

Nature Camp Information for Accepted Campers 2010

Please read this letter carefully and save it for your files; it contains important details for the 2010 season and is the only written correspondence you will receive from Nature Camp before your session begins.

Payment is due in full by **1 June 2010** to secure your place in your session. Please note that if you have received a scholarship from a garden club or other sponsoring organization, it is your responsibility to notify the sponsor of your acceptance and to ensure that payment is made on time. If you requested tuition reduction, you should have received a response from Scholarship Coordinator Lynne Still (wjpstill@aol.com).

Please have the 2010 Nature Camp medical form filled out and signed by a physician and return it within four weeks of the start of your session. Failure to submit this form in advance of your arrival at Nature Camp will result in a delay in check-in. Please note that the back page of this form also serves as our means for collecting emergency contact information, which is required by Nature Camp's crisis management policy. Copies of the form and this letter will also be available on the Nature Camp website (www.naturecamp.net). *Following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Nature Camp recommends that all campers receive the tetravalent meningococcal conjugated vaccine (MCV4).*

If you are a new camper, please also note the photo release form, which we ask parents / guardians to sign and return. This form grants permission to use a camper's photograph or other media for display on the Nature Camp website or inclusion in Camp publications. Nature Camp respects the wishes of anyone who prefers not to grant such permission.

Copies of the medical form and photo release form are available on the Nature Camp website (www.naturecamp.net).

Check-in and Departure

Please arrive at Nature Camp between **2:30 PM** and **4:00 PM** on the day (Sunday) your session begins. We will not check any campers in until 2:30 PM. Your session will end on Saturday, 13 days later ; you should be picked up between **9:30 AM** and **11:00 AM**. We have no provisions for supervising campers beyond 11:00 AM that morning.

Parents / Guardians: Upon arriving at Nature Camp on check-in day, please come to the Office and pick up a number. We will check in campers in the order of arrival. Please do not leave your campers until they have checked in at the Office, in the event that we need to obtain additional information from you. Please also come to the Office to check your campers out on the last day of the session.

If you bring a dog or other pet on check-in/departure days, please keep it on a leash at all times.

What to Bring

Nature Camp provides a bunkbed and mattress for every camper. You need to bring a pillow and mattress cover, sheets and a blanket, or sleeping bag as desired. Please also bring toiletry articles, towels, a flashlight or headlamp, and clothes sufficient for a two-week stay; no laundry facilities are available. Clothing should include a bathing suit, poncho or rain jacket, at least two pairs of jeans or other long pants, and sturdy hiking shoes or boots (in addition to everyday footwear). "Surf shoes" or other shoes for wear in creeks and streams are required. (We don't allow barefoot wading or swimming in creeks.) All footwear must be completely closed at the toes and heel; Crocs, Keens, sandals and other open-toed shoes, are not allowed, except for the final evening's Closing Ceremony. Sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15 is required for all campers swimming in the pool. Nights can be quite cool, especially early in the summer, so a sweatshirt or jacket is recommended. At least one set of dress clothing for Closing

Ceremony and chapel services is suggested. You may also wish to bring binoculars, camera, water bottle, day pack, field guides, insect repellent, musical instruments or other items for talent night, and a notebook, paper and pens or pencils for class projects and reports. Storage space is limited; a large footlocker or trunk is usually the most convenient way to organize your belongings.

Please note that although Nature Camp staff will make every effort to assist campers in maintaining their belongings, they are not responsible for personal items left or lost at camp. Do not bring expensive or irreplaceable items, and be certain that all items are clearly marked with the camper's name.

Nature Camp maintains a small store (canteen) where campers may purchase some personal items, Nature Camp T-shirts and other clothing, stationery and notebook supplies, ice cream and drinks. Money (cash or check) brought to camp will be deposited with the Canteen Operator, and items purchased are charged against your account. At the end of the session, any remaining funds are returned; overdrafts are not permitted.

What Not to Bring

Do not bring any electronic/electrical devices, including radios, CD/DVD/tape/mp3 players, iPods, video games, laptop computers, or cell phones. (Digital cameras are permitted.) Do not bring knives of any type or size.

Mail

Mail should have the camper's name clearly written above the address:

**Nature Camp
316 Nature Camp Trail
Vesuvius, VA 24483**

While care packages are always popular, please note that food items brought or received by campers are stored by the staff in a central location and cannot be kept longer than three days. This policy is necessary to avoid attracting mice and ants, and it reflects our very limited storage space. We also restrict access to care packages during the time periods immediately preceding meals. In accord with our conservation focus, we strongly discourage the use of non-recyclable packaging and request that packages and packaging materials be kept to a minimum.

Telephone

Nature Camp maintains a single voice telephone line (**540-377-2491**) for general business use. Except for emergencies, campers can neither receive nor make calls. We ask that you respect this policy.

Visitors

With the exception of direct family members, no visitors for campers are allowed during the session. There is no official visitation day, and to allow campers to develop their own independence and self-confidence and to reduce the risk of homesickness, we do not actively encourage visits during a session. If family members do chose to visit, we request that you make arrangements in advance so that we may expect your arrival and provide you with the best times to visit. All visitors must check in at the Office upon arrival and obtain a nametag for the purpose of identification. If a camper needs to leave camp for any reason during the session, including family emergencies, please notify us as far in advance as possible.

Directions

Nature Camp is easily reached from Interstate 81. From Exit 205 (Raphine), midway between Staunton and Lexington, take Rt. 606 (Raphine Rd) east to Steele's Tavern (1.5 miles to the first stop sign at US 11). Turn left on US Highway 11 and then immediately right on VA Highway 56 (Tye River Turnpike) east. Drive 1.6 miles into Vesuvius, straight past the first sign for Rt. 608 on the left, and then bear south (straight ahead) on Rt. 608 (South River Rd). (DO NOT CROSS THE RAILROAD TRACKS AT THIS TIME.) In 1.9 miles, you will cross the railroad tracks; continue on 0.7 miles and take the first gravel road to the left, marked as Nature Camp Trail. When the road forks at the sign for Nature Camp, turn right and drive into Camp. Please note that the road crosses a narrow, stone bridge; vehicles with trailers are not recommended. The parking area is on the left just beyond the swimming pool. Maps and directions are also available on the Nature Camp website (www.naturecamp.net).

Nature Camp reserves the right to send home any camper whose behavior interferes with the safety and well-being of other campers and staff members.

Philip P. Coulling
Executive Director

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Lexington, VA 24450
director@naturecamp.net

(540) 463-5308 (h)
(540) 460-7897 (c)
(540) 377-2491 (camp)