



Summer Day Camp 2017

Camp Information Guide – Farm Camps

Camp Check-In/Out

- Check-in and check-out for farm-themed camps will take place at the Blandford Farm at 3145 Milo Street NW, Grand Rapids, 49534. Please park in the lot at the corner of Milo Street and Lamont Avenue and gather in the farmyard located between the large red barn, the chicken coop, and the CSA barn.
 - DROP-OFF STARTS 15 MINUTES BEFORE CAMP BEGINS (8:45am for AM Nature Buds, Wild Sprouts, Trail Blazers, & Outdoor Explorers and 12:45pm for PM Nature Buds).
 - PICK-UP IS NO LATER THAN 10 MINUTES AFTER CAMP ENDS (12:10pm for AM Nature Buds & 4:10pm for PM Nature Buds, Wild Sprouts, Trail Blazers, & Outdoor Explorers).
 - If you are running late, please call us at 616-735-6240 so we can inform the Camp Instructor. If you are late, you will be charged with a Camp Cool Down fee.
 - If your camper is registered for our Camp Cool Down, pick-up is at 5:15pm.
 - Camp Cool Down for all camps will be taking place at the main campus. If your child is attending Camp Cool Down, please plan to pick them up in the Environmental Educator Center near the new Mary Jane Dockeray Visitor Center at 1715 Hillburn Ave NW.
- **NEW! PARENTS MUST CHECK-IN THEIR CAMPER WITH THEIR CAMP INSTRUCTOR EACH DAY.** You will be asked to initial a main check-in sheet. This ensures we know who dropped off your camper.
- **NEW! CAMPERS AND PARENTS MUST CHECK-OUT WITH THEIR CAMP INSTRUCTOR AT THE END OF THE DAY.** Campers will only be allowed to leave with designated drivers listed on the Camper's registration. The designated driver will need to initial the main check-out sheet daily. This ensures we know who picked up your camper.
 - Please inform the Camp Administrator or Camp Instructors of any and all drop-off/pick-up changes including designated adults, doctor's appointments, etc. as soon as possible.

What to Bring

- **WEAR WEATHER-APPROPRIATE CLOTHES ([EX]: RAINCOATS, BOOTS, OR SUN HAT) AND CLOSED TOED SHOES.** Dress for outdoor activities that could get your camper dirty and wet, whether rain or shine!
- **ALL CAMPERS WILL NEED TO BRING A SNACK AND A REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE.** We recommend easily refillable water bottles and hearty, healthy snacks. Campers are typically given at least one snack break per day, so please pack appropriately based on your campers needs.
- **ALL DAY CAMPERS NEED TO PACK A LUNCH.** Campers staying all day (Wild Sprouts, Trail Blazers, Outdoor Explorers or Nature Buds attending both AM & PM sessions) must also bring a lunch. Help us reduce waste by packing in reusable containers or consider a zero-waste lunch.

- **APPLY SUNSCREEN AND INSECT REPELLENT AT HOME (BEFORE ARRIVING AT CAMP).** The general recommendation of the American Academy of Pediatrics is to limit the use of DEET (10% or less) products on kids. Please apply initial treatments before arriving at camp. You may send extra sunscreen/insect repellent with your camper, but please ensure it's labeled with the camper name and that the camper knows how/when to apply it. Educators may not be able to assist with reapplication.
- **PLEASE LABEL ALL OF YOUR CAMPER'S ITEMS.** BNC will make every effort to return all lost and found items but cannot be responsible for lost or stolen items. A lost and found table will be in the lobby of the EEC throughout the summer. Unclaimed items will be donated.
 - o Toys, family heirlooms or irreplaceable items cause devastation if lost at camp. Please do not send these items with children to camp unless specified by the Camp Instructor.
 - o All medical supplies (EPI pens, medications, etc.), should be clearly labeled and given to the Camp Instructor each day at check-in.
- **EXTRA ITEMS FOR TIE-DYING.** Each BNC camper will receive one complimentary camp t-shirt. They will get this t-shirt on the Wednesday of their first week of camp. If your camper is attending multiple weeks of camp, please feel free to send them with another item for tie-dying on the subsequent Wednesdays.
 - o White 100% cotton items are best for tie-dying. Label any extra items with your child's name before sending them to camp.
 - o Each Friday, campers are encouraged to wear their tie-dye camp t-shirt to camp!

Behavior Expectations

Blandford Nature Center staff work hard to ensure every camper has a fun, safe, and rewarding time during camp. Please review the following expectations with your child to help create a great camp experience:

- **RESPECT OTHER CAMPERS.** Take turns, listen, maintain body boundaries, use polite words, problem solve together, and make friends.
- **RESPECT BLANDFORD STAFF AND CAMP AIDES.** Follow directions the first time and use respectful language.
- **RESPECT NATURE.** Leave plants and animals as you find them. Take only memories!
- **BE SAFE AND STAY WITH YOUR GROUP AT ALL TIMES.**
- **BE ACTIVE AND PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES.** Ask questions, be engaged, and try new things!

If a child's behavior is disruptive to the program or the experience of other campers, instructors will follow the behavior action steps listed below. *Disruptive behavior includes: bullying, inappropriate language, unwillingness to work cooperatively with group, destruction of nature center grounds.*

Behavior Action Steps include the following:

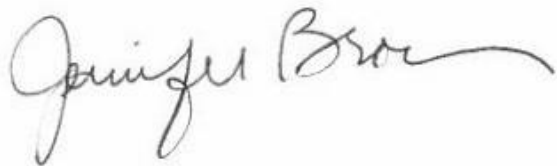
- **STEP 1:** Disruptive behavior will be discussed with camper, instructor and support staff (Camp Administrator, Program Manager or Director of Programs) with an agreed upon solution.
- **STEP 2:** If the discussion in Step 1 is unsuccessful, support staff (Camp Administrator, Program Manager or Director of Programs) will notify parent of the concerns and discuss appropriate, positive solution.
- **STEP 3:** If disruptive behavior continues after camper-staff-parent conference, the camper will be sent home.

If a child's behavior is aggressive or violent (hitting, kicking, biting, or using any object as a weapon) toward either staff or other campers or if a child attempts to run away from the group, the child will be sent home immediately.

No refund will be given when a child is sent home for behavior reasons. Blandford Nature Center wants all children to be successful at camp; options for returning to camp after being dismissed can be discussed with the Program Manager or the Director of Programs & Services.

Please contact us with any questions, concerns, or special needs you or your camper may have regarding Summer Day Camp.

We look forward to seeing you in the woods this summer!



Jennifer Brown, Director of Programs & Services
Jennifer@blandfordnaturecenter.org
616-735-6240 ext. 108



Laura Johns, Program Manager
Laura@blandfordnaturecenter.org
616-735-6240 ext. 102