



WILD CHILD

<<< DREAM BIG - BE BRAVE - GO WILD! >>>

PARENT AND CAMPER INFORMATION PACKET



Wild Child Day Camp

Camp Director: (970) 389-5611

email: joel@wildchild.camp

www.wildchild.camp

Dear Parents, Campers, Counselors & Friends,

Wild Child began way back in 1999, during my very first summer as a camp counselor. I was terrified. I had never led a song, taught a game, or even eaten a s'more. But that summer changed everything.

Over the past 26 years, I've created camps across the country for nearly every type of population. More than **43,000 children** have experienced my programs. I've watched inner-city kids find their voice, medical campers make powerful wishes around the fire, and families reconnect in ways they didn't know they needed. I've seen children climb both real and figurative mountains they once believed were impossible, discovering their strength in the process.

In 2019, a health scare forced me to rethink how I could continue doing the work I love. I was devastated, but my children and my wife, Lori, reminded me of something essential: **camp can happen anywhere, anytime, with anyone.**

So I did what we ask your kids to do — **Dream Big. Be Brave. Go Wild.** And from that leap came the most powerful, magical summer camp experience yet.

Welcome to Wild Child!

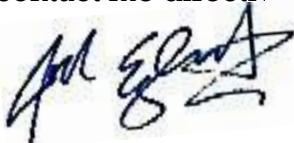
Since last summer, we've been dreaming, preparing, and building a day camp where children can explore who they hope to become through *Wonder, Adventure, and Fun*. Your camper won't just be a kid — they'll be a superhero, mermaid, pioneer, pirate, and scientist.

My name is Joel, and I am the Wild Child Founder and Executive Camp Director. My job is to ensure campers, parents, and counselors all have — dare I say — **The Best Summer Ever.**

Let this packet be your guide. It contains the information you and your camper(s) need for a safe, successful summer. Please read it thoroughly, and encourage your child to look through it as well. If you have questions or need anything not covered here, please call me.

We at Wild Child want your child's experience to be **safe, rewarding, and memorable.**

If you need anything as you prepare for camp, contact me directly at (970) 389-5611.



in camp spirit -

Joel Van Egbert
Camp Director





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 **post camp options**, pick up as late as 4pm. One evening each week, sign your camper up for an optional **Parent's Night Out** where campers can spend extra time at camp while parents can do parently 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 accomplished, and experience a slideshow that will bring your child's week of camp to life.

Wild Child is operated by **Campland**, a collection of amazing summer camp experiences for children, teens, adults and families. 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. The building blocks are their experiences and the incredible role-models they 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:

- 41 happy campers!
- 4 driven teen helpers
- 10 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-8:15am** at **8300 West 94th Ave. Westminster, Colorado 80214**

- ★ **First Day of Camp:** Parents will park and walk their child to sign-in and take care of any remaining forms, waivers, balances due or submit camper medications.
- ★ **Other Days:** You're welcome to stay in your car or park and walk up. 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 between **2:50pm-3:05pm** 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.
- ★ **Wednesday or Thursdays:** If your child is registered for **Parents Night Out** you won't pick-up until 7pm, however you may need to drop off additional items; jacket, snack, etc.
- ★ **Last Day:** Friends & Family are invited to park and join us for the **Friday Gathering from 3pm-3:30ish**. Otherwise, staff will be administering normal pick up for those unable to attend.
- ★ **Late Pick-Up:** Campers picked up after 3:15pm will be auto-enrolled into Post-Camp and charged the \$20 fee. If a camper is not picked up by 4:15pm, an additional post-camp fee may be applied.

Post-Camp: In order to accommodate parents' work schedules and get the most out of your camp day, we offer options after camp that allow your camper to be with us a little longer. Campers can remain at camp until 4pm. All Post campers that 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 \$20 and can be added in advance via your FunJoin Account or each morning during drop-off. Maybe you're running late or something unexpected occurs - we've got you covered! Just send a text to (970) 389-5611 and we'll charge you once you arrive.

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

**parents picking up after 4:15pm may be charged an additional \$20 late fee*

A TYPICAL DAY AT WILD CHILD

7am: Early Bird Drop-Off

- Optional Morning Reading

8am-8:15am: Main Drop-Off at WWA

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

9am: Camp Begins! Block 1

- **Monday:** Teambuilding
- **Tuesday for Younger Campers:** Adventure Day!
- **Tuesday for Older Campers:** Swimming!
- **Wednesday:** Swap!
- **Thursday:** Discovery Day
- **Friday:** Beach Day!

10am: Snack Attack!

12pm: Lunch & Free Play

1pm: Block 2

2pm: Snack Attack!

- Wild Beads!

