



Ensuring a successful camp experience for your child

2018 Parent Handbook

Wildwood Outdoor Education Center

7095 W 399th St, La Cygne, KS 66040

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www.wildwoodctr.org



THANK YOU for choosing Wildwood for your child this summer! Please review this handbook carefully to prepare both you and your child for a summer camp adventure with us.

At Wildwood we are proud to offer programs providing opportunities for campers to:

- *Overcome Challenges*, discover their abilities and develop their self-esteem.
- *Apply Science* and take an active role in the stewardship of our environment.
- *Build Community* by experiencing group living and participating in communal decision making processes.

Wildwood continues to proudly serve our mission of providing children with experiences of living and learning in the outdoors from our beautiful 150 acre camp facility composed of forests, meadows, streams and ponds. We have done so since our founding in 1980.

We thank you for sharing a part of your summer with us!

Benefits from Camp

Parents love Wildwood because kids get outside and stay engaged in learning over the summer. Campers benefit from new friends and feelings of connectedness. They also get a boost in problem solving confidence and teamwork experience. Our goal is to give kids the tools they need for healthy habits and bright futures!

Prior to arrival at Camp

1. If you have this handbook, your camper's completed registration form should already be on file with Wildwood. If it is not, please visit <https://wildwoodctr.org/campers/> to register for your desired camp session.
2. **Full payment of your camper's tuition is expected two (2) weeks prior to your camper's arrival at camp.** Payments may be made online using the registration site or by cash, check, money order by contacting the office. Experiencing economic hardship? Please contact our Office at 913-757-4500 to discuss scholarship and payment options.
3. The **Health Form** is now included in the registration process. Please be sure to complete the information with any current medications, and bring any updates to camp check-in.

Camp Life

A session at Camp Wildwood increases kids' feelings of connection to others, affinity for nature, interest in exploration, problem solving confidence, teamwork and friendship skills!

All campers create their own schedules by choosing which activities they would like to sign up for each day. Here are some of the activities they could pick!

Activities

Arts and Crafts	Archery
STEM	Canoeing
Swimming	Outdoor Skills
High and Low Ropes	And more!

New this year! Bus transportation. When registering your camper, you may choose bus transportation or parent drop-off/pickup. We will send out times and information for the bus stops via email prior to camp. Unless we receive written instructions from the custodial parent, the drop-off and pick-up method may not be changed, and the person signing in at drop-off must also pick up the camper.

First Day of Camp - MONDAY

Bus Riders: When arriving at the bus stop, please have all medication separate from camper luggage. Parents will check in their camper and medications to the Wildwood staff member at the stop, and say your goodbyes before kids load the bus.

Parent drop off at camp:

If your camper is not riding the bus, please arrive at Wildwood for check in from **9am-10am**. Parents/ guardians and their campers will be greeted by Camp staff in the Learning Center parking lot and directed to our Camper Check In stations located inside of the Learning Center.

There will be 4 stations set up in the Learning Center and if your health form and payment are completed in advance, you will fly right through these stations and be moving into your cabin in no time!

- Station 1: **Welcome!** First we will make sure your paperwork is up-to-date, then we assign you to your cabin!

- Station 2: **Medication Check in!** All medications, including vitamins, cough drops, inhalers, prescriptions, etc. must be checked in with the camp's Health Manager
- Station 3: **Health Check!** All campers must go through a head lice check and a temperature check upon arriving at camp.
 - Any campers with temperatures recorded at over 100 degrees Fahrenheit will be sent home.
 - If head lice is found on your child you will need to obtain treatment for your child prior to checking in to camp
- Station 4: **Camp Store!** This station is completely optional and provides the opportunity for you and your camper to purchase a Wildwood T-shirt, or other Wildwood memorabilia.

Be prepared to carry your camper's luggage from the camper drop off location to their cabin. We encourage campers to pack their luggage into 1 large trash bag or 1-2 duffle bags. Pets are not permitted on Wildwood property. Please leave them at home.

Closing day - FRIDAY (except mini-camp is WEDNESDAY)

Closing day for all sessions except for mini-camp will be on Friday. Mini-camp will close on Wednesday.

Bus riders will return to the bus stop where they were picked up, according to the schedule that will be emailed to parents.

Picking up at camp: Pick up is at **4-5pm** at the Learning Center.

Lodging

Campers stay in modern cabins that have bunk beds, showers and bathrooms. The cabins have electricity and are temperature controlled with fans. Campers stay with other campers their age and several camp counselors.

Cabin mate request policy

No cabin requests are guaranteed. Campers may request one cabin mate; cabin mates must request each other and be within two years of age of all campers in their cabin in order to keep cabin activities age appropriate. If you did not state your cabin mate request on your registration form, please call us at least two weeks prior to your camper's check in day.

