily, accept July 19 at 2pm
4	Shipwrecked Senior DC			
5	Science Explorers Junior DC	July 29-Aug. 2	Daily – 8am	5:30pm daily, accept Aug.2 at 2pm
6	Mad Science Senior DC			
7	Lil' Water Bug Junior DC	Aug 5- Aug. 9	Daily– 8am	5:30pm daily accept Aug. 9 at 2pm
8	Wet & Wild Senior DC			
9	Horse Crazy DC	August 12-16	Daily – 9am	4pm daily, accept August 16 at 2pm
10	Campers Choice DC			

CAMPER PICK-UP

After campers are checked in, 4-H Camp Kidwell staff members are responsible for their well-being. Campers are not allowed to leave camp until the end of their session, unless an authorized person makes a written or verbal request to pick the child up at another time (unforeseen circumstances, doctor's appointment, sporting events, etc.). In this case, the camper's legal guardian should contact the Camp Director to make these arrangements. Each child **MUST** be signed out with a camp staff member before they can leave. They **MUST** also be picked up by an authorized person with valid photo ID. Authorized individuals will be indicated on the camper's health form and the camper will only be released to these individuals. If there are any changes to when or who will be picking up your child, please make arrangements with the Camp Director. If for some reason you are not able to make pick up by the time listed above, please let us know so we can reassure your children that you have not forgotten them.

IMPORTANT

Pick up time is a very exciting and important time, as your child will be excited to see you and you will be excited to see them. It is also an important time for the camp program as we will be wrapping things up, and trying to give the campers a great send off. Please keep this in mind and please allow the campers to complete their programs before grabbing them and taking them away from the program that is taking place. Be sure to go through the full check out process, I.E; visit the lost and found area, visit camp store, and most importantly, sign your camper out (pick up medications, receive your exit parent packet) with the designated camp staff member. Under no circumstances is a camper to be left alone at camp during closing. If a camper is not picked up at the predetermined time, a phone call will be made to the authorized person. If contact cannot be made, the emergency contact person will be called. As a last resort, if no one has come by 3:30 p.m., the sheriff will be called and the episode will be treated as a child neglect situation until the situation is resolved.

MUST KNOW FEATURES

With paid tuition every camper receives the following:

- **Camper Mail** - Kids love to get mail at camp. We offer a few options to get them mail.
 - o **One-way Emails (parent to campers)** – Camp offers FREE one way emails for all families. To access this great feature, just log into your online account and find the “Email a Camper” link in the “additional options” dropdown.
 - o **Snail Mail** – If email isn’t for you, please send something through the USPS. Our address is 39000 1st Ave, Bloomingtondale, MI 49026. Don’t forget to send these early as it usually takes a couple of days for them to get to us locally and more time the further you are away.
 - o **Prewritten Mail** – Get your letters written ahead of time and give them to us when you check-in. We will then hand them out during the week. Just be sure you have them labeled with the day you would like us to hand them out.
 - o **Camper to Parent Letters** – Campers feel lots of comfort from sending you mail as well. Please help your camper send you mail by packing: Paper, pencil, and pre-addressed and stamped envelopes.

- **Online Photo Gallery** - Camp offers FREE access to our online photo gallery for all families. We upload pictures each day of the happenings here at camp. This great feature gives you a chance to see what your camper is doing while they are here with us. We try to upload pictures from all of the program areas as well as getting all of the kiddos, but we can’t guarantee pictures of all campers will be uploaded. To access this great feature, just log into your online account and find the “Photo Gallery” link in the “additional options” dropdown. Pictures will usually not be available until Tuesday morning of each week.

