



# Parent Handbook

[nature.camp.fayar@gmail.com](mailto:nature.camp.fayar@gmail.com) | 479-717-7020

## About Us

Thank you for choosing Nature Camp for your child's summer adventure! Nature Camp is an outdoor, nature-themed day camp for children entering 1st-5th grades the following fall.

### **Our Mission**

To provide a quality and engaging summer full of educational and fun activities based around nature.

### **Philosophy**

At Nature Camp we respect and trust in the child as an initiator, an explorer, and a self-learner. We believe in providing a holistic and community-minded environment that considers and supports the whole child.

### **Curriculum**

Nature Camp is a fully outdoor, nature-themed summer camp. Each weekly session will have a unique nature theme to inspire a sense of wonder, adventure and imagination. Students can expect a day that is full of exploration, games, and songs balanced with art, stories, and a morning snack with the added bonus of water splashing and creek time at the nearby Niokaska Creek at Gulley Park. Guest speakers will also be scheduled to enhance the weekly topics where we can!

## General Information

### **Contact**

Sydney Fields is the main contact person for questions regarding Nature Camp, and you can also ask for Brigitte Seigel. Our preferred method of communication is by email at [nature.camp.fayar@gmail.com](mailto:nature.camp.fayar@gmail.com). If there is an immediate need you can call 479-717-7020.

### **Location**

Nature Camp is located at 2460 N Old Wire Rd, Fayetteville, AR, in an area we call The Campsite. The Campsite's drop off and pick up location is on the backside of the property. This is best accessed by parking in the church parking lot next door.

### **Hours of Operation**

Nature Camp is open Monday-Friday from 8:00am-3:00pm with the exception of holiday week(s) and the week before school starts. Drop off time is 7:45-8:00am and children must be picked up by 3:15pm. Aftercare is available 3:15-5:30pm (by signing up in advance) for an additional charge.

### **Tuition and Fees**

All billing transactions are made through Brightwheel. You will receive an invoice within 24 hours of booking, and payments are due within 2 business days of receiving your invoice. Payment arrangements can be made on an individual basis. If you need to pay by cash or check please call or email us to make arrangements. There is a \$40 registration fee upon signing up. This is a one-time, nonrefundable fee when you sign up for one or more weeks of camp. Tuition is \$240 per week with the exception of weeks 1 & 6 at \$192 per week and week 11 at \$144 per week. Aftercare is \$45 per week and must be signed up for in advance. In the event of a late pick up after 3:15pm for a child who is not signed up for aftercare, you will be billed the drop in fee of \$15 per day. A late fee of \$1 per minute will apply for any pick ups after 5:30pm paid in cash to the teacher who waits with your child. Parents can sign up for any number of weeks they choose for their child, and a 10% discount will be applied to the tuition of campers that are signed up for all 11 weeks of camp. There are no discounts for aftercare or siblings for Nature Camp.

## Required Items

Campers are required to bring a water bottle, sack lunch, and a backpack stocked with necessary sun protection, bug spray, water shoes, towel and a full change of clothes. All campers should have a full piece swimsuit that covers the midsection of their body. All shoes must be snug and secure. No flip flops, crocs or slides. In the event of light rainy weather, Nature Camp will resume with regularly planned activities as scheduled. Campers should bring rain boots, rain coats, umbrellas, etc. Please **label** everything you send to camp with your campers first and last name.

## Camp Dates & Themes

Week 1	May 26-29*	Gardening: Planting
Week 2	June 1-5	Bug Detectives
Week 3	June 8-12	The Five Senses
Week 4	June 15-19	Life on the Homestead
Week 5	June 22-26	Weather Watchers
Week 6	June 29-July 2*	Planet Protectors
Week 7	July 6-10	Ecosystems: Marine vs. Fresh
Week 8	July 13-17	Rock Explorers
Week 9	July 20-24	Creek Week
Week 10	July 27-31	Gardening: Harvest
Week 11	Aug 3-5*	Nature Games

\*Indicates shorter camp weeks due to closures.