Food Service

Meals are served family style and include lots of healthy, kid friendly food and plenty of options. All campers and staff eat together in the dining hall. Some campers may also choose to do cookout meals, or cook occasional treats as a group activity. Food options are always available for kids who are vegetarian, lactose intolerant or who have food allergies. Please let us know about all special dietary needs on your child's health history form. Camp may not be able to accommodate strict Kosher or other extreme diets.

Lost and Found Policy

Throughout the week our staff and campers will place all lost and found items in our lost and found box in front of the dining hall. We will make every attempt to return lost items while your child is at camp. **Parents are encouraged to check the lost and found box with their campers prior to departure.** Wildwood is not responsible for items left at camp. Lost and found items will be kept for 2 weeks then donated to a charitable cause.

Swimming Skills Checks

Wildwood welcomes campers with all swimming abilities and recognizes that each camper will arrive at camp with a different level of skill. Throughout the week Wildwood will offer opportunities for campers to practice and develop their abilities as swimmers. Campers must demonstrate proficiency in swimming before participating in specialized aquatic activities, like canoe trips, etc. Swim checks will be scheduled on the first full day and each camper will participate in a swim check with their cabin group.

Camp Store

The Wildwood camp store will be open on arrival and departure days. The camp store will not be open during the week, and because all costs are included in the price of enrollment we encourage our campers to leave their money at home. When you enroll in a Wildwood program everything at Wildwood is covered!

Visitors/ Telephone

Our Wildwood Summer Camp program is designed to foster independence and personal growth. An integral part in achieving this in our campers is the extended experience away from home. We encourage correspondence between parents and campers through letters and postcards. Our staff is available to answer any questions from parents while their child is at camp.

We ask that campers leave cellular telephones at home. If a cell phone is found, it will be removed and kept in the office until departure day.

Care Packages/ Mail

Mail is delivered by rural carrier to and from Wildwood Monday through Saturday. Please plan on at least 3 business days for your letter to arrive at Wildwood (you may need to mail your letter before your child leaves home!) Campers look forward to receiving mail at camp, so we encourage you to write your child often. We will also encourage your child to write you back! Mail is distributed each afternoon after lunch. To write your child, please use the following format:

Your child's name & cabin
Wildwood Outdoor Education Center
7095 W. 399th St.
La Cygne, KS 66040

Because we serve such wonderful food here at Wildwood, your child will probably be way too full to enjoy any candies or snacks that you mail them. We don't allow snacks or any food in our cabins anyway as they attract critters like raccoons and mice!

Email

If you'd like to email your camper while they are at Wildwood you can send your camper an email to: camper@wildwoodctr.org Please put your camper's name and cabin name in the subject line of the email. Emails will be dispersed to campers on all days except their first and last day at camp. All emails must be received by 10:00pm the night prior to dispersal. Campers will not have access to a computer to respond to your message.

Updates from Campers

We will update our Facebook page (Wildwood Outdoor Education Center) throughout the week to keep parents up to date on camp activities.

Severe Weather Procedures

Our camp staff is well trained on procedures for severe weather. With training through frequent drills, the staff is directed to focus their attention on keeping kids calm and safe. Many times, calls to the camp during severe weather situations are routed to the camp's voicemail as the staff are with campers. The leadership team will return your calls as soon as possible.

Wildwood has storm shelters in each unit and a central shelter along with a tornado siren that is used for the camp and local community nearby. In the event of severe weather, campers will proceed to the nearest storm shelter.

Camp is for the Camper

All programs at Wildwood offer opportunities to learn and have fun. It is our sincere desire to offer a day full of nature study, outdoor skills, recreation, arts & crafts while also recognizing the special interests of each of our campers. Our staff brings a variety of skills and talents to share with every camper and every camper will participate in structured cabin activities as well as choose from our variety of “free choice” activities.

We know that you put great trust in us in order to help your child grow and learn with us at Wildwood and because of this we place immense value on creating the safest camp environment possible. We intensively screen each of our employees and provide each of our employees with extensive training on topics including: child safety, first aid/CPR, childhood development, healthy forms of communication and much more.

We ask that you please talk to your child about having a successful experience at Wildwood and call us immediately with any questions or concerns.

Feelings of Missing Home

Feelings of missing home are very common in children attending summer camp, especially if it is their first time away from home. Leaving home is an integral part of fostering independence in youth so we suggest parents talk with their campers about missing home and the feelings that they may have when they get to camp. We aim to build a sense of community at Wildwood, and while we know we can't replace your home we want the next best thing to be right here! We do NOT suggest making “deals” with your camper if they are feeling anxious about going to camp for the first time (i.e. please do not tell your child “I'll pick you up early if you just try to go!”). This shows campers you don't expect them to succeed.

