



2021 Summer Day Camp Information Guide

This guide is a living document and will continue to be updated as protocols and policies are developed and changed. Please go through this document before EACH WEEK your child comes to camp to ensure you have read through the most current COVID safety protocols and changes.

For the safety of our campers and camp staff, we have developed the following COVID safety protocols and changes. It is very important that you take the time to read through this guide. Many of these changes have affected our availability, systems, and daily routines. It will be highly beneficial for both you and your camper(s) to be familiar with the following changes and protocols **PRIOR** to arriving at camp.

2021 COVID Safety Changes and Protocols

Registration

Members-only registration opens on February 15th at 12:00 am and closes on February 21st at 11:59 pm. The members-only registration period has been reduced to **one week** due to reduced camp capacity and to help keep camps accessible to both members and non-members. **NO CAMPS WILL BE HELD.** If you need to purchase or renew your membership, please do so as soon as possible at blandfordnaturecenter.org/membership prior to registration. If you are unsure of your membership status please reach out to us before our members-only registration period begins. Following the members-only registration week, any remaining camps will be opened for registration to the general public on March 1st at 12:00 am.

Reduced Capacity

Proceeding with caution into our 2021 summer day camp season, we have reduced our camp capacity from 100 campers per week to 50. We have done this to assist with social distancing, lowering exposure rates, and in accordance with recommendations for health and safety.

No Nature Bud Camps

We will not be offering our Nature Buds camps (ages 4 and 5) for our 2021 summer day camp season. With reduced capacity and limited staffing, we have needed to reduce our camp offerings. We plan to bring back Nature Bud camps as soon as it is safer to do so and we are able to increase our camp numbers.

No Before and After Care

We will not be offering our Camp Warm Up or Camp Cool Down for our 2021 Summer Day Camp Season. Due to reduced staffing, and in effort to reduce exposure rates and intermingling of camp groups, we have determined this to be our safest option. We recognize that this could limit our camps' accessibility, and we plan to bring back both Camp Warm Up and Camp Cool Down as soon as it is safer to do so.

Changes to Camp Offerings

You may notice that some of your favorite camp themes are not being offered this season. We have determined that these camp themes could pose safety and staffing challenges during an already complicated year. This change is not permanent, and we fully intend to bring back camp favorites such as Wild Culinary Adventures, Wild Wizarding Wonders, and Wilderness Scouts/Leaders when it is safer to do so.

Face Covering Policy

All campers and staff will be REQUIRED to wear an appropriate face covering at ALL times apart from snack time and lunch time, both indoors and outdoors, to ensure the safety of all participants. Appropriate face masks cover both the nose and mouth, are made of solid material without gaps or holes, and do not display offensive language or imaging. Any medical exemptions must be communicated to our Camp Manager, and you must provide a signed doctor's note prior to the first day of your camp. Please contact our Camp Manager, Mary Rose, at camp@blandfordnaturecenter.org or (616) 735-6240 ext. 105 if you have questions about this policy or to notify us of your intention to seek a physician's note to exempt your child from wearing a mask.

Symptom Screening

You will be required to fill out a Symptom Checker for the 2 weeks leading up to each camp session your camper(s) attends. This must be turned in every Monday at check in. Additionally, symptom checkers will be filled out at check-in on Tuesday-Friday. Symptom Checkers are REQUIRED for all campers to attend camp. Our Symptom Checker can be found under the "Already Registered" section at the bottom of our 2021 Summer Day Camp section on our website. Symptom Checkers will be sent out to all registrants two weeks prior to camp beginning. Camp staff will be filling out the same Symptom Checker each day before arriving at camp.

Outdoor Time

Due to indoor programming and capacity restrictions and in order to ease the process of social distancing, we will be holding Summer Day Camp outdoors as much as possible (apart from bathroom breaks and in the case of inclement weather). Any indoor spaces used will be frequently sanitized. Additionally, in the case of inclement weather, each camp group will have a separate indoor space to be utilized throughout the day. To secure the safety and comfort of your camper, it is very important that all campers are provided with the outdoor gear they will need to stay cool, dry, and protected from the sun. If your camper does not have the supplies needed, or if you have questions concerning what they will need, please contact our Camp Manager, Mary Rose, at camp@blandfordnaturecenter.org or (616) 735-6240 ext. 105.

