

Nature Camp Application Information

The total fee for the 2009 sessions is **\$700**. Each application should be accompanied by a \$100 deposit; please make checks payable to Nature Camp Inc. Nature Camp accepts applications on a rolling basis. Applications may be submitted at any time, and there is no application deadline; applications will be accepted on a “first-come, first-serve” basis. Should the number of applications for a session received by 1 January 2009 exceed the number of available spaces, preference will be awarded first to returning campers, then to new campers with a scholarship, and finally to new campers without a scholarship by random draw. Although it has been several years since every session filled, this past year there were at one time waiting lists for three of the four sessions; hence we strongly encourage you to submit an application as soon as possible.

Please note the changes in the dates and grade ranges for the 2009 sessions. First Session begins later than usual to accommodate schedules of several school systems in Virginia. We have also shifted the grade ranges for some of the sessions in an effort to equilibrate the enrollment numbers across the four sessions and to minimize the number of applicants on waiting lists. Please note that current 12th graders are eligible to attend First Session the summer after they have graduated from high school. Also, 8th graders may attend either Second or Third Session. Returning 6th graders may be considered for Third Session if Fourth Session fills.

Acceptance notices and medical forms will be mailed in early January to all individuals whose applications have been received by then and within 3-4 weeks for all applications subsequently received. Deposit checks will be held until notification of acceptance is provided. We have capacity for about 40 boys and 48 girls in each session. Applications will continue to be accepted throughout the spring as space allows, but we cannot guarantee availability. Should a particular session fill, we will place additional applicants on a waiting list and notify them of their status. Every year some accepted campers withdraw their applications, and we endeavor to admit as many campers as we can. If we must put you on the waiting list, we will hold your check until we can offer you a place or until you request its return.

Nature Camp is unique in its academic focus. Since its inception Nature Camp has emphasized hands-on, place-based, experiential education in natural history and environmental studies. All applicants should be advised of the requirements to attend daily classes, to maintain a notebook, to complete all written assignments, and to participate in outdoor activities. Campers are expected to accept the academic challenges with enthusiasm, commitment and hard work. Campers in the past have discovered the joy in learning and have enthusiastically returned for more of what Nature Camp has to offer. Those seeking a purely recreational experience will be unhappy.

Feel free to make copies of the application and share it with anyone who may be interested in attending Nature Camp.

Please direct any questions to Nature Camp director Philip Coulling by e-mail at **director@naturecamp.net** or by phone at 540-460-7897 (c) or 540-463-5308 (h).