- **Camp Store** – Each camper is credited \$5 in their account to make purchases for snacks or trinkets throughout their stay with us. As part of the check-in process you will make a stop at camp store to receive a t-shirt and water bottle. You will also be able review your camper’s account and add additional money at this time.
 - o **Online access to Camp Store Account** – You can check your camper’s camp store balance from home and add money as you feel necessary. To access this great feature, just log into your online account and find the “camp store” link in the “additional options” dropdown.
 - o **Weekly Camp Video** – All campers will receive a free digital copy of the weekly camp video featuring photos and videos of the great week your camper had at camp. We will also sell DVD and Blu-Ray copies. If you would like to purchase a DVD or Blu-Ray copy, you can do this at check-in or check-out of your camp session. You can also purchase by calling our office.
 - o **Additional Purchases** – If you would like to purchase an extra t-shirt, photo or other camp store item you can do this during the check in or check out time at camp.
 - o **Offseason Purchases** – We may also have limited items available for purchase online during the offseason as well. One item we will have available is Gift Certificates. You can now purchase a Gift Certificate to Camp Kidwell for birthday, or other special occasion.

CAMPER RULES

Below are our camp rules. Please take a moment and look them over and discuss them with your child.

1. Destruction of camp property, buildings, screens, nature, etc. is prohibited.
2. Shoes must be worn at all times. The exceptions to this rule include when in cabins, at swimming, boating, and shower areas.
3. No running allowed unless you’re told otherwise.
4. Clean up after yourself and others.
5. Campers must stay within camp boundaries at all times. The waterfront, horse area, archery range, sports field and challenge course areas are off limits unless accompanied by a staff member.
6. Campers should wash their hands after each time they go to the restroom and before each meal.
7. Personal hygiene is very important.
8. Cabins will remain neat and organized:
 - a. Only one radio, playing **appropriate** music, may be played softly in each cabin.
 - b. All beds will be made before breakfast.
 - i. Beds must be made head to toe and at least 30 inches apart
 - c. All wet towels and suits will be hung on the clothes line outside the cabin.
 - d. Cabins will be swept and kept free of cobwebs and dirt.
 - e. Clothes picked up and put away neatly on bed or in suitcase.
9. Fire extinguishers are not to be touched by anyone other than camp staff members.
10. Throwing of stones, sticks, or any other dangerous objects is not allowed.
11. Campers should not go into cabins other than their own, the director’s office, maintenance or storage shed.
12. Extra money or valuables should be turned into the camp director. Camp is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

13. All campers will participate in scheduled activities unless ill or injured.
14. A buddy system should be used at all times. Campers should take a friend with them wherever they go on camp grounds. **Special Note:** To use the restroom during the night wake up a counselor to tell them where you're going and also take a buddy.
15. Do not get into other person's belongings.
16. Smoking, swearing, alcohol, drugs, fighting, and sexual conduct are not allowed.
17. Animals, firearms and other hunting equipment are prohibited. Personal sports equipment must be approved by the camp director.

