

Winter Camp



4-H Camp Kidwell
Bloomington, MI



Parent Handbook

2018

39000 1st Ave
Bloomington, MI 49026
(269)521-3559-P * (866)324-2797-F * campkidwell@btc-bci.com
visit our website www.campkidwell.org



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Helping your camper succeed.....	1
Letter from your Director.....	1
About 4-H Camp Kidwell.....	1
What to Bring.....	2
Drop-Off Details.....	2
Pick-Up Details.....	2
Camper Commitment.....	3
Camp Expectations.....	3
Homesick Campers.....	3
Camp Goals and Outcomes.....	4
Must Know Features.....	4
Directions.....	5

Connect with us

www.campkidwell.org

269.521.3559

campkidwell@btc-bci.com

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Dear Family!

Thank you for choosing 4-H Camp Kidwell! We are looking forward to Winter Camp and expect everyone to have a wonderful time! We strive to teach young people skills for life in a safe, fun and loving environment. Our campers have opportunities to grow personally, develop friendships and learn about the world around them through a variety of fun and exciting activities. We hope that you and your family enjoy the 4-H Camp Kidwell experience and attending events here become a tradition for your family.

This handbook is your resource to help you prepare for your camper's stay with us. Call or email our office if you have any questions or concerns about your camper's session at camp. You can reach us at (269)521-3559 or email us at campkidwell@btc-bci.com.

Please don't forget we need a copy of an insurance card and immunization records for your child. If you have already provided these forms for an earlier 2018 session, please disregard. If you are a new family or have not done this yet for 2018, please turn those in as soon as possible.

The details included here are very important and we are grateful for your attention to each of them to ensure your camper and the rest of the kids and staff taking part in Winter Camp 2018 have the best possible experience!

Thank you again for choosing 4-H Camp Kidwell!!! If you have questions or need details, please contact me directly at 269-521-3559 or campkidwell@btc-bci.com. I am glad to help in any way I can.

Sincerely,

KJ Kelly
Camp Director

HELPING YOUR CAMPER SUCCEED

A successful camp experience starts with your camper being in the right mind set about camp. If your camper understands why they want to attend 4-H Camp Kidwell, they will get the most out of their stay and create positive, lifelong memories. As their parent/guardian, we ask you help them get ready for a great experience by talking with them about what the camp experience will look like and helping them create realistic expectations for their stay. If you are unsure of how something will go at camp, please contact us. We are happy to help you understand the layout of camp. If a camper has the wrong information, it can make it hard for them to feel comfortable at camp.

It is important for you as the parent/guardian and person who your camper looks up to, to know what your expectations are. By knowing what your vision for the experience will look like to you will be able to help your camper create their own vision and expectations. Parents are often as nervous as their children about a prolonged stay away from home. "Is my child going to be safe?" "Are they getting to do the things they want to do?" "Are they homesick?" Are common questions going through parent's minds and we are happy to give you piece of mind about those questions, both before and during your campers stay. As you set those expectations for yourself please don't hesitate to contact us to ask questions and clarify things. COMMUNICATION IS KEY!

For campers to enjoy their camp experience they should be emotionally stable and independent; be able to care for themselves at an age-appropriate level, maintain basic hygiene (brushing teeth, showering, table manners, etc.), be emotionally appropriate with fellow campers and staff as well as physically safe for themselves and others. We expect campers to carry themselves in a way that is SAFE, FUN and LOVING.

As you prepare to arrive at camp, talk with your camper about these things and what this experience will mean to you, as well as to them. It will help them immensely in feeling confident and ready for their camp experience! This can be a lot on the plate of a young person, but with your support before camp and our support here at camp, attending camp will be a very powerful experience of growth and excitement.



ABOUT 4-H CAMP KIDWELL

Our Mission

To provide extraordinary camping opportunities for children and to be a valued resource to 4-H, youth, families, groups, and organizations throughout the region.