Sanitization

Both campers and camp staff will practice frequent hand washing and sanitization throughout the day. All indoor spaces that are used will be frequently sanitized. Camp materials will be sanitized and/or quarantined between usage.

No Group Intermingling

All camp groups will be kept separate from each other to reduce exposure rates. There will be no all-camp lunch or games at this time.

Lunch/Snack

Camps will eat lunch and snacks with only their group. These will be the only times of day that campers and camp staff will not be masked. All campers and staff will eat outdoors (weather permitting) and spaced out from one another. As soon as campers and staff are finished eating, they will be asked to put their masks back on.

No Offsite Trips

We will not be doing any offsite trips this season for social distancing purposes and to reduce interaction between campers, camp staff, and the general public.

Check-In/Check-Out

We plan on doing a drive-through check-in and check-out process this year with staggered check in/check out times to reduce waiting. We are still developing this process and will update you soon with more details.

Weather Cancellation Policy

Due to Summer Day Camp being held almost entirely outdoors, we will consider cancellation in the case of extreme temperatures or dangerous weather. Cancellation will be decided by 8:00 am each day of camp. If camp is cancelled due to weather for 2 or more days, partial or full refunds will be considered.

Additional Camp Policies

Photo ID Policy

For the safety of our campers, all adults picking up a camper will be asked to provide a 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.

Smart Watch Policy

For the safety and privacy of our campers and their families, smart watches are not 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 Summer 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.

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, antihistamine, and antacids. The exception to this rule is 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, a 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.

Arrival and Departure from Camp

Camp Check-In/Out procedures will be changing for 2021 and are still being developed.

- **Drop-off starts at 8.45 am.** Prior to this time, staff will be actively preparing for camp and will not be present to care for your child until 8:45.
- **Camp ends at 4:00 pm.** Pick-up is required 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.**
- **A late check-out fee of \$0.25/minute (\$15/hour) will be assessed for each day a camper is checked out late.**
- **Campers and parents must check out with Camp Staff at the end of each 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. This ensures we know who picked up your camper.
- Please inform the Camp Manager of any and all drop-off/pick-up changes including designated adults, doctor's appointments, etc. as early as possible.

What to Bring to Camp

- **Wear weather-appropriate clothes (Ex: raincoats, boots, sunhats) and shoes that can be worn while running and getting muddy.** Dress for outdoor activities that could get your camper dirty and wet, whether rain or shine! Please note that sandals must have a back-strap, flip-flops are not permitted. We will be spending AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE OUTDOORS. Weather appropriate clothing is extremely important. If your camper does not have the gear needed, or you have questions concerning what they will need, please contact our Camp Manager, Mary Rose, at camp@blandfordnaturecenter.org or (616) 735-6240 ext. 105.
- **Bring a lunch, hearty snacks, and a reusable water bottle.** We recommend easily refillable water bottles and hearty, healthy snacks. Campers will be given one-two snack breaks per day, so please pack appropriately based on your camper's needs. 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 is labeled with your camper's name and that they know how 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. Lost items will be collected throughout the week, and educators will do their best to find the owners. Unclaimed items will be donated.
- **Leave toys, family heirlooms or irreplaceable items at home, unless specified by the Camp Educator.** Children are often devastated when these items are lost at camp. We also 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 or other items.
- **Clearly label all medical supplies (EpiPens, medications, etc.).** All medical supplies must be 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 Camp Staff are certified in lifesaving 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 or 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.** 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.**
- **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, Staff 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:

- **Step 1:** Disruptive behavior will be discussed with the camper, Educator, and support staff (Camp Manager, Camp Administrator, or Chief Operating Officer) with an agreed upon solution.
- **Step 2:** If the discussion in Step 1 is unsuccessful, support staff (Camp Manager, 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 Manager 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 season!