

CAMPLAND



PARENT AND CAMPER INFORMATION PACKET



Campland
Wild Child Day Camp

Camp Director: (970) 389-5611
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WELCOME TO CAMPLAND!

Dear Parents, Campers, Counselors & Friends -

Campland began way back in 1999. It was my first summer as a camp counselor - I was terrified. I had never done anything like this in my 19 year old life, I didn't know any songs or games - I had never even eaten a s'more. Ultimately that summer changed my life. Over the past 25 years, I have gone on to create camps across the country for nearly every type of population. Over 40 thousand children have experienced my programs. I saw inner city children find their voice and medical campers make important wishes around the campfire. I have climbed peaks with children that were told it wasn't possible and I have helped families reconnect in ways they didn't know they needed. In 2019 I had a health scare. I was told by doctors I couldn't work camp the way I always had - long hours, sleepless nights, huge amounts of energy. I was crushed. It was my children and my wife Lori that reminded me that camp is possible anywhere, anytime with anyone. I have since recovered and decided to take the risk, live my legend and create the most powerful, magical summer camp experience yet - Welcome to Campland.

From the moment last summer ended, we have been dreaming, preparing, and building the most exciting summer day camp experience around: **Wild Child!** A very special place where children can learn and grow into the person they choose to be. **Wonder - Adventure - Fun.** Your camper will not just be a kid, but a superhero, dancer, princess, pirate, and scientist! This summer they will get to be exactly who they want to be.

My name is Joel Van Egbert & I am the Campland Founder and Executive Camp Director. My job is to ensure campers, parents, and counselors all have - dare I say - **The Best Summer Ever!** I am here to answer all your questions and build excitement for the well-crafted, incomparable Campland experience.

Let this packet be your guide. It will provide you and your camper with important information and details for a safe, successful summer program. Please make sure to thoroughly read the entire packet before coming to camp.

Allow your child to review this packet as well. Answer their questions and if there is information you need that is not in this packet, please give me a call.

We, here at Campland, want your child's experience to be safe, rewarding, and memorable. If you have any questions as you prepare for camp, please contact me directly at (970) 389-5611.

See you soon!





WELCOME TO WILD CHILD!

Wild Child Day Camp is a carefully designed program with a simple purpose; we want our campers to achieve success through incredible experiences. Creating a magical summer camp world **with** children is what we do best. This program strives to create a comfortable, fun environment full of choices, positive relationships, and brand new experiences.

We hope your entire family will benefit from **camp**. Your child will return home each afternoon with stories, projects, and smiles to share. Parents have options to make Summer Camp easy. With our **pre and post camp options**, drop off as early as 7am or pick up as late as 4pm.. Each Thursday evening*, sign your camper up for an optional **Parent's Night Out** where campers can spend extra time at camp while parents can do parenty things. You will be included every step of the way and invited to attend the Friday afternoon **Family Gathering** where you will meet camp staff, see what your campers have created, and experience a slideshow that will bring your child's week of camp to life.

**Our last session's Parents Night Out is a Wednesday*

Wild Child is operated by **Campland**, a collection of amazing summer camp experiences for children, teens, adults and families. Wild Child is one of 3 core programs; **Camp Possible**; a screen-free teen camp aimed at promoting and embracing positive mental health, **Land of Legend**; our new traditional sleep away camp experience. All of our programs are designed for parents and campers to progress through the Campland experience as they're ready.

**“Come here as the person you are.
Leave here as the person you've always wanted to be.”**

In addition to being an adventure infused, nature-appreciation and creative learning program, **Wild Child** also excels in youth development. We provide children with the opportunities and skills to embrace their own self-worth. Children come to us during a stage of young life known as **“construction of self”** - they are literally building the people they will ultimately become while at camp. The building blocks are their experiences and the incredible people they'll meet. We believe the more amazing the experiences - the more amazing the person. We strive to immerse our campers in a series of unforgettable and incredible moments. We go all out to make sure every camper walks away from us with new skills, confidence, and fresh gratitude of the world around them.

We are devoted to creating supportive and enriching experiences that provide campers with opportunities to grow not just intellectually, but personally and socially as they develop healthy relationships and create long-lasting memories.