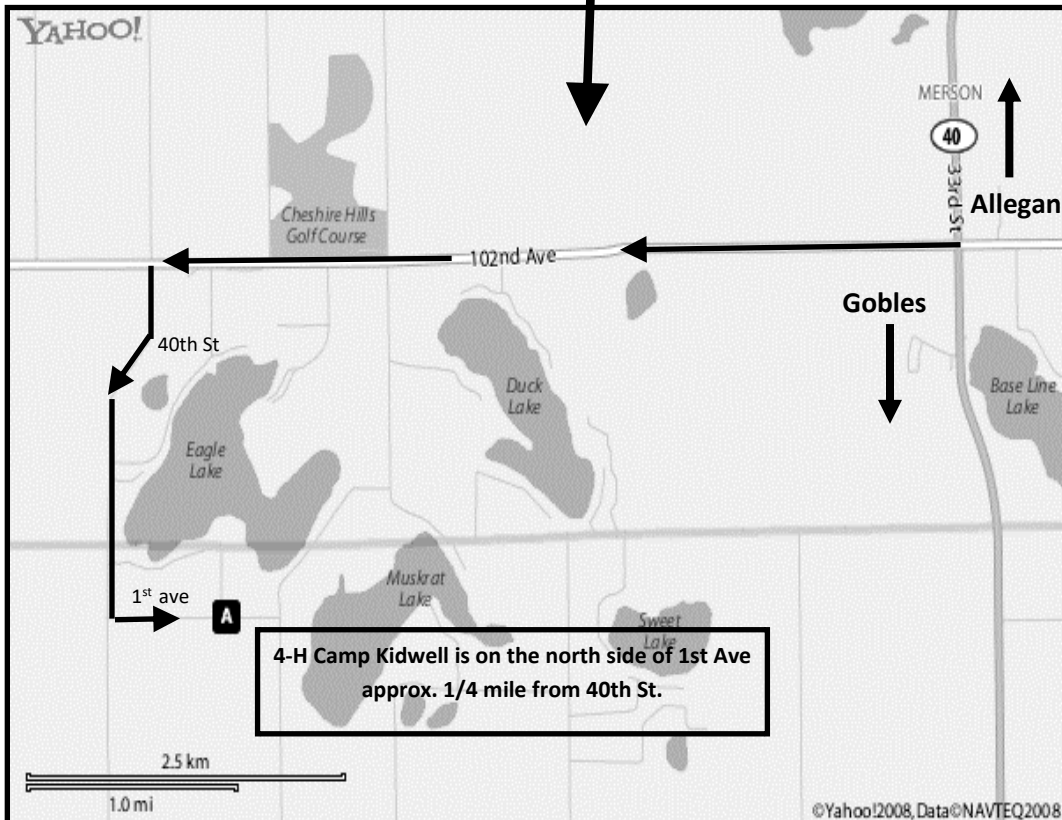
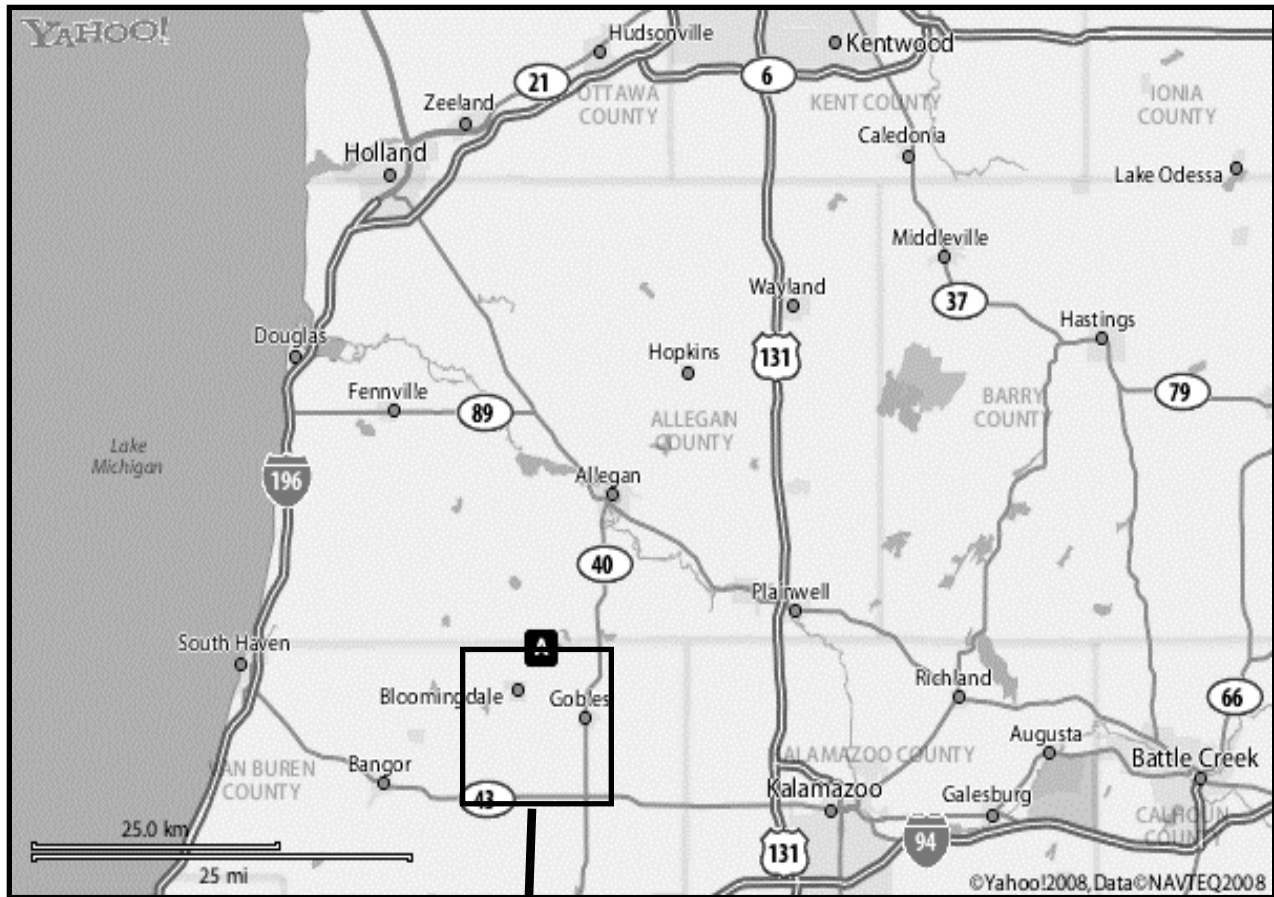
GOALS(G) and OUTCOMES(O)