Our Motto

To teach young people skills for life in a safe, fun and loving environment

4-H Camp Kidwell sits on 150 beautiful acres surrounding Eagle Lake in southern Allegan and northern Van Buren Counties. Camp was created by 4-Hers in 1949 and has been offering summer camp, youth and family-oriented activities ever since. 4-H Camp Kidwell is Licensed by the State of Michigan and we are a proud accredited member of the American Camp Association. 4-H Camp Kidwell is a proud part of the 4-H program and has a close relationship with Michigan State University Extension.

THINGS TO BRING

Please be sure to consider the weather we will experience during your child(ren)'s stay. Sending your child with enough WARM clothing will greatly increase their ability to have a great time. We've indicated a recommended number of each item on the packing list, but please pack more than you think will be enough, so your camper doesn't run short! Please mark all clothing and other personal items brought to camp. Having initials on the tag or on the back of an item helps to identify them if they get lost.

Winter Boots
Winter Jacket
Snow Pants
Winter Hat
Gloves (2-3 pairs)
Socks (10-12 pairs)
Tennis Shoes/Slip-ons
Scarf

Long pants (5-6 pairs)
Long-sleeve shirts (2-3)
T-shirts (6-8)
Sweatshirts (2-3)
Undergarments (4-5 days' worth)
Pajamas (2 pairs)
Sleeping bag/Bedding
Pillow
Towels (2)

Toothbrush/Toothpaste
Deodorant
Soap/Shampoo
Comb/Brush
Feminine Products
Case/Bag to carry bathroom supplies
Laundry Bag
Flashlight
Water Bottle

Day campers and individual overnight campers, please bring all your winter gear. Day campers should pack a change of clothes and extra gloves and socks. Overnight campers will need all the items listed above, but a little less depending on how long you will be staying.

THINGS NOT TO BRING

Please review this list closely and help us foster a great atmosphere here at camp. Please do not pack clothes that do not cover undergarments (bra and/or underwear). Clothing with inappropriate or disrespectful logos/topics such as drugs, alcohol, tobacco should be left at home. Items such as food/snacks, money, knives, electronics, fireworks, cell phones, iPods, MP3 players, video games etc. must be left at home. 4-H Camp Kidwell will not be responsible for damaged, lost or stolen items.

DROP-OFF DETAILS

Drop off Details

Overnight Camp

- Full Session - Friday, December 28, 2018 – 2pm.
- Single Day – 9am daily
- Except Dec. 28 at 2pm
- Dinner will be served on Dec. 28th

Day Camp

- Daily at 9am, Dec. 29-Jan.1
- Day Campers are welcome to eat all three meals with us.
- Breakfast - 9am, Lunch - 1pm, Dinner - 5:30pm

CAMPER CHECK-IN

You will need to visit a few stations to ensure we have the necessary information and your camper is settled in. Please plan for at least 45 minutes if you are an overnight camper and at least 30 minutes on the first day of day camp. We will do our best to move things along as quickly as possible.

If for some reason you will be late, please let us know. In the event your camper has not been dropped off by 4pm, you will be contacted to verify attendance status.

Below are the stations you will visit. Day camp check in may be a little shorter.

Welcome – Cabin assignment, name tag and direction for what's next

-Overnight campers, please leave your belongings in your car until you head to your cabin. Day Campers bring your bag to registration.

Head lice and Temp check – Campers will not be able to stay if evidence of lice or a high temp is found.

Registration – Review forms, pay balance, etc.

Camp Store – Receive water bottle, t-shirt and set up camp store acct.

Health officer – review medical concerns, turn-in & count medications

Settle into cabin – Resident camp only

Goodbyes and Campers join activity group and parents head home.

PICK-UP DETAILS

Pick Up Details

Overnight Camp

- Full Session - Monday, January 1, 2019 – 2pm
- Single Day – 6pm on the last day of campers' stay
- Except Jan. 1 at 2pm

Day Camp

- 6pm daily - Dec. 29-31
- 2pm on Jan 1

CAMPER PICK-UP

-We will show a fun highlight video at 1:30pm on Jan 1. Parents/family are welcome.

-Each child/family **MUST** visit at least four stations before leaving

- Lost and Found
- Camp Store
- Health Officer
- Sign out

-Individuals picking up a camper **MUST** be listed on the campers Authorized Persons List and have a photo ID.