Discover Yourself. Challenge Yourself. Be Yourself.



The Secret Recipe for a Wonderful Wild Child Experience!

Start with:

- 27 happy campers!
- 5 passionate teen helpers
- 5 incredible counselors

Stir In:

- 5280 vertical feet of fun
- 6 Fantastic Weeks
- Beautiful mountain trails and rivers
- Loads of Choices

Combine with:

- Sunny Days
- Smiles & Laughter
- Dozens of new friends
- two splashes of swimming

Add a dash of:

- Singing, dancing & extra special summer camp magic!

Blend all ingredients at full speed for five days. Serve with a smile!

OVERVIEW OF CAMP ACTIVITIES

Drop-Off: Campers are dropped off M-F between **8am-8:30am** at **8300 West 94th Ave. Westminster, Colorado 80214**

- ★ **Early Drop-Off:** Campers dropped off before 8am may be auto-enrolled into Pre-Camp and charged the \$10 fee.
- ★ **Mondays:** Parents will park and walk their child to sign-in and take care of any remaining forms, waivers, balances due or submit camper medications.
- ★ **Tuesday-Fridays:** Stay in your car! Sign-In and Drop-Off will occur as your child exits your vehicle. If we need something from you, we will ask for you to park. Look for staff to guide you through this process.

Pick-Up: Campers are picked up M-F at **3pm** at

8300 West 94th Ave. Westminster, Colorado 80214

- ★ **Monday-Thursdays:** Stay in your car! Sign-out and Drop-Off will occur as your child enters your vehicle.
- ★ **Thursdays:** If your child is registered for **Parents Night Out** you don't need to pick-up until 7pm, however some parents may need to drop off additional items; jacket, snack, etc.
- ★ **Fridays:** Friends and Family are invited to park and join us for the **Friday Family Festival from 3pm-4pm**. Otherwise, staff will be administering normal pick up for those unable to attend.
- ★ **Late Pick-Up:** Campers picked up after 3:15pm may be auto-enrolled into Post-Camp and charged the \$15 fee. If a camper is not picked up by 4:15pm, an additional post-camp fee may be applied.

Pre-Camp/Post-Camp: In order to accommodate parents' work schedules and get the most out of your camp day, we offer options that allow your camper to be with us outside the normal camp hours of 8am to 3pm. Campers may arrive as early as 7am and remain at camp until 4pm. All Pre/Post campers who arrive early or stay late will be supervised by counselors and have full access to a variety of games, art, books and other activities. We're also happy to assist campers with summer studies, sports/music practice, or other activities of your choosing - let us know. Each extension costs \$15 and can be added in advance via your CampInTouch Account. We also accept drop-ins. Maybe you're running late or something unexpected occurs - we've got you covered!

Pre-Camp: 7am to 7:59am

Post-Camp: 3:01pm to 4:00pm*

*parents picking up after 4:15pm may be charged at \$15 late fee

Mellow Meadow Time: With such full and active days, it's important that we make time for low-energy activities. Our hope during this period is that campers recharge. Campers are welcome to bring a book to read or enjoy another favorite individual quiet activity (no handheld video games – sorry). Some campers nap or chat, while others engage in low-energy activities provided by staff. We have two giant triangle hammocks for campers to relax on.

Off-Campus Trips are exciting! Nearly everyday we will travel in, around and sometimes outside of the Front Range Area. We'll take part in experiences that support each session's theme. You will receive communication prior to your child's week at camp and daily updates so you can be best prepared. We are using passenger vans for transportation. The bus will be driven by our Camp Leaders. We have 17 years experience driving these vehicles. We never exceed the speed

TYPICAL DAY AT CAMP

7am: Early Bird Drop-Off

- Optional Morning Reading

8am: Main Drop-Off at WWA

- Prep for the Day
- Free Play
- Arts & Crafts
- Games

9am: Camp Begins! Block 1

- **Monday:** Teambuilding
- **Tuesday:** Swimming!
- **Wednesday:** Hikes!
- **Thursday:** Depart for Trips
- **Friday:** Swimming!

10am: Snack Attack!