Below are some of the goals and outcomes we hope your child(ren) experience while they are with us.

- G- Provide a unique, exciting, fun-filled and growing experience to all campers.**
 - O- Campers learn personal strengths and weaknesses, and how to use them.
- G- Convey to each camper the feeling that he or she is a unique and worthwhile human being.**
 - O- Campers become more confident and outgoing and are able to express themselves more clearly.
- G- Each camper is a winner if he or she does the best they can with the abilities they have.**
 - O- Campers develop willingness to try new things.
- G- Provide experiences that allow for cooperation with others, a close relationship with campers and staff members.**
 - O- Campers develop a healthy respect and interaction level with campers and adults.
- G- Provide a caring community in which campers and staff work together and enjoy each new day and experience.**
 - O- Campers show concern for others and willingness to help each other solve problems.
- G- Expose campers to activities with which they may not be familiar.**
 - O- Campers develop interest in new activities.
- G- Offer individual, small group, and large group activities, which are skillfully taught and thoroughly organized.**
 - O- Campers demonstrate ability to be productive members of any size group.
- G- Challenge children to treat each other with respect and promote positive communication skills.**
 - O- Campers think before acting and work through issues in positive and appropriate means.
- G- Provide challenging co-educational experiences, promoting a positive feeling between boys and girls.**
 - O- Campers demonstrate positive, meaningful relationships with members of the opposite sex.
- G- Maintain and build meaningful 4-H Camp Kidwell traditions through songs, activities, and camping.**
 - O- Campers want to become members of staff and continue to share the positive experience that camp provides.
- G- Provide a quality overall program in which campers and families are excited about and want to return.**
 - O- Campers will want to return year after year.

Directions to 4-H Camp Kidwell

39000 1st Ave Bloomingdale, MI 49026



From North and East

At the corner of M-40 and 102nd Ave, go west on 102nd Ave to 40th St. Go south on 40th St. to 1st Ave. turn east on 1st Ave. 4-H Camp Kidwell will be on the north side of 1st Ave about 1/4 of a mile from 40th St.

From South and West

Turn north on CR 665 from M-43, follow CR 665 through Bloomingdale to CR 390, turn East on CR 390. Follow CR 390 to 40th St, turn north on 40th St. Follow 40th St. to 1st Ave, and turn east. 4-H Camp Kidwell will be on the north side of 1st Ave about 1/4 of a mile from 40th St.

4-H Camp Kidwell is on the north side of 1st Ave approx. 1/4 mile from 40th St.