2:50pm- 3:05pm: WWA Pick-Up

- **Thursday:** Parents Night Out until 7pm
- **Friday** Family Gathering until 3:30ish

4pm: Post Camp Pick-Up



TYPICAL WILD CHILD 2025 DAY CAMP SKEDGE

| time | MONDAY Welcome Day | TUESDAY Adventure Day Swim! | | WEDNESDAY Swim! Adventure Day | | THURSDAY Discovery Day | FRIDAY Beach Day |
|---------|--|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--|---|
| SPLIT | All Camp | Younger | Older | Younger | Older | All Camp | All Camp |
| 7:00AM | Staff Meeting & Prep | | | | | | |
| 7:30AM | | Staff Meeting & Prep | | Staff Meeting & Prep | | Staff Meeting & Prep | Staff Meeting & Prep |
| 7:45AM | Drop-Off Begins | Drop-Off Begins | | Drop-Off Begins | | Drop-Off Begins | Drop-Off Begins |
| 8:00AM | Camp Begins | Camp Begins | | Camp Begins | | Camp Begins | Camp Begins |
| 8:30AM | Activity Station Rotation | Depart for trips | | Depart for trips | | Split into Hiking groups by Challenge Level and Depart | Head to the Beach! |
| - | 1. Name Game 2. Icebreaker 3. Teambuilding 4. Themed Activity | Adventure Day | Swim Day | Swim Day | Adventure Day | Wild Walks | 1. Swim 2. Play 3. Sand Castles 4. Frosty Treats |
| 11:30AM | Lunch & Play | Lunch & Play | | Lunch & Play | | Lunch & Play | Lunch & Play |
| 12:30PM | S.T.E.A.M. Swap | Adventure Day Continues | Swim Day Continues | Swim Day Continues | Adventure Day Continues | Wild Walks Continue | Beach Time Continues |
| - | 1. Arts & Crafts 2. Science 3. SWAP! | | | | | | |
| 2:00PM | Wild Beads! | Wild Beads! | | Wild Beads! | | Wild Beads! | Wild Beads! |
| 2:30PM | FREE PLAY | FREE PLAY | | FREE PLAY | | FREE PLAY | Parent Slideshow |
| 3:00PM | End Day/Post-Camp | End Day/Post-Camp | | End Day/Post-Camp | | End Day Parent's Night Out Begins! | Goodbye |
| 3:30PM | | | | | | Parent's Night Out Programming | Staff Reset |
| 4:00PM | End Post-Camp | End Post-Camp | | End Post-Camp | | End Parent's Night Out | |
| 7:00PM | | | | | | | |

SNACK - WATER - SUNSCREEN: Every day at 10am, LUNCH & 2pm

Groups: Sometimes we split campers into developmentally appropriate activity groups. If an older camper prefers the younger camp activity (example trapeze instead of ropes course) we are happy to accommodate that choice. If your camper prefers to stay with a sibling or friend, we can make that work, however intentional separation can be beneficial to character development and helping campers make new friends. On the first day of each session we will review with parents what group they end up in and with your guidance place each camper in the best group.

Off-Site Trips are exciting! Nearly everyday we will travel in, around and sometimes outside of the Front Range Area. Most of our trips are 20-30 minutes, but we will never travel further than an hour. 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 driven by our Camp Leaders. We have 19 years experience driving these vehicles. We never exceed the speed 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!



Discovery Hikes are the major science education component of the **Wild Child** experience. Once per 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. Solid footwear, two water bottles, layers and a slathering of sunscreen!



Camper Choice periods are highly anticipated by campers. Counselors work with 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.

Wild 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 others, 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 fellow 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 or park..

Lunch: All parents must provide a lunch and at least 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. We say "at least 2 snacks", but feel free to pack more, we've learned our busy days works up an appetite! Pack snacks separate from lunch so that their lunch doesn't "accidentally" get eaten to soon. On Fridays we will provide a frosty treat to campers. Please let us know if your child will need an alternative to ice cream.

Parent's Night Out is every Thursday evening at camp. 3pm-7pm. Each Parents Night Out program includes an exclusive trip and activities as well as a special dinner! Parents Night Out can be added at any time.

Friday Family Gatherings: Every Friday is our **Family Gathering!** We invite friends, and family each week for this exciting event. We begin at 3pm and this usually over around 3:30pm. This is very special for both the campers and staff and is a great way for you to further connect to your child's Wild Child 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 sent home after the presentation. After the slideshow, counselors say goodbye. Hopefully we see you again soon!

Where? A counselor will be waiting at the drop-off location to direct parent inside WWA for the presentation.



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 Gathering**. Please do not attempt to attempt 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: Wild Child prohibits the use of all non-essential electronic products including but not limited to cell phones, smart watches, smart tablets, laptops, gaming devices and two-way communication devices. We discourage campers coming to camp with airtags/gps trackers.

- All campers must surrender these devices to Wild Child staff upon arrival. Staff will hold electronics 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 device 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, Wild Child 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 CampInTouch 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 CampInTouch 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.

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 review each week’s schedule which provides a rundown of the week and will hopefully inspire some great conversation at the dinner table later 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 review the email and schedule sent prior to each session 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, **Wild Child** cannot be held responsible for lost belongings. Make sure you check our Lost and Found each day and during the Friday Family Gathering.

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 of 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. **On Discovery Day we ask that you bring two water bottles.**
- 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 like climbing, hiking and horseback riding. 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.
- At least 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 when necessary.

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

Do not bring:

- Electronic devices of any kind, outside of a digital camera that is only a camera.
- Money