12pm: Lunch & Free Play

1pm: Mellow Meadow Time

- Reading
- Art
- Chill Games

2pm: Snack Attack!

- All Camp Themed Activity

3pm: Main Pick-Up at WWA

- **Thursday: Parents Night Out** until 8pm
- **Friday Family Gathering** until 4pm

4pm: Post Camp Pick-Up

MONDAY
Discovery Day

TUESDAY
Theme Day: Swim & Play

WEDNESDAY
Brave Day

THURSDAY
Adventure Day

FRIDAY
Theme Day: Swim & Play

limit and use our defensive driving training to maintain safe travel procedures. If your child needs a booster or car seat, this will be dropped off by a parent each morning at camp. You are welcome to keep a booster with us for the entire week. Make sure you put your name on it!

- **Mondays** we usually will be at or nearby **Woodrow Wilson Academy**. We will head to a nearby trailhead for our *discovery hikes* and picnic lunches.
- **Tuesdays & Fridays** we head to **Pirates Cove Swim Park** unless otherwise noted.
- **Wednesdays** is our **Brave Day!** We hit the trail and *challenge hike* to a nearby summit. last summer we reached our goal all 5 weeks!
- **Thursday** is **Discovery Day!** Each session offers a unique field trip in-line with that week's theme. We will head to a nearby trailhead for our discovery hikes and picnic lunches.

Discovery Hikes are the major science education component of the **Wild Child** experience. Each Monday of the session, campers will explore the prairie, forest, mountain, and wetland ecosystems around us. We choose trails and discovery sites that best suit the needs of the curriculum. Sometimes these are within walking distance of campus; otherwise we will take a short trip to the trailhead. Hikes range from one to three miles in length and are enhanced with loads of activities, games, investigations, and discoveries. Please equip your camper with the necessary gear to help them be the most successful they can be on hikes. Just like every morning, a slathering of sunscreen is a must!



Camper Choice periods are highly anticipated by campers. Counselors work their trail groups to create theme-based activity choices that incorporate our wonder/adventure/fun model. Campers decide what activities they would like to participate in. This is a great opportunity for children to try some activities outside of their specific theme for the week. Popular choices include hikes, camp games, bracelet-making, dancing, crafts, and tie-dye. We encourage campers to tell us their ideas for activities, and if at all possible we try to make their choices a reality.

Discovery Beads: Throughout the summer, campers will collect various colored beads that represent the different activities and experiences they've participated in at camp. Counselors also award beads to campers utilizing concepts of respect; helping other, picking up litter, or answering a curriculum-based question correctly. At the end of the day, campers will also have the opportunity to award beads to their campmates for positive behaviors they've observed. By the end of the session, campers will be able to tell the story of their week using the different colored beads carefully dangling from their necklaces.

Free Play is exactly what it sounds like. Campers are supervised during this period and what they do is up to them. The unstructured interaction children have with each other is crucial to social development. The only rules during **Free Play:** 1) if a camper asks another camper "can I play?" they must say yes, and 2) if a camper doesn't want to play anymore, they don't have to. These periods usually take place at a playground..

Lunch: All parents must provide a lunch and two separately packed snacks each day for their camper. If we have a camper with airborne food allergies, we will notify all parents and ask them to modify the lunches they pack. Lunch occurs each day around 12pm.

Snack: Snack is provided by the parent and occurs twice each day at 10am and 2pm. Occasionally we will provide a frosty treat to campers on hot days. Please let us know if your child will be unable to partake for any reason.

Parent's Night Out is every Thursday evening at camp. 3pm-7pm. Each Parents Night Out program features an exclusive trip and activities in-line with that week's theme as well as a pizza party! Parents Night Out can be added or removed at any time.

Friday Family Gatherings: Every Friday is our **Family Gathering!** We invite friends, and family each week for this exciting event. It begins at 3pm and is usually over around 4pm. This is very special for both the campers and staff and is a great way for you to further connect to your child's Campland experience. See what they've accomplished, sing songs, and maybe watch a short camper-made presentation. After a few announcements, buckle up for the multimedia slideshow of the session! Links to the High Definition Slideshow are available for purchase after the presentation or via your CamplnTouch dashboard. After the slideshow, counselors say goodbye. Hopefully we see you again soon!