-Campers are not allowed to leave camp until the end of their session, unless the campers parent/guardian request it.

-If for some reason you are not able to make pick up by the time listed above, please let us know.

-If a camper is not picked up at the predetermined time, a phone call will be made to the parent/guardian, followed by a call to the alternate contact. As a last resort, if your camper is not picked up by 4pm., the sheriff will be called, and the situation will be treated as child neglect.



CAMPER COMMITMENT

Every camper who attends 4-H Camp Kidwell is expected to be part of our family atmosphere. Below is a commitment that we hope you will go over with your camper and help them understand what it means for them while they are here at 4-H Camp Kidwell.

"I want to become a camper at 4-H Camp Kidwell. I understand I may not possess or use tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, or non-prescription drugs while I am at camp. I will do my best to follow instructions, remain in designated areas, and keep other and myself safe. I will do my best to make this a good experience for my fellow campers and myself. I understand that failure to live up to this promise might result in my dismissal from camp without a refund.



CAMP EXPECTATIONS

Below are the camp expectations we will share with your son/daughter when they arrive. Please take a moment to look them over and discuss with your child.

1. Destruction of camp property is prohibited.
2. Shoes must always be worn. Except at the beach, in the shower and in cabins.
3. No running allowed unless you're told otherwise.
4. Clean up after yourself and others.
5. Campers must always stay within camp boundaries. The waterfront, horse area, archery range, sports field, challenge courses and sledding hill are off limits unless accompanied by a staff member.
6. Personal hygiene is very important.
7. Campers are expected to wash their hands after each time they use the restroom and before each meal.
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 & at least 30 inches apart
 - c. All wet towels will be hung neatly on each bed.
 - d. Cabins will be swept and kept free of cobwebs and dirt.
 - e. Clothes will be picked up & put away neatly
9. Fire extinguishers are not to be touched by anyone other than camp staff members.
10. Throwing of stones, sticks, or other objects is not allowed.
11. Campers should not go into cabins other than their own, the director's office, maintenance or storage shed.
12. Camp cannot be responsible for lost or stolen items, so all valuables will be collected and turned into the camp director.
13. A buddy system should always be used. Camper should take a friend with them where ever they go on camp grounds. **Special Note:** To use the restroom during the night campers are asked to wake up a staff member and a buddy.
14. Do not get into another person's belongings.
15. Smoking, swearing, alcohol, drugs, fighting, and sexual conduct is not allowed.
16. Animals, firearms and other hunting equipment are prohibited. Personal sports equipment is also prohibited unless approved by the Camp Director.

HOMESICK CAMPERS

Home sickness, or sadness as we like to refer to it, is a very normal part of being away from home. Prepare your camper for homesickness by helping them develop a good understanding of what they will do at camp and realistic expectations about how things may happen at camp. Going away to camp will be fun and worthwhile, but it is important to make sure your child understands it may not be fun every minute.

We are glad to, and of course will, help your camper work through these natural and normal feelings. You have the power to help this process significantly. Don't over glamorize the camp experience and talk with them about problems they may face—about liking some people more than others (both campers and staff), about making choices at camp (it's not possible to do every single thing); how to handle a group decision that are not your favorite (this WILL happen); There are many more situations to discuss... You know your child best! Talk with them about the things you feel they will face the most.

We will use skills developed over many years 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.

A tour before camp has helped many young people. We are happy to show families around and answer questions. Please give us a call to set up a visit. (269) 521-3559

IMPORTANT NOTE

Campers are NOT allowed to have cell phones at camp and are NOT allowed to call home at will. Please be sure to explain this to your camper and **DO NOT** tell them they can call home whenever they want.

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 representative and parent will decide on the best plan of action.

Parents are welcome to check on how their camper is doing with a phone call. We are happy to 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.

CAMP 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 for 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 - Emphasize the fact that everyone has something positive to offer. 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 camping experience which allows for individual reflection, cooperation with others, and a close relationship with a cabin counselor and program leaders.

O - Campers develop a healthy respect and interaction level with adults.

