



Winter & Spring Break Camp Information Guide

NEW TO OUR CAMP GUIDE

- **Smart Watch Policy**

For the safety and privacy of our campers and their families, smart watches are no longer permitted at camp. As most smart watches have photo-taking capabilities, the use of smart watches violates our no camera policy. One of our goals at Day Camp is to achieve an immersive screen free experience where campers are able to engage in nature and feel empowered in the natural world. Campers who bring smart watches will be asked to keep them in their bag until the end of the day. If a camper is seen with a smart watch after being asked to keep it in their bag, the smart watch will stay with the educator until the end of the day.

- **Photo ID Policy**

For the safety of our campers, all adults picking up a camper will be asked to provide photo ID each day of camp. Please be sure to update our Camp Staff during morning drop-off if an adult not listed on your approved pick-up list will be taking your child from camp; please let this person know that they too must bring photo ID.

- **Medication Policy**

All medication, whether prescription or over-the-counter, must be held by your camper's Educator at all times. Please hand all medicine to your child's Educator when you arrive in the morning and retrieve it when you leave. Prescription

medicine must be in its original container with the camper's name printed on it. Over-the-counter medicine must be placed in a ziploc bag with the camper's name written on it. This applies to all OTC medicine including pain relievers, anti-histamine, and antacids. The exception to this rule are Epi-Pens that are contained on a lanyard around a camper's neck. Your camper must be able to self-administer all medication. BNC staff will observe your camper taking their medication but will not dispense, administer, or regulate your child's medication. If your child is unable to self-administer their medication, their parent, guardian, or a family-provided aide must be present to administer all medication.

- **Camp Groups are Final**

We will be unable to accommodate any swaps or changing of camp groups. Camp groups listed at check in are final. No accommodations will be made on the day of camp.

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 4:00. 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 late fee.**
 - **Late check-out will be assessed at the single day cost each day a camper is checked out late. Late check-out from camp will be assessed \$0.25/minute (\$15/hour).**
- **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 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 SNOW SUIT) AND INSULATED SHOES THAT CAN GET MUDDY.** Dress for outdoor activities that could get your camper dirty and wet, whether rain, snow, or shine!
- **ALL CAMPERS WILL NEED TO BRING 2 SNACKS AND A REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE.** We recommend easily refillable water bottles and hearty, healthy snacks. Campers are typically given two snack breaks per day, so please pack appropriately based on your camper's needs.
- **ALL CAMPERS NEED TO PACK A LUNCH.** Campers 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.

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 at all times. 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 seen as 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!