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Spending Money: It is not necessary for campers to bring money to camp. Our staff are happy to accept tips if they are offered - however we neither ask for, nor expect them.

Phone Calls: In the case of an emergency, we ask that parents contact campers by calling/texting the main camp director phone number 970-389-5611.

Visits: Personal visits by family and friends are limited to pick-up, drop-off, and the **Friday Family Festival**. Please do not attempt to execute a "surprise" visit for your camper. Visits from parents and loved ones disrupt the camp experience and increase the potential for other children to miss home.

Personal Items: Campers must bring their own sunscreen, clothing, cameras, film, memory cards, batteries, etc. Please do not allow your child to bring a knife of any type or any fire-making devices.

Electronic Devices: Campland prohibits the use of all non-essential electronic products including but not limited to cell phones, cellular smart watches, smart tablets, laptops, airtags/gps trackers, gaming devices and two-way communication devices.

- All campers must surrender their cell phones to Campland staff upon arrival. Staff will hold the cell phones in a secure location and return them to campers at the end of the camp day.
- In the case of an emergency, parents/guardians can contact the camp cell phone/email, and the camp will facilitate communication between the parent/guardian and the camper.
 - **email: joel@wildchild.camp**
 - **cell: (970) 389-5611**
- Any camper found using a cell phone or electronic device during camp hours will have their phone confiscated and returned at the end of the camp day.

Behavior Expectations: If a camper behaves in any way that is considered by the Camp Director or another employee to be detrimental to the quality and best interest of the program, Campland reserves the right to dismiss that camper from the program. This type of dismissal may result from behavior such as, but not limited to, the use of alcohol or drugs, refusal to cooperate, or endangering the emotional or physical safety of any person at camp, including themselves. Campers who are asked to leave due to behavioral misconduct will not be offered a refund. It is at the discretion of the Camp Director if your child can return for another session that summer or in future summers.

Pets: All pets must be left at home. We also discourage campers from acquiring pets while at camp.

Health and Safety: Our number one concern is to ensure the emotional, social, and physical health and safety of each and every camper and staff person. All of our staff have, at a minimum, training in First Aid and CPR. Our camp directors are former paramedics and Wilderness First Responders. Our staff uniform include first aid kits that are carried at all times. Several medical clinics are located within a 5-10 minute drive of Woodrow and emergency helicopter service to larger hospitals is also available.

Insurance: Cost for treatment arising out of an accident or injury is the responsibility of the child's parent or guardian. Campers should have medical insurance, and proof of insurance should be provided by parents via CampMinder CamplnTouch forms.

Medications: Each camper must give any medications to the **Camp Director** for safekeeping. This includes vitamins, over-the-counter pain relievers, prescription medicine, homeopathic remedies, and/or herbal medications.

We require a signature release by a parent or guardian granting permission to administer all medications. Our medication administration form can be submitted via your CamplnTouch Forms Dashboard. This form must be turned in on or before the start of camp so that Wild Child leadership staff can administer and record any medications needed during the camp session. This form is essential to tracking the health of your camper and will ensure that medication is taken according to your physician's directions. Medications will be kept in a secure place, and returned at the end of camp. If your camper becomes ill prior to arriving at camp, please call or write in advance to let us know about his/her condition. The more accurate information we have about the health and special needs of your child, the better informed we will be in making decisions to ensure the health of the whole camp.

Health Screening: Upon your campers first arrival each session your camper will undergo a short **Health Screening**. We do this to ensure the overall health of the camp community. This process ultimately ensures your camper leaves camp as healthy as they began. We will ask about recent injuries and how they feel.

HELPING YOUR CHILD PREPARE FOR CAMP

Going to camp can be both an exciting and anxious time for a child, especially if this is their first time in a camp environment. We believe that it is very important to support and encourage your child from the time of registration to every evening they return home to you.

You can assist us in providing a positive and rewarding experience for your child by instilling in them the belief that they are ready to leave home to discover and explore new things, meet new friends and to have lots of stories to tell you upon returning home. Resist phrases like “I’ll miss you” and try saying “I’m proud of you” instead. We pride ourselves on how we handle homesickness, but how you prepare your camper leading up to their departure can make an amazing difference in their camp experience.