G - Provide a caring community in which campers and staff work together.

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.

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 out issues through positive and appropriate means.

G - Provide challenging 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 traditions through songs, activities, and camping.

O - Campers want to become members of staff to share the positive experience with others.

G - Provide a quality overall program in which campers and families will be excited about and will want to return for future programs and activities.

O - Campers will want to return year after year.

MUST KNOW FEATURES

With paid tuition every camper receives the following: all activities, room and board, a t-shirt, group photo of their session, \$5 credit in camp store, digital copy of the weekly camp video, access to our one-way email program, and access to our online photo gallery. See details below.

Camper Mail

Kids love to get mail at camp.

One-way Emails (parent to campers) – Camp is offering FREE one-way emails for all families in 2018. To access this great feature, just log into your online account and find the “Email a Camper” link in the “additional options” dropdown.

Snail Mail – If email isn’t for you, please send something through the USPS. Our address is 39000 1st Ave, Bloomington, 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.

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.

Camper to Parent Letters – Campers can also feel 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

We offer FREE access to our online photo gallery for all families. This is a great feature which gives you a chance to see what your camper is doing while they are here with us. We try to upload pictures from all the program areas as well as getting all the kiddos, but we can’t guarantee pictures of all campers will be uploaded.

Camp Store

When you check in to camp you will set up a camp store account for your camper. They have a \$5 credit in their account, but you can add up to an additional \$15. Campers can visit camp store each day to get snacks and other merchandise for sale.

Online access to Camp Store Account - You can check your camper’s 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.

Weekly Camp Video

Campers will receive a free digital copy of the weekly camp video featuring photos and videos from the week of camp. 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 or by calling our office. Edits and finishing touches will be added and videos will be sent you to following the camp session.

Additional Purchases

Extra t-shirts, photos or other camp store items will be available for purchase when you visit camp store or by calling our office.