## Extreme Weather

In the event of extreme weather (i.e. lightning and thunder) there will be a large canvas tent at The Campsite, and there is a room available indoors at Fayetteville Nature School in the event of an emergency. There will be water and cool down methods openly available to campers including water misting fans, and creek play will be scheduled during the hottest parts of the day. The schedule of daily activities will be moved around in the event that creek play needs to be prioritized to accommodate the temperature. Campers are encouraged to bring cooling gear. Aftercare might also move indoors in the event of extreme afternoon heat.

## Behavior Guidance

We use positive discipline to guide our interactions with children.

- Give simple and consistent expectations.
- Connect before you correct.
- Tell the child what they CAN do rather than what they can't.
- Be firm but kind.
- Encourage responsibility for actions and problem solving as opposed to punishment.

We are committed to guiding your child toward acceptable choices through redirecting, acknowledging emotions, and/or removing them from the situation. The use of physical punishment is never permitted, nor do we use degrading or embarrassing actions or words. Discipline will never be associated with food, rest or illness. We do not do time-out but encourage cool down periods where the child is supported by a teacher when handling a difficult emotion. A parent/teacher discussion may be requested to find a solution if the need arises.

A lot of time is spent at Gulley Park for campers to do activities and explore the creek. While our camp location on the main property is fenced in, Gulley Park is not. To protect the safety of all the children and teachers in the group your child must be able to follow camp rules and teacher directions and stay with their group. If our methods for discipline outlined above are not effective, a parent/teacher discussion does not resolve any issues, and we feel safety is a concern, then a decision may be made that our camp is not the right fit for your child.

## Policies

### **Cancellation Policy**

Nature Camp has a limited number of spots each week. When you book your child you are committing to one of those spots. We want to be able to fulfill as many summer plans as we can for every family by providing the opportunity to sign up as early as possible. \$50 of the weekly cost for each week is non-refundable after booking. Cancellations after April 10, 2026 are eligible for a 50% refund. Cancellations after May 8, 2026 are non-refundable. Cancellations based on illness, injury or other situations preventing campers from participating in the program will be handled on an individual basis.

### **Daily Schedule and Activities**

The daily schedule for Nature Camp will be similar each day for consistency but might vary based on the activities scheduled for that day. Nature Camp teachers will send out a basic schedule outlining activities and locations for each day at the beginning of the week. Activities may include short lessons, hands on experiences, creek play, art, singing and gross and fine motor activities. Campers will do activities as a whole and be encouraged to participate. We like to keep in mind that all children have different interests, so we aim to create a schedule that will meet the needs of every child by having a variety of activities.

\*Our schedule is fluid; however, if your child arrives late or leaves early they will miss out on any activities during the time they were not at camp. The teachers will need to focus their time on helping campers with activities in the moment, so repeating or going back to activities will not be possible.

### **Arrival**

Nature camp starts at 8:00am, and campers may arrive beginning at 7:45am. The parent or person dropping off must accompany their camper to the gate of the outdoor classroom and drop off with a teacher. Campers may not be unattended at any time. Parents or persons dropping off must check in their camper through Brightwheel before they are dropped off. There are two arrival gates, but the one on the backside of the property is preferred. This is most accessible by parking in the church parking lot next door and walking up to the gate. The church parking lot is to only be used for short term parking for dropping off and picking up your child.

### **Departure**

Nature camp ends at 3:00pm and campers must be picked up by 3:15pm. Anyone picking up must be an approved pick-up listed on Brightwheel AND show their I.D. to a teacher to confirm their identity if not recognized. If you expect someone new to pick up, please add them as a Brightwheel contact, communicate this through a Brightwheel message and have them bring their I.D. Every adult needs their own Brightwheel code. Brightwheel codes are not shared among adults. Parent or person picking up must check out the child through Brightwheel before the child leaves the teacher.