During Day Camp drop off we sometime see kids that aren’t ready to say goodbye. **This is normal.** We encourage parents to say goodbye lovingly and definitively. Our staff are ready and trained to handle this type of separation anxiety. Please let us know if you’d like a call after a tearful dropoff, to see how your child has adapted.

Allow your child to be a part of the daily packing process so that they know exactly what their bringing to camp.

WRITE YOUR CHILD’S NAME ON ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING!

We encourage parents to write notes to put in their child’s lunch. This is a great way to give your child that mid-day boost of encouragement from home. Please read the daily communiqué, which provides a rundown of the daily schedule and suggests great questions to ask at the dinner table that evening.

Before Wild Child Day Camp begins, some of the topics of discussion to help prepare your child for camp might be:

- the different children they’ll meet
- the new friendships they’ll make
- the importance of cooperation, consideration, community, and challenges!
- the importance of respect for your and camp’s property, others, nature, and oneself!
- How great it is to try new things!

Thank you.



EQUIPPING YOUR CAMPER

FOR A SUCCESSFUL DAY CAMP EXPERIENCE

PLEASE NOTE: Summer days in Jefferson County are often gloriously sunny and very warm. Afternoon thunderstorms are also frequent, making good rain gear and a warm layer a must. Check the weather each morning and pack appropriate gear each day your child attends camp. There is no need to buy all new clothing and equipment for camp. It is recommended that your child wear comfortable, well-used clothing (especially boots and daypack) that is appropriate for hiking, playing outdoors, and the **various trips**. If possible, avoid cotton clothing. Synthetic gear tends to do the best in an active camp environment. Please check the daily day camp handout and emails for updates on how to best prepare your campers.

WRITE YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING!

Please put your camper's full name on **ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING** with permanent marker. We run fast-paced days and campers are very likely to lose or misplace some of their things. We routinely remind campers to check for their belongings; however, **Campland** cannot be held responsible for lost belongings. Make sure you check our Lost and Found each day and during the Friday Family Festival.

What Your Camper Should Bring Everyday: Use this checklist to mark off items as you pack.

- Medium day pack.** Please make sure the pack fits comfortably and can easily carry the following items:
- ONE ONE-liter water bottle** with a strap or clip or some kind (**please no bottles with built-in straws—THEY LEAK in their backpacks**). One liter is a minimum – we encourage campers to drink 2-3 of these each day. **Alternatively, campers may bring a backpack with an integrated hydration system**, just make sure to clean these out weekly - they can get funky.
- Sunscreen.** Minimum SPF 30 to ensure adequate coverage. Please **have your child apply sunscreen prior to arriving at camp** and we'll make sure it is re-applied throughout the day. We recommend purchasing the small bottles equipped with a clip to ensure they stay with your child throughout the day. *Please let us know if your child is especially sensitive to the sun or is taking a photosensitive medication - we'll take appropriate precautions.*
- Warm layer.** Sweatshirt, light wool sweater, or fleece pullover for unexpected cool spells.
- Rain jacket.** Avoid vinyl or plastic ponchos – they rip easily and create litter.
- Any necessary **medications** or **health-related items** (please make sure these are given to a Camp staff member upon drop-off).
- Breakfast in their bellies!**
- Proper Footwear.** A rugged water resistant tennis shoe or light weight hiking boot is best. Open-toed shoes may not be permitted for some activities. Flip-flops are a great addition to swim days.

Lunch: Campers are required to bring a packed lunch from home and two snacks.

- Lunchbox: durable and preferably insulated. This will need to stay fresh in their backpacks all morning.
- Please pack a healthy, balanced meal, avoiding sugary snacks such as sodas or candy.
- 2 Snacks to be eaten throughout the day. Specifically, 10am and 2pm.
- Note: There may be special communication to parents to avoid packing certain food allergens, like peanut/tree nut products.

Offsite Trips: Occasionally campers will need extra items, such as a bathing suit. We will make sure to inform you ahead of time about any program-specific items your child will need.

Other Optional Items:

- Camera and film
- Batteries/Memory cards
- Binoculars
- Nature field guides

