



Summer Day Camp 2018 Camp Information Guide

Camp Check-In/Out

- Check-in and check-out will take place at the Environmental Education Center (EEC) located near the Mary Jane Dockeray Visitor Center at 1715 Hillburn Ave NW, Grand Rapids, 49504.
 - DROP-OFF STARTS AT 8:45 AM. The doors to the EEC will be locked until 8:45.
 - CAMP ENDS AT 12:00 FOR NATURE BUDS AND 4:00 FOR WILD SPROUTS, TRAIL BLAZERS, AND OUTDOOR EXPLORERS. PICK-UP IS NO LATER THAN 10 MINUTES AFTER CAMP ENDS.
 - If you are running late, please call us at 616-735-6240 so we can inform the Camp Educator. If you are late, you will be charged with a Camp Cool Down fee. (See below)
 - If your camper is registered for our Camp Cool Down, pick-up is no later than 5:15pm. Late pick-up from Camp Cool Down will result in an additional fee (See below)
- PARENTS MUST CHECK-IN THEIR CAMPER AT THE EEC CHECK-IN DESK DAILY. You will be asked to initial a main check-in sheet. This ensures we know who dropped off your camper.
- CAMPERS AND PARENTS MUST CHECK-OUT WITH THEIR CAMP EDUCATOR AT THE END OF THE DAY. Campers will only be allowed to leave with designated adults listed on the camper's registration. The designated adult will need to show a valid photo ID and initial the main check-out sheet daily. This ensures we know who picked up your camper.
 - Please inform the Camp Administrator or Camp Educators of 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 THAT CAN GET MUDDY. 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 camper's needs.
- ALL DAY CAMPERS NEED TO PACK A LUNCH. Campers staying all day (Wild Sprouts, Trail Blazers, Outdoor Explorers) 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's 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.
 - 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 Educator. We recommend that campers do not bring electronic devices to camp. If you would like your child to bring a device, they will be asked to store their gadget in a bag during the day and won’t be able to access it except in emergencies (this includes smart watches that have a built-in camera). BNC is not liable for any lost/damaged electronics.
 - All medical supplies (EpiPens, medications, etc.), should be clearly labeled and given to the Camp Educator 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.
 - White 100% cotton items are best for tie-dying. Label any extra items with your child’s name before sending them to camp.
 - Each Friday, campers are encouraged to wear their tie-dye camp t-shirt to camp!

Medical Needs

Blandford Nature Center has partnered with the City of Walker Fire & EMS services to ensure a quick response in case of an emergency. All BNC summer camp staff are certified in life-saving First Aid & CPR, but Blandford Nature Center is not licensed to dispense medication. If your child requires regular medication (insulin, allergy medication, behavioral modification medication, etc), your child must be able to self-administer this medication (with supervision) or you must send an official representative (parent/guardian, aide) to administer the medication as needed. The exception to this restriction will be the administration of life-saving Epinephrine (EpiPens). If your child has a known severe allergy, you MUST alert BNC staff and provide an EpiPen each day of 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.* For the safety of all campers, BNC camp educators must stay with their group always. If a camper runs from the group, this puts the other campers at risk as the camp educator must send aides to follow one student, therein leaving the remainder of the group with less supervision. For this reason, running from the group is a serious behavioral violation and will result in a camper being sent home immediately. Behavior Action Steps include the following:

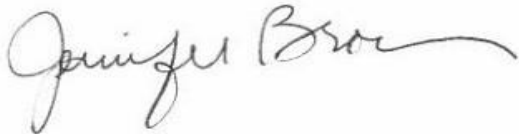
- STEP 1: Disruptive behavior will be discussed with the camper, instructor and support staff (Camp Director, Camp Administrator, or Chief Operating Officer) with an agreed upon solution.
- STEP 2: If the discussion in Step 1 is unsuccessful, support staff (Camp Director, Camp Administrator, Chief Operating Officer) will notify parents of the concerns and discuss an 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 Camp Director or the Chief Operating Officer.

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!



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 616-735-6240 ext. 108



Diana Klein, Program Manager/Camp Director
diana@blandfordnaturecenter.org
 616-735-6240 ext. 102

Camp Cool Down Cost

Members: \$30 per week
 Non-members: \$45 per week
 Additional siblings: \$15 per week

Single Day Camp Cool Down Cost

Members: \$7 per day
 Non-members: \$10 per day
 Additional Siblings: \$3 per day

Late check-out will be assessed at the single day cost each day a camper is checked out late if not enrolled in Camp Cool Down. Late check-out from Camp Cool Down will be assessed \$0.25/minute (\$15/hour).