



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-19 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-19 Safety Changes and Protocols

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 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 camp's accessibility, and we plan to bring back both Camp Warm Up and Camp Cool Down as soon as it is safer to do so.

Face Covering Policy

For the time being, we will not be changing our face covering policy. This is a precautionary measure to protect our campers who are unable to receive a vaccine. As recommended by the CDC, anyone unvaccinated should remain masked outdoors if they will not be maintaining social distancing from others outside of their household. In a camp setting we cannot guarantee constant social distancing. This being said, we will continue to require masks for campers and staff throughout the summer, regardless of vaccination status, until our entire community has the opportunity to protect themselves. We look forward to the day that we are able to see everyone's beautiful smiles again!

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. Face masks are REQUIRED for all campers to attend 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 for more information about our reasonable accommodations.

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 completed 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. High-touch camp materials will be sanitized and/or quarantined between usage, or campers will be asked to wash hands or sanitize before and after use.

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

This year we are running a contactless check in and check out process for camp to reduce any unnecessary contact between staff and camp families as well as reduce the contact and intermingling of campers in different groups. **Please read through our "Arrival and departure from Camp" section for details on how our contactless check in and check out will run. Main campus camps and farm camps have**

separate check in/check out procedures and locations. Please check your child's camp location prior to arriving.

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 3 or more days, partial or full refunds will be considered.

COVID Cancellation/Closure Policy

We will be running strict health screening for both campers and staff everyday as per the recommendation of the CDC, MDHHS, and Michigan Camp Licensing Regulations. If any campers or staff present as symptomatic with a potential case of COVID-19, campers and close contacts (siblings or carpooling) may be sent home and groups may be shut down. **In the case that your camper is sent home or your camper's group is shut down, we will offer a 50% refund if the occurrence is prior to Thursday. Any send homes or shut downs related to COVID will not be eligible for a refund if occurring on a Thursday or Friday.**

Additional Camp Policies

Tick Warning

Scientists and insect experts are predicting an extremely heavy tick season. We are urging all campers and families to take precautions. Wear long sleeves and pants when temperatures allow. Use insect repellent that also deters ticks. We urge all families to perform THOROUGH tick checks DAILY. Focus on problem areas like under the arms, behind the knees, in and around hair, between legs, and around hemlines and waistbands. To remove ticks use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible. Pull upwards with slow hands and even pressure so the tick does not break. After removal, thoroughly clean the bite and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water. Never crush a tick with your fingers. Dispose of ticks by soaking in rubbing alcohol, or close in an air-tight bag and throw away.

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 many 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 camp staff at all times. Please hand all medicine to camp staff 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 in the original container and 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

Our camp check-in/out procedures have changed. Please read below.

- **We will run a drive-through style check in and check out process for arrival and departures this year.** Parents will be asked to stay in their vehicles while camp staff goes through the check in and check out procedures through the car window. When it is time for the camper to exit the vehicle, they will be escorted to the Schoolyard by a staff member or Camp Aide to meet with their group. This process is important for reducing contact between campers, staff and family members who will not be part of the camper's group.
- **To alleviate traffic congestion and wait times, camp check in and check out times will be staggered and ASSIGNED 2 weeks prior to your camp.** Check in times will be 8:40am, 8:50am, 9:00am, 9:10am, and 9:20am. Earliest check in assignments will receive the earliest check out assignments, and latest check in assignments will receive the latest check out assignments to ensure everyone's time at camp is equal. Please show up as close to your assigned time as possible to ensure this new process runs smoothly.
- **Camp check in will be broken into 2-3 stations.** These stations will consist of a welcome station, a health screening station, and a sign-in/drop off station. You will need to come prepared with masks for all persons in your vehicle ages 2+, your camper's 14-Day Symptom Screener on Mondays, and all other supplies needed by your camper (lunch, snack, water bottle, medication, extra clothes, water shoes, etc). We will take the temperatures of ALL people ages 2+ in the vehicle, and reserve the right to refuse admission to camp if anyone in the vehicle has a temperature over 100.4 °F.
- **Camp check out times will be staggered and ASSIGNED 2 weeks prior to your camp.** Check out times will be 3:40pm, 3:50pm, 4:00pm, 4:10pm, and 4:20pm. Earliest check in assignments will receive the earliest check out assignments, and latest check in assignments will receive the latest check out assignments to ensure everyone's time at camp is equal. Please show up as close to your assigned time as possible to ensure this new process runs smoothly. If you are running late, please call us at 616-735-6240 so we can inform the Camp Educator.
- **If you are more than 10 minutes late for your assigned pick up time, you will be charged a late fee.** A late check-out fee of \$0.25/minute (up to \$15/hour) will be assessed for each day a camper is checked out late.
- **Camp check out will be broken into 2 stations.** These stations will consist of an ID check station and a sign out/pick up station. You will need to come prepared with masks for all persons in your vehicle ages 2+ and your photo ID. 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.

- **Camp families will be given an indicator card for each camper on Monday each week of camp.** These are to be displayed on your dashboard each day during check in and check out. These cards will help us to match campers with cars and keep the drop off and pick up process moving smoothly.
- **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 (e.g. 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, in 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 it 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 camp staff 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.

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, but is NOT limited to, 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 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!