

## Nature Camp 2021 Information



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to Nature Camp at Tauxemont! Your child, **xxxxxxx** is registered for:

### **Morning Camp**

AM Session 1 "On the Farm" June 7 - 11

### **COVID-19 Information**

Information is always unfolding for us from the CDC, State, and County Health officials, and we are working to be in compliance with their recommendations. We very much appreciate your flexibility as we prepare for our upcoming summer. We are planning to operate this summer with best practices and equally important, a memorable and fun experience. It is more important than ever that children get to play.

We ask that you read this information closely. If your family is unable to participate in these procedures, please let Nature Camp at Tauxemont know as soon as possible so that your place can be made available to another family. If you let us know within four days of receipt of this email that your family cannot support us in these procedures, we will fully refund all fees.

- Beginning ten days prior to camp attendance we ask you to pay close attention to situations that may expose your camper and household to COVID. Please avoid them.
- Masks must be worn by campers and everyone else as soon as they arrive on campus. This includes the driveway.
- Campers may not attend camp if they have a temperature over 100.5.
- Campers may not attend camp if they have symptoms of a contagious illness. \*(see below for specific symptoms)
- If a member of a camper's household has symptoms of a contagious illness, the camper is not to attend camp until it is confirmed that the household member does not have COVID.
- If a camper or household member is exposed to a known case of COVID while attending camp, camp must be informed.
- If a camper or the member of a camper's household tests positive for COVID camp must be informed. Camp will contact the Fairfax County Health Department for advice and instruction. This may include filing a report and contact tracing. Camp will do its best to protect the privacy of all campers and their families.
- Nature Camp at Tauxemont will follow the advice and guidance of the Health Department. This may include closing a section of camp, or fully closing camp with very little or no notice.
- If a camper develops symptoms of a contagious illness while attending camp the camper will immediately be isolated. The family of the camper will be contacted and must pick up the camper immediately.

### **Basic Camp Information**

## Sample Letter

A major goal is to help mitigate the possible spread of germs. Camp will be broken into four smaller groups—each group will be self-contained and will not mix with other groups. We will place children in groups with other members of their household. If members of your family's pod are attending Camp during the same session as members of your household, please let us know at least one week prior to your session and we will strive to place them in the same group.

Groups will have designated entrances to camp to help facilitate contact with as few other campers as possible. Each group will have their own counselors who will stay with them the entire week.

Each camper will have their own designated seating area to use for arrivals and dismissal. This will also serve as a place to leave a back bag or bag during camp.

Hand washing stations will be set up near the entrance, and will be used immediately upon arrival, before and after eating, and after using the toilet.

Groups will participate in activities, like Crafts, Nature, and Snack during the course of the day, and these activities will be led by Activity Counselors.

## **Camp Attire and Snack Information**

Anything brought onto the campus must be clearly marked with the campers first and last names.

Campers are asked to bring their own water bottles, clearly labeled as theirs, that they are comfortable using independently. They will carry their own water during camp and should be able to do this with little assistance. They may leave a bag or backpack at their assigned space.

Camp, with the exception of the toilets, is outdoors. Campers must be prepared to be outdoors. Camp is fairly shady and has few mosquitos, but sun protection and bug repellent are always wise. These must be applied before camp, at home. They will not be reapplied during camp.

Notes on attire:

- Rain gear should be waterproof, not water resistant.
- Clothing should be comfortable and practical.
- Clothes will probably get dirty and wet.
- Closed toed footwear must be worn. We strongly encourage socks to be worn.
- Please do not bring Crocs, sandals, and umbrellas are not for camp.

A light snack will be served to campers. This is usually a fresh fruit or vegetable, and a carbohydrate. On Fridays we include popsicles as a part of the snack. If your camper has special dietary concerns, please let us know on the health form. Water for bottle refills will always be available.

## **Drop off and Pick up (see attachment map)**

Camp is intended for children who separate easily from their parents. Parking is not available at the school.

Drop off and pick up times will be staggered to allow for social distancing and to ease traffic flow.

Your family's specific time will be assigned and emailed to you closer to camp beginning. The staggered times will be 15 minutes on either side of the operating hours.

Morning camp hours are generally 9:00 am to 11:45 am Monday thru Friday and afternoon camp hours generally are 12:45 pm to 3:30 pm Monday thru Friday.

Children attending both morning and afternoon camp must leave camp at their assigned pick up time and return to camp at their assigned drop off time. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate campers during the window when we are closed.