Feelings of Missing Your Child

This is normal, too! Parents sending their child away for the first time often miss their children more than they expect. Avoid the temptation to call and check in on your child – although it's OK to do that. Camp staff are vigilant about health care, behavior and homesickness with children, and we will let you know if anything is wrong.

Conflict Resolution at Wildwood

At Wildwood we strive to achieve success with each of our campers. We practice a conflict resolution model in which campers are empowered and included in the problem solving process through identifying the root of their behavior and the impact that their behavior has on themselves, others and their environment. Our process results in our campers having personal control of their own behavior and recognizing the impact of their behavior on self, others and environment.

Ensuring a successful camp experience

Is your camper still a little unsure about leaving home for a week and enrolling in summer camp? Please call our office to talk about it. We have staff on site year round to discuss the positive camp experiences Wildwood provides!

Healthcare Prescriptions/ over the counter medications

All prescriptions and over the counter medication brought into camp MUST be in the original container. This includes all prescription medications, inhalers, vitamins, creams, lotions, aspirins, etc.

- All medication will be checked in with the Health Manager during registration. The Health Manager will dispense medication at proper times and in the proper amounts.
- If the dosage information on the medication container is not correct, please have written orders signed by the prescribing physician authorizing the revised dosage instruction.
- Please put all medications in a ziploc bag with your child's full name. Because our Health Manager will store all medications in a secure location we ask that you not pack medication or forms in your camper's luggage.
- Parents are encouraged to visit with the camp professional staff or summer counselor about any individual health or medical matter concerning your camper.
- Campers with inhalers or epipens are encouraged to bring a backup of each. Inhalers or epipens will stay with the camper's group at all times and the backup will be kept in the health center.

Living Outdoors

In recent years Lyme Disease and West Nile Virus have received considerable attention and it is important for Wildwood to inform parents that ticks and mosquitoes are native to the Wildwood environment. Wildwood adheres to recommendations by the Kansas Department of Health & Environment and the Center for Disease Control regarding effective methods of deterring bites (and therefore risk of infection), from mosquitoes and ticks. Parents are recommended to provide insect repellent containing at least 10% DEET and to encourage your child to use insect repellent daily. In the event that a tick is removed from your child by Wildwood staff you will be notified in writing when your child returns home.

Insurance/ Illness Information

In the event of a serious illness or accident, parents and/or guardians will be notified at once. In the event of a serious illness or accident requiring medical attention we will transport your camper to Shawnee Mission Health at 7820 W. 165th Street, Overland Park, and establish contact with the parent/ guardian of the camper immediately.

Wildwood's insurance is secondary to any costs accrued from injuries while at camp. The child's insurance is primary and any additional costs are then covered by Wildwood's insurance plan.

Refund Policies

The total of your camp fee is due two weeks prior to opening day of your camper's session.

- Transfers from one camp session to another are allowed but depend on availability. We ask that you please make your transfer requests at least three weeks prior to your camper's session.
- If you cancel your session 2 weeks or less before the start date of camp or do not show for up camp, you forfeit your deposit as well as any other payments made to Wildwood. Cancellations due to illness will be refunded in full. Submit your request in writing with a note from your child's physician.

Who to call?

With questions about registration, fees and payment, cancellations or refunds:

Office Manager, 9137574500 or cindy@wildwoodctr.org

With questions about staff, camp programs, individual camper needs, or activities:

Camp Director, 9137574500 or Laura@wildwoodctr.org

Suggested Packing List for Summer Camp at Wildwood

Please note: We do not provide laundry services to our campers unless it is an emergency. We suggest marking items off as you pack them and sending this list with your camper.

Packed	<i>We encourage you to mark all of your items with your camper's initials, packing can be done in a duffel bag, trash bag, box, etc.</i>	Brought Home
	sleeping bag or twin size sheets and blankets	
	pillow	
	shirts for each day and a light jacket or sweatshirt	
	1 pair of closed toe shoes	
	1 pair of long pants	
	shorts for each day	
	socks	
	underwear	
	pajamas	
	raincoat/ poncho	
	swimsuit	
	1-2 bath/ beach towel(s)	
	laundry bag/ old pillowcase	
	toothbrush/ toothpaste	
	soap/ shampoo	
	deodorant/ toiletries	
	flashlight (and batteries)	
	water bottle	
	camera (optional)	
	bug spray	
	sunscreen	
	OPTIONAL: white t-shirt or something to tie dye	

If you are having difficulty providing any items for your camper, please contact us. We can help.

PLEASE do not bring:

cell phones, electronics, books or magazines containing adult content, money, candy, food or drinks, gum, knives/ weapons, fireworks, personal sports equipment, jewelry/ valuables, irreplaceable items, alcohol, tobacco, or drugs. Campers who bring drugs, weapons, alcohol or tobacco will be immediately dismissed without refund. Other prohibited items will be kept in the office until the end of the session.