### **Aftercare**

Aftercare will be available 3:15pm-5:30pm. This can be arranged with admin prior to your child attending camp. Aftercare is only available to campers if they are signed up in advance so we can schedule adequate staffing. Campers will be at The Campsite for aftercare. A short snack time window will be available at the start of aftercare so pack your child a small snack. An afternoon snack will not be provided by Nature Camp. Late fees listed below apply after 5:30pm. Campers are expected to follow all camp rules in aftercare.

### **Late Pick-up**

In the event that a pick-up person is unable to arrive by 3:15pm (or 5:30pm for aftercare) for a camper, there will be a fee per child of \$1 per minute paid in cash to the teacher with your child. This fee must be paid no later than the morning after the late pick up. Please let us know with as much notice as possible if you expect you will be late. We understand this may happen on a limited basis.

### **Parking**

It can get crowded in our little parking lot during drop-off and pick-up times. To help everyone have as smooth a time as possible we ask that campers for Nature Camp use the church parking lot next door. If you drive to the back of the church parking lot and park along the far right side (it faces away from the park and towards our property), you will see a small gate where we will be welcoming campers. The church parking lot is to be used for only short term parking for dropping off and picking up your child.

### **Outdoor Play**

At Nature Camp we believe it is imperative to health and development to spend time outdoors; and, as such, we conduct camp in all weather. Our campers will spend their days outside either at The Campsite or at Gulley Park. Please keep in mind that when the weather calls for rain, we will still be outside and doing activities as we can. Parents are responsible for sending weather appropriate clothing for their child. Rain boots, waterproof shoes, rain jackets and umbrellas are all acceptable items to bring to camp for rainy weather. When it is hot, there will be water play in the creek, and children will be provided water to cool down. Campers can bring small hand held fans and cool down gear but must be able to carry it on their person or in their backpack. If necessary, there is a room inside Fayetteville Nature School where small groups of children can go in to take breaks inside. Please expect that your child will come home dirty and wet and have clothing soiled in dirt and/or art materials.

### **Technology**

Nature Camp is a screen-free scene, so please keep all electronics at home. We engage with campers using nature and strive to have the most intentional time together without the distraction of technology. If your child brings a cell phone, tablet, smart watch, etc. they will be required to keep it in their backpack while they are at camp. In the event your child needs something or has an emergency where parents need to be contacted, the teachers or admin have the contact information and will do so. Our main number is 479-717-7020 should parents need to immediately communicate with admin, otherwise they can message the teachers in Brightwheel.

### **Photo Use**

We take photos of your child(ren) to post on Brightwheel. Parents choose on the enrollment form whether or not they want to give permission for photos to be used in Fayetteville Nature School's newsletters and on websites and social media. In order to respect other parents' choices, please refrain from posting photos of other people's children on social media. If you give social media permission, you are giving permission for use of pictures on pages of Fayetteville Nature School and Parkside Playschool.

### **Farm & Garden Program**

At Nature Camp campers may come into contact with the animals (and visiting animals) on the property. We currently have goats, chickens, frogs, a cat and a dog. We also have a fenced garden and Hide & Seek Farm that campers will utilize as part of our schedule. Our gardens are a learning experience and help to teach self reliability and caring for nature.

## **Meals & Snacks**

Parents will need to send a sack lunch with their child every day. Please keep in mind that we are a **nut free** entity and any foods you send with your child need to abide by this rule. There is not a refrigerator available, but there will be a cooler where lunch boxes can be stored. You might want to put an ice pack or two in your child's lunch box and keep in mind the foods you pack.

**\*ANY OUTSIDE FOOD MUST BE NUT FREE.**

Nature Camp will provide a small snack mid morning that the children can eat during a scheduled snack time. We ask that snacks for the morning time not be brought from home and your child will be encouraged to eat the snack provided. Their lunch box and backpack may not be easily accessible due to their location at the time of snack. Campers must bring an afternoon snack if they are staying for aftercare.