Drivers are to enter camp from Ft. Hunt Road headed north. Cars are to drive up the driveway, keeping close to the right (this allows exit for departing cars on their left). Cars progress up the driveway to the area designated for drop off and pick up. At the top of the driveway drivers will be directed to stop their vehicle and put it in park. Counselors will

## Sample Letter

approach the car and campers, wearing their masks, will get out of the right side of the vehicle and stand close to the vehicle. Campers will be visually screened, and their temperatures taken. The masked adult driver will remain in the car. The counselor will ask the driver if they have read the screening questions and if the camper is clear to attend camp. The campers will then be led onto the camp grounds where they will receive a name tag and wash their hands. Drivers will depart the campus by staying to the right as they head downhill. They will exit the driveway by turning right onto Fort Hunt Road.

At the end of the camp day this process is reversed. Campers will be walked to the vehicles. If needed, the driver may get out of the vehicle and assist with safely buckling children into their car seat.

## Kittens and Bunnies for an Overnight Visit

During Nature Camp animals, usually kittens and young rabbits, may be available to go home with your camper overnight or for a weekend.

This is optional and you must request a visit. All equipment, including food and litter, is provided when the animal goes home with your camper at pick up. Requests may take several days to process. Request forms are available from the counselors when you pick up or drop off your child, or online at [www.tauxemont.org/camps](http://www.tauxemont.org/camps).

Our camp kittens and bunnies are rescues and will need homes after camp is over. If you are interested in adopting or have any questions, contact Dawn Matthews at [dawn.matthews@outlook.com](mailto:dawn.matthews@outlook.com) or (703) 622-7635.

## Refund Policy

If your child is unable to attend camp, you must notify us by June 1st for a full refund less \$40.00 administrative fee. If you cancel after June 1st, there are NO refunds. Please direct questions and concerns to Lisa Finn at (703) 994-1468 or [naturecamptauxemont@gmail.com](mailto:naturecamptauxemont@gmail.com).

## Contact Us

If you need to contact the camp during the day, there will always be an adult near the phone. The Tauxemont phone number is (703) 765-9266. Please do not leave a message on the voice mail.

To reach us after camp hours, call Lisa Finn at (703) 994-1468.

Please follow us on social media:

Facebook: Nature Camp at Tauxemont

Instagram: @naturecamptauxemont

Twitter: @camptauxemont

The camp staff is looking forward to seeing your campers this summer!

Sincerely,

Barbara, Lisa, and Dawn

Sample Letter

**\*Symptoms of Contagious Illness include:**

Fever or chills

Cough

Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Fatigue

Muscle or body aches

Headache

New loss of taste or smell

Sore throat

Congestion or runny nose

Nausea or vomiting

Diarrhea

**COVID protocols at a glance:**

- **Groups:** Group and group sizes will be limited, and consistent. We will respect guidance regarding camp group ratios. Household members will be grouped with or near each other. Special requests for grouping must be made in coordination with other families and cannot be changed with ease. Our priority is limiting exposure to numbers of children.

- **Daily Screening:** All campers will be temperature-checked, and we will ask parents a set of questions about their child(ren) and their family's recent health each time they drop off at camp. We will send any child home that demonstrates a fever or sickness.

- **Drop-off:** Please allow for additional time at drop-off for screening. Parents will be asked not to enter facilities

PLEASE NOTE: Children presenting with a fever (100.5 or higher) will not be allowed to return to camp for 14 days without a doctor's note indicating sickness is not related to COVID-19 and that the child is medically approved to return to the camp.

- **Masks/Face Coverings:** Staff and campers will wear masks or face coverings We ask that campers bring their own face mask each day. We do have masks available

- **Markings and signage:** We will mark off safe distances throughout camp to help keep children appropriately spaced.

- **Hygiene:** Scheduled handwashing will be built into each group's schedule.

- **Activities:** Activities will be modified to limit physical contact. Equipment will be cleaned between uses and/or sufficient supplies will be provided for all campers to enjoy.

- We will make every attempt to keep schedules as close to originally planned, but unfortunately there will be schedule changes due to COVID, which will be communicated to you.

- **Cleaning:** Counselors and staff will be regularly disinfecting throughout the day & will perform a deeper-clean every day after closing.

- **Sharing:** We will make every effort to have children NOT share items such as crayons, markers, or arts & craft items. If they do share items, they will be sanitized with a mild bleach solution and allowed to air dry prior to another child using them. Outside equipment will be sanitized daily, but children may play games where it will not be feasible to sterilize the equipment after each touch.

- It will be important that children bring their water bottle, and other personal items to avoid sharing. These must be clearly labeled with the camper's first and last names.

- **Social Distancing:** Although we will make every attempt to have children practice social distancing, it will be impossible to assure that this can happen every moment in camp. Counselors will be constantly reminding campers to keep their distance and we will clean and disinfect throughout the day to minimize risks.

- **WHAT IF MY CHILD OR FAMILY IS EXPOSED TO COVID-19?** Tell us immediately! No personal information will be shared.