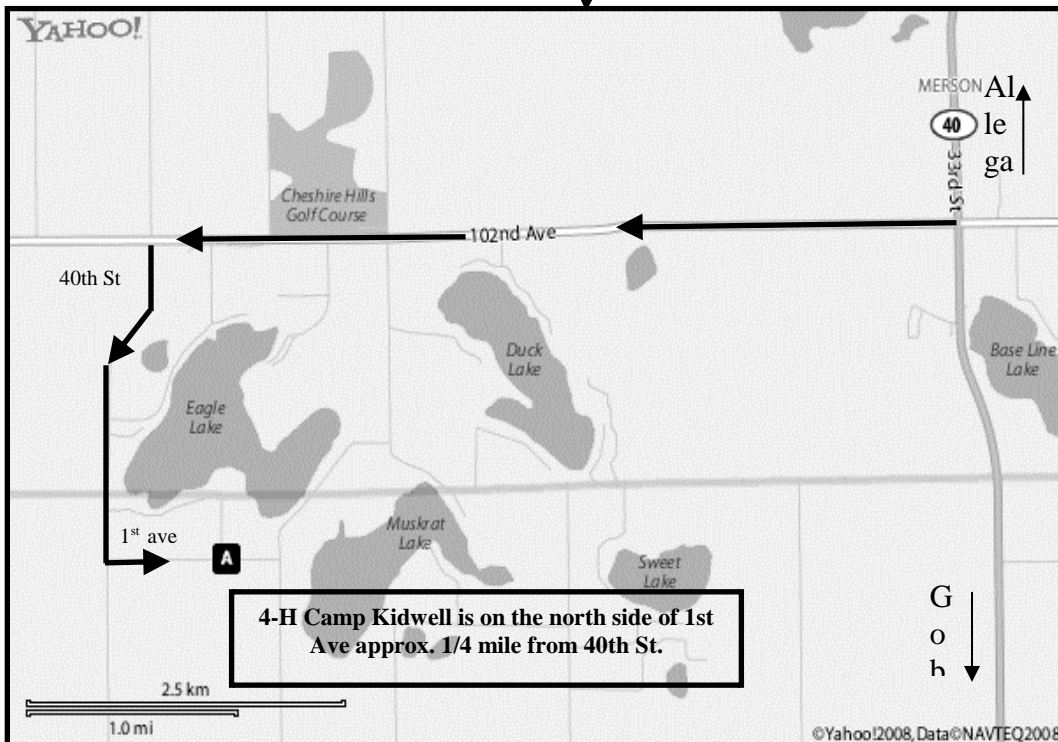
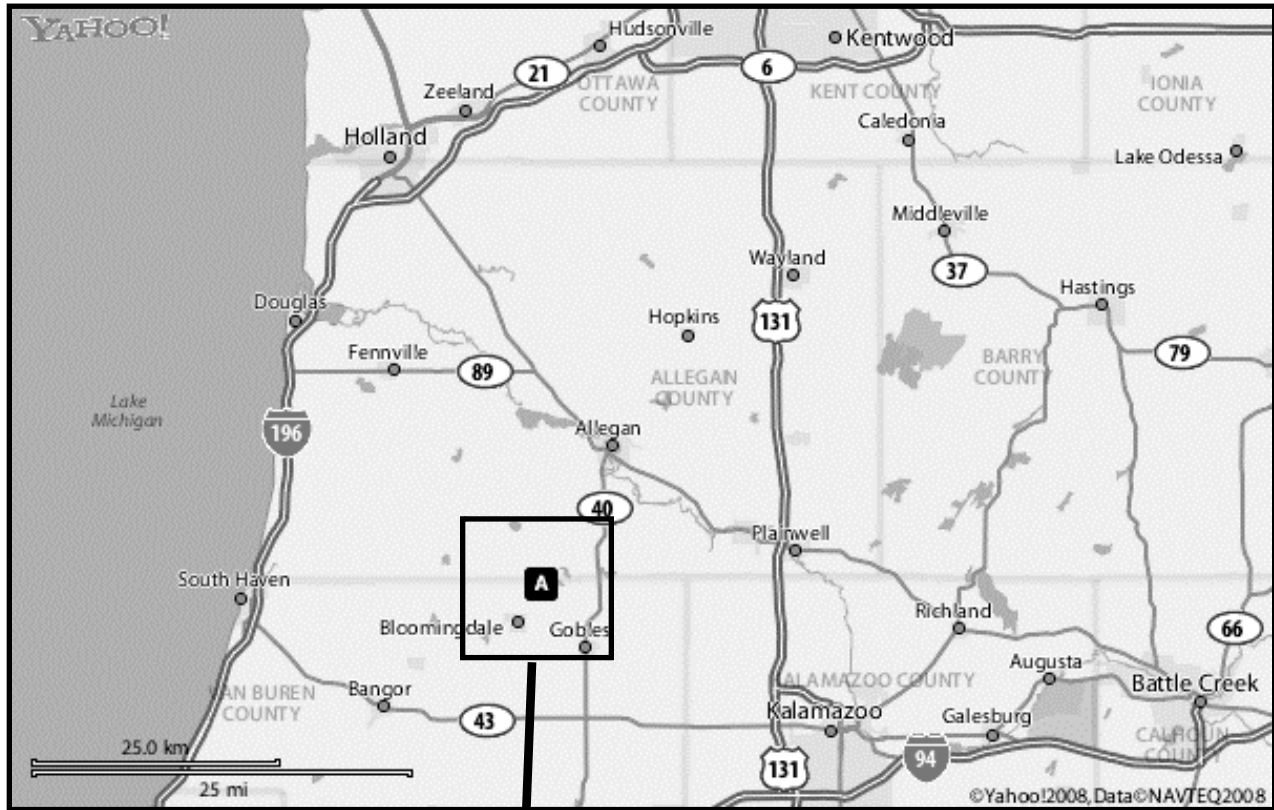
Offseason Purchases

We will also have limited items available for purchase online during the offseason. One item we will have available is Gift Certificates. You can now purchase a Gift Certificate for Camp Kidwell as a birthday or other special occasion.



DIRECTIONS TO 4-H CAMP KIDWELL

39000 1st Ave Bloomingdale, MI 49026 * (269)521-3559



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

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.