## **Allergies/Action Plans**

If your camper has an allergy, please provide an Allergy Action Plan. A copy of this completed form will be kept with the teachers as well as with admin. If medication for an allergic reaction is needed, please make sure you have provided the proper medication and release form, and the teachers are aware of it. All medications are checked in with admin. Parents should bring medications to the Parkside Playschool building and check in all medications with a member of admin. Medications will be stored in the office and administered as indicated on the completed form. Life saving medications will be kept with the camp teachers in the emergency bag. Parents are responsible for checking out medications at the end of their child's time at camp.

## **Brightwheel**

Every camper has their own Brightwheel account. This is the app we use for all communication between Nature Camp and families. All communication with teachers regarding campers and school should be made through Brightwheel. Admin sees all of those messages plus messages sent only to admin. Main contacts are **required** to have access to Brightwheel for messaging. You can message camp teachers on Brightwheel, but please keep in mind you may not get an immediate response. We expect teachers to be focused on the children at the moment and respond to messages as they have time. Brightwheel is how you will check your child in and out each day. This is the platform that we use for billing as well. Teachers will have a way to do check-ins and check-outs for approved pick-ups who prefer not to download the app.

## **Health Policy**

We strive to maintain a clean, healthy environment for our campers and teachers. If your child shows any of the following symptoms, they must be kept home until they are ***without symptoms for 24 hours***. This will minimize the spread of infection and allow appropriate recuperation time for your child.

### **Campers should stay home if:**

-They have had a fever of 100.0 or higher in the last 24 hours. Your child may return after being fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.

-They are vomiting or having diarrhea (2 or more loose stools in 24 hours). If your child is not able to make it to the toilet with diarrhea and it soils their clothing, even just after one time, they will need to be picked up. There are instances where diarrhea may be excused, so please let the camp teacher know if they are taking a medication that may cause loose or watery stools. Your child may return 24 hours after they last vomit or have diarrhea.

- They have an unexplained rash with any level of fever.
- They have symptoms of pink eye.
- They have been in the hospital in the last 24 hours unless they have been released by a physician.

If you keep your child home because of illness, we ask that you contact us so that we may be informed and look for symptoms in other campers to help control the spread of infectious diseases.

If your child shows any of the above symptoms after drop-off, you will be called to pick them up as soon as possible. Please keep in mind that we do NOT have sick care so we ask that you pick up your child within a reasonable amount of time (within 30 minutes if possible). If we cannot reach you we will call other emergency contacts you have listed. This policy is set to prevent the spread of contagious illnesses and communicable diseases. Your consideration in observing these policies will help keep our teachers and the campers in our care healthy and happy!

**Accidents/Injuries/Emergency Treatment**

While precautions are taken to avoid injuries, childhood accidents do happen as your child explores their environment. Our teachers are trained in basic first-aid for minor injuries and are CPR certified. In the event that emergency treatment is needed here is the protocol our staff will follow:

Minor - If your child suffers a minor injury (i.e. small scrape or cut) that requires first-aid, you will be notified with an Accident Report through the Brightwheel app.

Serious – If your child suffers a somewhat more serious injury (i.e. bump on head, or possibility of stitches) we will post a photo of the injury through their account and contact you to come to the center to further evaluate your child.

Severe - In the event of a severe or critical injury (i.e. stitches or head injury) you will be notified immediately, we will contact you and call 911 for your child to be transported to the nearest medical facility for treatment.

If an ambulance is required, costs incurred are the responsibility of the parent/guardian. A parent/guardian signature on the Authorization for Treatment section of your child’s enrollment form is required for our records. Please note: If we cannot reach you, we will refer to those listed as emergency contacts on your child’s enrollment form.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for taking the time to thoroughly read our handbook. Please sign below to acknowledge that you have read, understand, and agree to our policies.

Child’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date